





News-Review

SERVING THE KEOKUK COUNTY AREA SINCE 1860

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023 NUMBER 30, 162nd YEAR

Community

Richland Public Library Lego & **Building Club**

Wednesdays from 3 - 5 p.m. June and July. Ages 5 - adult

Richland Public Library Amazing Voices Teen Program

Thursdays from 3 - 4 p.m.. Teens entering 6 -12 grades.

Arts, Crafts, Games, Movies, Snacks and Hanging out with friends

Sigourney Farmers Market

Wednesdays from 4 -7 p.m. on the Sigourney Square June - September

North English Fun Days Car & Truck

Saturday, July 29, North English Main Street Registration 12p.m. Voting begins at 4p.m. Awards begin at 5p.m.

Knights of Columbus of Harper Fifth Sunday Breakfast

Sunday, July 30, 7:30am

Free Will Offering Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Keota

Twists and Turns Vacation Bible School

July 31-Aug 3, 6:00-8:30

Free Grace United, 107 E. Broadway St., What

Knights of Columbus of Harper Fish Fry

Friday, August 4, 5 - 7

\$15 adults, \$7 children KoC Hall, Harper

Pekin School 2023-2024 Registration

Tuesday, August 8, 9am - 7pm, High School Commons

All NEW families to the district are asked to come to school on that day to register.

Returning families: We ask that you do NOT go into PowerSchool at this time to register your child(ren). We will keep you updated as to when that is available.

Free Grace United **Grand Opening**

September 17 Free Grace United, 107 E. Broadway St., What

Richland Harvest Time Rumble Car Show

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Upcoming Election Solution to Fire Department Problems, Says Richland City Councilman

By Casey Jarmes |

The News-Review RICHLAND - On July 17, more than 60 people gathered in Richland for a public hearing about the future of the Richland Fire Department. Due to the size of the crowd, the meeting was held outside, in the shelter across the street from city hall. Among the crowd were Richland firefighters, firefighters from surrounding communities, representatives from the townships, concerned citizens, the city's insurance agent, and Councilmen Micheal Hadley and Brei Beam. Notably absent were Richland Mayor Tom Hoekstra and Councilmen Alisa Tolle, David Balster and Kathy Brower. It should be noted that, according to attendee Sue Gill, Brower and Tolle were busy taking care of a sick relative and dealing with a death in the family respectively. The reason for Hoekstra and Balster's absence was unknown to the meeting's attendees. The News-Review asked Hoekstra about his absence after the meeting; he declined to answer.

The meeting began with a lengthy presentation by the city's insurance agent, Wolene White, explaining how the city's current workman's comp insurance provider, Iowa Municipalities Workers' Compensation Association (IMWCA), functions. IMWCA is an insurance pool created by the Iowa League of Cities that works with counties, cities, and local governments across the state. IMWCA has worked with the city for years. However, they require firefighters take physicals every five years, something many members of the Richland

fire department dislike. White noted that, because insurance for fire departments is hard to obtain the department's only options are IMWCA or an Assigned Risk Pool. According to White, Assigned Risk Pool insurance costs 25% more. In addition, because the city has worked with IMWCA for so long and complies with site surveys, IMWCA gives the city an additional 19% discount, with further discounts being given because

the city is highly rated. White stated that the Assigned Risk Pool cost is \$56.23 per \$100 of payroll, while the city only pays \$30.50 with IMWCA.

White noted that physicals allow fire departments to tell when a firefighter is injured, by comparing their vitals to their standard levels. White also noted several cases of physicals identifying problems with firefighters and allowing them to get medical care they did not know they needed. Longtime Richland Fire Chief Mitch Ehrenfelt countered by stating that these physicals are expensive, noting that it cost around \$11,000 the last time the department received physicals, money that could we been put towards new

equipment. "It just depends on what your viewpoint is. The reason why the physicals were put into place was to ensure the safety of the firefight-ers," said White. "Bottom line. That's it. I've talked to different fire chiefs around the state, and they say 'You know, the worst thing I ever had to do, in my entire career of being a firefighter, is when one of my firefighters was injured or killed and I had to go to his house, and knock on his door, and tell his spouse or her spouse they aren't coming home because of this.' I mean, it's a risk, and they accept that when they become a firefighter, but anything we can do, to ensure their safety, we should

Ehrenfelt stated that the several other fire departments in the area, namely Brighton, Packwood, and Jackson Township, do not work with IMWCA, and that the other fire departments shake their heads at Richland for having to do physicals. White countered that Delta, Agency, and What Cheer all have IMWCA as their insurance provider and speculated that the fire departments Ehrenfelt listed do not qualify for IMWCA. "Every single policy and procedure that's in place is to keep every single firefighter safe," said White.

