



January 14, 2017

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Boy Scouts

Keith Denton introduced the guest speaker, Tom Schnepel, who spoke about his position as Advancement Chairman for the Trailblazer District of Boy Scouts of America. Tom explained that the country is divided into Boy Scout Councils. The Trailblazer District is one of 11 districts of the Mid-America Council which serves 58 counties in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. The Mid-America Council has offices in Omaha and Sioux City. The Trailblazer District includes the following Iowa counties: Pottawattamie, Western Cass, Mills, Montgomery, Adams, Union, Fremont, Page, Taylor and Ringgold.

Advancement in Boy Scouts is the process by which a scout progresses from rank to rank. At each rank in Boy Scouts a Board of Review is held. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts. The Trailblazer District averages 23 Eagle Scouts every year. As Advancement Chairman, Tom has many tasks, of which a large share involves helping each



Eagle Scout candidate through the advancement process. Tom is familiar with the steps necessary to become an Eagle Scout as he and both his sons, Brian and Ben, are all Eagle Scouts. Each Eagle Scout candidate must successfully complete a service project. The scout is not expected to do all of the work. The scout must

identify and organize the project; seek out others with the expertise needed to help complete the project; and supervise the project. Boy Scouts have 135 merit badges. Each merit badge covers a subject, such as a possible career choice or a life skill. Twelve of the 135 are required for Eagle Scout plus nine more of the Scout's choosing. Merit Badge Counselors are adult volunteers who teach their area of expertise. All adult leaders receive training, including required Youth Protection Training.

Tom described Boy Scouts as a series of adventures. He is dedicated to the Boy Scout mission of developing and providing programs that build character and train boys in the responsibilities of participating, citizenship, and of developing personal fitness. Boy Scouts live by their oath and law. The Scout Oath: *On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.* The Scout Law: *A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.* Tom discussed the renewed emphasis on Duty to God.

The Boy Scout motto is *Be Prepared*. Soon the local Boy Scouts will participate in the Klondike winter Camporee Jan. 20-22. One of the camp activities is to bring the supplies necessary to build a sled at the park. The completed sled is then used to haul their tools and supplies to the campsite for the other camp activities.

The Treynor Optimist Club sponsors the local Cub Scout Pack and the Treynor American Legion sponsors the Boy Scout Troop. Boy Scout Troop 729 has 15 boys enrolled; and Cub Scout Pack 729 has 37 boys enrolled. Currently, Ben Weitzel is Scoutmaster and Robert Engle is Cubmaster, but Owen Gregg will soon be taking his position.

Besides being Advancement Chairman, Tom is also the Trailblazer District Assistant Roundtable Commissioner and Troop 729 Assistant

Scoutmaster. Tom and his wife, Lori, live south of Treynor where they operate a farm. Tom and Lori also have a daughter, Amanda Brandon, who teaches instrumental music at Riverside.

Meeting Minutes

President Kirk Vorthmann called the January 14, 2017 meeting of the Treynor Optimist Club to order at 8 a.m. in the Legion Room of the Treynor Community Center. Fourteen members and one guest were present. The meeting began with humor from Keith Denton. Kirk led the Pledge of Allegiance and Gary Gutttau offered the prayer. A thank-you was received from the Pott. County Sheriff's office.

Marsha Underwood won the 50/50 drawing and the attendance prize was not collected. For bragging rights, Gary Funkhouser contributed to the youth fund by sharing the Iowa School Report Card ratings for Treynor Schools. The Iowa School Report Card is a new system developed by the Iowa Department of Education to show how each public school is performing on certain educational measures. The system assigns schools one of six overall ratings: *Exceptional*, *High-Performing*, *Commendable*, *Acceptable*, *Needs Improvement*, and *Priority*. The ratings are based on each school's performance over a two-year period on up to eight educational measures. Treynor Elementary was rated Commendable; Treynor Middle School was rated Commendable; and Treynor High School was rated High-Performing. Overall, 1% of schools were rated Exceptional; 8% of schools rated High-Performing (which represents the top 9% of schools in the

state); and 29% of schools rated Commendable (which represents the top 38% of schools in the state).

For community news, John Klein reported attending the recent Treynor City Council meeting where a city sidewalk plan was discussed. The plan, which was developed by an engineering firm, identified the areas of greatest need. Gary Funkhouser and John Klein attended the recent Cardinal Core meeting. The next Cardinal Core activity is a Literary Night at the elementary on Jan 26. A community volunteer recognition event is being considered. John and Gary also reported an upcoming meeting on Saturday, January 28, to further develop the Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 campaign.

Treasurer Gary Gutttau reported 25 members have paid dues. Music Boosters and Cub Scouts have not yet picked up their can kennel redemption checks. The last sorting for the After Prom will be Wed, Jan 25, at 5:00. The Silver Keg Feeders 4-H Club will be sorting on Feb 8 and 22 (time to be announced later); Bill Vorthmann will be the Optimist contact.

New business included discussion of Arbor Day projects. Arbor Day is the last Friday in April. Already scheduled is Mulch Madness with the Master Gardeners at the elementary on Wednesday, April 12. Trailers will be needed to haul the mulch. A Pruning Party is scheduled for March 21 at the elementary. For both Arbor Day projects, volunteers should park at the old football field location.

Calendar

- Jan 11 Can Kennel sorting, After Prom, 1:00 p.m.
- Jan 25 – Can Kennel sorting, After Prom, 1:00 p.m.
- Mar 21 – Pruning Party at the Elementary School
- Apr 12 – Mulch Madness with the Master Gardeners

Birthdays

- Jan 19 – Dennis White
- Feb 12 – Richard Vorthmann
- Feb 13 – Gary Funkhouser

Anniversaries

- Feb 6 – Jon & Debra Jacobsen
- Feb 23 – Richard & LuEtta Vorthmann

Speakers

Programs

- January - Keith Denton
- February - Bill and Ann Vorthmann
- March - Chad Gutttau
- April - Gary Funkhouser
- May -
- June - Jim Clausen
- July - First two weeks open
Last two – Jerry Hempel
- August - First two weeks open
Last weeks – Bob Mantell
- September - Ken Graham
- October - Gary Gutttau
- November - Mick Gutttau
- December –

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Notes provided by Ann Vorthmann