

KENOSHA NEWS



Holiday parade
Elementary students mark Fourth of July weekend LOCAL, B1

Built-in style

Decor do's and don'ts D1



COOLER WITH A THUNDERSTORM IN SPOTS 79 • 61 FORECAST, B4 | **FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022** | kenoshanews.com | \$2.00

PRINGLE NATURE CENTER



SEAN KRAJACIC PHOTOS, KENOSHA NEWS

Colton Bextermueller, 8, left, and his sister Elize, 6, throw mud with Bentley Downie, 4, center left, and his sister, Elisae, 6, during Mud Day at the Pringle Nature Center in Bristol Woods on Wednesday.

CANDIDATE FORUM

Four seeking GOP primary sheriff's bid eye issues

TERRY FLORES
tflores@kenoshanews.com

Republican hopefuls vying for Kenosha County's top elected law enforcement leadership post made their cases for why they should become the county's next sheriff during a candidates' forum held Tuesday night.

Republican candidates seeking office include Kenosha Police Department Officer Friendly Tyler Cochran of Pleasant Prairie; Brian Albert Gonzales, also a Kenosha police officer, from Kenosha; Ray Rowe, "Deputy Friendly" with the Sheriff's Department, of Kenosha; and Sgt. David Zoerner, also with the Sheriff's Department, of Pleasant Prairie.



Cochran



Gonzales



Rowe



Zoerner

The four will square off in a primary election scheduled for Aug. 9.

The primary winner will be on the ballot for the general election to be held on Nov. 8 and will face Kenosha resident James Simmons, a deputy in Lake County, Ill. and the only Democratic candidate on the ballot.

Sheriff David Beth, a Republican, is not seeking re-election, announcing four years ago before the 2018 election he would not be running again this year.

During the forum, which was held at the Italian American Club in Kenosha, the four candidates addressed a range of topics that included elected officials' response to the city's riots in 2020, along with citizens' rights to bear arms among other issues.

2020 riots response

Candidates were asked what they would have done differently in responding to the riots following the police shooting of Jacob Blake in August of 2020.

Zoerner said the No. 1 thing he would have done differently was calling for help immediately.

"The minute we were surrounded the sitting sheriff has the authority to contact the general with the National Guard and he is the contact personnel at the governor's office. That's how it works," he said. "It is the sheriff's responsibility, the moral responsibility to take care of us ... and that is what we have to do."

Rowe took aim at Gov. Tony Evers' response.

"He did not send the necessary help that we needed. He minimized this. A lot of this could've been alleviated had he sent down the troops that we'd asked for," Rowe said. Rowe said he would've also asked immediately for mutual aid from other agencies, as well. Eventually mutual aid did come from across the state.

Cochran said the response to the riots was one of the reasons

All about the mud

Mud Day brings kids, families to dig in at Bristol

JILLIAN CRIAG
jcraig@kenoshanews.com

BRISTOL — Whether it was sitting in a little hand waiting to be launched, smeared all over a T-shirt or squished between little toes, mud covered every sur-



Laurelai Nichols, 8, decided to completely cover herself in mud during Mud Day at the Pringle Nature Center in Bristol Woods on Wednesday.

face at Pringle Nature Center's Mud Day event.

Roughly 50 kids of all ages were on hand to kick off the event in two mud pits near the main building at the center to celebrate International Mud Day on Wednesday.

The Mud Day event has been put on for over five years, with a hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to staff.

"It's just supposed to get kids outside and have a day when they don't need to feel bad about getting dirty," said Liz Alvey, a naturalist at Pringle Nature Center.

Tracy Warwick, an environmental educator at the center, said it is also a way to bring people out together as a community.

"We're trying to get people in the community and kids out in nature," Warwick said. "We're trying to get people to check out the nature playground, which is brand new."

Ashley Downie, a Paddock Lake resident who brought her kids to Mud Day, found the event after her sister sent a screenshot from Facebook.

"I think it's awesome ... every chance for them to get out and get involved with the other kids in the summertime and not be cooped up inside," Downie said.



Reagan Caldwell, 9, left, paints a happy face in mud on Grace Rigert, 7, right during Mud Day at the Pringle Nature Center in Bristol Woods on Wednesday.

Tabitha Brost, from Antioch, Ill., said it was her first time at the Pringle Nature Center.

"I home school and we just find any outdoor events that we can be part of," Brost said. "I wasn't sure if he'd love the mud or not, but he's definitely enjoying it."

Sarah and Joe Schweninger of Salem attended Mud Day for the first time with their two children.

"We're having fun," Joe said. Both said they would come back next year if the event was

Please see **MUD**, Page A6

LOOK: See the fun at the Mud Day event by pointing your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tapping the link **NEWSVU**.

DOWNTOWN KENOSHA

Road closures, traffic changes this weekend

FOR THE KENOSHA NEWS

The City of Kenosha has announced numerous road closings and traffic adjustments for the July 4 weekend, as three days of live music and family entertainment, highlighted by a Festival Foods fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. Monday, is expected to draw in a high volume of traffic.

Seventh Avenue will be closed between 54th Street and 55th Street through July 4 for the Rainbow Valley Carnival, along with a parking lot east of that area.

Beginning at noon on Friday, traffic will be directed one way

only in a counter-clockwise loop east of Third Avenue, between 54th and 56th streets, along Calabria Way and continuing to Eighth Avenue. Sixth Avenue will be closed between 52nd Street and 54th Street and between 54th Street and 55th Street until 1 a.m. Tuesday.

Beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday, 54th Street will be closed between Fifth and Eighth Avenues and westbound traffic will be redirected.

On Sunday, streets will be closed along the Civic Veterans Parade route from noon to approximately 3:30 p.m. Streets

in the parade staging area will be closed beginning at 8 a.m. Sunday. The parade route will be identical to last year beginning on Seventh Avenue at Washington Road, then heading south through Sixth Avenue Downtown and ending on the west side of Library Park.

The parade will travel only in the southbound lane on Seventh Avenue, and people are welcome to sit on the boulevard once the parade route is closed to traffic at noon. The best areas for viewing the parade are along Seventh Avenue and Sixth Avenue before the parade reaches Library Park and

prepares for disbanding.

On Monday there will be no access to the east end of Celebration Place for pedestrians or vehicles, as it is closed for safety purposes for the fireworks display. No traffic will be allowed between 8:30 and 10 p.m. on Monday east of Third Avenue between 56th Street and 54th Street, including around Calabria Way. The road closure is prompted by safety concerns related to traffic in that area leading up to and during the fireworks display at 9:30 p.m.

Please see **TRAFFIC**, Page A6

Please see **SHERIFF**, Page A6

The Kenosha News is grateful to its subscribers, including **Hiroko States** of Pleasant Prairie.

To subscribe, call 262-657-1600 or go to kenoshanews.com.

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|------|---------------|----------|------------|----|---------|--------|
| ADVICE | A2 | HOME & GARDEN | D1,2 | OBITUARIES | B2 | SPORTS | C1-3,6 |
| CLASSIFIEDS | D3,4 | LOCAL | A6, B1,2 | OPINION | A7 | TV | B4 |
| COMICS | C5 | NATION/WORLD | A3,4 | PUZZLES | C4 | WEATHER | B4 |

