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,,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

Sept 12, 2026 Vol. 42, No.36

Michael Holton – his life and passion



Mike shared both a fascinating piece of local history and some memorable stories from his life journey.

An avid antique shopper, Mike enjoys exploring stores along the Mississippi River. During a recent visit, he discovered a rare 1870s map of Pottawattamie County which he brought with him. The fragile map, numbered 88 of 250 prints, has been carefully preserved in a frame. It quickly captured everyone’s attention. Mike found this original map in an antique shop in DeWitt, IA.

The map offers a glimpse into the area's early history. Because Treynor had not yet been platted, no map from this time period identifies the town. Although the original settlement that would be known as Treynor began in the early 1880’s, Treynor would not officially be incorporated until 1904. Red ink markings on the reverse side of the map outlined the original Council Bluffs boundaries and ward structure from the pre-Civil War era. Mike plans to display the map in the Treynor City Office for all to enjoy.

Mike also reflected on what he jokingly calls his "loving checkered past." Unsure of his career path after high school and unable to afford college, he headed to the Black Hills where he worked various jobs but found he was spending more time having fun than saving for school.

Mike’s journey eventually led him to Vermillion, SD, where he attended college while working in greyhound racing at North Sioux City. His involvement in the racing industry opened doors across the country, including an opportunity to work at a greyhound track in Tucson, Arizona. Along the way, he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and later completed a master's degree in counseling psychology before eventually obtaining a master's degree in public administration.

During his years in Arizona, Mike embraced every opportunity that came his way. While living in Tucson, he even assisted with filming *Revenge of the Nerds*, long before anyone knew it would be a success. Later, while living in Dubuque, Mike and his wife, Chris, were able to participate in the filming of the *Field of Dreams* in 1988. During Mike’s time in greyhound racing, he met several celebrities, including James Earl Jones, Kevin Costner, the 1985 Chicago Bears, including Walter Payton, and Tom Brokaw.

A friend's call brought Mike back to Iowa in 1985, where he continued working in greyhound racing and met his future wife. The couple married on August 8, 1988.

One of the most thought-provoking parts of Mike’s presentation focused on community development. He explained that successful economic development grows from strong community development. A strong advocate for community development, Mike emphasized that Treynor's success comes from the people and organizations that invest in the community. He highlighted the important roles played by the school, churches, businesses, civic organizations, first responders, local government, and community groups.

Mike's stories revealed a man who is resilient, compassionate, determined, and deeply committed to the community he loves. His presentation was engaging, informative, and a reminder that the strength of Treynor lies in the people who continue to support and shape its future.

There is no doubt that Mike still has many more stories and insights to share. We look forward to welcoming him back again in the future.

Thanks to Kathy Luedke for taking notes.

Next week's speaker:
Dr. Richard Warner,
Pott. Co. Historical Society

Positive Quote:
"If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden."

Francis Hodgson Burnett

Meeting Minutes

President Dale Willenborg called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Center. Sixteen members were present. Guests included Mike Holton.

Correction for last week: Our speaker was Grant Fisher. I misspelled his last name.

Prayer: Judy Guttau

Jokes: Keith Denton, Steve Chambers

50/50: Ken Graham. Initially Mike Holton won.

Attendance: Dick Fox, not in attendance

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None

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

- Keith Denton: Lili Denton raced among 120 athletes and came in 30th. Sophie Denton had 6 kills in volleyball and played well in 'the box' and while serving for St. Alberts. Both are granddaughters.
- Keith Denton: Connie Eyberg posted a story on Facebook about Venezuela, once being one of the free and richest countries and now is the poorests.
- Kevin Underwood: Mt. Hope Soup Supper is Sun., Sept. 27 from 5-7 PM at McClelland Town Hall.
- Steve Irvin: Granddaughter Hope ran in cross country and finished 4th and cut her time by 30 secs. She is to run today at Holstein Invitational.
- Gary Guttau: Skin cancer treatment is healing well on his face. His nose will be treated this week.
- Gary Guttau: Donia Days is today. He first attended it in 1962. Chad will march in the parade on behalf of Republicans.

Business:

- Flags will be picked up today Sat. Sept. 12 after the meeting.
- Today the Music Boosters have the Can Kennel sorting.
  They will also sort on Sat., Sept. 26.
- Our meeting next week will be in the large room at the Treynor Community Center.
- Our meeting on Sept. 25 will be at Zion Community Church.

Community:

- TeamMates had their kickoff breakfast last Thursday morning.

Community Events:

- **Fri. Sept. 25**: St. Paul Lutheran **free** tail gate before Underwood football game.
- **Sun**. **Sept. 27:** Treynor Fall Farmers Market 10-2
- **Sun**. **Sept 27**: Mt. Hope Soup Supper 5-7 PM at McClelland Town Hall.
- **Sat**. **Oct. 3:** Treynor City-Wide Garage Sales
- **Fri., Oct. 9:** Treynor City-Wide Cleanup
- **Fri., Oct. 9:** St. Paul Pre-school tail gate (**A fundraiser**) before Red Oak football game.

School Events in Treynor:

- **Mon. Sept. 14:** JV VB tournament, starts 4:30 PM
- **Wed. Sept. 16**: School out at 2 PM. Picture Day
- **Fri., Oct. 9:** Homecoming

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

HUMOR

If you stumble, make it part of the dance!

OPTIMIST CALENDAR

Events:

Sept. 19	Meeting 8-9 AM, Treynor Comm Center
Sept. 26	9:15 AM Can Kennel sorting Music Boosters

Birthdays:

Sept 16	John Klein

Anniversaries:

Sept. 24	Phil and Jan Waggoner
Sept. 26	Bill and Ann Vorthmann

Programs:

September	Bill Vorthmann (3rd, 4th Sat)
October	Judy Guttau

Speakers:

Sept 19	Dr. Richard Warner, Pott. Co. Historical Society	Oct. 3	Ken Graham will be first!
Sept 26	TBA	Oct. 10	Steve Chambers
October	A series of talks this month by members to get to know them better:	Oct. 17	Dennis White
		Oct. 24	John Klein
		Oct. 31	Judy Guttau

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