

Obituaries

Marlis Jene Wrage, 94

Marlis Jene Wrage was born November 9, 1928, on a farm northeast of Dysart, the daughter of Frank and Viola (Fehr) Heckroth. She married John H. Wrage on February 18, 1951, at the Presbyterian Church in Waterloo. He preceded her in death on June 9, 2015. Marlis passed away on May 16 at Sunrise Hill Care Center, Traer, at the age of 94.



Marlis attended country school near Dysart, starting at the age of four. The family moved to rural LaPorte City where she was placed in the first grade since there was no kindergarten at her new school. By starting school young and skipping a grade, she graduated from Orange High School at age 16 and graduated from the Gates Business College a year later. After college, Marlis moved to Pomona, California where, among other adventures, she learned to fly but never completed enough solo hours to get her license. Prior to her marriage and beginning her career as an active farm wife, she worked at Abels Cafe in LaPorte City and then various secretarial jobs in Waterloo.

Camping and fishing trips were treasured times with her husband, children and extended family. A favorite pastime in the early years was dancing with friends at the Electric Park Ballroom in Waterloo. In later years she and John enjoyed travels in the States and Hawaii as well as to Europe. She was an anchor of calm strength mingled

with compassion and understanding for others. The stories she shared of her early life were truly inspirational, instructive and valuable to all of her family in living their daily lives. She was admired for her courage, patience, generous nature and adventurous spirit.

Marlis was involved in the Women's Circle and Mary Martha Circle at Zion Lutheran Church in Dysart. She also was active with the Dysart Women's Club and the Board of the Norma Anders Public Library.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and two sons-in-law, Clark Schoonover and Frank Tusznski.

Marlis is survived by four children: Linda (Felix) Revello, of Larned, Kansas, Diana Schoonover, of Austin, Arkansas, David (Sharla) Wrage, of Dysart, Wayne (Elizabeth) Wrage, of Yates City, Illinois, and her brother Don (JoAnne) Heckroth, of LaPorte City. Other survivors include her ten grandchildren, several great grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Friday, May 19 from 4:00 ? 6:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 800 S. Main St., Dysart.

Funeral Service was held Saturday, May 20 at 10:30 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 800 S. Main St., Dysart. Burial will be held at the Gnagy Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to the Norma Anders Public Library or Lutheran Social Services in care of:

Overton Funeral Home, 707 Clark St., Dysart, IA 52224. 319-476-7355. Condolences may be left at: www.parrottandwoodsfs.com

Dean W. Stoakes

Dean W. Stoakes of Salem, Oregon and Ft. Meyers, Florida died April 6th, 2023. He had just celebrated his 100th birthday with his loved ones. He was born March 7, 1923 in Traer, Iowa, the son of Newell and Julia Meyers Stoakes. He was preceded in death by Gladys Hill Stoakes, his wife of 70 years and his 3 siblings: Doris Nothnagel, Hazel Himebaugh, and Kenneth Stoakes, all of Iowa. A memorial service will be held June 3 at 11:00 in the Genesco Methodist Church in Buckingham, Iowa. A reception will follow the service.



Dean grew up near Traer where he worked the family farm, played basketball, and drove a school bus. He met Gladys at Genesco High School, and after graduation they were married. His enrollment in Northern Iowa University was interrupted in 1943 to join the army. Assigned to the Specialized Training Program at Loyola University he later served combat duty in the European Theater with Patton's Third Army. He finished his degree at UNI, and got his first teaching job in Dunkerton. After completing a masters degree at the University of Iowa he accepted a position at Wilson High School in Cedar Rapids teaching math, science, and coaching. In 1958 he was named Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Cedar Rapids. In 1963 he was hired as the Superintendent of Schools in Glen Ellyn, Ill. He received his Doctorate in Secondary School Education from the University Of Colorado.

After his retirement Gladys and Dean enjoyed their summer home in Salem and their winter home in Ft. Meyers. After Gladys passed in 2012 Dean was blessed to fall in love with Phyllis Larson. These soul mates were married in 2016 and made the most of their happy 6 1/2 years together.

