



May 1, 2021

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Steve Irvin – Iowa College Access Network (ICAN)

Steve Irvin spoke about ICAN at the Treynor Optimist Club on May 1. He began as a counselor in Treynor in 2003 and started working for ICAN in 2014. He retired from ICAN in June 2020, but they begged him to return in August 2020. He is only working for them a couple days a week now and will be done the end of June 2021.



L-R: Steve Irvin, Dale Willenborg

The Iowa College Access Network began as the College Planning Center in 1998. In 2009 it changed to an independent, non-profit organization in 2009. They now provide a wide range of services and materials to 99% of Iowa schools at no cost to the school. Steve said the goal of the organization is to “help Iowa progress economically.” They were originally centered in Des Moines, but not they moved to regional offices throughout the state in 2013. They are funded by donations.

70% of Iowa high school graduates get some kind of post education training. Apprenticeships are very big now. ICAN provides information for all types of post-education support, from job training advice, to trades to various types of college degrees.

Steve talked about Federal Pell Grants. Seniors must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. If the results are above \$5000, students do not qualify. Not many Treynor students qualify for aid, but schools also use the results for giving student aid. Steve helps students and their parents fill out FAFSA applications for free. It takes 45-60 minutes. Anyone from Iowa or coming to a college in Iowa can get free help through ICAN. They are getting requests from people in other states now and charge \$75 if they are not coming to an Iowa college.

Covid-19 changed the way ICAN operates. They were visiting every school and doing presentations

there for free. In March 2020, Steve visited a school and when he got home he was told to stay at home. At first ICAN tried another system, but then switched to Zoom Webinar for school presentations. Visits to schools were free before, but ICAN employees were reimbursed for travel expenses. Now the Webinars are free, but an in-person school visit costs the school \$250.

Steve helped develop some ICAN Curriculum lessons. Schools can get the lesson for \$1250 and \$250 for yearly renewals. Treynor has signed up for the lessons.

See ICANSucceed.org for more information.

Next week’s speaker will be: Cara Cool-Trede on Career EdVantage.

Silver Keg Feeders 4-H

The officers of the Silver Keg Feeders 4-H picked up their can kennel check for \$1887.10. This is the second largest check for four weeks of the can kennel and is the largest received since businesses started redeeming cans again. They brought three boxes of donuts from Krispy Cream for the Optimists.



L-R: Hailee Poland, Kaylee Dyke, Claire Yocum, Dale Willenborg

The Silver Keg Feeders have been making new benches for Westfair. The wood was bought and cut by some donors. The club made 16 benches. They want to make some picnic tables also. They also do

community service projects, do adopt a family at Christmas, and contribute money for the food pantry in Treynor. They have 130 members this year, ages K-12.

Seniors Hailee Poland, Claire Yochum, and Kaylee Dyke picked up the check. Hailee is club President. She has four cows and is going to college in Missouri, majoring in early childhood development. Dyke is Vice President and has cows and a goat. She is also going to college in Missouri and wants to go into chiropractic. Yochum has a steer, lambs, and does photography. She is going to college at the University of Iowa in elementary education.

They met in August outside the community center. In March and April they met in Vorthmann's shed to build benches. In May they plan to meet outside the community center again.

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, club President, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building. Present were 15 members and 3 guests from the Silver Keg Feeders 4-H. Dale Willenborg led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dee Guttau gave the opening prayer.

Gary Funkhouser and Keith Denton provided humor. Jerry Hempel won the 50/50 drawing. Linda Danker won the attendance drawing, but was not present to collect.

Community:

Mulch Madness was April 30. There are about 80 youth in 5th grade helping. Gary Guttau and Keith Denton brought mulch from the recycling center. Gary Guttau, Kevin Underwood, and John Klein from the Optimist Club helped, along with many other adults.

See the write-up and pictures below.

Gary Funkhouser said that Treynor youth were awarded \$59,000 in scholarships from the Southwest Iowa Education Foundation.

Bragging Rights: (\$ to fund youth activities)

Kevin & Marsha Underwood celebrated that Carter White had won the singles and doubles city champions in Tennis.

