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KINDERGARTNERS VISIT FOREST CITY AMBULANCE

2025 EMS Week features elementary school partnership



SUMMIT-TRIBUNE STAFF

On May 20, kindergarten students from Forest City Elementary School toured Forest City ambulances and emergency vehicles. They also learned first-hand about lifesaving emergency equipment during their EMS Week visit.

Ambulance service staff visited the elementary school the day before the students' tour, reading a story to the kindergarten class. It was about the things commonly found in an ambulance. They left behind sheets for the kids to color their own 3D ambulance.

"We really appreciated them having us out!" exclaimed Emily Putney of the Forest City Ambulance Service.

The week recognizing the contributions of EMS professionals and volunteers serving local communities lasted May 18-24. The kindergarten students visited the Emergency Services Center in Forest City. Members of the Forest City Ambulance Service were on hand to demonstrate the work they do and answer students' questions. Some students checked their pulse and heart rate from their fingers, seeing their results on a monitor.

"There were lots of questions and we even got to show them their heart rate and oxygen levels on the monitors using our pulse oximeter," Putney said. "We loved having them visit us."

Putney said hosting the Forest City kindergarten students was a fun highlight of EMS Week for the hard-working, dedicated individuals who staff the local ambulance service. It came on the heels of also guiding kids and parents on ambulance tours at a Make-A-Wish North Iowa fundraising event, which led into this year's EMS Week.

But the local ambulance staff wasn't done interacting with elementary school students for the week, returning to the school on May 23 for High Five Friday. There, they greeted and

Elementary students are pictured during a Forest City Ambulance Service tour.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Supervisors hear Duncan safety complaints

County officials seek options
for unincorporated town

ROB HILLESLAND
Summit-Tribune

Hancock County supervisors heard from a group of Duncan residents, asking for action to address re-escalating "junk" and debris issues around neighboring properties and road right-of-way in the unincorporated community.

Such complaints there are not new. A number of Duncan community and church members said they'd like to see improvements before the community's centennial celebration in late June.

"Andy (Buffington) went out and addressed it before and it worked for a little while," said Supervisor Chair Sis Greiman of official communications made with residents there several years ago. County Attorney Rachel Martinez was unable to attend Monday's meeting. It was hoped

she could participate in the board's next weekly meeting.

Buffington highly recommended the county attorney's involvement in reviewing state and local codes as well as other options. The Hancock County planning and zoning administrator said the obvious first step is to get ahold of and communicate with landowners there.

"Duncan looks horrible!" one woman told supervisors.

A neighboring resident complained about 1447 234th Street in Duncan, which is an east end lot on the street. She asked about the possibility of condemnation, saying one can only imagine how bad the inside may be judging from the outside of the property.

"It's disgusting!" she said.

Also cited was an alleged longstanding open septic hole with grass growing around it that was called a dangerous



ROB HILLESLAND, SUMMIT-TRIBUNE

In 2021, Hancock County officials assessed whether there were areas of health, safety, nuisance, or other concerns related to junk accumulation in Duncan.

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