"I have nothing against physicals, but I think it's everybody's own responsibility to take care of themselves," replied Ehrenfelt.

White stated that the spouses of deceased firefighters could sue the department for not doing their due diligence. Councilman Hadley, who worked as a firefighter for 17 years, noted that only a "small handful" of firefighters actually go into burning buildings, with most of a department doing the vital task of working the hoses, and asked if the physicals account for this. White stated that the physicals are the same for all firefighters. An attendee asked who is given access to the private medical information in the physicals. Ehrenfelt claimed that this information had been given to the city in the past, something that angered his men, although City Clerk Susan Carrol disputed this. White stated that the information is supposed to be given to the fire chief.

White was asked how much IMWCA costs yearly. She replied that workman's

> ELECTION pg. 3

How are agri-chemicals affecting the lives of rural lowans?

Iowa Capital Dispatch

Vrrrrrrrrrrrrroom. crop dusters are coming soon to a location near you. The small planes circle the fields at this time of year, spraying fungicides and pesticides. They dodge trees and phone lines to descend as low as possible to apply their aerial applications.

For the most part, their acrobatics are out of sight for city dwellers, but for rural citizens, the planes are a part of the rhythm of the summer, their engines roaring, wings tipping, circling through the blue sky above to make another swipe at the neighbor's cornfield.

Heather Roller, a professor of history and environmental studies at Colgate University, landed in town with her two student assistants Katie Moser and Anna Miksis. They hurried through my office door, escaping the Canadian wildfire smoke that had engulfed us. They were here doing research for Heather's new book, "A Social and Environmental History of Agri-



Unlike most other research on pesticides, Heather's book isn't looking at the chemistry of pesticides, but rather, their effect on rural families. How have rural people experienced pesticides in their own lives? In their communities? How do they perceive their role in the landscape? What stories do rural people tell about agri-chemicals? How do these substances shape farmers' ecological worlds? Most, but not all of my immediate Amish neighbors, raise organic crops without the use of agri-chemicals. But the majority of operators throughout the state farm conventionallystaying within the confines of the established system of plowing, planting genetically modified seed, and applying herbicides and pesticides.

"What do you think set off Lloyd's cancer?" I once heard my neighbors discuss the death of their cousin. "So

young. 50 years old, right?" "Don't know. Probably the

"I suppose."

Often, farmers seem fatalistic about the system, knowing that it could be damaging their health. But other options are not easy. Transitioning to organic is a slow, costly process.

And it's just these perceptions - or their opposites that Heather is trying to capture in her book. She, Ka-

tie and Anna had driven to northern Iowa to interview a farmer whose father had most likely died from exposure to agri-chemicals. The father's difficult death set the son off in a different direction, one that embraced regenerative agriculture.

"Humans and the environment are reciprocal influences on one another," Heather said. "We have to think of them both as actors in histo-

Professor Roller came to her recent material from research she had done in Brazil. She had studied Indigenous people there and the great environmental changes that they had had to deal with near the Amazon.

Anna Miksis had grown up near a superfund site in suburban Massachusetts. Her parents' friends became activists, raising the alarm about cancer clusters.

Katie Moser had always loved animals, particularly horses, and how these creatures had once functioned in

AGRI-CHEMICALS



Visit your friendly Co-op 641-636-3748 or 641-636-3439

Community CALENDAR MENUS =

Sunday, September 24, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Richland Town Square Registration 8 - 12 Awards 3 p.m.

Sigourney American Legion Post #19

Meets 7:00 p.m. Third Tuesday month every

Memorial Hall

Wilson Memorial Library

Mondays 10-6pm Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Thursdays 10-5pm Fridays Closed Saturdays 8-12.

Richland Public Library

Tuesday/Wednesday/ Thursday: 2:30-6:00 Friday: Noon-5:00 Saturday: 10:00-1:00 Sunday Closed Monday. For more information call the library at 319-456-6541.

