

## **FOR PUNISHMENT AND DETERRENCE**

Pottawattamie County Attorney Matt Wilber spoke to Club members and guests about recent criminal activities in the news involving his office and staff. There are continuing consequences of methamphetamine misuse in the area, Matt explained, that results in brain damage which leads to irrational and violent behavior often directed toward law officers as well as family members and friends. Iowa now has the toughest state law to control pseudoephedrin sale and misuse for manufacture of methamphetamine, but surrounding states need similar laws to prevent a border effect. While a lot of law enforcement resources are used to battle local methamphetamine production, Matt noted that eighty percent of it is brought into Iowa. According to Matt his staff has about 200 misdemeanor cases and 100 criminal cases on file. During the past two years in office Matt has been involved as prosecutor for three criminal cases that went to trial, and each won a conviction against the accused. Matt stated he wants to be sure the evidence is sufficient that a conviction is assured. Thus punishment is affected for the crime committed. And a successful prosecution is a deterrence to prevent other similar criminal activity by others.