,,The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA
Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109
Iowa District Governor: Sue Wunsch

Lt Governor: Susan Enewold, CB

NEWSLETTER

Treynor Optimist Club President:
Dale Willenborg

July 5, 2025 Vol. 41, No.27

Jeff Jorgensen, Mt. Crescent Ski Area

Jeff is a long-time member of the Treynor Optimist club and currently serves as a Pottawattamie County Supervisor. He was first elected in 2022.



Jeff's topic of discussion was the county's ownership of Mt. Crescent. In December of 2021, the county purchased a 106-acre tract of land that included the Mt. Crescent Ski Area. The property was adjacent to Hitchcock Park so it became an addition to the park area. In January of 2022, the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board took over the management and operation of the property and ski facility. In 2023, the Mt. Crescent Ski Area was established as a county enterprise zone by the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors to allow it to continue ski operations as a separate business enterprise. Mt. Crescent has now been in operation for three years under the county's ownership.

Jeff mentioned that originally it cost $3.5 million to purchase the 106-acre tract of land that included Mt. Crescent, including $2.1 million from the county's ARPA funds and a $1.4 million grant from the Iowa West Foundation. An additional $2 million was added to the cost for maintenance repairs and equipment upgrades. The county now has $4.1 million invested in Mt. Crescent. So, what is the county's rate of return on this investment? According to Jeff it is zero.

Since the county now owns the property, no property taxes are collected on Mt. Crescent. All the proceeds from the Mt. Crescent ski operations are deposited into the enterprise fund, and as the sole organization in charge of overseeing all county park facilities, the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board controls the enterprise fund. The Conservation Board is slowly paying back the county's original investment, but it will take eight years or more to pay back the original $4.1 million invested. The Conservation Board does have a plan to make Mt. Crescent a four-seasons facility, but it will take 15 to 25 years and $25 million of private investment and/or grant money to make that happen. In the meantime, all the risks are on the county. This includes proper employee training, equipment malfunctions, and personal injuries from ski accidents that could lead to lawsuits. In Jeff's opinion, this is not acceptable. Owning and operating a ski facility is, quite clearly, a risky business and the county needs to get out of this risky business.

Jeff believes the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors should sell the Mt. Crescent ski facility to a private entrepreneur, someone with the experience and financial wherewithal to build and operate a successful four-seasons recreational facility that includes skiing, ice skating, tubing, and zip lining. Jeff has been in talks with such a person, the owner and president of a Health Club, which includes a network of health facilities that includes 72 locations across 11 states.

The purchase of the Mt. Crescent ski facility would result in the repayment of the county's original investment and create lots of opportunities for Pottawattamie County. It would give the county some much-needed incentives for economic development and put the Mt. Crescent property back on the county's tax rolls. In a very short time, Mt. Crescent could become the premier tourist destination for Iowa and the surrounding states.

Thanks to Kathy Luedke for taking notes.
Thanks to Jeff Jorgensen for his edits and additions.

Next Week's Program

The Honest John Missile- Gary Guttau

Famous Quote:

"Happiness is not something readymade; it comes from your own actions."

Dalai Lama

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, President, called the meeting to order. 14 members were present.

Prayer: Steve Irvin

Jokes: Steve Chambers, Dale Willenborg, Keith Denton, Steve Irvin

50/50: Jim Clausen

Attendance: Steve Chambers

Birthdays/Anniversaries: Jeff Jorgensen's deceased Father's birthday: HP Jorgensen, Jr.

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

- Keith Denton stated he had pump and well issues that were resolved.
- Bill Vorthmann bragged about Treynor Days and the good participation with Bingo which the Optimists helped with.
- Steve Chambers stated the Gillespie's fireworks were excellent.
- Gary Guttau shared that fireworks at their renter's house were done by the renter's friend and were excellent.
- Gary Guttau was happy to announce he found his lost cochlear for his ear.
- Chad Guttau participated in three July 4th parades – Underwood, Avoca, Oakland
- Steve Irvin shared that more than 3000 people attended the fireworks at Underwood.

BUSINESS:

- Flags were to be taken down Monday at 4 PM. However, that has changed again due to the forecasts for Monday and Tuesday. Flags will be picked up Wednesday at 4:30 PM, followed by helping TeamMates sort cans at 6:00 PM at the Can Kennel.
- Gary Guttau stated another demolished flag was in the flag mail box, which makes four total now.
- Westfair is asking for help from 12 Noon to 5:00 PM on Sunday, July 27 at the Gate.
- Dale shared that he is saving money by buying two tubes of cinnamon rolls rather than doughnuts for our meetings.
- Dee Guttau stated she will bring breakfast next Saturday to celebrate Gary's birthday on July 14.
- Our Optimist member, Gary Funkhouser is on hospice care. No update.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

- Bob Parker's funeral is in Des Moines Monday.
- Jan Young was reported as having a cancer mass removed from her liver this week.

Events this week in Treynor:

- **Sat. July 5:** V Boys Baseball vs Mo Valley 7:00
- **Wed,July 9:** : V Softball vs Tri-C or St. Alb 7:00
- **Fri. July 11:** V Softball vs Log/Mag or MVAOCOU
- **Fri. July 11:** Friday Food Truck ,Tikka Talk 11 – 1 Occasional Collective sponsor. Percentage donated to Treynor Food Bank.
- **Sat., July 12:** Annual Tristan Trail 5K run/walk 8 AM.

Future:

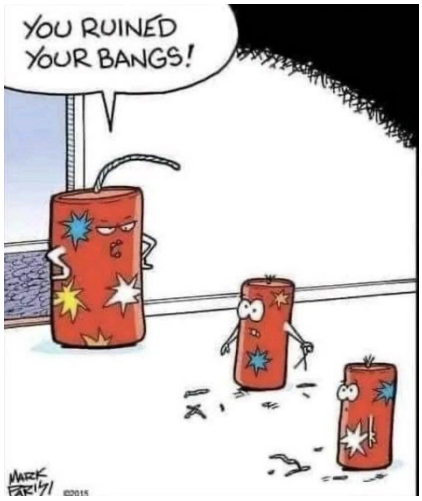
- **July 25-27**: Optimist District Convention, Warehouse Event Center, 1414 W. Broadway, , Council Bluffs, IA

AUCTION:

Kevin Underwood brought cucumbers which were purchased by Dee Guttau.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR



CALENDAR

Events:

July 12	Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM Treynor Community Building

Birthdays:

July 14	Gary Guttau

July 23	Jerry Hempel
July 27	Jim Clausen

Anniversaries:

July 14	Jeff and the late MaryBeth Jorgensen
July 15	Jordan and Katie Campbell

Programs:

July	Gary Guttau
August	Dale Willenborg
September	Jim Clausen (1st/2nd Sat.)
	Bill Vorthmann (3rd/4th Sat.)

Speakers

July 12	Gary Guttau: Honest John Missile
July 19	TBA
July 26	TBA

Editor: Judy Guttau, judy.guttau@tsbg.com , 402-670-4330. Contributors: Kathy Luedke, Dee Guttau, Mick Guttau
Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575