Sigourney Public Library

Summer Programs in June: Preschool: Mondays, 11:30 am - 12 pm 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade:

Tuesdays, 1-2 pm 2nd and 3rd Grade: Wednesdays, 1-2 pm

Grade Kindergarten: 1-2 pm Family Movide Matinee: June Fridays after the 9th, 2-3:30 pm

Hedrick Public Library

Monday 2:00 to 6:00; Tuesday 2:00 to Wednesday 12:30 to 4:00; Thursday 2:00 to 6:00; Friday 2:00 to 5:30; Saturday 9:00 to

Curbside-pick up available: call the library for details.

Sigourney Kiwanis

Serving the community since 1969. Kiwanis meet Wednesdays, from 12 to 1 p.m. at Keokuk County Bowl, visitors are welcome.

Old Keota Business

Anyone having old photos of former Keota businesses, please contact Larry Gale Sanders. The photos will be used in a Keota Business Pictorial Album.

Keota Food Pantry

The food pantry in Keota is open on the last Sunday of the month at the United Church of Faith, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Anyone needing food is invited.

Pekin Ministerial Association Lord's Cupboard

Located at Richland United Methodist Church, 106 W South St. Richland, (319) 456-2251. Open Tuesday and Wednesday 9-11 a.m. and Thursday 6-8 p.m.

City of Keota Public Meeting

Public meetings will be held on the First and Third Monday of each month. at 7 p.m. at Keota City Hall. Special Meetings will be posted at City Hall.

Keota School Board

The Keota School Board 5:00; meets the second Thursday of each month, typically at 6

Keota VFW Auxiliary

The VFW Auxiliary meets the third Tuesday of each month, typically at the VFW building.

Keokuk County Historical Society

Open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3

Arrangements for visiting other days can be arranged by calling 641-622-3005, please leave a message

and a volunteer will return your call. Come and see our museum or do genealogy research.

Keokuk County Supervisors

The Keokuk County Board of Supervisors meets weekly on Mondays at 8:30 a.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous Sigourney

Meetings AAOutreach Community Center-Sigourney: Wednesdays at 8 p.m. for more information, call (319) 461-6869.

Narcotics Anonymous-Sigourney

NA Meetings Community Outreach Center-Sigourney: Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Food Pantry-Sigourney

Food Pantry Community Outreach Center-Sigourney: Call the Lord's Pantry at 641-224-2588 or contact a minister

Keokuk County Public Health

The Public Health Office is accepting the following donations: masks, gloves, gowns, including homemade masks and cleaning supplies as well as Durable Medical Equip. Items accepted: Medi-Planners, crutches, reachers, grabbers, wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, stool risers, shower benches, canes and side rails.

For more information on mRNA COVID-19 vaccine booster please call the office at 641-622-3575

Alcoholics Anonymous-Keota

AA every Monday at 7 p.m. at the Good Neighbor Fellowship Church Broadway.

Alzheimer's Support

Alzheimer's Support Group meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the Presbyterian Church in Washington at 6:30 p.m.

Take off Pound Sensibly

Weekly meetings Tuesdays, 4:30pm - 5:30 pm Keokuk County Extension Office, 641-777-1653

KCED Business Mixer

Refreshments and July 1 Networking First Resources Corp. Thursday, April 27th ,5:00-

July 3 117 N. Main St Sigourney, IA Email: sadc@sigourney. com for more information

Births, Engagements, Weddings, and Anniversaries

story (no photos) runs for FREE

story with black and white photo - \$10

story with color photo - \$20

* Some restrictions may apply. If the story is an invitation to a celebration or request for cards, it must run as an ad.



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ELECTION from pg. 1

comp premium costs the city \$1830 yearly, the general liability costs \$603 yearly, the liability for the trucks costs \$311 yearly, and the fire station's property insurance costs \$689 yearly.

"The town of Richland's got a great fire department," state senator and Packwood firefighter Adrian Dickey said, eliciting a round of applause. "It's not because of that building, and it's not because of those trucks, it's because of these men and women that protect this community. And I don't give a damn what the cost difference is between two policies! I don't. You're not paying them. If they say 'We don't want this one' you pay the policy so they don't have the physicals. Period...There is a pissing match between the city council and the mayor towards the fire department. And if they just say 'Screw you' and leave, guess what your property rates are gonna do? If your property rates are going up and you don't have any fire department, period, then don't plan on (Packwood and other departments putting out fires). You're making a big assumption if you think we're going to come and cover without you talking to us first...We're not going to provide fire protection for the City of Richland if you screw over your own damn department that you have here right now. So think twice about getting protection from somebody else, when we got a very good department here right now and it's really come down to the cost of some physicals that they may not want to take."

