Milton team advances to states

Regional MS Computer Fair held at CSIU

BY KEVIN MERTZ
Staff writer

MILTON — Fifty-three students from five area school districts entered 28 projects in six different categories at the Regional Middle School Computer Fair, held Monday at the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU).
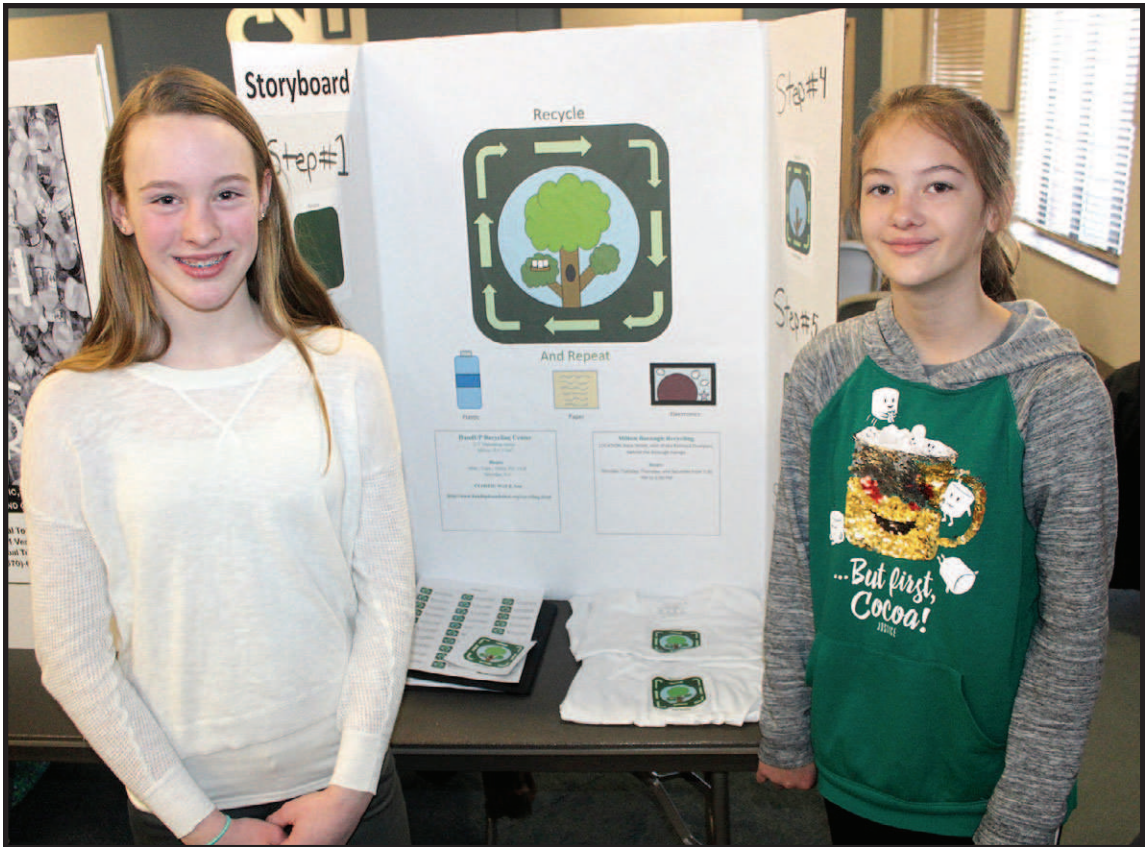
William Herald, technical support and software quality manager at CSIU, said first place in each category will advance to the state competition, to be held in May at Dickinson College.

The categories were: Animation, Computer Fair Logo, Digital Movie, Graphic Design, Programming and Web Page Design.

Students from the Milton,

Kevin Mertz/The Standard-Journal
From left, Milton Middle School seventh-grade students **Ephraim Langdon** and **Seth Yoder** developed an app to track soccer skills. The two entered the app in the Regional Middle School Computer Fair, held Monday at the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU).

Kevin Mertz/The Standard-Journal

Milton Middle School sixth-grade students **Leah Willow** and **Aubree Carl** stand by their entry in the Graphic Design category at the Regional Middle School Computer Fair, held Monday at the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU).

