

An early spring is exciting at Twin Rivers Elementary

Students at Twin Rivers Elementary are experiencing an early spring with open arms this year, engaging in a variety of activities that blend education with fun.

On Monday, February 26, the second through fifth graders spent the afternoon at the Cozy Grove Sugar Shack south of Algona, collecting sap from tapped maple trees. Under the guidance of the Kossuth County Naturalist, Billie Willie and numerous volunteers, the students participated in the process of collecting, transporting, cooking, and tasting 100 percent pure Iowa maple syrup.

Constructed in 1949 from native timber at the Smith Woods near Algona, the Cozy Grove Sugar Shack stands as a testament to tradition. Despite the passing of its founder, "Slim" Smith, in 1967, a dedicated community of family, friends, and volunteers has ensured the continuation of this beloved springtime ritual. For the Twin Rivers students, participating in this experience was not only educational but also a meaningful way to support



Parents read to students during a "Seusstastic Afternoon," at TR School in Bode on Friday, March 8. Submitted photo.

the local tradition.

In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, March is designated as National Reading Month. During the week of March 4-8, Twin Rivers students and staff celebrated this beloved children's author by highlighting a different Dr. Seuss book each day, and dressing-up ac-

ording to each book.

On Friday, March 8, students concluded Dr. Seuss week by having a "Seusstastic Afternoon." During this afternoon, students traveled to four stations where they made a snack, completed a craft, played a game, and participated in an exercise activity.

At the snack station students read, "The Cat in the Hat," and made a stacked snack hat using an Oreo cookie, bananas and strawberry pieces. At the craft station, everyone read the book, "Oh, the Places You'll Go," and created a hot air balloon craft to remind us to dream big - the sky's the limit!

While at the game station, the book, "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish," was read and then students played a matching game. At the exercise station, students listened to the story, "Hop on Pop," and then moved to a brain break.

Several parents joined to either read a book, or to be a helper as students moved through all the stations.

Principal Mark Wenzel said, "we appreciate all the parent volunteers who helped facilitate the group activities and read to the students. This was an enjoyable afternoon for all who participated."



House tackles eminent domain, taxes, veterans benefits and public notices

HF 2664 A bill approved by the Iowa House would allow landowners who are subject to eminent domain requests by hazardous pipeline companies to challenge the legitimacy of those requests in court earlier in the permit proceedings.

The bill was approved by a bipartisan, 86-7 vote.

It is meant to expedite a court decision about whether eminent domain is allowable — a decision that under current rules might come many months or years after state regulators issue a permit. The bill would allow court challenges before permits are issued, at the request of affected landowners or the companies that propose the projects. The bill would not, itself, limit eminent domain for the pipeline projects.

"This legislation simply allows both landowners and companies the opportunity to have a declaratory judgment up front on the constitutionality of an eminent domain request, before precious time and money are wasted," said Rep. Steven Holt, R-Denison. We await Senate action.

Harder to raise taxes

HJR 2006, the decision to raise taxes, should not be made lightly. It should be difficult to take additional money away from Iowans.

This past week, we passed a joint resolution to send a Constitutional Amendment to the ballot for Iowans to vote on. This Constitutional Amendment would require a two-thirds majority vote in the legislature to increase the income tax or to create a new tax. Because this bill deals with a Constitutional Amendment, the legislative body would need to pass it again in the next general assembly (2025 or 2026). Then, it would become a ballot measure for all Iowans to weigh in on.

Biomarker Insurance

The House passed HF 2668 to help improve the quality of health care and make Iowans healthier. HF 2668 requires health insurers to provide coverage for biomarker testing when the testing has proven to result in better results for patients.

Biomarker testing checks for certain genes, proteins or other molecules to look for signs or behaviors of specific diseases or conditions. Doctors can use these biomarker test results to better tailor their treatment. It is often used for patients with cancer or rheumatoid arthritis.

With this being covered by insurance, patients will benefit from more effective care that will better treat their condition and by avoiding ineffective, harmful treatments as well as earlier diagnosis. Additionally, it will benefit the health care system by lowering the overall cost of care.

This past week, Iowa House Republicans backed the blue with the passage of HF 2661.

