



September 24, 2011

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Pottawattamie County Flooding

Lynn Grobe, Chairman of the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors, spoke at the Optimist Club on September 24. After the river reached flood stage, Pottawattamie County mainly supplied labor to help with sandbagging and monitoring the levy South of Council Bluffs.

In the past week the river level has gone down three feet at Sioux City. In a few days the water level should decrease here also.

Pottawattamie County applied for emergency federal assistance earlier, but it was denied. At the time there were not have enough houses classified as substantially damaged. They are starting a new application.

I-29 is open North of Council Bluffs. There are some railroad tracks along that route that have no dirt under them. This week the EPA has been picking up fuel and propane tanks that floated down the river and lodged various places.

Some farmland that was flooded is being cleaned up now. They recommend that soybeans, not corn, be planted in those areas because it softens the soil and adds nitrogen. Corn will not loosen the soil as much.

For natural disasters, the federal government usually picks up 75% of the cost, the state 10%, and the county 15%. The county contribution can consist of in-kind labor. Council Bluffs did a great job preventing flooding, but they will not get reimbursed for much of it, because it was preventive, not actual damage.

FIA - Faith in Action

Melanie Schuler, cofounder of FIA, discussed her new organization with the Optimist Club on September 24. She and Paige Volkens started FIA in July after attending the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) at Pella, Iowa in June. She was so inspired by the program that she wanted to do something to continue to make a difference in the community. She is a Junior at Treynor High School.

In July, Melanie and Paige got together to make a calendar of community service they wanted to perform. In July they collected old summer clothing and cases of water to help with the flood victims. They collected 1200-1400 pounds of items, which they gave to Mom's Place and Micah House. They also collected \$220 in cash which they used to buy baby items and other things needed by those organizations.

In August they collected 24 backpacks filled with school supplies for Mom's Place and Micah House. They also collected \$320 in cash for additional items.

In September they are collecting food and baking items and paper products. They found that there is a special need for cooking items like ketchup, mustard, and spices. They put collection boxes at TS Bank, Zion Congregational church, and St. Paul Lutheran church.

Melanie wants to keep working her community service projects for two years, until she finishes High School. She hopes to continue similar projects in college. HOBY

challenged those attending to complete 100 hours of community service. Melanie says she only has 18 hours left to complete that goal.

Information about HOBY is available at hoby.org.

Meeting Minutes

Chuck Nielsen, Kirk Vorthmann, and Keith Denton and provided jokes before the Optimist Club meeting on 24 September. President Dennis White opened the meeting with the pledge and Dee Gutttau offered the prayer.

Dee Gutttau celebrated her birthday. Gary Gutttau contributed to the Youth Fund in recognition of the Optimist Club float in the Homecoming parade. He mentioned that the first Treynor Homecoming was in 1953. Jim Clausen contributed because his High School class is celebrating their 50 year anniversary.

The wrestling team will have can kennel sorting on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. Next month is a new Optimist Year, so membership dues of \$75 are needed again.

The Optimist Club provided dictionaries to all the 3rd graders. Each of the three classes signed Thank You letters to the Optimist Club.

Jim Clausen won the 50/50 drawing. Linnea White won the attendance drawing, but did not collect. There were 18 members and two guests at the meeting.

Homecoming was Friday night. Les Harvey was recognized before the football game for his contributions to the youth in Treynor, so six Optimist members participated in the flag ceremony.

The Treynor Optimist Club Board met after the regular meeting. They confirmed donation of \$50 to the Salvation Army. They also voted to provide \$75 to the FIA, as discussed with Melanie Schuler. They also assigned the Can Kennel for October to Optimist club fundraising for Youth activities, February to the Dance Team, and next August to the Wrestling Team.

Calendar

Sept 28 – Can Kennel sorting for Wrestling Team, time: 5:00 p.m.

Birthdays

Sep 9 - Arlyn Norris (recognized)
Sep 10 - Milli Harvey
Sep 19 - Bob Hibbard (recognized)
Sep - Dee Gutttau (recognized)
Sep 30 – Tim Greiner

Anniversaries

Sep 26 – Bill & Ann Vorthmann

Speakers

Oct 1 -

Programs

Oct – Gary Funkhouser
Nov – Arlyn Norris
Dec – Chuck Nielsen