

AREA OBITUARIES

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Lois Rosene Thedens

ROWLEY – Lois Rosene Thedens, 89 years old, of Rowley, Iowa, died Monday, January 22, 2024, at her home surrounded by her family, following a two-year battle with breast cancer.

Memorial Services will be at a later date at the First Presbyterian Church in Rowley, with burial at the Rowley Cemetery.

Lois was born March 23, 1934, in Russellville, Missouri, the daughter of Otto Carl Rossbach and Ruth Amolia (Jahreis) Rossbach. When she was four years old, her family moved to rural Strawberry Point, Iowa, and eventually settled on a farm north of Monona, Iowa. Lois attended country school through eighth grade and graduated high school in Monona with the class of 1951. She then attended Luther College and earned her teaching certificate. Lois taught at Jesup Community School and on December 28, 1956, she was united in marriage to Richard Edward Thedens, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Monona.

The couple made their home on the family farm outside of Rowley, where Dick and Lois raised their family. She continued teaching as a substitute at Independence for many years and she became involved in the mentorship program. She supported her community, organizing the food booth with oth-



er churches at the Rowley celebrations for more than 40 years and also served as township clerk and election board member for many years. Lois was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church and held many roles within the church. She was a Sunday School teacher and superintendent for more than 50 years. She was a church elder, led the Presbyterian Women’s organization, locally and regionally, and she was part of the Presbytery of East Iowa Peacemaking Committee which allowed her to travel to the former Soviet Union in 1984 and participate in peacemaking discussions with her

counterparts, one of the highlights of her life.

She was a certified Master Gardener, tending her own garden for 67 years, and a wonderful cook.

Lois is survived by her husband of 67 years, Richard Thedens of Rowley; sons, John (Lisa) Thedens of Walker, Iowa, Mark (Becky) Thedens of Muscatine, Iowa, Dan (Laurie) Thedens of Iowa City, Iowa; six grandchildren: Peter Thedens, Ross Thedens, Jill Thedens, Aryn (Andy) Nelson, Mia Thedens, Nick Thedens; one great grandchild, Cameron Nelson; three sisters, Jo Ann Kohl of Cedar Rapids, Carolyn (Russ) Holmes of Minneapolis, Minn., Kathleen Phillips of Arlington, Texas; also, two sisters-in-law, Jane Rossbach of Mazomanie, Wis., Ruth Rossbach of N.C.; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Otto Rossbach, Jr., her twin, and Don Rossbach; also, her brother-in-law, Jon Kohl.

Memorials may be directed to the Rowley Presbyterian Church or given directly to an organization of the donor’s choice reflected in her life.

Online condolences may be placed at www.White-MtHope.com

White Funeral Home, Independence, Iowa, was in charge of the arrangements.

Wendy K. (Hernandez) Henderson

OELWEIN – Wendy K. (Hernandez) Henderson, 60, of Oelwein, Iowa, died peacefully on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at the Cedar Valley Hospice House in Waterloo.

There will be a private family service at a later date.

Final Resting Place: Woodlawn Cemetery, Oelwein.

Jamison-Schmitz Funeral Home is assisting the

family. Cards & Memorials may be sent to: Dan Henderson, 6305 Hillcrest Road, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

Wendy Kay Hernandez was born on May 15, 1963, in Oelwein, the daughter of Carlie and Lavonne (Bradley) Hernandez.

Wendy is survived by her two sons; six grandchildren; and three siblings.

Wendy was preceded in death by her parents.

THANK YOU

I want to thank the Independence Police Chief and the Captain for their help understanding and kindness extended to me in my time of need.

My yorkie, Toby, was attacked by a German shepherd-husky cross and died January 16. I witnessed it. It was devastating to my spirit and life itself. I was quite emotional in an angry/pissed off way. The police were very caring, understanding, and very patient with me. A deep heartfelt thanks to them.

