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'Angry Birds' part of physics lesson

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First it was the grapefruit, then the tomatoes.

By the time Scranton Prep teacher Aaron Holzman stood up, his pants were splattered with pineapple and watermelon, too.

On Thursday, with teachers dressed like "Angry Birds" and Mr. Holzman wearing a green pig costume, the fruit, stacks of cardboard boxes and a large catapult became a physics lesson.



Butch Comegys / Staff Photographer
North Pocono High School physics teacher J. Croom, left, dressed as a red angry bird, helps fire a catapult during the annual Kane Competition for high school students at the Byron Recreation Complex at the University of Scranton on Thursday. The theme of the event was the Angry Birds game.



More than 160 students from 15 schools competed in Thursday's Kane Competition, which featured an event based on the popular video game "Angry Birds." Along with launching fruit, students competed in events centered on Super Mario Bros., Legend of Zelda and Pokémon.

In its 10th year, the Kane Competition featured a record number of students, who along with video game events, took quizzes and competed in a "Jeopardy!"-style contest.

The competition, organized by the university's department of physics and electrical engineering, is a way to encourage more students to pursue careers in those fields.

It is supported by the Joseph Kane estate, along with the school's financial aid office and the physics and electrical engineering department.

"The kids have a really good time," said Declan Mulhall, Ph.D., event organizer. "It sparks the interest of the students."

With the Angry Birds event, students had to decide whether the fruit launched would travel farther by dropping weight or pulling on the catapult.

Smelling like fruit and chewing on pineapple, Mr. Holzman said he was happy to be part of the lesson.

"It's great to take something all the kids know ... and make it a physics problem," Mr. Holzman said.

Tarshae Neal, a West Scranton High School senior, said she enjoyed seeing physics in action.

"It can be related to things we do every day," she said.

Contact the writer: shofius@timeshamrock.com, @hofiushallTT on TwitterTeam results

First place: North Pocono Team 1

Advisers: John Croom and Nicole Furman

Members: Spencer Williams, John Docalovich, Emily Donahue, Joey Stalker. Dave Yatsonsky and Tristan Flood

Second place: Delaware Valley High School

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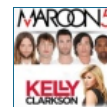
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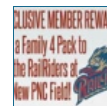
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Adviser: Steven Rhule

Members: Annmarie Mullen, Luke Riexinger, Ramonda Giddings, Anthony Hantwerter, Richard Selneck, Mario Marruguin Vega and Tyler Mutzek

Third place: Wyoming Area Team 3

Adviser: Dave Pizano

Members: Carmen Mauriello, Billy Romanowski, Valerie Bott, Jared Saporito, Dylan Pegg, Zak Lanunziata and Zach Mulhern

Individual competition

First place: Luke Riexinger, Delaware Valley

Second place: Anthony Huntwerter, Delaware Valley

Third place: Spencer Williams, North Pocono

Ingenuity awards

Legend of Zelda event: Mid Valley High School

Mario event: Dunmore High School

Angry Birds Media event: Dunmore High School

Pokemon event: Carbondale Area High School

Kingdom Hearts Mystery event: Summit Christian Academy

Written Quiz Team: Delaware Valley High School

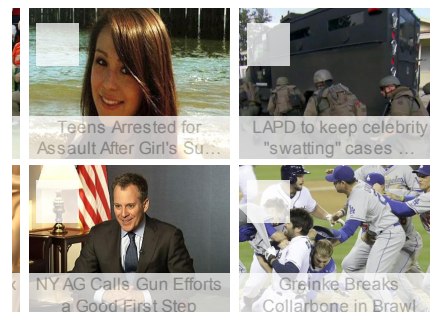
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