



Annual Outdoor
Mass enjoys sunny
skies B1

Annual Firecracker
Run a hot, humid
affair C1



KENOSHA NEWS

MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019

★★★ \$2.00

It rained on our parade

But soggy conditions don't dampen spirits of crowd, performers

BY TERRY FLORES
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Gray skies and rain didn't take the fun out of a community celebration as dozens braved the rain at this year's Civic Veterans Parade.

The weather, which included some flashes of lightning and rumbling thunder, cut in half the time of the annual two-hour, 2-mile procession and canceled the grand finale performance of the world champion Carolina Crown drum and bugle corps, which received top billing.

The parade started at 1 p.m. under threatening skies, and 20 minutes later the rain came, persisting for most of the next two hours.

"We kept looking at the sky thinking, 'It's going to work out; it's going to work off and pass us over.' But nope, all of the sudden, my husband looked up again and said 'No, it's coming,'" said Rhonda Wagner of Trevor, who held an umbrella while standing under a large tree in front of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church at the corner of 59th Street and Seventh Avenue. "We're just braving it out."

The forecast called for a severe thunderstorm watch until about 6 p.m. Sunday. Before the storm, the sidewalks were crowded with people.

"I kind of feel sad. Everybody left here," she said. "I imagine not everybody was prepared."

Meanwhile, Wagner's husband Mike and their 2 1/2-year-old grandson Blake stationed themselves on a lawn chair at the edge of the sidewalk

underneath their own umbrella.

Blake, of course, had the best seat in the house on grandpa's lap, as they clapped to the beat of the Lighthouse Brigade and later the Band of the Black Watch, two local student-based marching bands.

Blake enjoyed the public safety vehicles and police cars that rolled through, along with motorcycles that revved their engines.

"We're just trying to show our patriotism and just figured that, if some of these kids (in the parade) could brave out this rain, we could brave it out too," said Mike Wagner. "We'll show our support."

Kenosha native Susie Campbell, now of Laguna Beach, Calif., returns to the area each year to watch the parade and the Fourth of July festivities.

"I love it. This is great. I love the tenacity of Kenosha and the people in Kenosha," she said, as the Lighthouse Brigade soldiered on playing "Gonna Fly Now," the theme from the movie "Rocky."

Guillermo Mercadillo of Kenosha, along with his daughter Amy and granddaughter Anneliese, 3, both of Kenosha, also sat under a nearby tree enjoying the parade protected from the rain.

"We've waited for this all year," he said.

Then, a split second later, Anneliese skipped to the sidewalk while the gigantic Festival Foods cart made its way around the corner.

"Everybody loves that Festival cart," said Amy as the Band of the Black



Drum major Lukas Juliano, a senior, leads the Band of the Black Watch during the Kenosha Civic Veterans Parade on Sunday, June 30, 2019.

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY SEAN KRAJACIC

See more parade photos on page B1.

'PEOPLE MADE the best of it. There's really nothing we can do about Mother Nature.'

Kris Kochman
Kenosha community relations liaison

Watch didn't miss a beat performing Herbie Hancock's "Rockit."

Brian Grave, who was watching for The Greasers' float where his mother was participating as a dancer, said he didn't mind the weather.

"I like to see this parade. My mom's in this parade so I'm waiting for her," he said while squatting under a large tree and recording the procession. "This is unusual that we're having rain."

Undaunted

Kris Kochman, the city of Kenosha's community relations liaison, said she was "truly impressed" with the many parade watchers who stayed on to support those in the



Anneliese Drew, 3, waves at fire trucks.

Parade float winners

This year's parade, with the theme of "Liberty at the Lake," featured 13 floats competing for first, second and third place in the categories: Artistic Excellence, Patriotism, Spirit and Energy, Hometown Pride and Best Use of Theme. This year's winners were:

- The 2019 Best of Show award: Snap-on.
- Artistic Excellence: First place, Snap-on; second place, The Greasers; third place, Kenosha Literacy Council
- Patriotism: First place, Literacy Council; second place, Snap-on; third place, Kenosha County Democratic Party
- Spirit and Energy: First place, Indian Trail HAWKS Cheer Team; second place, The Greasers; third place, Cutting Edge Figure Skating Club
- Hometown Pride: First place, Snap-on; second place, Indian Trail HAWKS Cheer Team; third place, Kenosha Komets Hockey
- Best Use of Theme: First place, Snap-on; second place, Kenosha Literacy Council; third place, Indian Trail HAWKS Cheer Team.

parade.

About a dozen of the more than 80 scheduled to be in the parade were estimated to have pulled out due to weather as of Sunday afternoon.

"The Pops Band hung in there and played as well as the students from the Band of the Black Watch and the Racine Lighthouse Brigade and the Kenosha Ramblers; they all played," she said. "People made the best of

it. There's really nothing we can do about Mother Nature."

She said Carolina Crown was unable to perform because of the weather. The corps, the last unit in the parade, was to have staged at the reviewing stand for a performance, a new feature of the parade.

While the threat of rain in the forecast is a perennial given this time of year, this is the

first time in recent memory that the weather affected the annual parade. And yet, the show went on.

"This is my eighth year of doing the parade. Last year we had some rain immediately after, and two years ago, some weather blew in at the end," Kochman said.

"I haven't heard about any of the parades being rained out in the past. And, at least it wasn't severe weather and we have no parade. This was certainly a different one."



PHOTO BY PAUL WILLIAMS

Lexi Gaughan leads an on-land rehearsal for the Aquanuts water ski show team. A 23-year member of the team, she is directing this year's show.

'Life's a beach' for Aquanuts show director

BY JILL TATGE-ROZELL
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SNAPSHOT

The 2019 Aquanut Ski Show, "Life's a Beach," marks the first show directed by Lexi (Bokos) Gaughan, a member of the team for 23 years who said it is an opportunity she has dreamed of since she was young.

The team is performing the show at its regular 6 p.m. Saturday performances at Lance Park in Twin Lakes and hopes it will propel the team to another state and national title.

Q: How old were you when you started skiing?

A: I started skiing when I was 5 years old. My brother threw me in the water and wouldn't let me get out until I got up on two skis. Looking back, I'm pretty grateful that he pushed me out of my com-

fort zone.

Q: How did you learn about the Aquanuts and at what age did you get involved?

A: My older brother and sister skied with the Aquanuts before I was born. I started skiing with our junior team when I was just 7 years old. It has continued to be a family sport, and I currently ski with my younger sister and nephew.

Q: What types of ski show performances (ballet line, swivel ski, barefoot, etc.) have you been a part of?

A: I consider myself to be a diverse skier and participate in

See **SNAPSHOT**, Page A6



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TODAY:



A morning thunderstorm; mostly cloudy. High: 89 Low: 71

Details, B4

INDEX

Advice	B4	Money	D1
Classifieds	D1-3	Nation/World	B3
Comics	C6	Opinion	B2
Entertainment	D4	Puzzles	C5
Local	A1-6, B1	Sports	C1-4
Lottery	A2	TV	B4
Memoriams	A4		

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