

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

TWO SECTIONS

\$1.50

Menominee County OKs ARPA funds

Remaining \$1.4M approved for roads, other uses

By ANN MEYER

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MENOMINEE—The Menominee County Board last week

agreed to the Finance Committee's recommendations for allocating the remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds to local roads and other uses.

The board approved without opposition the recommended allocation for the remaining \$1.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds, including up to \$750,000 for local roads over three years. The commissioners requested the resolution avoid stipulating the funds be used

only for gravel roads. "It would be helpful to not be bound by a word," said Commissioner William Cech, vice chairman of the board. Commissioner Larry Schei's absence was excused, though he participated in the meeting online. A Michigan statute requires in-person attendance to vote.

The allocation also includes \$250,000 for economic development, \$100,000 for the parks fund, \$150,000 for a courthouse

camera system and \$160,000 for the Shakey Lakes Dam Project.

The board also approved a Finance Committee recommendation to hire for up to \$10,368 one limited-term employee this summer for the Equalization Department. When time permits, the worker also will help in the County Clerk's Office. Equalization Director Candace Curran Whitehouse had requested funds to hire two summer workers for a total cost of about \$20,000,

but the county board denied the request at its May 10 meeting. The \$10,368 will be paid from the general fund.

Carviou announced the county received a grant for about \$143,000 for training and recruiting first responders. He intends to apply for a materials handling grant from CUPPAD.

Commissioner Steven Gromala asked the board to consider
See BOARD, A3

Menominee County opposes property tax bill

Commissioners believe private companies would benefit

By ANN MEYER

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MENOMINEE—The Michigan legislation the Menominee County Board opposed in a resolution passed at the May 24 board meeting would strengthen existing laws requiring property tax records and other property information be provided to the public at a reasonable cost.

In discussing the resolution, which Menominee County Commissioners passed without opposition, County Administrator Jason Carviou said the bill would benefit for-profit companies like Zillow at the expense of taxpayers. He said it would create a system where Zillow could get public records at no charge. But Zillow disputed this characterization of the bill.

"Zillow will compensate counties for their actual costs in providing this information as prescribed under Michigan state law," said Will Lemke, communications manager at Zillow.

The resolution said the commissioners oppose the bill "as private corporations should not benefit financially from public records at the expense of the Michigan taxpayers." The county will send a copy of the resolution to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, State Sen. Ed McBroom, State Rep. Beau LaFave, Rep. Julie Calley and Michigan associations of counties, county treasurers, county clerks and register of deeds.

"Not only does it create a burden on our county offices to go through and pull those records and make them available to these companies, but the taxpayers have to pay for that then," Carviou said. "Then the taxpayers are on the hook for giving them publicly owned information."

The resolution opposed four bills—House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731 and 4732—pertaining to public records from the county treasurer, county clerk and the Register of Deeds.

House Bill 4730 is the only one that's passed the Michigan House of Representatives and is expected to be considered by the Senate, according to Brad Ward, vice president of public policy and legal affairs at Michigan Realtors, an association with 35,000 members.

"Michigan Realtors supports the bill," Ward said. "Because they do help the consumer, the home buying public as well as our members, we believe these are public records that should be available at reasonable fees."

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce also supports
See RECORDS, A2



EagleHerald/Dan Kitkowski

Honoring the fallen

Members of the Stephenson American Legion Post 43 salute during a Memorial Day ceremony at the Wallace Cemetery on Monday.

Peshtigo students build, race an electric car

Finished project takes third in competition

Special to the EagleHerald

PESHTIGO—Peshtigo High School, with the help of the SkillsUSA program,

has built an Electrathon Vehicle. Students are challenged to design, construct and maintain the most energy-efficient vehicle.

The Peshtigo High School Electrathon Team recently won third place at the Fox Valley Tech Challenge USA race. The aim of the Electrathon Race by Challenge USA is to complete as many laps on a

track during a 60-minute time period. There are parameters for length and width as well as overall battery weight. Students use a brushless motor that goes up to about 40 mph.

In their latest race, the Peshtigo Team completed 24 laps in its first round and 26 laps in the second.

Students William Boettcher and Trevor

Walters redesigned the steering system. Students analyzed car, race car, and go cart designs and then machined parts to improve the steering, Chassis, steering, and body design are all created by high school students.

Student Georgia Lacroix said, "Starting from
See CAR, A3

Good morning,
Jim Sand!
Thank you for subscribing to the EagleHerald



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DEATHS

Anderson, Richard D.
LaCanne, Tina M.
Salerno, Therese A.

INSIDE

State: Coal ship changing fuel source. B8

Sports: Derusha, MacIntyre named GNC's best. B1



TODAY: Partly cloudy, chance of thunderstorms.
HIGH: 78 LOW: 54

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FROM A1

CAR:

designing all the way to actually working with the parts and having to put them together creates a sense of unity between you and your classmates.”

Boettcher, Lacroix, Walters and Darius Sechen are all seniors at Peshtigo High School and members of the team.

“This was an amazing learning experience, especially when we had to make quick decisions for repairs on the car during the race. If I was not graduating this year, I would do it again,” claimed Walters.

“This was the most demanding and interesting thing I have ever done,” Sechen said.

A special thanks is given to students Mason Denny and Joe Lang for helping out the team.

“Students should take auto, machining, welding, and CNC classes to learn how to manufacture something like this,” Lacroix said.

Peshtigo High School is looking at expanding its program throughout the next couple of years to help students learn and experience vehicle manufacturing, quick decision making, problem solving and teamwork, Lacroix said.

She adds, “This is a great opportunity to learn more about design, CNC, welding, and manufacturing.”

Editor's Note: This article was submitted by the Peshtigo School District.



Special to the EagleHerald
Georgia Lacroix sits ready to test Peshtigo's electric car in preparation for the upcoming race season. Each car must have padding and a five-point harness.

BOARD:

dedicating the entrance to the courthouse in honor of Commissioner Bernie Lang, whom he described as one of the longest-serving commissioners. “One way to honor all is to single out one as the representative,” he said. “There’s one person who’s been there each time I’ve served and that is Bernie,” Gromala said.



EagleHerald/Ann Meyer

Menominee County Commissioner Bernie Lang, who celebrated a birthday May 30, is one of Michigan’s longest-serving commissioners. Commissioner Steve Gromala asked the county board to name the entryway to the courthouse in his honor. He is shown above with township supervisors Ray Gurgall and Bob Desjarlais are standing in the background.

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Fourth round of voting is from 5/23 to 6/1 for the top 5 pets.

25¢ per vote and supports NIE (Newspapers in Education). Anyone can vote and there's no voting limit. Vote only using an official ballot that appears in the paper. Votes for Round 4 will be accepted from 5/23 until the close of business on 6/1. The owner of the pet voted as the Top Pet wins a \$100 VISA gift card. Visit ehextra.com/contests for official rules.