This bill did three major things to support our men and women in law enforcement:

- The bill makes changes to IPERS for Sheriffs and Deputies. It allows them to retire at up to 80% of their salaries and includes a 1.5% cost of living adjustment.
- It ensures that a person charged with murder of a peace officer or corrections officer, or felonious assault of an officer is not eligible for bail.
- It creates a tax credit of up to \$2,000 for public safety officers moving to the state of Iowa.

The bill passed unanimously. Veterans benefits This past week, the House passed House File 2663 unanimously. This bill transfers \$300,000 from the lottery

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL R. SHELGTREN 1962-2024

Michael R. Shelgren, 61, of Bode, passed away on Tuesday morning, March 26, 2024 at the Humboldt County Memorial Hospital.

Michael was born March 29, 1962 in Fort Dodge, the son of Lowell and Joan (Enockson) Shelgren. He was raised and educated in Gilmore City and graduated from Gilmore City-Bradgate High School in 1981. Following high school, Michael enlisted in the United States Air Force and served his country. He was honorably discharged and then made his home in Kentucky for many years before returning to Bode. Michael worked as a truck driver delivering livestock to various locations in the area. He enjoyed fishing and riding his Harley Davidson.

He is survived by his siblings Mary (Pat) Gonsior, Keith (Ardis) Shelgren, Katie Woods and Jennifer (David) Petersmeyer, also his close friends Joshua and Willma Baxter. He was preceded in death by his parents, infant sister Susan and his brother-in-law Rod Woods.

Michael's wishes were to be cremated with no formal service. Please remember him in your own special way. The Mason-Lindhart Funeral & Cremation Service of Humboldt is in charge of the arrangements.

www.masonlindhart.com



JERILYN J. CLOWES 1944-2024

Jerilyn Clowes passed away at the Arbor Springs Community in West Des Moines on Oct. 30, 2023, after a long illness. She lived most of her life in Renwick, close to friends and family. She was 79 years old.

Jerilyn Jean was born on April 12, 1944, in Renwick to Gladys (Hamm) and Arthur Kraft. She attended Boone Valley School and graduated in 1962. After graduation she moved to Des Moines, where she attended and earned a degree from the American Institute of Business. She worked in Des Moines for seven years before moving back home to Renwick.

Jerilyn married William (Bill) Clowes on Aug. 24, 1969, and had two daughters, Joni and Jill. She worked for a few years at Vernon School after being married. Jerilyn and Bill farmed and raised their girls outside of Renwick.

Jerilyn loved being a part of the local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi since its start and was also a co-leader of the Vernon Lassies 4-H club for 12 years. Jerilyn was an active member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church and was the church secretary for 14 years.

Jerilyn loved supporting the Renwick Public Library and was a library board member for nine years. You would often see her there, sometimes with a book, but often with a cup of coffee, socializing with friends and her sister, Jan Thompson. Jerilyn was loved by all for her stories, laughter, strong friendships, and the dance and singing she would do whenever an Elvis tune was on.

Jerilyn spent her last four years at the Arbor Springs Dementia Community in West Des Moines, where she was greatly cared for and loved by so many. She brought a lot of joy to the days.

Jerilyn is preceded in death by her husband, Bill; her parents, Gladys and Arthur Kraft; her sister, Judy (Gary) Reynolds; brother-in-law Jerry Musgrove; her step-father Elmer Schnetzer; and her longtime friend Kent Swanson. She is survived by her daughters, Joni (Brad Priestman) Clowes of Avondale, AZ and Jill (Ron) Eltanal of Wilmette, IL and her beloved grandchildren Rosalee, Arthur and William.

Jerilyn is also survived by sisters Jan (Rick) Thompson of Renwick, and Sharon Kay Musgrove of Muscatine; her brother Larry (Linda) Kraft of TX; her step-sister Colleen Teigland (Herb) of Ft. Dodge and step-brother Jim (Laraine) Schnetzer of Garden City, UT as well as many loving nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Jerilyn's life will be held Saturday, April 6, 2024, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Renwick Community Center. There will be a time to share memories at 2:30 p.m.

The family will be making a donation in memory of Jerilyn to places special to her, such as the Renwick Public Library and Arbor Springs.

If you would like to contribute, please send a memorial in lieu of flowers.

Memorials can be sent to:
Jan & Rick Thompson
3175 150th St
Renwick, Iowa 50577

To leave an online tribute, visit www.oakcrestfuneralservices.com.

