



### **Pottawattamie County Attorney**

Matt Wilbur, the Pottawattamie County Attorney, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on April 25. Matt graduated from the Carson-Macedonia High School, went to the US Coast Guard Academy for two years, and graduated from Graceland University with a BA in Business Administration and Physics. He then went to the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California. He has been the county attorney for 12 years. For hobbies Matt likes singing, coaching wrestling and soccer, running, and reading.

Matt talked about asset forfeitures, mainly from drug dealers in the form of cash and cars. 90% of drug seizures are made by state and local law enforcement, not by the federal government. Generally the seizing agency

keeps 80% of the seizures. This money is used to help pay for things needed by the agency. They spent \$150,000 for security cameras in the county courthouse, bought I-phones for staff to file their reports, provide training for drug dogs, and send troopers to classes.

Matt says he uses the grandpa embarrassment factor for making decisions on how to spend asset forfeiture money. That is, if his grandfather would be embarrassed to read about how the money was spent on the front page of the Des Moines Register, then the money shouldn't be used for that.

The budget for his office is \$2.5M to \$3M. Asset forfeiture money helps his office with special needs.

Matt said his main concern is about Meth. People on Meth are on a high for 48 hours, then they sleep for days. Then they go into a tweaking period where they are not high but not sleeping. During this period they often have paranoia's and do strange things.

With marijuana, people just become lazy. They usually are not a problem. However, a synthetic form of marijuana called K2 is scary because it is uncontrolled and unpredictable. It can include any type of drug that mimics the effects of marijuana sprayed onto an herbal base material. Therefore it is scary because it is uncontrolled and unpredictable.