Local 5-Day Forecast

WEDNESDAY MAR 7	THURSDAY MAR 8	FRIDAY MAR 9	SATURDAY MAR 10	SUNDAY MAR 11
37/28	38/25	40/25	42/23	43/26
Rain/snow.	Mostly cloudy.	Cloudy.	Mostly cloudy.	Partly cloudy.
Sunrise: 6:33 am Sunset: 6:04 pm	Sunrise: 6:31 am Sunset: 6:05 pm	Sunrise: 6:30 am Sunset: 6:06 pm	Sunrise: 6:28 am Sunset: 6:08 pm	Sunrise: 7:26 am Sunset: 7:09 pm

Pennsylvania Today

Pittsburgh 44/33

Philadelphia 48/35

State College 40/31

Harrisburg 46/35

Williamsport 43/33

Milton 45/33

Mifflinburg 43/33

Shamokin 44/33

Clouds and sun will give way to afternoon showers, with some snow showers possible as well. High 45. Winds southeast at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 70 percent. A chance of snow showers overnight. Otherwise cloudy with a low of 33. Winds southeast at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent with accumulations less than an inch.

IU
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Mount Carmel, Danville, Central Columbia and Southern Columbia school districts participated.

The winners were:

• Animation: First, Elizabeth Stewart, Central Columbia.

• Computer Fair Logo: First, Brock Dunkelberger, Jaron Ferrara, Southern Columbia; Second, Benjamin Rohrbach, Landon Ferrara, Southern Columbia; Third, Dominic Ballo, Evan Yoder, Milton.

• Digital Movies: First, Reece Knoor, Alyx Flick, Logan Weikon, Central Columbia; Second, Ceila Soundheimer, Central Columbia; Third, Michael Stefanowicz, Alex Arnold, Marissa Casperson, Central Columbia.

• Graphic Design: First, Kiara Blocker, Elise Makowski, Mount Carmel; Second, Molly Petrucci, Zach Reed, Mount Carmel; Third, Brady Madden, Kaleb Fenstermacher, Matthew Long, Central Columbia.

• Programming: Ephraim Langdon, Seth Yoder, Milton; Second, Kevin Chen, Brian Myers, Danvile.

• Web Page Design: First, Bayleigh Sweitzer, Eshall Usman, Central Columbia; Cade Davis, Dylan Regory, Elvin Jiang, Central Columbia; Third, Thomas Huckans, Kevin Zheng, Central Columbia.

Herald said the project entries were assessed by judges from the community and CSIU staff based on a rubric provided by a state committee. The fair is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units and has been held annually since 2004.

Judges can provide feedback for the students on each entry, Herald said.

"The students that make first place... they have the opportunity to improve on their projects before they go to states," he said.

Teachers encourage the students to follow the recommendations provided by judges.

Milton Middle School seventh-grade students Ephraim Langdon and Seth Yoder won in the Programming category, with an app designed to track soccer skills.

With the app, Langdon said an individual can track statistics — such as how many shots attempted — throughout a soccer game.

Langdon and Yoder generated the idea for the app as both play soccer. It took about two weeks to create the entry.

"We had to work together a lot and spend time learning to code," Langdon said. "We can put this on our college resumes."

Milton sixth-grade students Robert Zimmerman and Zen Regus entered the Graphic Design category, creating an entry based on a recycling logo.

"I really like computers and doing things on computers," Zimmerman said. "I've been doing it since I was really little."

Leah Willow and Aubree Carl, also Milton sixth-grade students, also created a recycling logo for the Graphic Design Category.

"It took about one hour, or two class periods (to complete the project), Willow said. "I like being able to be creative. I really enjoyed doing it."

Elise Makowski, an eighth-grade student in the Mount Carmel Area School District, joined with Kiara Blocker to create a winning recycling logo they entered in the category.

"I enjoyed coming up with recycling ideas to promote this," Makowski said. "(Recycling) is something we need to encourage people to do."

A computer fair for high school students will be held Monday, March 26, at CSIU.

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Walkout
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say you can do this...and endorse it...you have one side that is one side unhappy with you. If you say you can't do this then the other side (is unhappy)."

The National School Walkout, reportedly organized by a Women's March youth empowerment group, has irked critics who say political content could quash any humanitarian message. It would also be an encroachment of partisanship upon institutions which strive for neutrality.

Skalka was aware that some critics are more resolute than others.

"There is an opposition that wants the district...to not only to remain neutral but to...do everything they can to ensure that it doesn't happen," Skalka said.

If students choose to be absent on that day, Skalka said rules in the student handbook will apply. The district dress code also applies and students wearing apparel disruptive to the learning environment will be asked to change.

Skalka called a local radio program which had taken on the topic in its Monday morning broadcast.

"I called in to stress that it is not a school sponsored event," Skalka said. "Though we are aware that students are planning to walk out."

Skalka was scheduled to formally appear as a guest today.

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