



The Optimist Club of Treynor, Treynor, IA
 Iowa District, Zone 2 Club Number 40-109
 Iowa District Governor: Jane Schmidt
 Lt Governor: George Volz

NEWSLETTER

Treynor Optimist Club President:
Dale Willenborg



Dec. 6, 2025

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Richard Miller, Indian Artifacts in Area



Richard Miller shared information about Indian artifacts found in the Glenwood area.

Iowa's Archaeological Timeline in chart form was shown. The periods of Archaic (8500 BC to 800 BC) and Woodland (800 BC to 1250 AD) were referred to the most for finding artifacts in this area from those periods.



Please note this display of artifacts found by Richard's grandfather, Norman Benedict, while farming near Pony Creek, Glenwood area, Mills Co.

The small artifacts at the top are true arrowheads and are very old. In the middle are spearpoints,

anything over 1-2 inches.

Richard also showed us little drill points used to make holes in buffalo hides.

Richard stated there were 400 Indian house sites in the Glenwood area. Indians settled there for 300-400 years. He showed pictures of his brother Dennis and himself doing digs where these house sites were in the 70's. They would dig squares and record what was found in each square. Things such as a buffalo shoulder blade and clam shells were found. Clam shells would be used for a spoon or even jewelry ornaments.

A cache pit inside the house would hold food, such as jerky, dried beans, and squash. The

Indians ate anything they could find. A fishhook artifact was found in Keg Creek and the Missouri River. Pottery, bows and arrows were among artifacts also found.

At the State Archeological Office in Iowa City there are a million Indian artifacts. Identifying all is important. Without a good cataloging system, identifying is very limited. Mills County Historical Museum, 20 Lake Drive, Glenwood, has the largest and rarest display of artifacts in the state (15-20,000 artifacts). There are tomahawks on display, but they are from Minnesota. At the museum there are bison bones, a bear tooth, needles from stone, a knife from a deer rib, beads from clam shells, arm guards, fishhooks with some being 4 inches long for catching catfish in Keg Creek and the Missouri River. Richard would be happy to take people on a tour.

Richard said when he first started farming it was easy to turn over artifacts in the soil, but it's more difficult now.

During the Woodland period there were 10-15 burial groups of mounds in the Glenwood area. A mound would be built and the dead buried there. During that time period, Indians stayed put, only going several miles to hunt. They would bring back bones for tools, and make dried jerky out of deer and elk, which were in most of Iowa. In other periods, Indians would travel 100's of miles.

In the early days there were digs in Indian burial sites and people had skeletons in their house. But in the 90's Native Americans became strict and a state law was enforced that stated no one could touch a burial site or ceremonial object. The state had a lot of Indian skeletons. They were useful for research and when no longer needed, they were turned over to native tribes for burial.

Next Week's Program
Doug Larsen, Former Congressional Candidate

Famous Quote:

“I’m going to use all my tools, my God-given ability, and make the best life I can with it.”

Lebron James

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg presided. 16 members were present. Guests: Richard Miller, David and Vicki Dowling, Jill Davis, Sarah and son Isaac Butts, Taci Miller, Brooklyn Casey

Breakfast: Thanks to Kathy Luedke for breakfast dessert to celebrate her birthday from two weeks ago.

Prayer: Bill Vorthmann

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers

50/50: Steve Irwin

Attendance: Kathy Luedke

Football Pool: Kevin Underwood

Birthdays/Anniversaries: Kevin Underwood turns 66 on Dec. 16. Dee Guttau announced that her oldest grandson, Chase, turns 25 today.

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

- Jim Clausen: Iowa beat Nebraska
- Dale Willenborg: Great time with the grandkids who came to visit for four days.
- John Klein: ISU beat Alcorn State Tuesday in Basketball: 132 to 68!
- Gary Guttau: Computer fixed that was a scam call.
- Chad Guttau: He and Kip and Sheila met with Doug Jensen. He is suspending his campaign for Congress as his wife is being deployed in January.
- Keith Denton: Contributed because of the Nebraska football game win. Also shared about a letter article about a lady dealing with Americans and dealing with people around the world.
- Gary Guttau: Treynor boys win over Audubon last night.
- Keith Denton: St. Albert girls Basketball (#1) squeaked by Clarinda last night.

- Judy Guttau: ChristmasLand is 72 acres of Christmas displays that takes 35 mins. to drive through near Valley, NE (a 45 min drive from Treynor.) Kathy Luedke, Mick and Judy agreed it was well worth it. \$40/car (weekends) so take several people. (\$35 during week) Google for more info. There was discussion about other Christmas displays – Henderson, Sumner, IA.

Business:

- Optimist board meeting will follow the regular meeting today.
- Can Kennel sorting took place Friday to help the Speech students.
- Over \$270,000 has been taken in through the years from the Can Kennel to benefit Youth activities in Treynor.



