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Josemi Puncel Speaks

Josemi Puncel, former Spanish teacher in 2017-2018, spoke to the Treynor Optimist Club on July 27, 2019.

Puncel, his wife, and two daughters were sad to leave Treynor, but had to go back for his wife to keep her job. He was able to go back to being a teacher of English.



Then he got the idea of developing a student program and worked with teacher Melanie Schuler and Principal Mr. McNeil. On July 2 he brought 9 students plus his family to the US for a month. Seven of the students stayed with Treynor families, two with Underwood families, and his family was hosted by the Funkhouser family. They depart this Monday. He said the students adapted quite well

and will be very sad next Mon and "lots of cries!"

The students have been exposed to a different life and many opportunities to see lots and participate in activities. At the high school, where there were three days of activities, the kids were fascinated with lockers. They use big back packs and stay in one classroom for the day except for special classes.

One big difference the students have noted is they are missing eating veggies, fish and drinking warm milk plus meal times are random here. In Spain it is normal to have the large meal at noon and to have a two hour break for lunch. The evening meal is lighter and eaten not sooner than 8:30 PM. Puncel remembers being shocked by a 21 minutes lunch period!

Puncel talked about high school in Spain. There is no middle school. Students in 7th-12th grade attend four years for a degree and then can continue two more years for academic training or pursue two years of vocational training.

In the European Union, sales taxes have three levels. Most products charge 21%, food and necessary books charge 4%, 10% is charged for the remainder. In addition 22-30% is taken out of wages for taxes.

The health system is different because there are no hospital costs. Some medicines they have to pay for, but not retirees. Taxes paid cover this cost.

In Europe there are low cost flights. A trip from Spain to England could cost \$80 round trip. Families paid more than \$2000 for students to participate in this program for their flight and insurance.

Katie Campbell, elementary P.E. teacher in Treynor, will speak next week. Meetings are in the Treynor Legion Room from 8-9 AM. The coffee is always on.

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, President, called the meeting to order. Thirteen members were present. Three guests were present: Josemi Puncel, Clarissa Weitzel and Derek Thompson.

Jokes/stories were shared by Dee Guttau and Keith Denton. The group said the Pledge of Allegiance. Dale Willenborg gave the opening prayer.

The 50/50 Drawing was won by Judy Guttau and the Attendance Drawing was won by Linda Danker who was not present.

Jim Clausen celebrated his birthday and furnished breakfast pizza. Thank you!

Bragging Rights contributions to the Youth Fund: 1) Gary Guttau announced that Members Day is Wednesday at the Zoo so there are opportunities to take behind the scenes tours – one for sure is in the Conservation Building. 2) Gary Funkhouser contributed because the girls softball team had a consolation game win. 3) John Klein contributed because his wife was a WestFair 4-H judge and will turn 65 on Monday. 4) Dale Willenborg contributed because our speaker last week, Emily McQueen, made a connection with the Guttas regarding the picture of the house. 5) Gary Guttau donated because Dee presented as a master gardener at WestFair. 6) Keith Denton, Marsha Underwood, Dee Guttau, Judy Guttau, Kevin Underwood, John Klein all

contributed for Gary Funkhouser's 17 years as JOII Club leader.

Community News:

Old Business:

Bingo is today from 3-5 pm at the Fair. The Legion and volunteers from Optimist Club will be helping.

Can kennel sorting was Wednesday and the following helped: Kirk Vorthmann, Gary Gutttau, Gary Funkhouser, Keith Denton, Ken Graham, Chad Gutttau and Bill Vorthmann. Twelve kids helped. It was noted that Silos contributes their wine bottles which is helpful.

Those helping watch gates at WestFair Thursday were: Gary Funkhouser, Dale Willenborg, Dee Gutttau, Gary Gutttau, Judy Gutttau, Mick Gutttau, Dennis White, Kirk Vorthmann, and Bill Vorthmann.

New Business:

Donations may be made to the TS Community Foundation for those helping sponsor the Omaha Percussion Group coming to Treynor during Homecoming. Please contact John Klein if you have a trailer that would hold six people and equipment for the Homecoming parade.



L-R: Dale Willenborg, Clarissa Weitzel, Derek Thompson

Representatives from the JOII Club were present to receive their can kennel check of over \$1000. Clarissa Weitzel, President, and Derek Thompson spoke briefly to the club about projects the JOII Club has been involved in: Souper Bowl, Treynor Days, painting the East Park, baking cookies project, tying blankets for homeless shelter.

Clarissa hopes to use the money for t shirts for the students when volunteering and hopes they can be more involved in helping the homeless community.

John Klein stated that Keep Kids Alive was a spin-off of JOII and other groups.

Jordan Campbell is the new leader for JOII Club. Many thanks to Gary Funkhouser for his long-term commitment.

A motion was made, seconded and approved for the club to purchase one-two gals of paint to help provide enough paint for the JOII club to paint tables in the east park.

Gary Gutttau donated printer ink cartridges (HP 950/951) for auction, and these were purchased for a total of \$10.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and concluded with the saying of the Optimist pledge.

HUMOR



Calendar

- Aug. 2-4 Iowa Optimist Convention
DM Holiday Inn, downtown
- Aug. 7 Can Kennel Sorting

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Programs

- August Jordan Campbell
- Sept Gary Gutttau (first two)
Jerry Hempel (last two)
- Oct Bill and Ann Vorthmann

Speakers

- Aug. 3: Katie Campbell, Elem. PE Teacher
- Aug. 10: Panel of Treynor Seniors going on to play college sports.
- Aug. 17: Tom (Blade) Hartigan – Basketball referee and evaluator
- Aug. 24: Dan Nielsen (Pest Control)
- Aug. 31: To Be Announced

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575