



March 3, 2012

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“Budgeting – Iowa’s Future”

David Vaudt, the Iowa State Auditor, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on February 25 about the General Fund Budget for the state of Iowa. A focus of his presentation was that the Iowa General Fund Budget looks like it balances every year, but in the past has only done so by shifting expenditures from other funds. In fiscal years 2009 (FY09), FY10, and FY11 \$1 billion for the budget came from federal stimulus money. That money is no longer available. The Senior Living Trust Fund, used to keep Seniors in their homes, has also been depleted.

The adopted budget for FY12 and the Governor’s proposal for FY13 significantly reduce the spending gap and attempt to make expenditures align closer with revenue. The FY12 budget is only \$220 million dollars short of expected expenditures, versus \$764 million in FY11.

One result of the budget inequalities is that the Iowa Public Employee Retirement System (IPERS) fund is only funded at 80% now, while it was funded at 98% in 2000. This retirement fund supports many public employees in Iowa including teachers. Therefore, changes to this pension fund will be needed in the future. The legislature will have to make significant changes to the system, mainly affecting new contributions instead of trying to change the current retirees.

The State Auditor’s office also performs fraud investigations of cities and towns in Iowa. Every larger city must be audited every year, but small towns are not required to have an audit. Therefore, fraud investigations in small towns are growing in number.

Congressman Tom Latham

Congressman Tom Latham visited the Treynor Optimist Club on March 3. He is in his 9th term in the House of Representatives. Since Iowa is losing one congressional district, he is running for the district that now includes Pottawattamie County.

Tom was born in Alexander, Iowa as the youngest of five boys. Alexander is a town of 165 people. Tom started a seed corn business, Latham Seeds in 1947. He was first elected to congress in 1974.

Tom is on the Appropriations Committee in the House, along with several other committees. In the past two years the committee has cut \$95 billion in discretionary spending.

Tom Latham says there are some things that Congress must do to increase jobs. They include: a stable tax code, reducing regulations, removing uncertainty in health care, and cutting spending in Washington. His web site is <http://latham.house.gov>

Meeting Minutes

Keith Denton and Chuck Nielsen provided jokes for the Optimist club meeting on February 28. Chuck Nielsen opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Gary Gutttau offered the opening prayer.

Richard Vorthmann contributed to the Youth Fund in recognition of a good year for boys basketball. Can Kennel sorting will be Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. for the Dance Team.

Gary Funkhouser said that the annual essay contest was completed and Patrick Vorthmann was the winner. He will read his essay at the Youth Appreciation in April.

Kirk Vorthmann won the 50/50 drawing and Steve Irvin won the attendance drawing but did not collect. There were 16 members and 4 guests at the meeting.

There was a short board meeting after the club meeting. The board approved the Dance Team for the Can Kennel for February 2013. It also approved Boy Scout Troop 729 for July 2012. There were eight members at the board meeting.

Keith Denton, Chuck Nielsen, and Mick Gutttau provided jokes for the Optimist club meeting on March 3. Chuck Nielsen opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Steve Irvin offered the opening prayer.

Gary Funkhouser contributed to the Youth Fund in recognition of the Jazz Band. They are going to State for the 20th year. Bill Vorthmann bought a house in Treynor and will be moving. Ken Graham recognized a neighbor who just returned from Afghanistan.

Gary Gutttau, Ken Graham, Chuck Nielsen, and Gary Funkhouser helped with can kennel sorting.

Steve Irvin won the 50/50 drawing and Richard Vorthmann won the attendance drawing but did not collect. There were 17 members and 4 guests at the meeting.

Calendar

- Mar 10 – Regional Optimist Meeting at St. John UCC, 9:30 a.m.
- Mar 14 – Can Kennel sorting for JOOI, 5:30 p.m.
- Mar 28 - Can Kennel sorting for JOOI, 5:30 p.m.
- Apr 26 – Bicycle Safety

Birthdays

- Mar 2 – Ward Chambers
- Mar 11 – Kenneth Graham
- Mar 20 – Jon Jacobsen
- Apr 6 - Kevin Abbott
- Apr 20 – Steve Chambers
- Apr 25 – Rocky Saar
- Apr 28 - Gene Seran

Anniversaries

- Mar 4 – Gene & Erika Seran
- Mar 8 – Keith & Georgia Denton
- Mar 15 – Jeff & Carrie Nelson
- Apr 7 – Jim & Diane Clausen

Speakers

- Mar 10 – Dance Studio 7
- Mar 17 –
- Mar 24 –
- Mar 31 –

Programs

- Mar – Dale Willenborg
- Apr – Jim Clausen
- May – Ken Graham