



Nov. 16, 2024

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Mills County Emergency Management Agency



Travis Hitchcock, Director of the Mills County Emergency Management Agency and the Mills County 911 director, spoke Saturday. He bought the house where Jordan Campbells' grandparents lived in Treynor.

Travis's family moved to the Council Bluffs area when he was 10. He graduated from Lewis Central in 2006. He spent some time at Southwest Iowa Community College, wanting to play baseball.

In 2009 the Iowa State Patrol was hiring, but due to budget cuts he didn't get a job there. He joined the military in February 2010 and went to Lackland AFB. He then went to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey.

He spent two years at Mildenhall in the United Kingdom. There he met his wife Emily, who was going to college.

After serving four years in the U.S. Air Force, Travis went to Bellevue University to get a degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security in 2014-2016. He said he would have liked to stay in the military for 20 years, but the military was having cutbacks. His interest in emergency responses peaked because of his time in the military overseas.

After graduation, Pottawattamie County was hiring a part time person for Emergency Management. He had an interview with them, but they directed him to Mills County, who was looking for a full time person.

He worked for Mills County for five years. During that period of time he worked the floods in 2019 which affected 400-500 homes.

To expand his background, Travis went to work for Pottawattamie County in 2020. In 2022 Mills County needed a 911 director and an Emergency Management director. He

recommended that the same person could do both and they hired him for the dual position in 2022.

As the 911 Director for Mills County, Travis hires 911 operators. He said that is very difficult. Jeff Jorgensen suggested that IWCC set up a program to train operators and Travis agreed that would be very helpful

Travis talked briefly about eight areas of emergency management.

- Planning and Procedures – help plan for disaster responses
- Communications and Warning – communicate with various agencies to respond to incidents
- Resource Management – help pull in State and Federal agencies when needed
- Training and Exercise
- Incident Command – set up an Incident Command System when needed. This was used for RAGBRAI this year since it started in Mills County.
- Damage Assessment – They have the responsibility to conduct damage assessments for the State. Travis has a drone to help with that.
- Hazard Analysis – Look for possibilities for problems. A hazard assessment was performed for all schools in Pottawattamie County for school protection.
- Public Information – Ensure the public has the correct perception of Emergency Management. Local jurisdictions have the responsibility, but Emergency Management can help pull in other resources when needed.

Thank you to Dale Willenborg for taking notes and preparing the newsletter.

Next week's Program:

Jeff Casey-Treynor Football Program

FAMOUS QUOTE

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." —Walt Disney

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. Eighteen members were present.

Guests today: Travis Hitchcock

The group recited the pledge and Dale Willenborg gave the prayer.

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers, Jeff Jorgensen,

50/50: Jim Clausen

Attendance Award: Jordan Campbell.

Football Poll: Chad Gutttau won

Birthdays/Anniversaries: We celebrated Dianne Willenborg's birthday coming up on Nov. 18. She will be 70.

John and Carol Klein will celebrate their anniversary next week.

Bragging Rights: (Dollars are contributed to benefit local youth programs.)

- Jordan Campbell shared that he watched the Mike Tyson fight and it was horrible. It didn't start until 11:00 p.m. It was Tyson's first professional fight in 19 years.
- Dick Fox announced that he had 4.4" of rain this week. He also recognized grandson Brock Fox's football game at Augustana University. He also stated his 24 year old boots are still in good shape.

Community:

- There is a new Treynor Schools Fund for new PreK-12 classroom grant. They have \$10,000 in matching funds and any amount of donation will help meet the goal by the end of the year. Contact Kelsey Stupfell, 712-487-0334.
- All small businesses must do a Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) Reporting

filing by the end of the year. There are significant fines for not filing. Filing is done on the federal FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK (FINCEN). You can go to the following location to file. boiefiling.fincen.gov

- U.S. News: Honors Treynor Elementary and Middle Schools with "Best School" award because they place in the top 40% in the state.

Business:

- It is time for members to sign up for selecting speakers for 2025. Judy Gutttau will soon provide a list of potential speakers which she and John Klein prepared.
- Dues are due.
- The Droppett Trailer is now in place behind the Community Center.
- Teammates will have Can Kennel sorting at 9:15 on Nov. 23rd.
- For the can kennel, different tags will be used for each group. Since it will take 3-4 months to fill the trailer, 4-5 different sets of tags will be needed.

Community Events this week (In Treynor):

- Sun., Nov. 17: Bingo 6:30 PM in Treynor (The next times are Dec. 8 and 15.)
- Mon. Nov. 18: K-5th grade are invited to a free STEM evening, 6-8 p.m., Treynor Elementary.
- Tues., Nov. 19: 8TH grade boys BB vs Creston
- Thurs., Nov. 21: 7th/8th grade boys BB vs Mo Valley
- Fri., Nov. 22: JV, Varsity Girls vs Nodaway Valley

There being no further business, the pledge was stated and the meeting adjourned.

HUMOR



CALENDAR

Events:

- Nov. 23 Optimist Meeting 8 AM. Treynor Community Building
- Nov. 23 Teammates Can Kennel Sorting after meeting – 9:15 AM

Birthdays:

Nov. 22 Kathy Luedke

Anniversaries:

Nov. 22 John & Carol Klein
Nov. 25 Ward & Suzie Chambers

Programs:

Nov Jerry Hempel (last two)
Dec Mick and Judy Guttau

Speakers

- Nov. 23 Jeff Casey, 2024 Football Season
- Nov. 30 Chaley Hempel, Treynor Girls Cross Country Coach
- Dec. 6 Adam Magill, Pastor Zion Congregational Church
- Dec. 14 Tom Kallman, General Manager, Regional Water Assoc. (rural water pipes)
- Dec. 21 Jeff Edgar, Chaplain Good News Global
- Dec. 28 TBA

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