

Random
\$100 Hot Seat Drawings
Tuesdays and Wednesdays in April

Winners have ten minutes from first announcement to claim their prize at the Island Club. Unclaimed prizes will be redrawn. Promotion subject to change at management's discretion.

ISLAND RESORT CASINO
Your Total Experience
islandresortandcasino.com

EAGLE HERALD

Marinette Menominee

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS NO ONE DELIVERS *Local* LIKE WE DO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

TWO SECTIONS

\$1.50



Special to the EagleHerald/Val Ihde

Birthday surprise for Miles

Police, fire and rescue personnel from Marinette and Menominee surprised Miles Sorensen with a birthday parade Monday in front of his Menominee home. Miles, the son of Jason and Lindsey Sorensen, turned 7 on Monday and he is battling pre-B leukemia. He was diagnosed in early October and the community has rallied behind the first-grade student at St. John Paul II Academy. Miles is shown receiving a Thin Blue Line American flag from Lt. Jeff Cate of the Marinette Police Department.

COVID BA2 variant arrives

Social distancing, other precautions, urged

By ANN MEYER
EagleHerald Staff Writer
ameyer@eagleherald.com

MENOMINEE—While masks can come off for most people in Menominee County because COVID hospitalization numbers are low, a new variant has arrived in Michigan and health officials say the rise of home testing means some cases might go unreported.

The BA2 variant started in Europe, then made its way to the East Coast. "It's throughout the U.S. now. It's here in Michigan," said Michael Snyder, public health officer at Public Health of Delta & Menominee County.

The percentage of staffed hospital beds for people with confirmed COVID was 0.5% in Menominee County for the week ended April 7, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. That low level means masks aren't required for most people.

But the future is uncertain, Snyder said. "It doesn't mean we won't be going back to masks. I wouldn't be

See COVID, A3

City attorney calls marijuana lawsuits frivolous

By ANN MEYER

EagleHerald Staff Writer
ameyer@eagleherald.com

MENOMINEE—Attorney Matt Cross has accused five marijuana companies of filing "frivolous claims" against the City of Menominee and is asking the court to dismiss the consolidated lawsuit, according to an April 7 court filing.

41st Circuit Court Judge Mary Brouillette Barglind could consider Cross' request at a June 2 hearing.

Barglind consolidated lawsuits from five marijuana companies—Attitude Wellness/Lume, NU Group, Highwire Farms, OI Holdings/Higher Love and Rocky North/GreenPharm—into one consolidated case for efficiency. Two other

companies—Rize and The Fire Station Cannabis Co.—that received the city's approval in September 2021 for recreational marijuana stores were allowed to intervene in the consolidated case. These companies are expected to argue for the court to uphold these licenses.

The companies in the consolidated case requested an injunction to prevent Rize and The Fire Station from proceeding with their plans to open stores in the city, and Barglind enjoined the city from approving any licenses or permits until the case is heard.

Cross, an attorney at Plunkett Cooney in Petoskey representing the City of Menominee, said the city will ultimately decide which retailers receive the two coveted adult-use

recreational marijuana licenses, not the court.

"The final choice as to who receives licenses falls to the city, no one else; not disappointed applicants and not this court," Cross wrote. He pointed out Michigan statute allows a municipality to limit the number of marijuana stores. To do so, it "shall decide among competing applications by a competitive process intended to select applicants who are best suited to operate in compliance with this act within the municipality."

The word "competitive" can be interpreted more than one way. Cross provided a dictionary definition of the word: "Competitive" means "relating to, characterized by or based on competition."

See LAWSUITS, A3

Rau holds listening session on school options

Peshtigo buildings need to be rebuilt or renovated

By WES BEYER

EagleHerald Staff Writer
wbeyer@eagleherald.com

PESHTIGO—Superintendent Patrick Rau held a listening session April 5 in regards to the possibility of renovating or rebuilding the Peshtigo Middle/High School building.

Rau said that much of the facility is old and outdated, with some hardware such as the boilers dating back to the 1960s. "I often get comments saying, 'Well, just maintain it.' I'd say if we have boilers from the 60s, that's pretty good evidence that we're maintaining what we have and making as much of it as we can right now," he said.

He said the school's wiring is also very old, and isn't fully able to keep up with the technology demands of the modern classroom. "Much of that building was built in the 1930s with the electrical needs of that time in mind," he said.

Classrooms and labs on the whole in the building are also too small for the school's needs, according to Rau. This also includes practice and performance spaces for the band and other music classes, the school's gym and the school's vocational education area. "In my conversations with Acer and other employers around town, they're largely moving to automation. There's not a lot of workers out there anymore, and automation is safer and more efficient. Our kids need a different skill set than what they needed 50 years ago," he said.

Rau said the district owns a fair amount of land near the current high school

building, and a project to build a new school would include building on some of that land and also tearing down the older building. The section of land the building is currently on would become a green space, and what would be done on that space would be discussed further.

A survey was sent out to residents of the district late in March, and can be taken either physically or electronically. "A new building may not be the choice for everyone. We're basically asking, if we're going to do a remodel or renovation and maybe it's not the whole thing, help us prioritize what we're going to do first. There are a lot of remodels that have to be done," he said.

A full facilities report and PowerPoint from the listening session are available at peshtigo.k12.wi.us. The survey period is set to close Friday.

Good morning, Anthony Kakuk!
Thank you for subscribing to the EagleHerald



6 67288 18092 5

DEATHS

Vandenberg, Steve
Vasquez, Ruben
Vista, Betty

INSIDE

State: Wisconsin judge says DNR lacks authority to regulate PFAS. **A8**

Sports: Area athletes to receive award. **B1**



TODAY: Partly to mostly cloudy with showers likely.
HIGH: 51 LOW: 31

TODAY'S INDEX

Advice	B7	Opinion	A4
Comics	B6	Records	A5
Classifieds	B5	Sudoku	B7
Crossword	B7	Sports	B1-3
Deaths/Obits	A5	TV listings	B6
Local stocks	B4	Weather	B4