Old/New Business: Can Kennel sorting was April 28 at 6:00 p.m. with ZION Youth. John Klein and Gary Guttau and a lot of the ZION youth helped. Gary Funkhouser sorts bottles every day or two.

ZION's Cinco De Mayo celebration is Wednesday, May 5 from 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. They will sell Tacos, nachos, and pop for Dine-in, Carryout, and Curbside delivery. This is just a fun activity on the Fine Arts night at the school.

Chad Guttau gave a brief update on the legislature stating activity on the floor was cancelled and legislators will go back next week.

All Optimists are invited to attend the CB Optimist Club "Respect for Law" breakfast at Hoy Kilnoski Funeral Home May 13 at 7 AM. Please call Mike Hoy at 712-256-9988 to make reservations.

The meeting was closed with the Optimist Creed.

HUMOR

The official sports drink when I was a kid..



Calendar

- May 5 Fine Arts Night and Zion's Cinco De Mayo celebration from 5-7:30 PM.
- May 8 Put out flyers for flags
- May 13 "Respect for Law" breakfast (see above)

Birthdays

- May 11 Keith Denton
- May 21 Steve Irvin
- May 22 Kirk Vorthmann

Anniversaries

Programs

- May Steve Irwin (first two)
Dale Willenborg (last two)
- June Judy Guttau
- July Kirk Vorthmann (first two)
Doug Dillivan (last two)

Speakers

- May 1 Steve Irvin, ICAN/SWIEF
- May 8 Cara Cool-Trede, career EdVantage
- May 15 TBA
- May 22 TBA
- May 29 Stan Latta, Chaplain Good News Jail & Prison Ministry
- June 5 Melanie Schuler -Spanish teacher

2021 Treynor Elementary “Mulch Madness” Arbor Day Activity

82 Fifth-grade students at Treynor Elementary worked on Arbor Day, Friday, April 30 to help preserve and protect the trees and shrubs all around their campus by participating in their annual “Mulch Madness” environmental activity. The event was planned through the Treynor Optimist Club, with additional volunteers from the Treynor Junior Optimist Club, Pottawattamie County Master Gardeners, and concerned local citizens. The 4.3 tons of “clean” mulch came from the Council Bluffs Recycling Center. The Home Depot store donated the orange 5-gallon buckets for the event.

Sarah Rieder, the DNR Forester for Pottawattamie County, gave the instructions on how to properly mulch each tree. She was also a great role-model of a young woman going into a traditionally male profession.

Mulch Madness is an annual event that was cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Next year’s Fifth-grade students will be doing it again, but at the larger Treynor High School campus with even more mulch.

This Fifth-grade is the largest class in Treynor school. The four classrooms of kids were subdivided into groups of 5 or 6. Each subgroup had an adult, or near-adult supervisor with them. The near-adult leaders were Juniors or Seniors in the Treynor Junior Optimist Club from the High School.

The weather was perfect, with sunshine, low winds, and temperature in the mid-70’s. Despite lots of shovels and rakes, there were no injuries, much to the relief of the school nurse.



Optimist Keith Denton loosening up packed mulch for kid haulers



Sarah Rieder – DNR District Forester from Onawa gave instructions.



DNR Forester first shows the “do’s” and “don’ts” of mulching on a spruce tree.



Fifth Grade students (and Keith Denton) unloading mulch from Keith's dump trailer



JOI Club members volunteering at team leaders. Seniors in back, Juniors in front.



Kids unloading mulch into Home Depot donated 5-gallon buckets for hauling. Gary Guttau supervising the shoveling off his dump trailer.



Like an army of ants, 82 kids finishing the 4.5 tons of mulch in 2 hours of work.



Kid teams of 5 or 6 are supervised by JOI Club or community volunteers (Kay Bahl here).



Not just little trees, big trees got mulch also.



Being a kid, it was not all just work.



Community volunteer, Vicky Dowling, gets down into the mulch placement.



The end result was a layer of new mulch around each campus tree.

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