Also, a personal thank you to Mary Ellen Bagby who hit the attacking dog with a shovel and protected us from major harm. She followed me with Toby in my arms back to my house (about 120 ft.) all the way swinging that shovel to keep the dog from attacking us.

Thank you to Deena Frank that saw the whole thing and filled out a report.

I’m very thankful to Tim Reed of State Farm Insurance for settling the claim quickly when I was very demanding and mad. It was very fair and just.

I’m glad I live in Independence. We have loving, caring people. Words truly can’t express my thankfulness during this nightmare.

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A Get Away Not So Far Away

BY BRAYDEN CARLSON
Correspondent

Thanks to the Kies family and their busy schedule, Buchanan County for the foreseeable future is home to a lake house perfect for honeymooners looking to get away without going too far.

According to Adam and Sara Kies, owners of the Independence Lake House, back in 2017, they were looking for a place to kick back, make memories, and make a summer day destination spot.

“As the kids grew busier with sports, we found ourselves not being able to spend as much time enjoying everything the property has to offer,” said Kies. That’s when we opened it up for others looking for their little escape. It’s been great seeing others enjoy it as much as we do.”

According to Kies, Adam is the owner of Cedar Falls Remodeling, and his wife is the Director of Marketing at the University of Northern Iowa. Those two careers alongside their two boys, ages 15 and 16 keep them busy, says Kies.

Kies says that the Lake House makes a perfect honeymoon destination because of its uniqueness.

“It’s tucked away between a private 10-acre lake and the Wapsipinicon River, giving couples that cozy, private feeling that’s just right for celebrating a new life together,” said Kies. “The peaceful views of the water and sounds of nature, combined with the modern touches of home, make it the perfect romantic hideaway.”

As if that’s not enough, according to Kies, the property is like having your little piece of Iowa’s natural beauty, but with all the conveniences of a modern home.



COURTESY PHOTO

Evening serenity descends upon the Lake House’s private 10-acre lake.

“The house is tucked away so you can feel like it’s just the two of you, in your world, getting close to each other and nature,” said Kies. “We always make an extra effort to ensure our guests get exactly what they want. It’s the kind of place where you’ll make memories that stick with you forever.”

According to Kies, he would recommend Spring through Fall a stay at the lake house, but time can be great for the right couple.

“For newlyweds looking to book a stay at the Lake House, late spring to early fall is the sweet spot,” said Kies. “Spring brings all the wildflowers to life, summer is great for swimming and fishing in the lake, kayaking on the river, and campfires on the patio. Every season has its magic, so whether you’re up for some adventure or just want to chill out, The Lake House is a great spot all year round.”

Kies says his favorite spot on the 10-acre property is the fire pit.

“Especially after a day on the water. Soaking in the night sounds under the stars, as you’re surrounded by water,” said Kies. “Makes every evening special.”

According to Kies, rates for the Lake House usually range from \$150 to \$240 per night, but he and his wife are willing to make a deal based on the length of the reservation.

“We offer discounts for those who plan to stay for a week or longer,” said Kies. “The longer the stay, the better the discount.”

Kies says anyone can book a stay at The Lake House through VRBO or Airbnb up to a year in advance.

“For those thinking about dates further out or have something special in mind, reach out to me directly at adamkies@me.com,” said Kies. “Short-term rentals like the Lake House, with their blend of personalization, cost-effectiveness, authenticity, flexibility, and privacy, are undoubtedly the new trend in vacation accommodation. We’re excited to help put Buchanan County on the map for a trendsetting vacation destination. For more information, follow us on Facebook or visit <https://lakehouseindee.com>”

According to Kies, if you’re eyeing a summer getaway, I’d recommend getting your reservations in during the spring. Once the weather starts heating up, so do the reservations. Last summer, we hit about 90% occupancy, so it’s best to plan a bit. If you’re looking for something unique, like ice fishing or ice skating, winter tends to be more available.



COURTESY PHOTO

Autumn lingers on the branches framing a serene view of the Lake House.