FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP — Wil Light from Southwestern Randolph High School works on a double wall project during the Career Development Carpentry and Masonry Competition Thursday. He earned first place in the Masonry Level 2 category.

Students build on skills in carpentry, masonry contests

By Kim Allgood
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CLIMAX — The Asheboro/Randolph Home Builders Association (HBA) held its annual Career Development Carpentry and Masonry Competition Thursday at Providence Grove High School.

Other participating schools were Southwestern Randolph, Trinity and Eastern Randolph high schools.

The carpentry competition was chaired by Barrett Lail of Trollinger Construction and masonry was chaired by Rudy Rich of Dal K. Rich and Son.

Students were chosen by their teachers to compete and were presented design plans for various skill levels. They were given 2.5 hours to complete their projects and were judged by a panel of field experts on such areas as following design instructions, correct tool use, neatness of work station and overall craftsmanship.

Thanks to generous sponsorships, the HBA was able to provide all building materials used in the competition.

See MASONRY, page 7A
WINNERS — Their work earned these students top honors in the annual Carpentry and Masonry Competition which is designed to showcase their skills.

Masonry

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The winners were:
- Level 1 Carpentry: First place, Sara Short from PGHS, teacher, Dave Webster; second, Rigoberto Santander-Hernandez from SWRHS, teachers Jeff Perry and Jeff Flecken.
- Level 2/3 Carpentry: First, Robert Stringer from PGHS, teacher Dave Webster; second, Landon Smith from SWRHS, teachers Jeff Perry and Jeff Flecken.
- Masonry Level 1: First, Zach Mabe; second, Xzandria Bell — both from SWRHS, teacher Tommy Daniel.
- Masonry Level 2: First, Wil Light; second, Garrett Smith — both from SWRHS, teacher Tommy Daniel.
- Level 3 Masonry: First, Wesley Wirt from SWRHS, teacher Tommy Daniel; second, Jessica Brady from PGHS, teacher Dave Webster.

The event is designed to showcase the skills of Randolph County high school carpentry and masonry students and teachers and to draw community awareness and support for these important programs. At a time when the building industry is having a strong resurgence, builders are struggling to find skilled workers. Students at the competition were asked if they were planning on working in the building industry after high school. Several students raised their hands. Masonry winner Wil Light of SWRHS said he would be following in his dad’s masonry footsteps.

SWRHS Masonry teacher, Tommy Daniel, said he enjoys seeing the impact these programs have on students. “The Carpentry and Masonry programs allow students to take ownership in their learning,” he said. “My favorite part of teaching is seeing our kids take so much pride in the projects we work on at school and at competition. We have a super talented group of young people in Randolph County. This contest and support from the HBA and Randolph County Schools allows our students to not only compete but show off their skills.”

Nancy Cross, director of Career and Technical Education and Innovative Design for the Randolph County School System, attended the competition. “Career and Technical Education is only successful with business and industry partnerships,” she said. “These partnerships make the classroom instruction relevant and meaningful to students. The Home Builders Association has been a strong, long-term partner with the Randolph County School System and offers our carpentry and masonry students the opportunity to participate in live projects such as the Playhouse Project and the Carpentry and Masonry Annual Competition. We are appreciative of this partnership and the many loyal sponsors.”

For information on how to get involved or become a member of the HBA, go to www.randolphhba.org.