Ehrenfelt then thanked everyone who had shown up in support of the fire department. "It's a disgrace that the people that need to be here are not," said one attendee.

Ehrenfelt noted that, between the 25 men on the department, there are 287 years of service. He explained that it takes 200 hours of training to become a firefighter and

that each firefighter spends a minimum of 24 hours working, spends 12 hours at meetings, and shows up for 50-60 calls every year. Ehrenfelt explained that, currently, the department's equipment is paid for by the township trustees, while day to day expenses are covered by the department's 501c3.

Ehrenfelt again explained his desire to create a fire board to make decisions about how the fire department is run, with the City of Richland, Richland Township, Clay Township, Dutch Creek Township, and Black Hawk Township each given a seat at the table. He sees the plan proposed by the city, where the townships are given a seat on an advisory board but all final decisions are made by the city council, as unfair.

Beam asked Ehrenfelt about the fact that the 28e Agreements between the townships for fire protection had not been filed with the state. Ehrenfelt stated that they can be easily filed and that the township was working on it. The controversy over the fire department's vehicles possibly being bought with the city's tax number was brought up; Ehrenfelt stood by his belief that, because the trustees wrote the grant and title, license, insure and maintain the vehicles, they are still

property of the trustees. One attendee asked Hadley and Beam how the situation with the fire department will be resolved, noting that there had been constant meetings and saying the community was sick of hearing about it. "I personally want us to all work together for our community and for everybody's sake. And if that takes the city giving a little and the fire department giving a little to work together, that's what is going to happen," said Beam. This is my opinion, so it doesn't mean a whole lot, but from what I'm seeing and

what I'm viewing, it looks

to me like some people on

the city, and in some situations on the fire department, they're butting heads. And they're not wanting to work together. They're not listening to each other. They just want it my way or the high-

way."
"I'm all for doing what I can to make it work. A lot of the leg work has been done already. I don't think we need to reinvent the wheel, I think we just need to sit down and iron some things out, and that's gonna take a little bit of work," said Hadley. "But it's also going to take enough people deciding to do that within the confines of the council."

One attendee asked what they needed from the public. "There's an election coming up," said Hadley, leading to cheers from the crowd. Hadley stated that people would have to be patient until the November election, although he did recommend they reach out to the council members who did not attend the meeting.

"But they don't listen to us," said one attendee. "Micheal, we've

enough," said another.

"Mitch gave every (member of the council) the opportunity to sit down and show them the vision. Micheal and Brei are the only ones who took him up on that offer. The other three refused.

"Tom will not allow this type of thing, the vision to be shown to the city council," said Richland firefighter John "Bob" Capps. "Second of all, those two, they're here. Now, I understand Alisa. I get it. But when you have something like this, that you got the public this involved now, and they're not here? That's a slap in your face. That's the way I see it...Come election, I'm running for

"Here's another thing to consider. It's why we want a fire board and we want all taxpayers represented, not just the city, but every township. Everybody should have a say in this. The city council and even the trustees...that position changes every two years. Or every four years, whatever. The positions are always swapping," Capps said later in the meeting. But when you have one entity over everything...and they don't like you, they can tell you 'Oh you can't do that.' They've already done it to Mitch...You know, I'm willing to get up at two in the morning to go to your house and do whatever I got to do to save your child. So who is Tom Hoekstra to tell me I can't do that? Who is he to tell Mitch that he can't do that? That's why it should not be up to one entity."

One attendee questioned how the city can fire a volunteer. Another attendee brought up frustrations towards the city, in his view, wanting to prioritize fighting fires in the city over in the country, something he sees as a slap in the face. Hadley brought up a story of the Richland fire department managing to handle three separate fires at the same time, stating that no firefighter is going to leave someone else hanging.

"The firemen are there to help their community PMHNP-BC and do what they can for their community because they love their community and they want to help their community. That's the frustrating part of all this, for me," said Hadley. "Having been on the department for 17 years before just having enough dead bodies in front of you that I just had enough, that was it, knowing **CHRONIC & COMPLEX PAIN** and training a lot of the guys Cory Nielson, DPT, TPS who are on the department, DRY NEEDLING Mitch included, and other guys on there, I know what the intent is. I know where their heart is. And my goal is to work with them to make this as stupid easy as possible...I want to make this easy and streamlined. And I think, at some level, it's going Cory Nielson, DPT, TPS to take things changing with Julie Aeschliman, DPT the personnel in those positions come November."