Dean is survived by his wife, Phyllis, two daughters, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren as well as many beloved nieces and nephews. Daughter Karen (William) Shields and their children Constance, William Jr., and Deborah (Kyle) Rudestad are in Connecticut. His daughter Pamela (Thomas) Kruse and their sons Alexander and Justin (Suzannah) are in Oregon and Adam (Rachael) live in California. His great grandchildren are Gwendolyn and Zachery Rudestad, and Parker, Addison, Finn, and Charlotte Kruse.

Although we were truly blessed to have had him for so long he will be sorely missed by us all.

DENGLER

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"Well, I figured I might as well try to farm than to not try at all," Dengler explained when asked recently why he made the pivot back to the farm. "Obviously, the whole 'running your own operation' is very daunting but having my dad there is a nice safety net."

Dengler's parents Mark and Sandy Dengler farm mostly in Clark Township between Clutier and Dysart but have recently begun to move toward retirement from both full-time farming and the North Tama School District where Sandy still works one day a week.

While Mark is no longer at the decision-making helm when it comes to the farming operation, he's never been more than a helping hand away this season - even to his own detriment at times, as Sean explained of a recent injury Mark sustained after his son plugged up the planter. "He was helping me clean out the mud from the plugged planter and sliced himself on a planter disc. I also have a selection of cuts," Dengler admitted when describing his dad's injury which took place a few weeks ago.

"He had to go to the ER for stitches for a nasty cut so that was rough. But we got back at it the next day, and it went off without a hitch. Not a mistake I hope to ever make again."

With the average age of farmers in Iowa skewing older and older - the latest USDA farm survey places the average age of all



Sean Dengler, a North Tama High School 2010 graduate, Telegraph columnist, and now beginning farmer walks a field near Clutier on May 3. Dengler took the helm of his parents' farm for the first time this season.

producers in Iowa at just over 57 years - farmers like Dengler are certainly needed if small family farms are to remain viable and not consolidate into larger operations, a fact which Dengler writes about frequently in his column.

"My aunt doesn't have any kids," Dengler explained, "so I assume eventually after she and my parents pass, it will be us three children who will have [the farm]. As long as we get along, I hope to keep it running. But I am trying to figure out ways to reduce costs or find new markets because it is very hard to compete on the scale of operation we have. Lots of people run thousands of acres and we run less than 500."

"It will be a challenge, but one I want to try than not try at all."

Dengler said planting has gone quicker this year for him than last year - but slower than the two previous years.

He finished up planting last Wednesday.

"[I've been] experimenting [this season] with different nitrogen rates as well as other practices to see what I can use in the future. I love the creativity of [farming] to an extent and the 'no day or no field' is the same," Dengler said before then admitting farming can also be a stressful vocation.

"It is stressful, for sure. I'm thankful for my therapist but the challenge is what makes it worth it. And I'm lucky to do be doing this and have family to help support me achieve this goal. I'm very lucky to have this opportunity - I try to remind myself of that when there are tough days."

As the fifth generation farming on Dengler land - his grandfather was Vernon Dengler - Dengler feels the pressure to succeed, to keep the farm intact and productive for not only his family and their legacy but for the wider

community.

"Traer and Dysart hold a special place in my heart," Dengler said.

While Dengler continues to take on freelance audio/visual work, write for both the Telegraph and several other media outlets, and perform comedy, he is a farmer first and foremost now, he said - "that's the breadwinner."

"I thought sports and entertainment were my ticket [out]," Dengler confessed before adding, "[But] the need for family farms brought me back to wanting to do it."

Some domains, it seems, are not so easily forgotten.

The May 26 United States Dept. of Agriculture Crop Progress and Condition Report finds Iowa farmers were still planting corn, soybeans, and oats during the past week although planting activities were nearing completion for all three crops.

Pig farmers 'frustrated' by recent Supreme Court Prop 12 opinion

BY IOWA PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

CLIVE - On May 11, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a challenge to a California law that mandates more space for breeding pigs, also called Proposition 12. The justices upheld a decision to dismiss a lawsuit by the National Pork Producers Council and the American Farm Bureau Federation that sought to invalidate the law, which could force industrywide changes and raise the cost of pork products nationwide. The following statement may be attributed to Trish Cook, a pig farmer from Winthrop, Iowa, and president of the Iowa Pork Producers Association.

