

## **Building Relationships**

Chris Greer was the speaker at the Treynor Optimist Club meeting on March 29. Chris grew up on a farm near Grettinger, Iowa. Chris soon learned that farm chores took precedence to sports. After high School graduation he attended and played basketball for Iowa Western Community College while also working at Hy Vee. He completed his education at Bellevue University.

Chris became a juvenile probation officer for the state of Iowa. For his first 13½ years he was working throughout the entire state. The last few years he has been able to work in the local area. He decided if juvenile cases need to be heard by a judge. He stated that the whole picture of the person needs to be considered to warrant the degree of punishment after a crime has been committed. He mentors and works closely with his probation youth, trying to instill in them the importance of good decision making and life skills.

His other passion is basketball and football officiating. He and friends started officiating at the YMCA. He soon found that this was not just a job, but an opportunity to mentor youth. He now officiates basketball at the college level and referees in the GPAC conference. The last three years he has refereed the NAIA Division 2 tournaments. He has referred up to and including the semi-final round.

Chris commented that his probation officer job is similar to his officiating because it's all about building relationships.