

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022

TWO SECTIONS

\$1.50

Bonuses OK'd for deputies, recruits

Menominee County will use ARPA funds

By ANN MEYER

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MENOMINEE—Menominee County Sheriff's officers are set to receive \$2,500 in retention bonuses from federal American Rescue Plan Act funds, and Sheriff Mike Holmes will sponsor police academy recruits in a new hiring program, due partly to a national shortage of law enforcement officers.

The commissioners unanimously agreed to several new sheriff's office recruitment and retention programs, including the one-time bonuses to be paid in January 2023 to current road patrol employees. The incentives also will be paid to new hires after six months of service.

The program's total cost could be \$25,000, if three vacancies are filled. Seven deputies are expected to receive the incentive pay. Similar \$2,500 incentives were approved for the undersheriff, lieutenant and three sergeants in the road patrol, with \$12,500 in ARPA funds to be used for the one-time stipends.

To bolster the sheriff's recruiting efforts, the county board also approved the establishment of a Law Enforcement Academy Sponsorship Program, where the county pays for a recruit's training if the recruit agrees to work for the county for three years. Recruits who sign the agreement but leave before three years would have to reimburse the county for tuition on a prorated schedule, said County Administrator Jason Carviou.

The estimated cost per sponsored recruit is \$35,549, including \$20,724 in wages, \$6,000 in academy tuition and uniforms, \$3,025 in housing, \$4,400 in

food, \$800 in travel and \$600 in ammunition and other expenses.

"That's essentially a \$6,000 bonus we're giving a young kid, not only that, but a 2,500 retention bonus for recruitment, that's \$8,500," Mike Holmes said.

"It is a substantial investment," Carviou said.

Commissioner David Prestin said he hopes the program works, but asked for it to be reassessed after a year or two to determine whether it is "prudent, frugal and effective" going forward. "My worry is that we pass this and it's not effective. It's a large sum of money for an individual," Prestin said. "We have a duty of

oversight."

Carviou said the program has advantages in recruiting. "We've seen some interest already if we do offer this program," he said.

Prestin said a similar approach has been used for EMS recruiting, but some of the recruits have jumped ship after the term of agreement, so it's not always cost effective.

Holmes said the program should encourage recruits to stay in Menominee for at least three years. "If it's not cost effective, we move on."

So many law enforcement See PAY, A2

County board denies summer equalization hires

By ANN MEYER

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MENOMINEE—While the Menominee County Sheriff's Office received county board approval to use federal American Rescue Plan Act funds, Equalization Director Kandace Curran Whitehouse left last week's board meeting empty handed.

The commissioners denied her request to use \$20,736 in ARPA funds to hire two limited-term summer workers to allow the Equalization Department to more quickly reappraise properties, after more parcels were added to the list due to uncapping and new parcels being formed.

"The reason for the extra workers this summer is because of a reappraisal in four townships in commercial and industrial," she explained to the commissioners. Some residential properties also are expected to be reappraised.

After talking with the state tax commissioner, Whitehouse said the number of properties on the reappraisal list now totals 2,200, compared with 700 to 800 five years ago. "There's going to be more parcels. It's just the amount of sales this past year," she said. She is requesting the extra summer staff to complete the job.

But during the public comment period, Whitehouse's plan drew opposition from two township supervisors. Ray Gurgall, Meyer Township supervisor, raised concerns about using summer workers for reappraisal work.

"There's a lot of kooks out there that put kids in harm's way. I don't think it's a good thing to spend the county's money on," Gurgall said.

Lake Township Supervisor Robert Desjarlais said he has received trespassing complaints. "They're showing up at people's property at 6:30 in the morning and taking measurements without even having the courtesy of knocking on people's doors and telling the person why they're being there. If they were a little more forthright in what they're doing and why they're there, you wouldn't need to hire another person to be out with them," he said. Desjarlais said the county commissioners should table the item.

Whitehouse said some marijuana growers have become suspicious when equalization workers drive up in a black county vehicle, but she respects residents' wishes and leaves a property when asked to do so. "I've been asked twice to leave a property. I've respectfully left. We have a job to do, and the state tax commission comes behind us and reviews what we do. We can't sit in the office. We have to be out here doing our field work."

Whitehouse said the reappraisal visits provide important information for equalization. "We knock on every door. I can find out how old the house is, when a pole building was erected, when a barn fell down. The more I can talk to the taxpayers, the better off it is for us and the more information we have."

For vacation properties, when no one answers, Whitehouse said equalization workers leave door hangers. They run a measuring stick around the perimeters and take note of improvements.

See BOARD, A5



EagleHerald/Ann Meyer

Saturday swim

Goslings and Canada Geese float on the bay Saturday at Henes Park in Menominee.

Peshtigo seventh graders explore wildlife

Local Audubon members lend their expertise

Special to the EagleHerald

PESHTIGO—Peshtigo seventh-grade students observed thousands of birds and other wildlife with the assistance of several members of the local Audubon chapter.

"There were 5,000 or more ducks on Winegar Pond that morning," said Joan Campbell, a local Audubon member, who along with six other Audubon members shared their knowledge and appreciation for local wildlife in the Pond Road area of the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area.

"It was very heartwarming to share the deck that Audubon members built about 10 years ago that looks out over the pond

and the bay beyond with these young people," she said.

The students were appreciative as well.

"It was cool to see thousands of birds on the water," said Makai Levknecht.

Science teacher Scott Reilly explained that, "In the spring and fall the Peshtigo Harbor is a major stopover point for migrating birds. Seeing a really cool phenomenon where thousands of ducks, pelicans, eagles, and other birds congregate for a few days hopefully left an impression with my students."