L-R: Carolyn Casey, Jill Davis, Sarah Butts, Taci Miller, Isaac Butts

This fun group shared about their love of music and the programs at Treynor. Can kennel money of \$1187.00 will be used in planning their next trip to Nashville. The group goes on a trip every four years. It also helps with the musical expenses. The musical was a success. The high school/middle school Christmas concert is Dec. 15. The Pops Concert will be March 19. Taci Miller addressed the SWI Honor Marching Band. It was recently closed, but some other directors are planning a trip in a future year.

Present were Vicki Dowling and Steve Chambers, who stated they marched in the 1959 Orange Bowl.

Community:

- Tweets: Sip & Shop Supper on **Fri., Dec. 12**, 4-7 PM before the game (pasta meal and gifts for sale)

- IWCC: **Mon., Dec. 15** – USAF Heartland of America Band presents “Letters to Santa”. 7 pm. It’s free but call to sign up and you will be mailed free email tickets.
- Light Up Treynor: Call or email the city to enter. Judging will be at 6 pm on **Dec. 19**.
- Occasional Collective: **Dec. 30** the store is pivoting to an online store.
- Kelsey Stupfell asked to announce that the local Four Corners Community Foundation has four funds you can contribute to and still be eligible for 20% match up to \$10,000. The web site was sent to all in an email this week. Good through **Dec. 12**.
 - Visions Treynor Fund
 - SWI Impact Fund
 - Youth Mental Health Fund
 - LaMar Hartje Legion Post
- **Fri., Dec. 12:** 25 kids from Cardinal Combine competition champs and runner-ups to be recognized at half time of girls’ BB game.
- Chad Gutttau announced that the Beautification Committee of Treynor’s Tomorrow met and decorated the Four Corners on Monday.

Events this week in Treynor and some away:

- **Sat. Dec. 6-** Boys Wrestling Palooza
- **Sat. Dec. 6** - Girls Wrestling Tourn @ Audubon
- **Mon. Dec. 8-** 7/8 Boys BB vs. Audubon
- **Mon. Dec. 8** – 6th grade Music Concert
- **Tues. Dec. 9** - G/B V Wrestling @ Riverside
- **Tues. Dec. 9** – B/G JV/V BB @ Underwood
- **Thurs. Dec.11** -7/8 Boys BB vs Mo Valley
- **Thurs. Dec. 11-** 4th grade Music Concert
- **Fri., Dec. 12** – B/G V Wrestling @ MAC
- **Fri., Dec. 12-** B/G BB vs AHSTW

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR



CALENDAR

Events:

Dec. 13 Optimist Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM, Treynor Community Center

Birthdays:

Dec. 16 Kevin Underwood
Dec. 23 Chuck Nielsen

Anniversaries:

Dec. 27 Glenrose & Bob Meier
Dec. 27 Gary & Dee Gutttau

Programs:

December Mick and Judy Gutttau
January Judy Gutttau (1st Sat)
January Keith Denton (2,3,4,5 Sat)
February Linda Danker (1st,2nd Sat)
Kirk Vorthmann (3rd, 4th Sat.)
March John Klein

Speakers

Dec. 13 Doug Jensen, Former Candidate for Congress
Dec. 20 Josh Bintz – Physical Therapist – his new information!
Dec. 27 Brian Young, Pastor, Living Hope Church
Jan. 3 Collins Consulting – Tax Update on the tax changes from the Big Beautiful Bill.

Board Minutes Dec. 6, 2025

Attending: Dale Willenborg, Gary Guttau, Kirk Vorthmann, John Klein, Judy Guttau

Dale called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

1. Bills and requests were presented:
 - a. Sponsor an Artist (CARES) – No
 - b. SWI Leadership Academy – No
 - c. Cardinal Core Division Champs for trophies for 25 kids from fall performance. These will be presented to the champs and runner ups at half time of the next girls home basketball game. - \$125 – Yes, Motion by Gary, seconded by John. All aye.
 - d. JOI Club- State convention. In the past JOI Club has paid for two rooms for attendees and Shelly Bailey has paid for her room and gas. This year one officer is a boy and the rest are girls so a second room is needed for \$140. Shelly said the school car will be available for driving. A motion was made by John to pay \$210 to also help with Shelly's room, seconded by Kirk. All voted aye.
 - e. 40 new flags were purchased by Dale and he received a discounted price. Motion to pay Dale \$1165.52 by Kirk, seconded by Gary. All voted aye.
 - f. Flag hole plugs (red) – Dale's grandson made 100 and was paid \$3 each. It was decided to try them the first weekend in the spring and if they work well, order more. It was also mentioned that the plugs could be put in a week or two prior to putting in flags to make it easier on the day the flags are first put in.
 - g. THS Class of '27 donations for Prom – No. Instead we give them four weeks for the Can Kennel.
2. Discussion was had about a new Treasurer and two names were submitted. Dale will contact.
3. Discussion was had about having a more professional look for the signs for the Can Kennel. Some are okay. John Klein will check on what this could cost.
4. Applications for Can Kennel use were reviewed and assigned. 19 of 29 time slots were assigned. There are two or three organizations we haven't heard from yet. Dale will contact those we haven't heard from. He will also inform organizations who are assigned early in the year. The list will reside on the Treynor Optimist website.

We dismissed at 10:30 AM.