Group of five gets hands-on with city’s career firefighters

By Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison – Some area youth are taking “I wanna be a fireman when I grow up” to whole new level.

As part of the Boy Scouts of America Explorer program, five area boys are getting monthly hands-on exposure to some of the day-to-day work done by Fort Madison firefighters.

The program started late in 2018 as a way to give youth some early exposure to a career in firefighting.

“Basic all who are leading the program, said the program is aimed at giving kids the hands-on experience as just another option to the college track,” Ehlers said. “After that, I think they can do a senior program,” he said.

Chad Hannum, a lieutenant on the fire department, said at that level, explorers would get bunker gear and could do ride along.

On Sunday, firefighter Clint Harland gave the explorers an hour-long demonstration on SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) usage, which is gearing up with the oxygen tanks and all the security features that come with them.

Each youth had a chance to pickup the SCBA packs, strap on the gear, and then pull on the protective masks and hook up the oxygen. They also got to see how the indicators work, the alarms, and how to shake off a 30-second PASS alarm (Personal Alert Safety System) that goes off if a firefighter hasn’t moved for 30 seconds.

“I’m so impressed with these firefighters, not knowing what we were gonna get out of this. It’s amazing the hands-on these guys are getting.”

-Mike Ehlers, FM Fire Explorers

Explorer Jake Ehlers, right, works with Fort Madison firefighter Clint Harland in changing out an oxygen tank Sunday night during a regular Fort Madison Fire Explorers meeting at the Fort Madison fire station.

“gear up” while in the truck, the way professional firefighters will on the way to a scene.

Sunday night’s program was the third of the year. The group meets on the second Sunday of every month for an hour from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Ehlers said the program is a reboot from previous Explorer programs, but with the help of area Boy Scout leader Heather Huebner and some volunteers including his wife, Renee, the group got the program going again.

“We started all this from scratch,” Ehlers said. “But I’m so impressed with these firefighters, not knowing what we were gonna get out of this. It’s amazing the hands-on these guys are getting. Last month they had saws out and were cutting things and they were showing the kids how to use those.”

The hour-long meetings with the firefighters began in January. Ehlers said the shift firefighters put cones in the parking lot and let the kids not just hold the hoses, but show them how to direct streams to move the cones around the parking lot.

He also said the kids have been lucky in that no calls have come in during the explorer sessions with the shifts.

“If a call comes in, they have to go. So we’ve been pretty lucky to this point. But then again, it might be interesting for the kids to see them in action. If they get called to a scene, we could pile in my truck and head out and watch and let them see first-hand.”

Ehlers said cost of the program is $50, but $40 of it goes to the insurance through the Boy Scout program to cover the explorers if they were to hit their head on something or fall.

But he said the group is considering some fundraising ideas. He said he’d like to see the program expand to 10 or 15 in the future and he doesn’t want the cost to be a factor in a youth not being able to join.

Those interested in joining the Explorers are encouraged to reach out to Huebner who is the Eagle Valley District Senior Executive at 217-224-0204 ext. 119 or by email at heather.huebner@scouting.org.
## OBITUARIES

### CAROLYN MAE RUBE

Carolyn Mae Rube, 76, of Fort Madison died Sunday, March 10 at 11:08 AM at the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

She was born on December 20, 1942 in Donnellson to Earl Manley and Lucille Irene Church Rokey. On December 24, 1960 she married Wayne Rube in Donnellson, IA. Carolyn worked at Wagner’s Café in Donnellson but spent most of her life as a homemaker. She loved sewing, flowers, puzzles and her kitties. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband of fifty-eight years, Wayne Rube of Ft. Madison four children, Michael Rube of Ft. Madison, Richard Rube of Wapello, Sheryl Rube of Ft. Madison and Denise Hank of Washington, IL; five grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. There will be no formal services at this time.

Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

### JUANITA GRAY

Juanita Gray, 89, of Farmington, Iowa passed away at 11:44 a.m. Monday, March 11, 2019 at Great River Medical Center in Burlington, Iowa. Services are pending with Schmitz Funeral Homes of Farmington.

