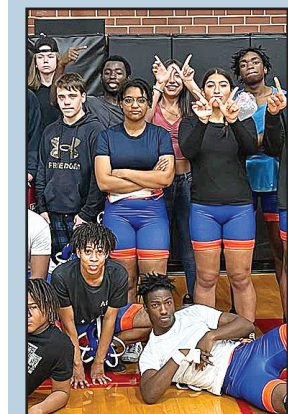


## IN TODAY'S EDITION:

### STALLIONS MAKE HISTORY ON WRESTLING MAT



Southeast Alamance's varsity wrestling team came together for some history on the evening of Wednesday, December 13, as the Stallions earned their first-ever team victory in the sport.

Page 6

### STALLIONS GIRLS HOOPS TEAM ROLLS TO 5-1



Southeast Alamance's women's basketball team continued its strong start last week, as the Stallions knocked off Mid-Carolina Conference rival North Moore on December 13 before outlasting local rival Southern Alamance on Friday. Along the way, the Stallions improved to 5-1 on the young season.

Page 5

### MEBANE POLICE REPORT



List wof Incidents and Arrests in Mebane.

Page 8

## Buc-ee's gets push back in Mebane effort

ADAM POWELL  
STAFF WRITER/MEBANE ENTERPRISE

The Mebane Planning Board sent a strong message Monday night in its monthly meeting that it doesn't look fondly on continued widespread commercial growth in Mebane.

By a 6-3 vote, the appointed board rejected a site plan from Buc-ee's for a 74,000-plus square foot building and a massive travel center complex that includes over 600 parking spaces, as well as 120 gasoline filling stations and electric vehicle

charging sites.

Earlier this year, Buc-ee's spent approximately \$12.5 million for the site along Trollingwood-Hawfields Road, at the front entrance of the North Carolina Commerce Park.

The vote came after a marathon four-hour session, in which Buc-ee's stated its case for the new travel center, and residents spoke out for nearly two hours - largely against the proposal.

"I am here for affordable housing. That's why I joined the Planning Board," said member Colin Cannell prior to making a motion to approve the

Buc-ee's plan. "But I think that dense commercial development that offers good jobs that have good pay with benefits, that is an important part of affordable housing, as is controlling sprawl."

"Although this use is very intensive - I don't deny that it's very intensive - that is preferable to having the same use spread out over many exits, and far from the interstate. This is as intense - as contained - as you can get. And I don't think that there is a better solution for this particular parcel

see BUC-EE'S, page 10

## AREA SCHOOLS GO TO THE MAT



PHOTO BY ALAN PENNINGTON

Eastern Alamance 285-pound wrestling standout Jett Giovani placed second over the weekend at the Eastern Alamance Eagle Invitational wrestling tournament, which was held at the Mebane Arts and Community Center.

## EAHS wrestlers shine in Invitational Wrestling event

ADAM POWELL  
STAFF WRITER/MEBANE ENTERPRISE

Prior to hosting its annual Eagle Invitational Wrestling tournament over the weekend at the Mebane Arts and Community Center, Eastern Alamance's varsity wrestling team took on Cedar Ridge last Wednesday in a home

dual team match. After Cedar Ridge knocked off perennial powerhouse Orange to stake claim to first place in the Central Conference standings, the Red Wolves made their way to Mebane for a showdown with the Eagles.

Although three different Eagles came away with individual wins against the Red Wolves, CRHS was on the right

end of a 58-18 final score. Braxton Ballard got EAHS a victory in the 126-pound weight class, as he pinned Cedar Ridge's Jesus Mata late in the second round (3:40).

Also picking up a victory for Eastern Alamance in the matchup with the

see EAGLES, page 7

## It turned out honesty was the best gift

DALE EDWARDS  
EDITOR/MEBANE ENTERPRISE

"What do you want for Christmas?" For much of my life, I'm somewhat ashamed to say, my answer to that question has come from a place in my brain that enjoys material things. This year has cast a whole new light on what I find valuable and precious. This is a sign of maturity, and I'm glad I've reached that point. But I can't help but miss the days when what it meant for me to be happy was unapologetically wrapped in a toy.



