

Iowa Legislature



Greg Forristall, State Representative in House District 98, spoke at the Optimist Club on June 25. He said that the legislature has tackled many issues needed for the budget, but item still open for debate is education. The Iowa fiscal year ends on June 30, so they need to have a budget completed by then. One item that they planned to address, but will not be completed is property tax reform.

Greg has been chairman of the Education Committee for seven months. Governor Terry Branstad is hosting a conference on improving education next month. The conference has reached its limit of 2000 registered attendees. Iowa has a great education system, but Iowa is now ranked 47 in student improvement. That means other states are doing a lot more to improve their education.

Most areas of the Iowa budget are decreasing next year due to the end of Federal stimulus money. The main areas to increase are Medicaid (which the State cannot control), State troopers, and support to community colleges.

Asked about the flooding in Iowa, Greg said that about 300,000 acres are affected to date. Since flooding in Cedar Rapids and Eastern Iowa a few years ago cost \$2.5 billion, the state will have a large bill soon to help address the recent flooding.