

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S RACE

4 top area Republicans endorse Toney

ADAM ROGAN
The Journal Times
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Four leading Racine County Republicans are endorsing Eric Toney, the current Fond du Lac County district attorney, in the race to be Wisconsin's "top cop." The endorsements came from Racine County Sheriff Christopher Schmalzing; state Sen. Van Wangaard, R-Racine, a retired Racine police officer; Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave; and Racine County Clerk of Courts Sam Christensen. The Ra-

cine Police Association, the union for officers in the Racine Police Department, also has endorsed Toney. The endorsements were announced by Toney's campaign late Wednesday afternoon. In an Aug. 9 primary, Toney is facing Adam Jarchow, who served in the state Assembly from 2015-19, as they seek the Republican nomination to unseat incumbent Attorney General Josh Kaul, a Democrat. Last month, Jarchow announced a flurry of endorsements, including U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany,

R-Minocqua; state Sens. Mary Felzkowski, R-Irma, and Dwey Stroebel, R-Saukville; state Rep. Dave Murphy, R-Greenville; and former Oconomowoc state Rep. Joel Kleefisch, the husband of Rebecca Kleefisch.

2020 Toney has been one of the most aggressive prosecutors in the state with regard to election fraud. Although those Toney has charged have not been involved in anything to match the mass fraud



SUBMITTED
State Sen. Van Wangaard, R-Racine, at left, smiles with Fond du Lac County District Attorney Eric Toney, who is running for Wisconsin attorney general.

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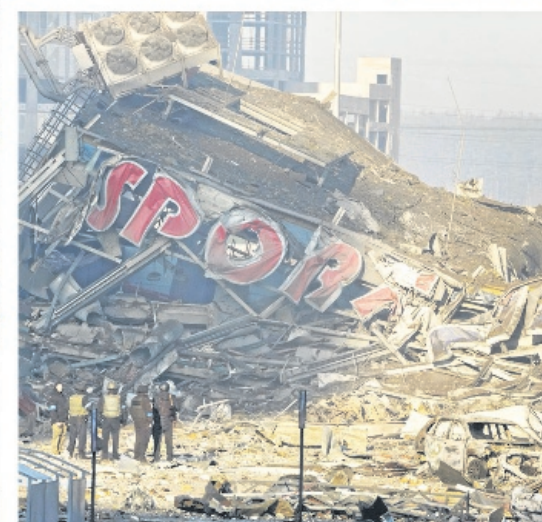
Man shot during incident in Racine

JOURNAL TIMES STAFF
RACINE — At least one person was shot during a shootout between occupants of two vehicles on Wednesday afternoon near the corner of Ohio Street and Byrd Avenue, the Racine Police Department reported. Police said they responded to the scene after receiving multiple 911 calls beginning at 4:36 p.m. Wednesday. According to an email from RPD Lt. Chad Melby: "During the investigation officers learned that the occupants of two vehicles fired numerous shots towards each other near the intersection before driving away." While officers were still on scene, an adult male who had suffered multiple non-life-threatening gunshot wounds arrived at an area hospital.

The remaking of downtown is to begin next month

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RACINE — Expect to see construction related to the remaking of Downtown Racine's streets ramp up next month. As part of a plan that includes having Highway 32 no longer coincide with Main Street through Downtown Racine, work to convert Wisconsin Avenue from a one-way street to two-way is expected to begin in April and be completed by the end of May, the City of Racine announced late Wednesday afternoon. "Our overall goal is to activate more of the downtown while also making it more accessible and pedestrian friendly. Converting the one-way streets is a good first step," Mayor Cory Mason said in a statement. The work is to begin with

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Left: One-fourth of proceeds from Sew 'n Save's sales of a kit for a sunflower quilt, at right, are going to support Ukrainian refugees. At left, kits for a carrot applique table topper designed by a quilter-turned-refugee being supported by local quilters is shown. **Upper right:** The quilter, Nadiia, is shown with her family. **Lower Right:** People examine damage after shelling in Kyiv, Ukraine, on March 21. Eight were killed in the attack.

Quilting for Ukraine

Racine-area quilters supporting a family forced to become refugees

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RACINE — She was a woman much like anyone from almost anywhere. She had been a teacher, but quit when her children were born to become a

stay-at-home mom. She earned a little extra money on the side with her Etsy shop where she sold quilting patterns. Then Vladimir Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine. Nadiia escaped from her house outside of Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, to Poland. With Nadiia are her two children, her mother and her sister... and her sewing machine and a few sewing supplies. Nadiia's husband stayed behind to defend Ukraine from the Russian invasion.