More than 40 years ago, my best friend and I were first in line at a movie theater in

see GIFT, page 10

## Mebane City Beat: Town joins the Greenway Train

BY KELLY HUNTER  
SPECIAL TO THE MEBANE ENTERPRISE

Recreation space is vital for the growth and success of a community. Aside from the health benefits of a park or open space in terms of physical activity, parks provide intrinsic environmental, aesthetic, and recreational benefits to communities. According to BREC, an award-winning agency that is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association, parks or open spaces are a source of positive economic benefits such as the enhancement of property values, increase in municipal revenue, and the attraction of homebuyer's and workers as well as retirees. The City of Mebane is dedicated to improving our citizens' quality of life in every facet, including providing safe, accessible ways for citizens to walk, bike, run and move throughout the city. Mebane advisory boards and officials have worked together for the past



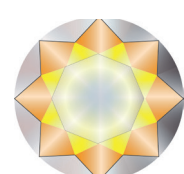
COURTESY OF THE CITY OF MEBANE

Potential site of a butterfly garden along the Holt Street Greenway.

seven to eight years to develop the first greenway within our community, the Holt Street Greenway.

The idea for a greenway was first proposed in 2014 as a high-priority item

see MEBANE CITY BEAT, page 7



# Alamance County Farm Bureau takes home awards

STAFF REPORTS

Alamance County Farm Bureau was named the winner of the 2023 County of Excellence Award, Division 1. The county organization was judged North Carolina Farm Bureau's most effective in its membership class in implementing programs, services and activities that build active county Farm Bureaus and fulfill the mission of the organization.

The award ceremony took place during NCFB's 88th Annual Meeting, Dec. 3-5, at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center, Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons.

"This award is presented to the county that executed the best all-around effort for the year, and Alamance County Farm Bureau represented the best of what Farm Bureau stands for and strives to achieve through its grassroots structure," said

NCFB President Shawn Harding.

County Farm Bureaus were evaluated on their development of public relations programs and enhanced communications with county leadership, legislative and policy development efforts, county board community service, leadership development and other ongoing non-profit activities.

Alamance County participated in many activities throughout the year that promoted the mission of Farm Bureau. Some of those activities include sponsorship of various agricultural and educational activities within the county, attendance at several state conferences and events, and sponsorship of safety programs throughout the county.

In addition to the Excellence Award, Alamance County Farm Bureau was the first winner of North Carolina Farm Bureau's new Grassroots Innova-

tor Award, which recognizes counties that think outside of the box to create outreach and advocacy activities that accomplish the mission of Farm Bureau.

The award was also presented during NCFB's 88th Annual Meeting, Dec. 3-5, at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center, Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons.

"This morning we are proud to award this inaugural grassroots innovator award to a county Farm Bureau that stepped out of their comfort zone to educate the general public about farmland preservation and agricultural literacy," Harding said.

NCFB is the state's largest general farm organization, with the stated mission to improve the standard of living for North Carolina farmers and rural residents through effective policy development and advocacy.

## EAGLES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Red Wolves was Chasen Phillips, who pinned Jordin Blue early in the second round (2:37) at 138 pounds. Another win for the Eagles was picked up by Elijah Watson, as he pinned Favio Jaramillo Esparza in the first round (1:39) of the 113-pound match.

The Eagles had three grapplers place at their host tournament, as Watson placed second at 113 pounds, Jett Giovanni placed second at 285

pounds, and Mason Tanner placed fourth in the 150-pound bracket.

In his run to the finals at 113 pounds, Watson pinned Judah Robinson of local rival Southeast Alamance late in the first round (1:45). In the semifinal round, Watson pinned Jaxton Strickland of Randleman early in the second round (2:19).

Advancing to the championship match, Watson faced off against Logan Scarantino of Orange. Although he battled as hard as he could, Watson fell in an 11-1 major decision, which gave him second place in his weight class.

Giovani reached the championship final in the heavyweight classification by first earning a hard-fought 5-3 decision over Taylor Laporra of Orange. He then earned a pair of late-round pins to advance to the finals, as he defeated Jahaun Baldwin of High Point Andrews in the closing seconds of the second round (3:56) before pinning Christopher Melton of Central Conference rival Williams midway through the third round (5:05).

Facing off against another Central Conference foe - Luke White of Southern Alamance - in the championship final, Giovanni lasted well into the second round before getting pinned at the 3:17 mark. Despite the loss, it was another solid weekend of work for Giovanni, who is looking to parlay his early success into a State Championships berth later in the season.

