

## **Field Services, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

Kip Shanks and Dan Newby from Field Services of 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District talked at the Treynor Optimist Club on December 4 about probation and parole. They are part of a team that covers nine counties in Iowa. Probation is for someone convicted of a crime and is serving a suspended sentence. Parole is supervision after someone has served jail time. About 80% of the cases

handled by Field Services are for probation.

Field Services handles probation, parole, work release, and pre-trial supervision. Field Services also has a drug court program, where their initial results show a low recidivism rate.

Field Services includes a high risk unit of seven officers. Their clients include sex offenders, assault perpetrators, people with a history of non-compliance, and others identified by the patrol board. These people have leg bracelets that use GPS to track their movements. When they leave their allowable areas, the officers are alerted and can track them minute-by-minute on GPS.

People on parole or probation are checked on every week. They are subject to search at any time. Field Services is supervising about 45 clients now, but the workload is increasing. They work with offenders as much as possible when the offenders make mistakes, as long as the public is safe.