Karin Janssen-Potter, a manager at Sew 'n Save of Racine, 3701 Durand Ave., came across Nadiia's Etsy page and began a correspondence. That has led to an effort by local quilters to help their fellow quilter 4,700 miles away, and others forced to become refugees because of the conflict. It is known as "The Ukrainian Project" and it gives quilters an opportunity to do what they love to do while also helping those needlessly forced to flee their

homeland. Because she can no longer earn money through her Etsy shop, Sew 'n Save is now selling one of Nadiia's patterns — a cute carrot applique table topper, which can be purchased as a kit. Janssen-Potter has arranged to send Nadiia \$5 from every sale and another 25% of the proceeds will go to an organization assisting refugees from Ukraine. There is a tutorial for the

Please see **QUILT**, Page B3

Johnson Financial, Habitat partner up

JOURNAL TIMES STAFF
RACINE — Starting today, Johnson Financial Group will begin servicing mortgages for Habitat for Humanity homeowners through Racine Habitat for Humanity. This new partnership was created to enhance the quality of service for Habitat homeowners, while increasing the capacity of Racine Habitat to serve more families in need of affordable housing. "This partnership is an in-

credible service to Racine Habitat for Humanity, our homeowners, and the community," stated Grant Buenger, Racine Habitat for Humanity executive director. "We are thrilled to offer our homeowners the reputable and personal service Johnson Financial provides. We are confident that their team will uphold the

care and support our families need while also strengthening their financial stability." Racine Habitat is both a general contractor and mortgagor for the families helped by their program. This mortgage service transfer frees up substantial staff time for Racine Habitat, allowing the organization to expand operations to serve more families, while still owning the mortgages now served by Johnson Financial. "This is an essential component of our program. However,

it is a lot of work for a small nonprofit team to manage four different areas of business: construction, mortgage services, social services and retail

Please see **HABITAT**, Page B3

WATCH: To see a single mom move into Racine Habitat for Humanity's 100th home, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**

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Habitat

From B1

management at the ReStore“ located at 2302 DeKoven Ave., Buenger said. “This partnership helps us reduce our scope and get better at what we do best, building affordable homes.”

Mortgage servicing includes collecting mortgage payments, managing escrow accounts, paying insurance premiums and taxes, and statement updates to homeowners.

“I felt like this was something Sam and Helen (Johnson) would want,” John Williamson, Johnson Financial Group vice president senior mortgage loan operations manager, said in a statement. “We were built with the customer in mind, and we have always sought to invest back in our community. This seemed like a great way for us to continue that.”

Racine Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization operated on Christian principles. It seeks to put God’s love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Racine Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing through constructing and rehabilitating homes, and advocating for fair and just housing policies.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACINE HABITAT

A Racine Habitat for Humanity team.

Streets

From B1

adding more traffic signals at Wisconsin Avenue’s intersections with Sixth, Seventh and 14th streets. The traffic impact throughout that first phase is expected to be “minor temporary lane closures and traffic moving in all of the current directions,” the city said in a release.

The second phase of construction is expected to be more substantial. From State Street to 16th Street, the eastern half of Wisconsin Avenue will be closed, while southbound traffic can still travel on the western half of the road. All road crossings are expected to remain open.

Along Fifth and Sixth streets, angle parking stalls are expected to be put in along with the construction. Some parking meters may also be replaced with signs directing to a phone app to facilitate paying for street parking.

During this second phase of construction, the city said the ramp from State Street down to Wisconsin Avenue will be closed.

During the third and final phase of construction, the west side of Wisconsin Avenue will be closed while northbound traffic will be able to travel for the first time on the east side of the avenue. Traffic that would have been southbound on Wisconsin Avenue will be detoured to Main Street.

A long-term detour is expected to be in place around Hotel Verdant (the former Zahn’s building on Monument Square) as construction continues. That detour, which will divert westbound Sixth Street traffic north toward College Avenue, is expected to be in place until spring 2023, when Hotel Verdant is expected to open.

After the completion of construction on Wisconsin Avenue, the next phase of changes to Downtown Racine’s streets will be the conversion of Lake Avenue from a one-way to a two-way between 10th Street and Gaslight Drive.