"The health and safety of their pigs are a top priority for Iowa pig farmers, and we are frustrated to see the Supreme Court uphold Prop 12. This ruling sets a bad precedent, enabling other states to regulate commerce outside their boundaries. Consumers, especially low-income ones who rely on affordable nutritious pork to feed their families, will ultimately suffer due to higher food prices. Some small and medium-sized producers who are already dealing with high feed costs and inflation, will also sadly go out of business as they struggle to comply."

God Loves an Underdog



"He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed." Proverbs 3:34 NIV

The Bible is full of unlikely heroes. Moses is chosen by God to be his spokesman, but stutters and stammers. David, the puniest of the family's many children, is chosen to go out and fight the mammoth Goliath with nothing but a sling and a bag of stones. Jesus is perhaps the paradigmatic underdog, born in humble circumstances, the son of a carpenter who becomes the Savior of the world. Other religions tell similar stories. In the Quran, Mohammad is said to have been an illiterate orphan, and yet the Quran is said to be a masterpiece of Arabic literature and Mohammad is believed to be the Prophet par excellence. The situation is a bit different in Buddhism, where the Buddha was originally born into a royal family but renounced the wealth and power of his family position, becoming a poor mendicant beggar before going on to found one of the world's great religions. Perhaps it is the case that only from the humblest soil can spring the most sublime religious truths. The lotus flower grows in stagnant waters. God has chosen the weak and powerless to bring his message to the world. - Christopher Simon

AREA CHURCH SERVICES

DYSART

Calvary Baptist Church
Daniel Hartwig, Pastor
Sundays: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages
Sundays: 10:45 a.m.
Worship Service
Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
Weekly Bible Studies in various locations

Dysart United Methodist
Indoor Worship Service
Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Church office is open Mon-Thurs. mornings.
The church is locked the rest of the days.
For emergencies call Pastor Linda at 563-379-8702.

Zion Lutheran Church
Sunday worship in-person at 10:00 a.m.
The Home and Health Closet will be open from 9-11 am on Mon. & Thur. or by appointment (319) 476-5590 zion@fctc.coop

Crosspointe Church
Sunday service - 10:00am
Wednesdays - 7:00pm

TRAER

Traer United Presbyterian
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School, Confirmation Class

Ripley United Church of Christ
Sunday Worship 9am, Fellowship following Service at 400 South Main, RipleyUCCTraer@hotmail.com, 319-478-2482.

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pastor Benjamin Baker
Fellowship: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Traer United Methodist
Sunday Worship Services - 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship after service facebook.com/traerunitedmethodist

Prince of Peace - Cluster
Father Anthony Boahen Nketiah
319-478-2222

St. Paul's Catholic Church
1102 Walnut St., Traer
Father Anthony Boahen Nketiah
Services: Saturday 5:00 p.m. 319-478-2222

St. Mary of Mt Carmel
1435 E Eagle Rd., Waterloo
Pastor: 478-2222
Services Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Sacred Heart
1021 Poplar St. La Porte City
Pastor 478-2222
Service is 8:00 a.m. Sunday

AREA

Clutier Community Church
Sunday- Worship at 9 a.m.

Vining Christian Fellowship
210 2nd Ave., Vining
Pastor Mike Nodland
Sun - 10:30 am worship 515-720-2142

Geneseo United Methodist Church - Buckingham
Pastor Jim Turner (319) 478-8788
3127-115th St., Buckingham
In-person Sunday Sermon - 9:15 a.m.

Please visit us online www.geneseoumc.org for bulletins and information, on Facebook at Geneseo Umc Buckingham, or on YouTube.

Church of Promise - Buckingham
Pastor Ben Lindley
Worship: 8:45
Sunday School: 10:15

Elberon Christian Church
110 Main St., Elberon Sun. Worship - 9:30 a.m. After School Hangout Wed. 4-5:30 p.m.

Amity Presbyterian Church - Rural Reinbeck
Darryl Widmayer, CRE
9:30 a.m. - Worship