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Family memories of man live on **5A**

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WEATHER: HIGH 32° LOW 20° PARTLY CLOUDY, 8B

Answering the Call

Service requests hold steady for Dubuque Fire Department

BY JOHN KRUSE
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The Dubuque Fire Department handled exactly the same number of calls for service in 2022 as 2021, providing at least a brief departure from the trend of annually climbing totals.

In both years, the department fielded exactly 7,800 calls.

In contrast, the department's call total for 2021 represented nearly a 20% increase over the 6,525 calls received in 2020. The totals for 2021 and 2022 each are 54% higher than the call total from 2011 of 5,074.

One recent trend that did continue is an uptick in the rate of calls for emergency medical services.

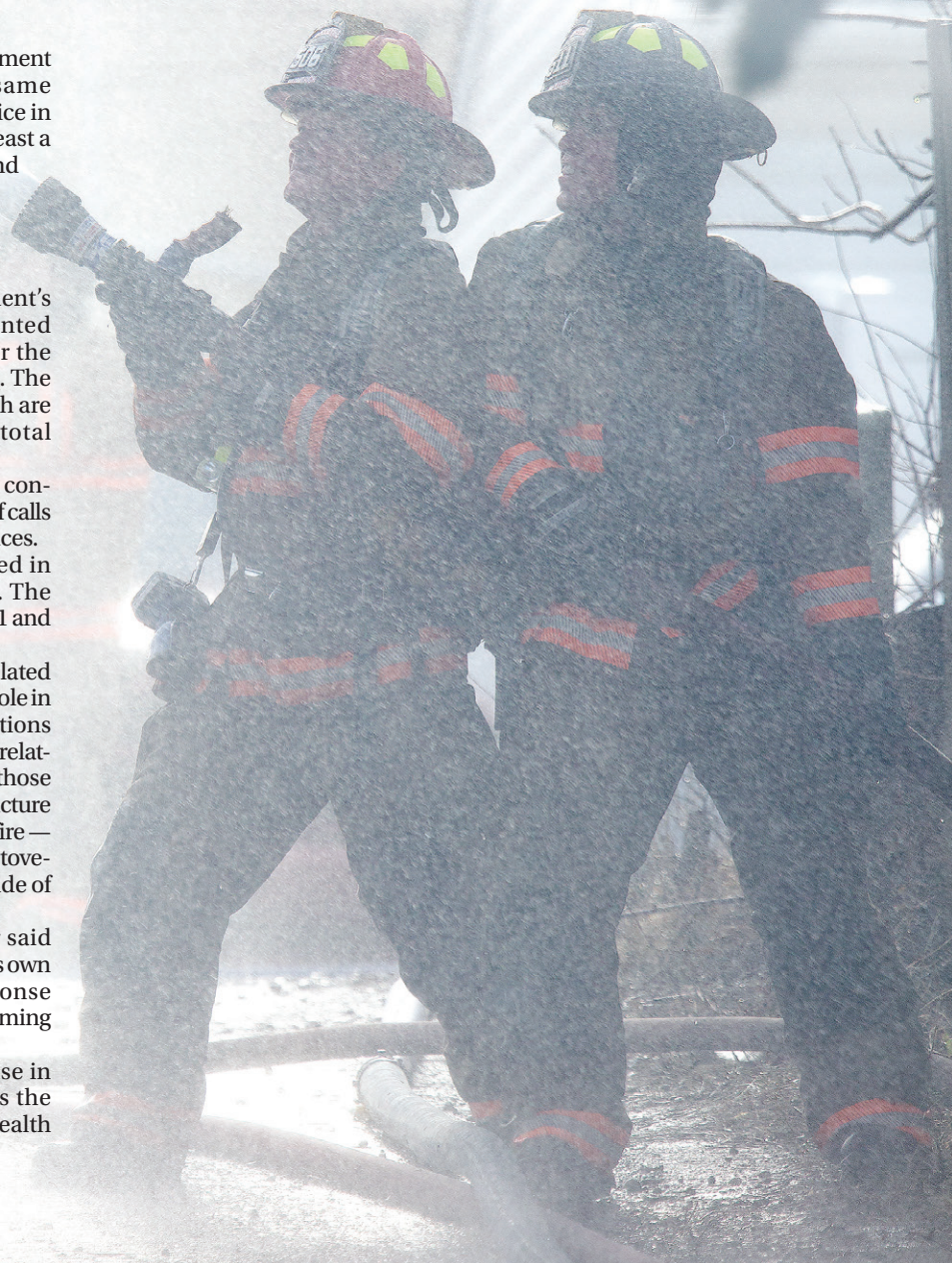
Of the total calls received in 2022, 80.6% were for EMS. The percentage was 78.9% in 2021 and 78.3% in 2020.

On the other hand, fire-related calls played a much smaller role in the fire department's operations last year. There were 198 fire-related calls recorded, with 61 of those classified as responses to structure fires, meaning cases when a fire — whether it is a large one or a stove-top one — was reported inside of a structure.

Fire Chief Amy Scheller said each community develops its own trends in emergency response needs, and Dubuque is becoming more reliant on EMS.

"We're seeing an increase in slips, trips and falls across the board, along with mental health

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STEPHEN GASSMAN • Telegraph Herald file

Firefighters respond to a house fire on Caledonia Place in Dubuque in April 2022.

Shortage of pediatric medications persisting

Local pharmacy professionals say that parents might end up with fewer choices.

BY BENJAMIN FISHER
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A national shortage of pediatric medications recently impacted local supplies, according to Dubuque pharmacy

professionals who warn parents to expect delays and fewer choices among medications.

The shortage has impacted some antibiotics, antivirals and pain relievers for children, as respiratory illness waves wash over the region. They said parents should be able to find medicine necessary to treat children — albeit with fewer specific options and some extra effort hunting them down.

MercyOne Dubuque Pharmacy Director Jess Smith said the shortage has not affected adult medications and so far has not wiped out all the local supply of any one children's medication.

"Supply is low on some formulations and types of antibiotics right now," she said. "But that doesn't mean we don't have available options."

UnityPoint Health-Finley



Greg Brosius

Hospital Director of Pharmacy Greg Brosius said the shortage is one of the more severe the region has had in recent years, but that the consequences likely will be "more of a nuisance than something to lose sleep

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Skills gap driving industries' planning

Companies have learned to think ahead about filling possible vacancies.

BY ELIZABETH KELSEY
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Cody McClain long has known the challenges of hiring truck drivers, but in recent years, the vice president of safety and human resources at Dubuque company Tucker Freight Lines has watched the experience level of applicants steadily decline.



Cody McClain

"We've grown pretty rapidly, so we've had a lot of hiring, and we definitely see less experience and have to invest more on the training side to make sure we have good, safe drivers," he said.

McClain's industry is among those that expects to see a notable "skills gap" over

TH more online
View details of the skills-gap analysis, TelegraphHerald.com

the next 10 years, according to a recently released analysis from Greater Dubuque Development Corp.

The report covers Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson and Jones counties in Iowa, Jo Daviess County in Illinois and Grant County in Wisconsin. It discusses the number of projected job openings in a variety of occupations as compared to the number of local graduates who could fill them. It projects that there will be a skills gap of 291 heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers by 2032 — the most substantial gap identified for any occupation.

UPS AND DOWNS

GDDC's skills gap analysis predicts a decline of nearly 8,000 people in the area's working-age

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inside



McCarthy's bid makes progress **13A**



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