



SUBMITTED

Peshtigo Robotic Club members Tennious Paquette and Eli Berndt check the electrical and mechanical systems on their robot.



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Students from the various teams designed, built and operated robots to fight against each other in a battlebot arena.

Peshtigo school hosts Robot Rodeo

PESHTIGO — Peshtigo High School's Mike Paquette recently organized a robotics competition for middle and high school students.

Four schools competed in a number of events. Events varied from using robots in search and rescue scenarios to students having their robots fight against other robots designed and built by other students.

"This is a great way for the public to see how we're teaching robotics skills in school. It was great to see kids smiling, working hard, and having fun roboting," Paquette said, adding "Students get excited about working with friends making their own robots, but in the process they are learning a lot of skills that will help them with their careers."

One added real world element that students

learn while designing, building and using robots is that the plans and designs don't always work as expected.

"You have to start somewhere. Students also learn that making mistakes is part of the process of achieving success," Paquette said. "Technology and industry is continuously changing. Increased computer technology is impacting the world of work to a greater degree."

Paquette said he loves to see kids learning and engaged.

"Technology education is where we apply all of the skills taught in other subject areas," he said. Students learn engineering and communication skills in the planning and construction process. There is an interviewing element to the competition and students also log and document their work.

Students also create resumes.

The Peshtigo team spent about 50 hours preparing for the competition, starting back in October. Teams from Rhinelander, Watertown and West Bend competed at the event. Eleven other volunteers helped Paquette run the event.

"Without our volunteers and sponsors, we

would not have been able to host the event," Paquette said. "I'd like to thank Waupaca Foundry, NWTC, Peshtigo SkillsUSA, BotsIQ-Wi, and the Peshtigo School District for helping this event take place. It was really exciting to see the community come out and support our teams."

This article was submitted by the Peshtigo School District.

Smart financial advice from local experts...

Dollars & Sense

Don't Let Retirement Sneak Up On You
By Mike Flannery, MBA, CTFA, Fiduciary Manager, First National Trust & Wealth Management

While it seemed like a lifetime away at one point, it now may feel like retirement is just around the corner. Maybe at one point, you wanted to work forever, but now you're ready to walk out of your workplace for good. Or maybe you've started daydreaming about a little cabin on a lake. You may have even entertained the idea of starting that business you've always imagined but could never commit to because of your career. But if you're in your 50s and have little saved for retirement, it may feel like these dreams will only ever be dreams.

You're not alone. Estimates are that over 20% of people have saved less than \$5,000 towards retirement, and nearly 15% haven't saved at all. There are many things you can start to do that can potentially boost your retirement savings. Here's some of them:

- Do a detailed inventory of your current spending and see what can potentially be reduced or eliminated. Examples could be downsizing to a smaller home, moving to a more affordable city, or reducing the number of vehicles you own.
- Consider putting off retirement. If you were unable to save properly earlier in life, putting off retirement by five or ten years will give you additional time to potentially build your savings.
- If your 401(k) plan allows it, you can take advantage of catch-up contributions. After you turn 50, you can contribute an additional \$7,500 to traditional and safe harbor 401(k) plans, or \$3,500 to SIMPLE 401(k) plans.
- If you have a traditional or Roth IRA, you can increase contributions by \$1,000 (for a total of \$7,500) when you turn 50.
- Try to eliminate credit card debt. When you're on a fixed retirement income, every bit of savings matters. High interest and late payment fees can quickly eat away at your savings.
- Use retirement as an opportunity to change jobs. While many retirees look forward to the day they stop working, some struggle with the idea that they'll no longer be using their skills in a meaningful way. This is why some retirees start a new career in retirement, expand their hobbies into a business, or work in a job they love rather than something they had to do to pay the bills.

Whether you plan to work past retirement age or want to make the most of the next few working years, increasing your saving efforts may increase the opportunities available when you do retire. It's never too late to start, and if you need guidance, please contact me and let's start building your retirement plan.

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Book/ from A1

to bring something that people who travel here and live here will have a different experience every time they come in."

The 500-square-foot shop features a front area for its new and used books, a cozy fireplace, and a back area for young adult and kids' books.

The store will also sell book-themed merch like T-shirts, tote bags, jewelry, stickers, mugs and candles. The books in the shop are primarily new, but they also accept donations, so they have some used books.

In July, during its grand opening, the store will have authors present for book signings. Jacilyn knows an author in Green Bay and others in Colorado and Florida from her time on BookTok, the nickname for a community of book readers on TikTok, a social media platform.

"If they're an author, we'll buy their self-published book," Jacilyn said. On their display shelves, they have around five books featured by local authors.

The sisters weren't always from the area. Originally from Chicago, Deanna moved to Menominee for a job in education. Jacilyn, a hairstylist and musical theater graduate, soon followed. Deanna said she uses her education degree from Northern Michigan University to select books her kids would like.

Not only was their



EAGLEHERALD/ERIN NOHA

Jacilyn Knight, left, and Deanna Knight, right, stand in front of their new bookstore on 1st Street in Menominee. The store will have its soft opening on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

education helpful, but their outsider expertise helped them brainstorm what was missing in the area, which was most definitely a bookstore.

"We used to go to Barnes and Noble or Borders every weekend," Jacilyn said, saying that reading books was a big part of her childhood. "I grew up watching my mom read all the time. My mom is a huge reader."

For Jacilyn, "Harry Potter" holds a special place in her heart. She recalled how reading that with her grandma was a transformative experience.

"The first book I read on my own was 'Harry Potter,'" said Jacilyn, who has ADHD and dyslexia. "Once I started reading, I didn't stop because I was afraid I would lose it."

Reading is a better way of understanding and making sense of the world, Jacilyn said, who prefers fantasy novels.

"It's not always just a

book about dragons, it's not always just a book about history, it's not always just a book about true crime," Jacilyn said.

Deanna recalled a student she had whose

father passed away when the class was reading "Esperanza Rising," a realistic fiction novel. She let the student know that the class could pick a different book if the heavy subject matter was too difficult to process.

"As we're reading it, she's crying in class, just silently to herself, and after we finish it, she's like, 'Esperanza's just like me,'" Deanna said. "If Esperanza can make it, I can make it."

People interested in donating can message "The Book Nook Menominee" on Facebook and follow their other accounts on Instagram and TikTok for updates and book recommendations.

Erin Noha can be reached by email at enoha@eagleherald.com

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