,,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

July 25, 2026 Vol. 42, No.29



Dr. Joel Beyenhof

Dr. Joel Beyenhof is going into his 5th year as Treynor Superintendent of Schools and his 35th year in education. The three goals for the school district are: 1) student achievement and growth, 2) district culture, and 3) resource management. The Board will meet Aug. 10 to plan for the next year and establish priorities.

Recent priorities that have been accomplished are starting a preschool, renovating the football field, and renovating the elementary bathroom. Currently the bathrooms across from the middle school offices (using same tile and plan) are being renovated.

Beyenhof stated, “Finances are in a healthy spot.” He explained the solvency ratio and for several years we were in the low to mid 20’s for the percentage. For schools, and similar nonprofits, the upper end of 15% is recommended. This varies as projects are taken on or delayed – projects such as renovations, new buses, etc.

For 7-8 years, the tax levy rate was $14.25 and was lowered the last two years to $14.09. 35% of student enrollment at Treynor is open enrolled into the district. Currently the Student Supplement Aid (SSA) is $8000 per student and has averaged a 1.9% increase over the past nine years which pays for payroll and keeping the lights on, etc. Balancing inflation at 4%, staff wages increasing to 3.9% and the SSA revenue and taxes coming in at a lower rate and student numbers creates the challenge.

District Culture was measured by 506 stakeholders (parents, community, students, staff) in 2025 completing a survey. A+ was given to a.) Students encouraged to do their very best, b,) Teachers emphasize student learning and well being, c.) School staff care about students, and d.) Students have opportunities to be involved in a variety of activities.

An area the school will continue to work on is the B rating given for bullying. Interestingly, students didn’t view it as a low rating in the survey, but the community/parents rated it higher and may have some experiences/stories. The behaviors stated within the survey don’t rise to the true definition of bullying, but still the school focuses on improving these behaviors.

"Teacher retention has increased 94% over the last four years, which speaks volumes”, Beyenhof shared. He said teachers can earn more in larger districts, but Treynor is very competitive in pay for our region. New hire positions for 2026 are: Math (with college math accreditation), 6th-12th Art, 2nd Grade, Band, Director of Facilities, and Middle School Secretary.

Iowa School Performance Profile: Treynor Community School District’s High Performance ranking and scores are the highest in Southwest Iowa. There are six categories of performance with the two top categories being Exceptional – top 1% schools in Iowa, and High Performing – top 10% schools in Iowa. The Treynor Elementary and Middle Schools were both rated “High Performing”, while Treynor High School achieved the prestigious “Exceptional” ranking. They have been ranked the second highest high school in the state two years in a row.

This year’s seniors 9 out of 10 have 12 college credits (one semester); 7 out of 10 have one year’s worth of college credits; and 5 out of 10 have 1.5 years done and 15% of the students (9 students) graduated with an Associates’ Degree from Iowa Western before graduating from Treynor High School – approximately 60 credits!

Questions were asked about promoting military careers, positive ways to promote teaching as a profession, Senate Bill 2472 impact on schools, and recording the history of the

Treynor School from where it leaves off in the Treynor History Book.
Reviewed and edited by our speaker.

We also thank Joel for being an Optimist member.

Next week's speaker:
Saturday, Aug. 1: Jeff Schoening, former Treynor Band Director

Quote:

"Happiness is making the most of what you have."

Rosamunde Pilcher in *The Shell Seekers*

Meeting Minutes

Optimist John Klein called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Center. Eighteen members were present. Guests were Leah Wilwerding and Mike Holton.

Prayer: Kevin Underwood

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers

50/50: Steve Irvin

Attendance: Shelly Bailey who could not claim.

Birthdays/Anniversaries:
July 25: Jim Clausen – 83. Thanks to his wife Diane for providing cinnamon rolls.
July 23: Jerry Hempel – 64

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

- Jerry Hempel: Grandchild #10, a girl Andi, a little redhead, was born to Chaley and Ryan Hempel.
- Keith Denton: Lili leaves Aug. 2 for college in Texas.
- Mike Holton: The lights are turned on in the street at "The T", and the Splash Pad reached a milestone and received 85% approval from the state with just some chemicals to be adjusted.
- Mike Holton: Promoted the GreenSpace Jam, the third concert in Treynor on Thurs. Aug. 13 from 7-9 PM by the premier country group in the midwest, Western Sky. The High Heel concert had 200-250 attending and was amazing (weather too).
- Mike Holton: First time 13 grandchildren were all together the last two weeks in intervals. They are from Omaha, Blair, Grand Island, and Pierce, NE.
- Gary Guttau: He says he must have the highest number of little ground squirrels in the country, causing him to replant some pumpkins.

Business:

- Can Kennel sorting will help TeamMates today after the meeting and next Saturday too – 9:15. (Help is needed.)
- John Klein received five boxes of bags donated by Home Depot for the Can Kennel.
- Westfair gate volunteers were Dale Willenborg and Ken Graham 12-2:30 PM on Thurs., July 23 and Bill Vorthmann and Keith Denton from 2:30 – 5 PM. The day was cooler.
- Mike Holton reported the new flag pole for "The T" has been secured and paid for by the Legion.

Community:

- Mike Holton and Bret McVey both had positive comments about TeamMates. There are close to 40 mentors, but more kids want mentors than are available so please consider being a mentor. It was reported an amazing amount of teachers are mentors as well.
- Kathy Luedke inquired about the wooden display cases in the Community Building. Mike Holton indicated it can be used by the Legion, or whomever, antiques too. Ron Kerber is the contact.

Community Events:

- **Tues., July 28**: Treynor Farmers Market
  5:30-7:30 PM Food Trucks: Pims Thai food and Tastee Treet, Legion Beer Garden

School Events: None on Calendar

Cucumbers were available from Jim Clausen.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR

"Never let one bad apple make you feel like everyone's gone bananas!"

CALENDAR

Events:

Aug 1	Meeting 8:00-9:00 AM Treynor Community Center – Legion Rm.

Birthdays:

Aug 11	Chad Guttau
Aug 23	Judy Guttau

Anniversaries:

Aug 5	Josh & Shelly Guttau

Aug 13	Jerry & Barb Hempel	Aug 15	Pat Thomas, Just Serve

Programs:

August	Dale Willenborg
September	Jim Clausen (1st, 2nd Sat)
	Bill Vorthmann (3rd, 4th Sat)

Speakers:

Aug 1	Jeff Schoening, retired Treynor band director
Aug 8	Rachael Chappell, Homeschooling

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA