

Ex-official sues over injuries at 2022 state fair tractor pull

William Morris
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Iowa State Fair declines to discuss possible changes to tractor pull

An accident during the Outlaw Truck & Tractor Pull at the 2022 Iowa State Fair that apparently received no news coverage left a track official seriously injured, according to a lawsuit filed against the fair and the tractor pull association.

Different classes of trucks and tractors compete in the event to haul sleds with progressively more-unbalanced weights across a defined course.

In a May 26 complaint, Kevin Burch says he was on the course as an official on Aug. 16, 2022, when he was “suddenly and unexpectedly struck by a skid loader and pulled to the ground.”

Burch sustained numerous injuries, according to the complaint, including 11 broken ribs and multiple leg fractures. It says he was hospitalized for 23 days, underwent multiple surgeries and has permanent damage to his right leg.

More than nine months later, Burch’s complaint says, he has not been able to return to work.

Burch and his wife, Elizabeth, are suing the Outlaw Truck & Tractor Pulling Association, the Iowa Tractor Pulling Association and the Iowa State Fair, alleging negligence in training, supervising and executing the tractor pull and failure to observe unspecified safety measures that were supposed to be in place.

The Burches’ attorney did not respond to a message seeking comment. Outlaw Truck & Tractor Pulling, which is headquartered in Rock Valley, also did not respond to a message seeking comment.

After a four-year hiatus, tractor pulls returned to the State Fair in 2021 with the construction of the Ellwell Family Park, a \$2 million facility that serves as a dedicated site for the pulls, monster trucks meets, rodeos, barbecue competitions and other family-friendly events.

Tickets already are on sale for 2023 tractor pull events there.

It’s not clear if the fair made any public statements about Burch’s accident and injuries at the time they happened.

Mindy Williamson, a spokeswoman for the fair, declined to comment on the lawsuit or answer questions about how the fair responded to the event, citing the pending litigation.

Williamson also declined to say if the fair will be making any changes to the tractor pull events in 2023 to improve safety on the track.

An Iowa State Patrol spokesperson said the Iowa State Fair’s on-site police force was the primary responding agency for the accident. The Des Moines Register has requested copies of any incident reports about the tractor pull mishap described in Burch’s complaint.



Madi Meyer explores her new camping trailer outside Cornell Elementary on Monday. CHRIS HIGGINS/THE REGISTER

Make-A-Wish gives 5-year-old with cancer the gift of camping

Chris Higgins
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Des Moines-area family is enjoying their favorite summer activity again after a young girl got the best birthday present ever.

Madison Meyer turned 5 Monday, and her gift received a special Saylor Township Fire Department escort, sirens blasting and lights flashing, to a gathering where she was introduced to her brand-new travel trailer.

Madi and her family — parents Breeana and Ryan and sisters Rylee and Aubree — loved to go camping and take adventures to state parks and the lakeshore while growing closer as a family, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But after Madi was diagnosed with a high-grade, difficult-to-treat brain tumor in July 2022, the medical bills started racking up and the Meyers had to let their camper go.

The family connected with Make-A-Wish Iowa, an organization that works to make wishes come true for children who are fighting critical illnesses to help improve their well-being.

Madi’s wish? To go “camping!,” she told the Des Moines Register.

Her new trailer is decked out with colorful stars on the outside, a toy chest for her dolls, a full bathroom and soft blankets to cuddle up in with her sisters while watching movies before bedtime.

Madi, wearing a sparkly rainbow

birthday outfit, excitedly explored the trailer for the first time at the special gathering outside Cornell Elementary and got to show it off to family and friends.

“Throughout the whole thing, her wish never changed. It was always camping,” Breeana Meyer said. “Anytime we brought up something else, or gave her different options, it was always camping, or how can I bring this over to camping? Once they told her that she was getting a camper, she hasn’t stopped talking about it.”

Ryan Meyer said the family wasn’t sure they would be able to celebrate Madi’s fifth birthday, but she has defied the odds, and he called the moment of celebration “monumental.” The Meyers will now be able to get back to the activity Madi enjoyed so much before her diagnosis.

“We are thrilled to see Madi get her wish fulfilled and know it will bring the whole family happiness for years to come,” Sara Kurovski, president and CEO of Make-A-Wish Iowa, said in a statement. “When critically ill children have their wish come true, it’s not only an incredible experience for them, but it also provides the hope, strength and resiliency they need to fight their disease.”