Toney

From B1

alleged, without evidence, by former President Donald Trump.

As of February, 10 election fraud charges related to the 2020 election had been filed in Wisconsin, seven by Toney’s office. At least one of those Toney charged is alleged to have been a vocal Trump supporter who registered to vote at the wrong address.

Unfilled

Jarchow and Toney have pointed to the vacant prosecutorial positions in the Wisconsin Department of Justice as a shortcoming under Kaul’s leadership.

There were six vacant assistant attorney general posts in the Department of Justice’s Criminal Litigation Unit as of October and a total of 13 filled positions, according to the department’s organizational chart.

Under Kaul’s predecessor, Republican Brad Schimel, there were 18 filled posts and one vacancy as of November 2018. The Department of Justice’s Criminal Appeals Unit had comparable staffing levels between the two administrations, though, with 24 assistant attorneys general under Schimel and 25 currently under Kaul.

“That’s caused a tremendous strain for prosecutors and law enforcement across Wisconsin,” Toney said of DOJ staffing in an interview. “The failure of Josh Kaul to fill those positions has caused DAs across Wisconsin to be prosecuting cases in a multitude of counties.”

As Jarchow and Toney continue to battle for the Republican nomination, Kaul has already hinted at a line of attack against either opponent.

“One of my two opponents, Adam Jarchow, I don’t think has ever been a prosecutor, I don’t

know if he’s ever worked on a criminal case,” Kaul said. “Eric Toney’s (experience) is also much narrower. He’s been a prosecutor, unlike Jarchow, but he certainly hasn’t had the breadth of cases that I have.”

Statements

Coinciding with the endorsement announcement Wednesday, the following statements were issued:

■ Wanggaard: “Eric Toney has been on the frontlines fighting crime and working hand-in-hand with law enforcement to make Wisconsin families safer, while Josh Kaul’s woke politics puts our citizens at greater risk each day. Milwaukee’s historic crime surge is spilling over into Racine and Kenosha Counties, and we need Eric’s tough-as-nails prosecutorial experience and commitment to public safety to lead the Department of Justice. He’ll make an excellent Attorney

General and I’m happy to endorse his candidacy.”

■ Delagrave: “Racine County and the rest of Wisconsin needs a strong leader as attorney general. Eric embodies what it means to be the state’s top cop and legal counsel. He’ll reject Madison’s political wrangling, and instead focus the DOJ on public safety and the rule of law. I’m proud to be endorsing Eric Toney to lead the Department of Justice.”

■ Toney: “I’m honored to have the endorsement of Racine County leaders. As a district attorney, I’ve successfully fought for justice in the courtroom in partnership with law enforcement to keep families and communities safe. I’ll defeat Josh Kaul and return the Wisconsin Department of Justice to the crime fighting agency it’s supposed to be and restore the devaluing (sic) cuts Kaul has made to public safety at the DOJ.”

Quilt

From B1

pattern posted to the Sew ‘n Save of Racine’s website: sewnsaveofracine.com

Sunflowers for Ukraine

Sew ‘n Save is continuing to sell a “Sunflower in the Window” kit, which was designed by Jans-

sen-Potter. The sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine, and the sunflower mini-quilt is meant to show visible support for the Ukrainian refugees.

Janssen-Potter said 25% of the proceeds from the sale of the kit are being given to organizations aiding Ukrainian refugees.

So far, about 375 kits have been sold, which represented approximately \$1,000 for Ukrainian

refugees.

Hope

The carrot table topper designed by Nadiia has only just recently become available, but already a couple of dozen have been sold, Janssen said.

“She is so thankful and so hopeful, hoping that she’ll be able to go home,” Janssen-Potter said of Nadiia.

Nadiia is now working on a baby blanket that someone commissioned. Her new quilting friends in the U.S. sent her a care package that included thread, fabric, other supplies, and some games and coloring books for her children.

Janssen-Potter said she hopes to do more for Nadiia in the future. Two more of her patterns may be put up for sale sometime soon.

“We just want to help,” she said. “We just want to help them somehow.”

Both the Sunflower in the Window mini quilt and Nadiia’s carrot applique table topper can be purchased at sewnsaveofracine.com, or at the shop at 3701 Durand Ave.

Out of concerns for her own and her family’s safety, Nadiia’s surname was not disclosed.

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