PAUL E. KIPFER 1953-2024

Paul Kipfer, age 70 of Gilmore City, passed away Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at his home. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at Faith United Methodist Church in Gilmore City with LaVonne Hoover celebrating. Burial took place at Clinton-Garfield Cemetery in Rolfe. Services have been entrusted to Lentz Funeral Home of Gilmore City.

Paul Eldridge Kipfer was born on Aug. 15, 1953 in Rolfe to Eldridge and Bonita (Philp) Kipfer. The oldest of two boys, Paul grew up on the family farm just a half mile west of Rolfe, where he and his brother Todd helped his family farm and tend to the animals.

Paul graduated from Rolfe High School in 1971. He then went on to Iowa Lakes Community College and received a degree in Farm and Diesel Mechanics. Following college he started work at W.H. Goodrich, working full-time until 1982. From there, Paul opened his own mechanic shop in that same building where he worked until the early 1990s. From there he was employed by K.C. Nielsen in Humboldt until he retired.

The three things that meant the very most to Paul were his family, his unwavering faith and fishing of course! He never passed up a good fishing trip. Every year he took his annual fishing trip up to Brainerd with his closest friends.

Paul had the gentlest voice and magnetic smile. He always was gracious and kind to everyone he met. He loved visiting with his many friends around Gilmore City.

His love in life, was his 1974 Plymouth Cuda upon deciding to "improve" it. He got it all taken apart, and the ongoing joke was he was going to get that thing put back together... that was 40 years ago! He also had great devotion to his two cats over the years, Black Jack and Gizmo. He was a member of the Rolfe Methodist Church and Rolfe Shared Ministry, and more recently the Methodist Church in Gilmore City. He was a Rolfe Pullers Member and served on the Gilmore City Council.



SUSAN D. ANDERSON 1948-2024

Susan Diane Anderson, age 75 of Gilmore City, died peacefully in her home surrounded by her loving family on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2024 from 3 to 6 p.m. at 1075 220th Street Gilmore City at the Russell Naev farmstead in their Quonset building. Services have been entrusted to Lentz Funeral Home of Gilmore City. www.lentzfuneralhome.com

Sue was born Sept. 16, 1948, to Sylvia and Philip Jacobson. The Jacobson family lived in Rutland, before settling in Gilmore City where Sue's mother, Sylvia, raised her one son and six daughters. Sue graduated from Gilmore City High School in 1966 and then attended LaJames Beauty School. She then moved to Pocahontas where she began her hair styling business.

Sue began dating Gilmore City native, Ron Anderson, and they were married Feb. 4, 1984 at the Little Brown Church in Nashua. The wedding reception was held at Gilmore City and while the "Shimon Family Band" was in full swing, a huge snowstorm rolled in. Dozens of people were stranded overnight at the reception hall - and the band played on!

They spent 20 years living in Spirit Lake where Ron worked for Bell Telephone and Sue was a manager at the Milford and Spirit Lake Dairy Queens. She then worked at the "Wren's Nest" which she thoroughly enjoyed. Ron and Sue spent 33 years wintering in Weslaco, TX at the Rancho Village, where they developed wonderful friendships. They moved to Gilmore City in 2005 to Ron's childhood home, where they spent their retirement years. Ron passed away on June 23, 2018. Since then, she has been well taken care of by her loving family.

Some of her favorite things were; spending time with her mother and five sisters, keeping up with all the happenings in Gilmore City, watching Wheel of Fortune and playing Candy Crush on her iPad. She proudly wore her Gilmore City Fun Days tee-shirts!

Sue was diagnosed with Primary Biliary Cholangitis 30 years ago and she did well up until the past 12 months. She recently spent time at the West Bend Care Center where she was lovingly cared for. Sue's niece, Sheryl Cray, offered to care for her at home with the help of Saint Croix Hospice. Other family members rallied to assist in her final 17 days in her home. It was a time of love and laughter, care and compassion, reflection and thankfulness. We thank all the dear neighbors and friends who loved and cared for Susie and Ron.

She was preceded in death by her parents Philip and Sylvia Jacobson, husband Ron Anderson, brother Russell Jacobson, sisters JoAnn Schurr and Mary Ford. Brothers-in-law Ben Schurr, Jack Wiese, James Ford and Jim Anderson. Nephews David Tool and Steven Schurr. Niece Lorrie Carman.