### EILEEN CLEMENS

Eileen Clemens, 97, of Donnellson, Iowa passed away at 2:15 a.m. Monday, March 11, 2019 at The Kensington in Fort Madison, Iowa. Services are pending with Schmitz Funeral Homes of Donnellson.

## OBITUARIES

### LAVERNE ANN MENKE

LaVerne Ann Menke, 89, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 10:33 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at Amber Terrace Assisted Living in Baton Rouge, LA. She was born on August 23, 1929 in Fort Madison, IA to Albert & Rose Otte Pollmeier. She married Arnold W. Menke on June 24, 1950 in Fort Madison, IA. He preceded her in death on September 10, 2013. She worked for many years at Mid American Energy and was a member of Holy Family Parish in Fort Madison. LaVerne is survived by: 2-daughters: Debbie (Jack) Lancaster & Beth (Scott) Kamber; 2-sons: Bill (Sally) Menke & JC (Debbie) Menke; 10-grandchildren; 16-great grandchildren; 2-sisters: Jane Kochel & Jeanette (Ed) Raper and numerous nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents & husband.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Visitation for LaVerne Menke, of Fort Madison, who died on October 17, 2018 in Baton Rouge, LA will be from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2019 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with a rosary to be recited at 6:30. The memorial mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Online condolences to the family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

---

### New Year. Fresh Start.

Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year.

We’re looking forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Don’t put plastic bags in recycling bins
- Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
- Place all recyclables loose in bins
- Don’t recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste

---

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/08/19 - 7:02 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1300 block of 23rd Street.

03/08/19 - 7:15 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at Hwy 61 and Henry Ladyn Drive.

03/08/19 - 4:04 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 600 block of 34th Street.

03/08/19 - 4:11 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of Avenue E.

03/08/19 - 4:34 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a power out at the 1700 block of Avenue H.

03/08/19 - 9:36 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Douglas Alan McPherson, Jr., 38, of Fort Madison in the 9400 block of Avenue O. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and was held.

03/09/19 - 11:08 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 4200 block of Avenue J.

See RECORD, page 2

### Great River Regional Waste Authority

Great River Regional Waste Authority

FT. MADISON MAIN OFFICE:
2002 30TH AVE
FORT MADISON, IA
1-319-372-8140

KEOKUK TRANSFER STATION:
171 CARBIDE LANE
KEOKUK, IA
1-319-524-6175

Visit Us Online www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

---

### JDRF

JDRF is committed to accelerating life-changing breakthroughs to Type 1 Diabetes and was a member of Holy Family Parish in Fort Madison.

LaVerne is survived by: 2-daughters: Debbie (Jack) Lancaster & Beth (Scott) Kamber; 2-sons: Bill (Sally) Menke & JC (Debbie) Menke; 10-grandchildren; 16-great grandchildren; 2-sisters: Jane Kochel & Jeanette (Ed) Raper and numerous nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents & husband.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Visitation for LaVerne Menke, of Fort Madison, who died on October 17, 2018 in Baton Rouge, LA will be from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2019 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with a rosary to be recited at 6:30. The memorial mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Online condolences to the family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.
Dwight Bernard Nelson, 75, of Keokuk, IA died March 10, 2019 at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born February 18, 1944 in Keokuk IA the son of Bernard and Virginia Bengston Nelson. On April 24, 1965 he was united in marriage to Mary Roberta Skinner at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Keokuk. She survives.

Other survivors include three daughters, Brenda Gibson (Randi), Terri Beattie (Dan) and Diane Nelson, eight grandchildren, Kellie Hanson (Mike), Courtney Gibson, Joshua Nelson, Alexis Scordino (Jamie), Julia Beattie, Michael Gibson, Ryan Beattie and Natalie Beattie, two great grandchildren, Emma and Cameron Hanson and two sisters, Carol Ruedy (Mike) and Joann Koller (Stan).

Dwight graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1962. He later furthered his education and went to Southeastern Community College in Keokuk and received his Associates Degree.

