

is



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



Mar. 14, 2026

Vol. 42, No. 11

Andy Mayer – Droppitt Recycling



Andy Mayer, our speaker, stated Droppitt started in Corning, IA January 1, 2023. The parent company is Crink which lauched 40 years ago when the bottle bill became law. Iowa's "Bottle Bill" requires a 5-cent deposit on most carbonated and alcoholic beverage containers, allowing

consumers to redeem that nickel upon returning the container.

While popular, the law was modified in 2022 to allow some retailers to stop accepting returns which has caused 26 counties to lack redemption centers as of 2026. Redemption centers received a 1-cent handling fee before for processing containers which now can go up to 3 cents.

Under the 2022 law, distributors keep more of the unclaimed deposits, reducing funds for some redemption centers. Containers without "IA 5c" on them are generally not covered.

The Treynor Optimist Club has taken in \$277,700 since 1999 which helps youth organizations in our community. It is the largest account of this type in the state. This year Crink took in 350 million containers across the state. It has 78 distributors across the state. Crink saw a need for more redemption centers, so Droppitt became one option. In the beginning Droppitt was hand sorting drink containers and testing a bag drop system which lost them lots of money. They developed little trailers around the state and automated their system. Their system was based on one used in states such as NY and Maine.

Droppitt continues to grow. Individuals and groups can use Droppitt. They paid out \$650,000 in nickels in 2024 and \$1.1 million in 2025. They

have 54 trucks that go around and pick up daily in Iowa. There were 23 users Jan. 1, 2025, and now there are 10,000 users! When opening a new center, they ask a city for a point of contact and to cover the cost of electricity, which is not more than \$30 a month. Our trailer in Treynor uses the Glenwood's Droppitt box and gets picked up regularly.

Andy explained some facts about the recycling process and showed a video. Here are some facts: Once cans are sorted and scanned by machine using the UPC code, the cans are smashed and glass is crushed and sent to the other side of the plant where they are bailed. Two to three semi loads of aluminum go out every day. Plastic may be held for the best price, but then it goes to Nebraska to make Adirondack chairs.

Unusual UPC's become "not paid for yet" which takes time for someone to research those UPC's before paying the nickel for them. Thus, our club sometimes receives a check for those a few weeks later than the main check.

There are an average of 240 cans per bag that are filled. The machines are 98.2% accurate. Approximately 4500-4800 cans are scanned by machine per hour at the plant.

Andy stated that Droppitt is good for the earth and clean and convenient for consumers.

Next week's speaker:
"The Wall That Heals" Speaker

Inspirational Quote:
"To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone."

Reba McEntire

We would love to have you consider joining our local Optimist Club. Call Dale Willenborg, 402-651-1634 for more information.

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Center. 10 members were present. We had 4 guests – Andy Mayer, Bret McVey, Denise Wilson, and Michael Holton

Prayer: Bill Vorthmann

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers

50/50: Kevin Underwood

Attendance: Josh Gutttau, but he was not present.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: We celebrated Keith and Georgia Denton's 52nd anniversary which was March 8. He paid \$2 to not have us sing.

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

- Keith Denton: The St. Albert girls won their relay at the State Indoor Track Meet at ISU. His granddaughter Lily won the 1500 and came in 2nd in the 3000.
- Steve Irvin: Grace, his oldest granddaughter made the State Archery Competition. She attends Siouxland Christian and the tournament is at the State Fair Grounds. He and Deb will attend.
- Jim Clausen: Paid in support of the Treynor Girls BB team and Boys BB team having a great season and playing at state.
- Judy Gutttau: For the great season the Treynor Boys BB team had and competing at state.
- Kevin Underwood and Marsha Underwood: For the great season the Treynor Boys BB team had and competing at state.
- Judy Gutttau: For Patty Walter receiving the Treynor Fan award at the State Girls Basketball Tournament last week.
- Dale Willenborg; Attended the local Home School Musical – Suess City, Jr. He knew four kids that were in it.

Business:

- Can kennel sorting for JOI Club and KKA has been changed (a new change) to Wed. Apr. 8 after school at 2 PM, due to low can count.
- Mulch Madness is now planned for Friday, May 8. Bret McVey, an organizer, said more details will be given when finalized.

- John Klein circulated a flyer about the Swim Lessons for this June.
- John Klein reported the group touring KETV and the Burlington Building is filled with 15 attending. Plan to meet this Friday, March 20 at 9:15 AM in the Treynor Community Center parking lot to carpool. The tour begins at 10:00 AM.

Community Events:

- **Mon. Mar. 16:** Legion Fish Fry, 5:30- 7:00 PM
- **Keith Denton** said an interesting geologist will speak this **Thurs., Mar. 19, 6:00 PM, at Ditmars Orchard** about the fact that lots of Hydrogen has escaped and is suddenly found in huge Hydrogen pockets underground in Iowa. The geologist's concern is Google and Amazon have bought into it for the rights. There are no laws and the Iowa legislature has been called. If there is no law, they'll basically get the hydrogen for nothing. The geologist thinks it will be here for several years and will be greater than oil. Keith encourages interested people to attend.
- **Kelsey Stupfell** sent the following link to consider:

[Celebrate our Lucky Ducks! \(8.5 x 11 in\)](#)

Events this week in Treynor and some away if indicated:

- **Mon., Mar. 16:** NHS Induction – 6-7 PM
- **Tues, Mar 17:** St. Patrick's Day
- **Thur. Mar. 19:** Pops Concert, 5:30-7:30 PM

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR

**What's the difference
between a hippo and a
Zippo?**

**One is very heavy, the
other is a little lighter.**

CALENDAR

Events:

- Mar. 20 **Friday** – Channel 7 KETV Studio tour at
7 Burlington Station. Car pool: 9:15 AM.
- Mar 21 Optimist Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM,
Trey nor Community Center
- April 8 Can Kennel Sorting for JOI Club and KKA

Birthdays:

Anniversaries:

Programs:

- March John Klein
April Chad Guttau
May Ken Graham (1st,2nd Sat)
Jeff Jorgensen (3rd,4th Sat)

Speakers:

- Mar. 21 “The Wall That Heals” speaker
Mar. 28 D.J. Walton & Dan Kinsella – Trey nor boys
and girls wrestling programs
Apr. 4 Wendy Andersen, Splash Pad update, etc.

Editor: Judy Guttau, judy.guttau@tsbg.com, 402-670-4330. Contributors: Mick Guttau,
Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Trey nor, PO Box 354, Trey nor, IA 51575