



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**



Feb. 14, 2026

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### Jill Davis, Speech Program

Jill Davis, Vocal Music Teacher and Assistant Speech Coach, spoke about the speech program at Treynor Community School. The head coach is Science teacher Matt Hansman.

At the State Large Group Speech Contest last weekend, there were 35 Treynor students involved with eleven different performances in nine different categories. Five received I ratings. Illness impacted the group and several substitutes received notice the afternoon before that they would need to fill in with scripts.

Gabby Blanchard and Brooklyn Casey assisted Mrs. Davis today in presenting. (See picture below.) Jill indicated because of flu, these two did not get to perform at state in their category.

We learned that at district, the groups perform before one judge and must get a 1 to go to state. At state, there are three judges rating the students. To qualify for All-State, you must have all three judges giving 1's. There have been qualifiers in the past but none this year.

Individual District Speech Contest occurs in two weeks in Atlantic. There are 27 Treynor students performing in 37 individual performances. Gabby (in the picture below) started as a junior in speech, writing her own poem and she is again performing in poetry. Brooklyn (also in the picture below) has been in speech many years and convinced Gabby to join. Brooklyn is performing in Review. She can pick any article/topic to review. She picked "One Hit Wonders".

The benefit of speech, according to Mrs. Davis, is it builds skills for the future. Everyone feels nervous when they first begin speaking in

public, but it helps with that and makes students more comfortable when talking with others.

Some of the categories for individual speech are – musical theater, acting, poetry, prose, broadcast news, review, spontaneous speaking, improv, short film, after dinner speaking, and original oratory.

Mrs. Davis stated Mr. Hansmann is very good at recruiting students in class and hallways. Students meet with the coach one or two times a week for 20-30 minutes, before and after school. Mrs. Davis likes to help with musical theater and acting. Former student Abhi Bista is also coaching improv.

Jill talked about the Treynor News Network, the student-run news broadcast, under the guidance of Erica Schnepel. Erica teaches the Speech Class and also leads the student-run musical in the spring. The Treynor News Network can be found on the school's website. Jill said it has been developed into a very fun site.

#### Upcoming Events:

Dick Bauman Jazz Festival @ Atlantic  
Reiver Jazz Fest (choir) March 12  
Treynor Pops Concert- March 19  
Iowa Vocal Jazz - March 31  
Musical-"Peter Pan Goes Wrong" April 8-19

Other topics discussed included: Update on students who have gone on to perform in college or after; How speech class is different than speech performances; Choosing and paying for speech materials; plus copyright rules.



L-R: Mrs. Davis, Gabby Blanchard, Brooklyn Casey, Dale

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**Next Week's Program:**  
**Jeff Hazelwood, Trip to Vietnam and South Korea with Iowa Corn Growers**

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**Inspirational Quote:**

**"Sometimes it takes a wrong turn to get you to the right place." Mandy Hale**

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**Meeting Minutes**

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order. 15 members were present. Guests: Jill Davis, Ellie Kinsala, Violet Wellman, Gabby Blanchard, and Brooklyn Casey.

**Prayer:** Dale Willenborg

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

**50/50:** Ellie Kinsala

**Attendance:** Phil Waggoner, but he was not present.

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** None

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

- Keith Denton: The inspirational life of Garry Clark who will speak in two weeks.
- Gary Gutttau: His aunt's dermatologist told him 15 years ago to use super glue on broken/split fingernails and cuts, and it works.
- Jim Clausen: A Valentine tribute to the girls here.

**Business**

- Zion Youth Group will have the Can Kennel next from Feb. 1- March 4. The sorting date is up in the air due to basketball scheduling.
- JOI Club will then have the Can Kennel starting March 5 for 5.5 weeks.



L.R. Violet Wellman, Ellie Kinsala, Dale Willenborg

The JOI Club received a check for \$1267.15 from the Can Kennel which will help pay expenses for five members to attend the state convention.

- John Klein has arranged for a group tour of the KETV station in the renovated Burlington Building for Friday, March 20 at 10:00 AM. Please let John know you want to go. Plan to meet in the Treynor Community Center parking lot to carpool at 9:15 AM.
- Saturday, March 14, the next day after the tour, there will still be an Optimist Club meeting. The program will be: "The Wall That Heals", which is about the large replica of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C. The large replica will be in the Lewis Central High School parking area on Memorial Day weekend.
- Gary Gutttau indicated there is an opportunity for anyone to volunteer at Hitchcock Park to clear out trees/brush on the adjacent Buresh Farm. Dates: Feb. 28, March 14.
- There will be an Optimist board meeting after the meeting next Saturday.

**Community Events:**

- **Sun. Feb. 22:** Treynor Winter Market 10-2
- **Sat. Apr. 25:** Citywide Garage Sale
- **Fri. May 1:** Citywide Spring Cleanup

**Events this week in Treynor and some away if indicated:**

- **Mon. Feb. 16:** No school.
- **Mon. Feb. 16:** 7/8<sup>th</sup> G BB @ IKM
- **Tues., Feb. 17:** G BB Tourn @ Treynor
- **Thurs. Feb. 19:** B BB Tourn @ Treynor
- **Fri., Feb. 20:** Dick Bauman Jazz Festival (Band) @ Atlantic

**Auction:**

A 1955 Wallace Farmer Journal donated by Keith Denton was purchased by Gary Gutttau for \$7.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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## HUMOR



## CALENDAR

### Events:

- Feb. 21 Optimist Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM,  
Treyner Community Center  
Feb. 21 Optimist Board Meeting after the meeting.

**Birthdays:** None

**Anniversaries:** None

### Programs:

- February Kirk Vorthmann (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sat.)  
March John Klein  
April Chad Guttau  
May Ken Graham (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat)  
Jeff Jorgensen (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sat)

### Speakers:

- Feb. 21 Jeff Hazelwood, Trip to Vietnam, S. Korea  
Feb. 28 Garry Clark- He grew up in the D.C.  
Projects and how sports changed his life.  
Mar. 7 Cody Abbott, Manager of Home Depot  
store and Optimist/School/Treyner  
supporter  
Mar. 14 Andy Mayer- Droppitt Can Kennel recycling  
process  
Mar. 20 **Friday** – Channel 7 KETV Studio tour at  
7 Burlington Station. Car pool: 9:15 AM.  
Mar. 21 “The Wall That Heals” speaker  
Mar. 28 D.J. Walton & Dan Kinsella – Treyner boys  
and girls wrestling program

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