Dwight was a farmer. He also had been employed at Ortho in Ft. Madison, IA for thirty years, until his retirement. He loved spending time with his family, enjoyed their activities and making videos of all their events. He loved working on the farm, planting and harvesting, and helping neighbors as they had helped him. Dwight was an active, lifelong member of Melrose United Methodist Church in rural Argyle, IA. He was an avid NASCAR fan and liked antique tractors and farm machinery.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Dawn Butler officiating. Burial will be held in the Scandinavian Cemetery in Donnellson, IA.

Visitation will be held after 3 p.m., Wednesday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends from 6-8 p.m. Memorial services may be made to the Melrose United Methodist Church or Lee County Hospice.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.
Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/07/19 – 6:28 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a property damage accident on Hwy. 61. A vehicle driven by Cody Gene Davis, 24, of Donnellsburg, struck a guard rail near mile marker 19, and overturned. According to the report, Davis admitted to falling asleep at the wheel. He was given a citation for failure to maintain control. 03/10/19 – 11:44 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Primrose Road near Hwy. 27. A vehicle driven Emma Kay Shapley, 24, of West Burlington slid off Primrose Road on slick conditions after attempting to make a turn onto Primrose from Hwy. 27. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene. 03/09/19 – 4:14 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Primrose Road near Hwy. 27. A vehicle driven by Keith Paul, 23, of St. Paul collided with a bridge guard rail on Hwy 27 northbound. Keith told deputies he was trying to change lanes when an unidentified vehicle entered his lane of traffic causing him to swerve and strike the guardrail. Keith complained of pain to his thumb. No citations or injuries were reported at the scene. 03/08/19 – 7:15 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on 280th Street where, according to reports, a vehicle driven by Jacob Rea, 23, of West Point crossed the center line striking a vehicle driven by Danielle Marie Peterson, 40, of West Burlington. Rea was cited for driving too fast for conditions. No injuries were reported at the scene. 03/08/19 – 4:14 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident northbound on Hwy. 27. A vehicle driven by Cameron Jay Helmer, 28, of West Point lost control and struck a guard rail on a bridge in the 1500 block of Hwy. 27. The accident occurred at about 6:15 a.m. and Helmer returned to scene after reporting the accident. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene. 03/11/19 – 4:11 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Albert James Childress Jr., 30, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for simple assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond. 03/09/19 – 4:24 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Juston Christopher Hauck, 38, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and then released for time served. 03/09/19 – 5:55 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shane Michael Blanchard, 37, of Waver, at the sheriff's office on warrants for a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and then released for time served. 03/08/19 – 4:24 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jay Alan Smith, 60, of Des Moines, at the sheriff's office on warrants for voluntary absence and a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond. 03/09/19 – 4:19 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Avery Stephen Kieser, 25, of West Point at the intersection of Hwy 103 and 180th Street on charges of operating a vehicle while intoxicated and open container. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 03/08/19 – 9:19 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dakota James Arnold, 26, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 03/10/19 – 12:26 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Austin James Lampe, 25, of Houghton, at the intersection of 180th Avenue and Abel Road in Donnellson, on charges of operating a vehicle while intoxicated and driving under suspension. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released upon paying a fine.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue

03/08/18 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide leak, two medical calls, and one smoke detector activated. 03/09/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls and a garage fire. 03/10/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls.

Part-Time Laborer

Applications can be picked up and submitted at Fort Madison City Hall 811 Ave. E Fort Madison, Iowa

---

For the Record/Classifieds

Fuel Dock Attendant

Public Works Parks and Marina

Will provide retail service to customers at the fuel dock and handle the day-to-day dock store responsibilities. Carry out the day-to-day maintenance of the marina facility and grounds using discretion and independent judgment. Provide information and assistance to the boating public as needed.

OBSERVED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Must have a current Iowa driver's license.

6 months Customer Service/ Cashier Experience (Marina/ Fuel Dock Preferred).

Perform physical labor.

Stand for long periods of time.

Able to lift at least 50 lbs.

Position is seasonal. 28 hours a week Monday through Sunday.

APPLICATIONS

Applications can be picked up and submitted at Fort Madison City Hall 811 Ave. E Fort Madison, Iowa

---

Lee County Health Department Hospice Volunteer

April 2 - April 23, 2019

4 Tuesday Evenings

6:00pm-9:00pm

at LCHD office

No fee, Open to the public

To register call (319)372-5225 or visit www.leecountyhhd.org

You can make a difference!