Susie is survived by sisters Judy (Eugene) Carman of Cresco, Sheila Wiese of Mason City, Linda (Don) Tool of Gilmore City, sister-in-law, Mavis Anderson of Pleasant Hill and 16 loving nieces and nephews.

fund to provide each county with funds to be used for national training for veteran service officers (VSO). A total of \$2.5 million is annually allocated to the Veterans Trust Fund from the lottery. This bill will allow \$300,000 of that to be used for VSO training. A total of \$500,000 will continue to be allowed to be spent annually by the Commission on Veterans Affairs. There is currently \$40.5 million in the Veterans Trust Fund, with interest deposits over \$100,000 per month.

The House also sent House File 259 to the governor. This bill includes provisions to ensure that Iowa's veterans service officers are certified and have access to the veteran's benefits management system within a year of being hired.

Iowa's veteran service officers are the first stop for any Iowa veteran that is seeking assistance. They are crucial and are operating in a constantly changing federal system which demands they

update their training several times a year.

House passes modernization of public notice requirements

Every week during session I and other legislators submit several district newsletters about the actions taken at the Capitol in the respective chambers to local newspapers. I appreciate their efforts to make space to get it printed. We all need to support our local newspapers for working to get this information out to the community.

This week the House passed Senate File 2331, which amends current code on public notice requirements for governmental bodies. This bill will help bridge the gap between where and how public notices are published. Currently public notices are required to be published in an official newspaper of record. These requirements were in place before the mass expansion of the internet in the daily lives



Twin Rivers students had a chance to taste pure Iowa maple syrup during a visit to the Cozy Grove Sugar Shack south of Algona. Submitted photo.

Community Calendar MEETINGS

This space is available FREE to any non-profit organization wishing to announce a meeting or special public event. Email the Independent by Monday at 10 a.m., heather@humboldtnews.com for insertion.

Humboldt County Conservation Board , third Wednesday of each month, 5 p.m., Conservation Office (208 5th Street North, Dakota City)
Humboldt/Dakota City Kiwanis Club , first Wednesday of the month, 12 p.m. and third Wednesday of the month 7 a.m., Miller's Landing
Humboldt Lions Club , first and third Tuesday of each month, 6 p.m., Humboldt County Fair Grounds, Event's building
Humboldt Rotary Club , first and third Tuesday of each month, 12 p.m., Miller's Landing
Humboldt School Board Meeting , Monday, April 15, 5:30 p.m., Administration Office - 401 13th St S Humboldt
Honeybee Quilters , first Monday of the month, 9 a.m., Faith United Methodist Church
Individuals are always welcome to call the Humboldt County Public Health Office for Free Blood Pressure Screenings at 515-332-2492.
Knitters & Crocheters , second Tuesday of the month, 8:30 a.m., Faith United Methodist Church
PEO Chapter BV , second or fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. (except July & August)
P.E.O. Chapter OA , second and fourth Wednesday of April and May. Coffee at 9 a.m., meeting at 9:30 a.m. Location changes, if interested call 515-890-2299.
Public Health Eligibility/Appointments can be made by calling the office of Humboldt County Public Health at 515-332-2492
Understanding Sisters , fourth Thursday of the month, 12 noon, Faith United Methodist Church
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Clinic is, second Tuesday of the month, Faith United Methodist Church

NOTE: Please check the meeting dates, times and locations and any other information. In case of error, please contact the Humboldt Independent at heather@humboldtnews.com

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HUMBOLDT, IOWA
Bill Jorgensen

of Iowans. This issue has been discussed for a while as there are many Iowans who prefer to read the notices in their local newspapers and Iowans who want to use the internet to get their information.

SP 2331 aims to be the compromise and solution for these issues. It would codify the creation of a free to the public statewide public notice website that is managed by an organization that represents most Iowa newspapers. Newspapers and governmental bodies are required to submit the notices to the state-wide website.

This will provide the no-

tice both electronically and in the official newspapers. The statewide website is required to provide access to all public notices for one year from the publication date, to provide subscription alerts for notices by email, and to provide a searchable database of the notices to allow for searching by criteria.

Editor's Note: A searchable database for public and legal notices published in newspapers across the state is available at www.iowanotices.org. It is searchable by county, city, publication, dates published and common phrases.