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Members of the Warriors Widget Cup team from Sherando High School plan how to build a two-drawer module to store shoes.

Sherando takes home Widget Cup

By ANNA MEROD
The Winchester Star

STEPHENS CITY — Five teams from the area high schools competed Friday to build the best two-drawer shoe cabinet at Sherando High School for the fifth annual Widget Cup.

The host team, Sherando, took home the cup.

Students built the drawers for Winchester Little Theatre to store costume shoes. Students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes at Handley, Sherando, Millbrook, Clarke and James Wood high schools participated in the design-build competition from noon to 6 p.m. Friday. Students had three hours to complete as much as they could, and will finish the rest of their work in their respective classes.

The drawers must be 24 inches deep, 24 inches tall and 42 inches wide.

Last year, Clarke County High School won the Widget Cup at its first time participating in the competition. The previous challenge required



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James Nelson of the Millbrook Pioneer Pride Widget Cup team uses a power saw to cut lumber during the 5th annual Widget Cup Friday at Sherando High School.

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Clarke County High School senior Andrew Somma and junior Katie Crandall work together to build two-drawer modules for shoe storage during the 5th annual Widget Cup Friday at Sherando High School. Eight-person teams of career and technical education students from high schools in Winchester, Frederick and Clarke Counties were given parameters for the shoe boxes. The students then had to design, build and present the boxes in a six-hour time limit. In the background is Nick Pool, a senior.

Widget

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students to build a functional gate for the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. CCHS senior Sophia Dilandro, 18, said she was determined to take back the cup

for a second year in a row. For Friday's competition, Clarke County High School students designed a box with a pullout drawer with dividers already set inside of them. The team's game plan was to cut out

all the pieces for the box, make the box, then to create a deeper bottom drawer and a shallower top drawer to fit the dividers. Most of the drawer is made of wood except for the metal sliders.

Cooperation and teamwork helped his team win, said Dillon Hunter, 17, a junior at Sherando. It also helped that everyone on the team was familiar with one another, he added.

One thing that also helped Sherando win, Dillon said, was the open design of the shelves, while some other teams had dividers.

This is Dillon's first Widget Cup. He said he hopes to pursue carpentry as a

profession because it's a dying trade and he's confident that he's good at the skill.

Another Sherando team member, 18-year-old senior Megan Grose, said it helped that the team had its "lucky pliers." This year's widget was a little simpler, she said, since there was little to no welding involved and was mostly woodworking. Megan has participated in multiple Widget Cups now.

"This one definitely feels the best because I think that we definitely are really proud of our product," she said.

Megan will be headed to Virginia Tech's College of Engineering after she graduates high school.

The biggest challenge for Talen May, an 18-year-old senior at Millbrook, was the design portion of the competition.

"If you draw it wrong and then go build it, it messes you up," Talen said.

The parameters of the widget project can limit creativity, Talen said, but it's also easier to work when there are provided dimensions. Participating in the Widget Cup can also help build great life skills that include collaboration, designing and presenting a project, he said.

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