



May 12, 2012

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Pottawattamie County Parks

Tina Popson, Pottawattamie County Parks Education Program Manager spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on May 5. Tina has worked there for ten years, doing field trips, summer camps, public programs, and Kinder Nature.

Pottawattamie County has four parks: Arrowhead in Neola, Botna Bend in Hancock, Hitchcock Nature Center near Honey Creek, and Narrows River Park in Council Bluffs.

Arrowhead is 147 acres and has about 26,000 visitors each year. They are celebrating their 50th anniversary on July 13-14. It has a 17 acre fishing lake.

Botna Bend Park is 119 acres and has about 11,000 visitors each year. It has bison and elk herds. Each March they have maple tree tapping. This year they collected 500 gallons of sap, which boils down to 50 gallons of syrup. They put three taps in a tree and can collect five gallons of sap in a day.

Hitchcock Nature center has 1248 acres and about 45,000 visitors each year. They hold camps for ages 3 through college. It contains a 45 foot observation tower.

Narrows River Park is 36 acres and has about 13,000 visitors each year. It provides access to the Missouri River with a shelter overlooking the river.

Tina said that a recent study showed that children spend less than six minutes a day outside. Researchers have coined the term "nature deficit disorder" to describe a rapidly-decreasing connection to the natural world. Children with this problem think of themselves as the center of the universe.

Tina said she likes working with children from Treynor because of their politeness, intellectual curiosity, and adult support.

E-Bay Selling

Ken Graham, the Club Vice-President, spoke to the Optimist Club on May 12. He sells items on e-bay as a hobby. He has sold 670 items so far. His sister got him started.

To sell on e-bay, Ken signed up on e-bay and set up a PayPal account. Initially he had a lot of items in his attic that had not been touched in years. He takes the items, takes a picture of the item, and makes a short write-up. Then he puts the item for sale for one week.

When selling items on e-bay, the buyer pays the shipping. Ken tries to determine a shipping cost based on the weight and is usually very close.

Ken now goes to auctions and thrift stores to find other items to sell. After selling for almost ten years, he has learned a few tricks for selling and knowing what will sell. He searches for similar things that sold on e-bay in the past 3-4 months to determine a price. E-bay does not let people use inaccurate or misleading terms in ads. For example, you cannot say something is "like new." It is "slightly used."

Ken keeps track of his income and expenses and files a Schedule C for the IRS. E-bay charges about 10% and PayPal takes a percentage also. The most Ken has made in one year is about \$2000.

Ken has had few dissatisfied buyers. He gives them a full refund, including postage, and tells them to keep the item.

He often makes his own boxes or ships in the flat rate USPS boxes.

Meeting Minutes

Richard Vorthmann provided jokes for the Optimist club meeting on May 5. Ken Graham opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Dee Guttau offered the opening prayer.

Gary Guttau said that Jean Hibbard came home from the Nursing Home this week.

The Wrestling Club came to the meeting to collect their check from the can kennel. This was the highest single month collection to date, \$1623.45. The wrestling club has 45-50 youth, with 28-30 wrestling at each meet. They meet November through February and practice twice a week. The club includes members from pre-kindergarten through Jr. High. They youngest youth don't actually compete in wrestling matches.

Dennis won the 50/50 drawing and Bill Matthews won the attendance drawing, but did not collect. There were 13 members and 10 guests at the meeting.

Richard Vorthmann, Gary Guttau, Gary Funkhouser, and Arlyn Norris provided jokes for the Optimist club meeting on May 12. Chuck Nielsen opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Richard Vorthmann offered the opening prayer.

Dale Willenborg contributed to the Youth Fund in recognition of the boys and girls track teams successful season. Gary Guttau contributed to recognize the Master Gardener's sale at Iowa School for the Deaf.

Dennis White won the 50/50 drawing and Dale Willenborg won the attendance drawing. There were 13 members at the meeting.

Calendar

- May 26 – Flag installations
- May 28 – Memorial Day – flags taken down

Birthdays

- May 11 – Keith Denton
- May 20 – Kelly Sutherland
- May 21 – Steve Irvin
- May 22 – Kirk Vorthmann
- Jun 5 – Bob Abbott
- Jun 16 – Dale Willenborg
- Jun 20 – Jeff Jorgensen
- Jun 22 – Kevin Elwood

Anniversaries

- May 27 – Bob & Mary Francis Abbott
- May 29 – Bill & Rhonda Matthew
- Jun 1 – Kevin & Shana Elwood
- Jun 3 – Arlyn & Wanda Norris
- Jun 5 – Steve & Debra Irvin
- Jun 15 – Steve & Jeanie Chambers
- Jun 28 – Mick & Judy Guttau

Speakers

- May 19 – Daniel Flossinger, Trip to South America
- May 26 – Kevin Elwood, Treynor Community Schools Superintendent
- June 2 – Todd Gordon, wrapping up the athletic year
- June 9 – Dr. Ward Chambers, Afghanistan
- June 16 – Pending
- June 23 – Greg Witte, Risen Son Christian Village
- June 30 – Pending

Programs

- May – Ken Graham
- June – Judy Guttau