Chris Higgins covers the eastern suburbs for the Register. Reach him at chiggins@registermedia.com or 515-423-5146 and follow him on Twitter @chris_higgins_

WATCH YOUR SAVINGS BLOOM

8 Month CD¹

4.90%^{APY*}

\$5,000 MIN. OPENING DEPOSIT

17 Month CD²

4.30%^{APY*}

\$5,000 MIN. OPENING DEPOSIT

Jade MMDA³

2.50%^{APY*}

DAILY BALANCE

\$5,000 - \$999,999.99

3.00%^{APY*}

DAILY BALANCE

\$1,000,000 OR MORE

fsb

FSB1879.com

OPEN ONLINE OR VISIT

9250 University Ave

West Des Moines

*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. Rates & terms subject to change daily. Only available to customers in our Des Moines trade area. \$5,000 minimum opening deposit. All CDs renew for same term. Also available for IRAs. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal and fees may reduce earnings. 1: 8 month CD interest rate 4.81%. Interest compounds every 3 months. 2: 17 month CD interest rate 4.26%. Interest compounds every 6 months. 3: FSB Jade MMDA - \$5,000.00 opening deposit & minimum balance daily to obtain APY. If the daily balance is more than \$4,999.99 but less than \$1,000,000.00 the interest paid on the entire balance will be 2.47% & APY of 2.50%. If the daily balance is more than \$999,999.99 the interest paid on the entire balance will be 2.96% & APY of 3.00%. Minimum Average Balance fee of \$10.00 per month if the average collected balance falls below \$5,000. See branch for more details or call (877) 372-1879. Rates effective as of 5/12/2023.

BigIron AUCTIONS

WWW.BIGIRON.COM

UNRESERVED | LIEN FREE

UNRESERVED ONLINE AUCTION

THURSDAY, JUNE 22nd, 2023

Agrivision Equipment Group

Winterset, Leon, Massena, Clarinda, Lawton, Lemars, Paullina, Onawa, IA

Matt Raasch, Contact - 515-210-5673

DeWayne Ricklefs, Sales Rep - 712-830-9105

Items Pictured: 2020 John Deere S780 2WD Combine, 2012 John Deere 8360R MFWD Tractor, 2016 John Deere R4038 Sprayer.

Also Listed: 2020 John Deere S780 4WD Combine, 2019 John Deere S780 4WD Combine, 2018 John Deere S780 4WD Combine (4), 2013 John Deere S670 2WD Combine, 2012 John Deere S680 4WD Combine, 2021 John Deere 560R Round Baler, 2017 John Deere 569 Premium Round Baler, 2016 John Deere 640FD Platform Head, 2012 John Deere 640fd Header (2), 2013 Case IH 3408 Corn Head, 2012 Drago N8 Header, 2011 John Deere 612C Stalkmaster Header (2), 2009 John Deere 612C Stalkmaster Header.

Visit www.bigiron.com for details and complete listings!

Sell your equipment on BigIron.com - Call today!

1-800-937-3558

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PUBLIC NOTICE – COMMUNITY MEETING

Lot 46 Valley Gardens TCE Superfund Site

From 6 to 8:30 p.m. on June 20, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will host a Community Meeting about the proposal to add the Lot 46 Valley Gardens TCE Superfund Site in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa to the National Priorities List. The Community Meeting will be held **Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at Weeks Middle School, 901 E. Park Ave., Des Moines, IA 50315.** Starting at 6 p.m. during the Public Availability Session, EPA, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Des Moines Water Works representatives will be available for one-on-one discussions and questions, followed by a short break. Then from 7 to 7:30 p.m., officials will give a Site Presentation. Following the presentation, EPA representatives will hold a Question-and-Answer session until 8:30 p.m.

Groundwater at the site is contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE). Additional information is available online at: <https://response.epa.gov/Lot46ValleyGardensTCE>.

For reasonable accommodations at the meeting, please contact **Euleashia Embry** at embry.euleashia@epa.gov or 1-800-223-0425. For more information, contact **Amelia Holcomb**, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 913-551-7952, 1-800-223-0425, or holcomb.amelia@epa.gov.