Goodwin Senior Dining Center

Call (319) 646-2711 for details

(Wellman)

Thursday, July 27 Ham Balls, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Strawberry Fluff Pie, Bread & Butter, Milk

Friday, July 28 Sloppy Joe on a Bun, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad. Chocolate Chip Bar, Milk Monday, July 21

Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Garlic Bread, Toss Salad, Fruit & Brownie, Milk

Tuesday, August 1 Baked Potato w/Chili or Cheese Sauce & Broccoli, Fruit, Chocolate Chip Bar,

Wednesday, August 2 Swedish Meatballs, Buttered Noodles, Spinach, Apple Crisp, Ice Cream, Bread & Butter, Milk

Milestones (Sigourney and Delta)

Thursday, July 27 Baked Chicken, Creamy Noodles, Baked Spinach Casserole, Fruit, Wheat Roll

Friday, July 28 Baked Ham, California Blend Vegetables, Scalloped Potatoes, Combread Muffin

Monday, July 21 Andy's Meatloaf w/ketchup, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce, Cinnamon Apple Slices, Garlic Wheat Roll

Tuesday, August 1 Turkey & Cheese on Wheat Bread, Lettuce Leaf, Tomato, Mayo, Creamy Cucumber & Onion Salad, Copper Penny

Salad, Fruit Wednesday, August 2 BBQ Baked Chicken, Sweet Potatoes, Green Peas, Fruited Pudding, Garlic French Bread

Keokuk County Sheriff's Office

July 01 - July 20, 2023

Dylan Dwayne Miller, of Wellman, was cited for Speeding

Christopher Kumm, of Ottumwa, was cited for Driving Under Suspension and Failure to Provide Proof of Financial Liability

Nicholas Allen Weber, 33, of Kinross, was arrested for Driving While Barred and cited for Failure to Maintain Registration/Plates, Operating w/o Registration/Plate, and Failure to Provide Proof of Financial Liability

Zoe Catherine Hahn, 20, of Sigourney, was arrested for Theft Fourth Degree.

Haleigh Denise Oxley, 25, of Wellman, was arrested for Domestic Assault Abuse Causing Bodily Injury- First offense.

Lee ter-Grimm, 48, of Sigourney, was arrested for Possessions of Controlled Substance.

July 5 Keeper Mason Grooms, of Sigourney, was cited for Failure to Obey Stop Sign/

Yield Right of Way Carly Ann Shondel, of Mystic, was cited for Permitting Unauthorized Person To Drive

July 7 Keeper Mason Grooms, 20, of What Cheer, was arrested on warrants for Eluding, Driving While

Suspended, Interference

with Office Acts, Posses-

sion/Purchase of Alcohol by Person 18/19/20-Second Offense, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. July 9

Cortijo, of Sigourney, was cited for Operating w/o Registration/Plates and Failure to Use Seatbelt -July 12

Eric Jordany Valentin,

Heather Marie Hopp, of Keota, was cited for Speed in 55<Zone (6-10 over)

July 14 Edgar Hernandez, of Ot-

tumwa, was cited for Failure to Provide Proof of Financial Liability, No Valid Driver's License and Speed in 55<Zone (6-10 over) July 15

Lawrence Leonard Boyd, 61, of Davenport, was arrested for Driving While Barred and Eluding. July 18

Cheyanne Schmidt, of Sigourney, was cited for Operating w/o Registration/Plate

July 19

Johnathon Steven Miller, 29, of Washington, was arrested on a Warrant out of Muscatine County.

Wesley Allen Muntz, 45, of Fairfield, was arrested on a warrant for FTA for arraignment on original charge of Theft Second

Degree. Amy Nicole Thompson, 40, of Moulton, was arrested for Possession of Controlled Substance-Third or Subsequent and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Professional Directory

MEDICAL

SERVICES KEOKUK COUNTY HOSPITAL AND CLINICS MEDICAL CLINIC: SIGOURNEY CLINIC

Chervl Quinn, DO Jeffrey Waddell, DNP, ARNP-C, Tyler Kempf, FNP-C, ARNP Jason Polonsky, PA-C BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Mariah Johnson, DNP, ARNP,

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