PO Box 1426, Fort Madison

Lee County, Iowa

---

Do you have time to help stop crime?

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

Join us today to help keep our communities safer!
APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Chateau Apartments
Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent


PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Help GRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!
Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm
Call for an appointment

We have a great selection. As life changes, so do your needs. Let State Farm Bank help with a mortgage that fits your life and your budget. Let us help you make the right move. Bank with a Good Neighbor... CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

State Farm Bank®
1001 305th St
State Farm Bank, F.S.B.
Bloomington, IL 61701
800-216-2370
www.sfb.com

5 Generations of Printing
Dodd
Business Cards
Post Correxex
Wedding Invitations
319-372-2721 • dodding.com

It’s possible to achieve the retirement of your dreams. Prepare now, so that when the time comes, you can enjoy retirement on your own terms.

Schedule a SuperCheck® so we can discuss your world and your future today.

CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

State Farm Bank
1301 37th St
Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-372-9145

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Call to schedule your personal tour 319-372-8021

YOUR LOVED ONES DESERVE THE BEST

Bridal & Baby Showers
Anniversary & Birthday Parties
Receptions & Retreats

Unforgettable Celebrations

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

NOTICE OF
JOB OPENING

Collections Clerk
Lee County Attorney’s Office
Keokuk, Iowa

Lee County Attorney’s Office has an immediate opening for the collections clerk position (40 hours per week).

The position’s successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level administrative support courses or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.
3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.
5. Knowledge of Iowa County Courts.
6. Knowledge of Iowa Department of Transportation transcripts.
7. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports.
8. Ability to learn and/or operate the county Attorney’s Office computer programs.
9. Ability to understand and follow written and oral instructions.
10. Ability to use Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Excel.
11. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment.
12. Ability to multi-task.
13. Ability to communicate with others using tact and diplomacy.
14. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel, Clerk of Court, Treasurer and Iowa Department of Transportation.
15. Ability to maintain a large filing system of current and closed files.
16. Must be able to travel to North Lee County Office and/or courthouse on occasion.

The position is represented by the Public Professional & Maintenance Employees Local No. 2003, IUPAT. The starting wage is $16.02 per hour. Great County Benefits.

The deadline for submitting a resume is March 11, 2019.

Please send resume to
Rose Braden
PG Box 824
Keokuk, IA 52632
or e-mail
rbraden@leeCounty.org
Celebrations

MADALINE KATE MENKE

SALEM – Mr. and Mrs. Alan and Jessica Menke, of Salem, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Madaline Kate Menke, on Feb. 28, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Dorn Luder of Dallas City and Sally Luder (deceased); and Albert and Mary Menke of Salem.

Great-grandparent is Delores Shoemate (deceased).

OLIVER MORRIS

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Mr. and Mrs. Devin and Kayla Morris are proud to announce the birth of their son Oliver Morris on Feb. 19, 2019 at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C.

Grandparents are Chris and Connie Hudson of Montrose; Charity and Tom Newville of Irons, Mich.; and Daron and Karen Morris of Belding, Mich.

DAVARIAN SPURGEON

FORT MADISON – Misti Carroll and Devin Spurgeon are proud to announce the birth of their son, Davarian Spurgeon on Dec. 4, 2018 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.


KREW BERRY

BURLINGTON – Nikki Herren and Dalton Berry are proud to announce the birth of their son, Krew Berry, on Jan. 21, 2019 at Great River Medical Center.

Grandparents are Joey and Kim Herren, of Waver; and Mary Berry of Fort Madison.

Great-grandparents are Roy and Wanda Herren of Corning, Ark.; Judy and Rick Berry, Sr., of Fort Madison. Guardian Angel Grandparents are Rick Berry, Jr.; and Barb and Dale Kirchgasser.

MARIE MELLER

WEVER – Mr. and Mrs. Craig and Sara Meller are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Marie Meller on March 3, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Marie is joined at home by Stella Marie Meller.

Great-grandparent is Mert Peitz of West Point.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucky for Life®</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>9:38 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerball®</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>9:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotto America™</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>9:40 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.