

Ukrainian demonstrators support democracy

By ANN MEYER

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The war over Russia's invasion of Ukraine is about democracy at its core, said Juliane Draz-Buyarski of Marinette who held up a "United for Ukraine" sign Sunday on the Interstate Bridge between Marinette and Menominee.

"Our democracy and our freedom is important," Draz-Buyarski said. It's important to Ukrainians, too, she said, noting they received their freedom in 1991, when the country overwhelming voted in favor of its independence from the Soviet Union.

She and her husband Sam were among about 20 area residents gathered for the demonstration organized by Mary Hansen. They waved blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flags and held large sunflowers in support of the people of the Ukraine.

Hansen organized the demonstration "to show we care what's happening over there. We have to show them we care anyway we can," she said.

Watching the terror on television spurred Hansen to take action.

"I can't go over to help the people. I can't fix it. It makes my heart hurt. At least this is something," Hansen said.

Over 1.5 million Ukrainians have been displaced from their homes over the past



EagleHerald/Ann Meyer
Mary Hansen said she organized Sunday's demonstration to show Ukrainians that people care about Russia's invasion.



EagleHerald/Ann Meyer
Marinette residents Juliane Draz-Buyarski, right, and her husband, Sam, left, participated in Sunday's demonstration at the Interstate Bridge to show support for freedom and democracy.

11 days, as Russian has invaded with missiles and artillery attacks, according to the Associated Press.

Autumn Soleil of Marinette said she participated in the demonstration to raise awareness and show support for Ukraine. "We're letting people know that this group cares about what is going on," she said. Many of the demonstrators were

members of the Coalition to SAVE the Menominee River.

"He's another Hitler," Vietnam veteran Ed Smith of Menominee said about Russian President Vladimir Putin. "They rape the women. It's not right. And now they're going to go to Poland." Smith said he served in the Vietnam War from 1963 to 1966.

The Russian troops' invasion and shelling of Ukrainian cities reminded the demonstrators of other wars over freedom. Draz-Buyarski said she still remembers the Cold War and when the Berlin Wall came down Nov. 9 1989.

"When the Berlin Wall came down, all these countries went free. He wants all these countries back," she said.

Peshtigo Chamber meets at high school

Members learn about vocational learning

By Special to the EagleHerald

PESH TIGO — The Peshtigo Area Chamber of Commerce held its quarterly meeting recently at Peshtigo Middle/High School. Focus was given to learning about programming—specifically in the technology and trade vocational areas. More than 30 local business people along with several Peshtigo School Board members attended the event.

"I really liked the programming presented. It's practical, needed in our area, and promotes jobs that will support a family," said Peshtigo School Board member Joe Nault.

Presenters included technical education teachers Mike Paquette and Beth Rocque, who gave a tour of the technical education classrooms and shops. They highlighted class content and skills taught.

"The programming is top notch. Peshtigo instructors presented themselves as true professionals and skilled within their chosen craft," said Tony O'Neill, president of the Peshtigo Chamber of Commerce, who also spoke highly of the curriculum Paquette and Rocque teach.

"I was also surprised at the multitude of roles that each of the trade instructors, Mr. Paquette and Ms. Rocque, are responsible for," O'Neill said.



Special to the EagleHerald
Peshtigo teacher Dan Vanidestine, at podium, along with students, explained vocational classes to Peshtigo Chamber of Commerce members recently at the middle/high school.

Peshtigo's STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programming was highlighted by Kay Sodini, who is a K-12 cross-curricular teacher. She talked about how many teachers from all grade levels in Peshtigo work to teach STEM lessons. On display at the chamber meeting was a brand new Glowforge 3D printer valued at approximately \$5,000, donated to Peshtigo Schools by NKS Tire and Auto.

Programming capped off with a presentation on Peshtigo's Vocational Program led by teacher Dan Vanidestine. Along with eight of his students, they were able to explain the vocational program. Students apply in fall of their junior year and then learn a number of work skills. They continue to attend school in the morning,

but they have an increased focus on hands-on learning. Students can earn up to 12 different work skill certifications and then learn on the job in the afternoon. This allows the students to learn as they work and earn money.

Peshtigo School Board member Rebecca DeMarce said, "My favorite part of the program was hearing the vocational program students share their goals."

Senior Aiden VanDeLaarschot was one of the students who works at Samuel Pressure Vessel and shared how the program motivated him. He said he intends to pursue a career as a CNC machine

operator. Some Chamber members were surprised at the programming offered in the limited space.

Marty Zeske commented that one of the tech ed classrooms, which fits 20 students, "felt overcrowded with about 12 in the room and definitely is not adequate for a proper learning environment." Overcrowding and space limitations restrict the number of classes and choices that can be offered.

O'Neill said, "We need a new school. We do a disservice to our students and area businesses and manufacturing by not providing our children, our future,

with the proper education."

He explained further that the welding room is not sufficient for optimal learning and safety. "Two welding rooms with one instructor is not safe," O'Neill said. "The classroom needs to be an environment with proper room and current technology."

"We have always done a nice job of preparing the college bound, but not every student is on that path," said Jenni Schwittay, a school board member. "I believe we need to give students options earlier in their educational career."

Many would like to see more career preparation,

but space is limited in the current facility. Schwittay would like additional vocational programming, especially in the agriscience fields.

"We have a large farming community," she said. "Part of it is space concern, but it's also a staffing issue."

"Space limitations at Peshtigo High School are holding back staff on what they are capable of offering," Nault said, adding that having more space could allow for more course offerings for students.

"Only so much can be done in the current physical layout and structure," said school board member Miranda Seefeldt. "A facilities solution is needed to better serve the community and local job market."

Seefeldt said she would love to address the space needs and have more courses and programming offered to students.

Chamber vice president Melissa DeMoulin, who works at BPM, said, "Peshtigo is doing a great job, but she'd love to see more programming offered in AI, robotics, automation and 4.0 technologies. "This was eye opening for me," she said. "I do support an addition or expansion of technical education as this will help create our future workforce."

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

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