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By Linda Ebbing

Staff Writer

County recycling contest helps students turn scraps into art

Eleven-year-old Ian Kilgour is all about football.

A Little Blue football player, his entry for the 22nd annual Recycled Sculpture Contest was a bulldog — the team's mascot.

Made from a juice jug and an egg carton, his creation was among 24 on display at the Fitton Center For Creative Arts. Students from schools all over Butler County took scraps of this and that and created pieces of art for the contest, a collaboration of the Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District, the Butler County Commissioners and the Fitton Center.

Fourth- and fifth- graders competed in sculpture contests at their schools. Each school chose the top three sculptures to compete at the county-wide contest.

Local government officials, community members and Fitton Center representatives judged the sculptures based on artistic expression and the creative use of trash, and recycled and reusable materials.

The top six winners were Sarah Anderson, Faryn Dumont and Jacob Hillman, Hopewell Elementary in Hamilton; Jonathon Leece and Landon Stephens, Lincoln Elementary in Hamilton; and Savannah Boepler, Fairfield West. They received two trophies, one for home and a traveling trophy to display at their school.

Hillman, Leece and Dumont also received a \$25 savings bonds.

"Part of getting people to be successful recyclers is to help them see everyday items like plastic bottles, glass jars, aluminum, cans and paper as things of value," said Anne Fiehrer Flaig, solid waste district coordinator. "The students' sculptures help us to think in a new way about things others might have discarded as trash and thrown away."

Working on the project, Kilgour learned a lot about the importance of recycling, Kilgour said.

"You can make a master piece of art," said Kilgour, a fifth-grader at Hayes Elementary. "And I can see how things can be recycled which helps the environment and saves energy."

Lincoln Elementary student Katelyn Owens also learned a lot working on her project — a drum set.

"It's fun to make recycling projects," Owens said. "And it helps because you don't have to throw everything away — you can reuse it."