Tanner got off to a strong start in the 150-pound bracket by pinning Dilmer Zelaya of Bartlett Yancey as time ran out at the end of the first period (1:58). Tanner was defeated via a 14-4 major decision at the hands of Randleman's Jesus Garcia in his next bout, but he quickly pinned Xavier Davis of Western Guilford in just 49 seconds to reach the third place match.

In the third place showdown with Antonio Perry of High Point Andrews, Tanner lasted into the third round before getting pinned at the 4:30 mark, giving him fourth place overall in his weight class.

"Congratulations to our three wrestlers who made it into the finals at the Eagle Invitational," read a comment on the Eastern Alamance Wrestling Facebook page. "Their matches may not have had the ending we were hoping for, but we are proud of their effort and our team. Back at it in practice this week to prepare for our matches in the new year."

The Eagles will return to the mat in early January for a road Central Conference dual team meet in Roxboro against Person County. From there, the Eagles will host league rival Southern Alamance in a dual team match inside Tal Jobe Gymnasium on January 10 on Senior Night. The Eagles will also travel to Hillsborough for a dual team match at Orange before gearing up for the late January and February postseason tournaments.

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## MEBANE CITY BEAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

listed in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan. The plan for this pressing project was a greenway that connected the West End neighborhood with Holt Street Park, South Mebane Elementary School, and the Mebane Arts and Community Center. Promoting an active lifestyle, this greenway would be handicap accessible, include lighting along the paved multi-use path, and improve interconnectivity within our city. The Mebane Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission was heavily involved and hosted a tour where residents could walk in the area of the future greenway. They then presented this information to the Mebane City Council and expressed their support for this project before, during, and after. The discussion to build the greenway began in 2015. As part of Mebane's commitment to being a walkable community, providing additional bike and pedestrian connections to the Mebane Arts and Community Center (MACC) has been a goal since the MACC complex was built.

City Assistant Engineer Mark Reich states that the Holt Street Greenway will be a 4,285-foot-long multi-use path once you include all the connections. The Greenway will be 10 feet wide, connect to the existing sidewalk on Corregidor Street, west of the creek and soccer fields, and include multiple trail access points. There will be a connection at the intersections of Roosevelt Street and Giles Street and at the intersection of Roosevelt Street and First Street. The greenway will connect to a driveway located on Second Street that will then take you to South Mebane Elementary School and include an existing sidewalk on Third Street, south of Roosevelt Street. "The initial phase of the Holt Street Greenway provides a unique off-road recreational opportunity interconnecting by foot and bicycle with the surrounding community, the Mebane Art's Community Center complex, and Mebane sidewalks," City Engineer Franz Holt. Amenities immediately added to the trail will include a butterfly garden, benches, and trash receptacles.

North Carolina, known as the Great Trails State, has a vast network of trails, greenways, and blueways that showcase our state's diverse

landscapes. According to Great Trails NC, the NC General Assembly designated 2023 as the NC Year of the Trail, which is the largest statewide celebration of trails and outdoor recreation in North Carolina history. The City of Mebane is proud to join in the endeavor of inspiring people of all ages and abilities to try trails and boost outdoor recreation tourism in our community with the Holt Street Greenway. Not only will this greenway promote an active lifestyle, but it will also aid in providing citizens with a way to access parks, sidewalks, and other amenities without ever having to get into a vehicle, thus reducing the amount of gas emissions within our community. The greenway, also known as a multi-use path, is designed to facilitate the travel of pedestrians, bicyclists, scooters, etc. The city is currently reviewing the sidewalk ordinance, to see if motorized non-vehicles are allowed on the multi-use path and what impact this would have on greenway regulations. The Holt Street Greenway is just the beginning; as more sections of the greenway are added, the impact on the health of our citizens will continue to grow in a sustainable approach. The easier they can move throughout the city without needing automobiles, the more we will see a happier and healthier community. With each greenway expansion, the goal is to see additional positive environmental impacts.

Construction on the greenway is set to begin at the start of the new year, with an estimated completion date of December 31, 2024. The contractor selected for the project is McQueen Construction, Inc. of Bahama, NC. The city will pay for the greenway using local dollars, and the project has undergone an environmental review with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) for permitting and the construction of boardwalks in sensitive areas. City operations will be responsible for maintaining the greenway as they do the current sidewalks and parks. City Manager Chris Rollins states, "The Holt Street Greenway project is another example of the City Council and community leader's commitment to continue efforts to improve the quality of life of Mebane. We look forward to seeing this project offer a greenway option for the center of Mebane and others."

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