



Changes in Agriculture

Jake Kvaal from A&M Green Power in Macedonia, spoke at the Optimist Club on May 21. Jake grew up in Carsen and went to college at Emporia State University for communications and computer information systems.

According to Jake, A&M Green Power is the number 1 John Deere dealership in North America and Australia. Last year they sold 67 new combines. They have about 190 employees in five locations.

John Deere works on having integrated dealerships. Sales, parts, and repairs are not separate departments, but they all work together. Therefore, Jake works part of the year in sales and part in service and training.

Jake said his computer background helps him explain the tractor technology to people. He stated that the 8000R tractor has more technology in it than an F16 fighter jet.

Equipment keeps getting larger and more complex. The largest planter John Deere makes now is a 48 row, 120 feet wide. The most common large planter in this area is a 60 foot wide planter.

More information is available at <http://www.amgreenpower.com>

Meeting Minutes

Dennis White opened the Optimist Club meeting on May 21 with the Pledge of Allegiance and Dale Willenborg gave the opening prayer. Chuck Nielsen provided jokes. There were 13 members and 2 guests at the meeting.

The Treynor Club has been asked to set up chairs at the Prairie Crossing Winery on August 5 for the

Optimist District meeting. Someone also mentioned that Ragbrai will be coming to Treynor on July 24, so the club should investigate setting up a stand in Treynor. There are 10,000 registered riders and around 25,000 people involved in the ride.

Dick Baber contributed to the Youth Fund to complement Jeff Jorgensen for organizing the Republican Party meeting on Friday.

Jeff Jorgensen won the 50/50 drawing. Bob Hibbard won the attendance drawing.

The first day of the Flag Project will be May 28 after the club meeting. There are about 15 new customers this year, so the new footings will be installed on Thursday, May 25.

CALENDAR

May 28 – Flag installation

May 30 – Flag takedown

June 1 - Can Kennel sorting at for the St. Paul Youth Group

Birthdays

May 11 – Keith Denton (recognized)

May 20 – Kelly Sutherland

May 21 - Steve Irvin

May 22 - Kirk Vorthmann

Anniversaries

May 27 – Bob & Mary Francis Abbott

May 29 – Bill & Rhonda Matthew

Speakers

June 4 – Honor World War 2 veterans

Programs

May – Keith Denton

June – Dick Baber

July – Judy Gutttau

Aug – Treynor Bank Employees

Sep – Jeff Jorgensen

Oct – Gary Funkhouser

Nov – Arlyn Norris

Dec – Chuck Nielsen

Heavenly Softball

Two 90-year-old women, Bertha and Betty, had been friends all of their lives. When it was clear that Bertha was dying, Betty visited her every day.

One day Betty said, 'Bertha, we both loved playing softball all our lives, and we played all through high school. Please do me one favor: when you get to heaven, somehow you must let me know if there's women's softball there.'

Bertha looked up at Betty from her deathbed and said, 'Betty, you've been my best friend for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favor for you.'

Shortly after that, Bertha passed on.

A few nights later, Betty was awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to her, 'Betty, Betty.'

'Who is it', asked Betty, sitting up suddenly. 'Who is it?'

'Betty -- it's me, Bertha.'

'You're not Bertha. Bertha just died.'

'I'm telling you, it's me, Bertha,' insisted the voice.

'Bertha! Where are you?'

'In heaven,' replied Bertha. 'I have some really good news and a little bad news.'

'Tell me the good news first,' said Betty.

'The good news,' Bertha said, 'is that there's women's softball in heaven. Better yet, all of our old buddies who died before me are here, too. Even better than that, we're all young again. Better still, it's always Springtime and it never rains or snows. And best of all, we can play softball all we want, and we never get tired.'

'That's fantastic,' said Betty. 'It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news?'

'You're pitching Tuesday.'