The Peshtigo Harbor area consists of a 4,894 acre sized refuge which See WILDLIFE, A3



Special to the EagleHerald

Peshtigo seventh-grade student Chad Lagman-Edwards pets a leopard frog in the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area.

Good morning, James Kayser! Thank you for subscribing to the EagleHerald



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DEATHS

Bedwell, Stephen J. Sr.
Harmon, Ruth A.
Sarvela, Junia L.
Wendt, Rodger A.

INSIDE

Local: Enstrom Helicopter has a new owner. B8

Sports: Menominee inducts HOF class of 2022. B1



TODAY: Mostly sunny and dry with 10 to 12 mph wind.
HIGH: 68 LOW: 43

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Local

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FROM A1

WILDLIFE:

thousands of birds use as part of the flyway. "Since my science students have been studying the origins, geology, and water issues of the Great Lakes, I felt that this would be a natural, enriching experience," Reilly said.

"Helping young people take interest, appreciate, and connect with nature is very important," said Audubon member Marlene Nelson.

Reilly recognizes that teaching science content and concepts within a classroom can be greatly strengthened. To create a deeper sense of learning, he makes an effort to get kids outside and experience some hands-on learning in the outdoors.

Audubon members agree and were eager to accompany the seventh grade class. Teacher Cari Sieracki said, "The members of Audubon were very welcoming, helpful, and engaging with students."

Several years ago Audubon members donated 25 pairs of binoculars to



Audubon member Lynette Thonne, right, teaches Peshtigo seventh-grade students about migrating waterfowl.

Reilly's class for students to use. For this field trip, members brought along high-powered spotting scopes for students to see birds from afar. Student Carter Drong loved the spotting scopes, "It was like standing right next to the birds."

Teacher Jennifer Motkowski stated, "Our local

Audubon members are definitely driven by a passion to share their knowledge, being quick to add specific details about each bird identified. They truly tried to make a connection with them."

What did students enjoy the most about the field trip? Some students just enjoyed being outside

and exploring with friends. Many students commented about catching and holding leopard frogs. Rebekah Nutt liked seeing a killdeer nest with eggs along the shoreline. Some students pointed out specific species they enjoyed seeing.

Trent VanDeWall really liked the yellow-rumped warbler. Natalie Kropp commented on seeing her favorite bird, a crow. Many students were marveled at the beauty and sheer number of birds they witnessed.

"They taught us how unique birds are and how

beautiful nature is," shared Ally Behnke.

"It's a place worth a visit," stated Hannah Winslow.

Mara Inghram loved seeing the "bird storms."

Ella Malek noted, "One of the coolest things to see was an eagle started to chase the birds and all you could see was birds flying." One student described the sheer volume of waterfowl taking a flight as a "ducknado." Brady Polzin was also impressed with seeing "how many birds there were in one place."

Overall, the field trip was a successful learning experience. "It's one thing to talk about the Great Lakes" Reilly explains that by getting young people outdoors it "makes what we do in class so much more real."

Nelson said she really enjoyed her one-on-one discussions with students, "Their enthusiasm is contagious."

"We always welcome the chance to share what we know about the beauty and wonder of birds to young people," Campbell said. "By teaching and exposing our young people early in life to nature they are more apt to think about caring for the environment when they get older."

Community members interested in birding are invited to join in a birdwalk, held on every Tuesday and Thursday in May at 7:30 am. The group meets at the Pond Road observation deck on Tuesdays and at Red Arrow Park on Thursdays. Also, the 9th annual Pond Road Birdfest is on Saturday, May 21, at Pond Road. The Observation Deck can be reached by going south on County Trunk BB. It starts at sunrise and guided tours commence at 8 a.m.

This article was submitted by the Peshtigo School District.



Special to the EagleHerald

Audubon member Marlene Nelson shows seventh-grader Brady Winkler how to identify duck species that have similar characteristics.

At the Harbors, you are as welcome as the flowers in May!

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 906-863-3300 | www.harborcommunity.com

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Johanna Zuehls, Au.D.
 Doctor of Audiology



Question:

I've got my new hearing aids and people are still mumbling! What is going on?

A: I hear this a lot. It's frustrating to get hearing aids and then not hear clearly the way you want to! When people get glasses, a prescription is able to clear things up perfectly - for the most part. But what if the person who has trouble hearing has macular degeneration and has a big black spot in the middle of their vision. How do you clear that up? The sad fact is that no set of glasses can clear up macular degeneration. This is similar to hearing.

When someone develops hearing loss, it's generally a slow, progressive development. Sometimes, people don't even notice they have a hearing problem until someone else points it out! The problem with hearing loss is that for most people, it is a breakdown of the actual hearing organ. This leaves sound voids that the brain has to figure out. If you take out the consonants in a passage, the brain has a hard time figuring out what is going on! For example - "i-e-i--i- -e-e -o-e

-e--i--i-e-i- -o ou-e-es-n- -e- -o-ou- -ei-o-". This makes no sense until you add the consonants! "Listening is where love begins: listening to ourselves and then to our neighbors." (Thanks Mr. Rogers!)

Even with hearing aids, there will still be sound voids. Sometimes, we can make things loud enough which will in turn make speech clearer, but not always. Hearing aids are helpers. They can't fix hearing. Sometimes people will notice a certain hearing aid will sound better than a different one, but a hearing aid can only work as well as the hearing organ will allow it. The good news is that as time goes by, with regular wearing, the brain has an easier time interpreting speech! It's important to wear your hearing aids during all waking hours (Let me repeat that...) **IT'S IMPORTANT TO WEAR YOUR HEARING AIDS DURING ALL WAKING HOURS.** The more you wear them, the better they get! Work with your audiologist to get the best fit for you. It will make everything better!