

SUMMER 2024

POSITIVE | HEALTHY | YOUTH-LED

PREVIEW EDITION

ELECTIONS

Local teens attend candidate forum to prepare for voting.

CITY NEWS

Monroe's Wayne St. "Alligarden" seeks heirloom plant donations.

SPOTLIGHT

WCSD's LEAP program builds Minds and Muscles with families.

TEENS IN ACTION

"Monkey World Wide" entertains and makes Loganville High proud.

# Jaylin Battle of Carver Middle Track and Field wins 1st Place at State!

How Jaylin achieved his success after only two seasons in the sport!

by Sarah Watts on May 28



Carver Coach Sally Coniglio and State Champion Jaylin Battle.

“When I saw Jaylin Battle run for the very first time at the after school program at Carver Middle, I knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that I was watching a champion.” Pastor Thomas Pinkerton's statement ended up being spot on!

Jaylin Battle, eighth grade track runner for Carver Middle School, won first place at the Georgia State Championship Track Meet this year in both the 100 meter and 200 meter dash - but that's not all! Jaylin's remarkable achievements at state continued when his team won second place in the 100-meter relay and third place in the 400-meter relay. Additionally, Jaylin won against several prestigious track clubs and schools such as Drive Phase Academy, Edge Running Club, Atlanta Track Club, Woodward Academy, and Drew Charter! Head track coach at Carver Middle School, Sally Coniglio, known as Coach C, revealed that Jaylin took 2 seconds off of his 200-meter dash time from last season, Jaylin's first season, when he secured first runner up at State. This drastic improvement is impressive, especially for an athlete who has only been on Carver Middle's track team for two seasons! Jaylin's success is the result of extensive training both physically and mentally and his commendable dedication to track. His ability, devotion, kindness, and humility are the attributes that truly set Jaylin apart.

Coach C is extremely proud of Jaylin and the work he continues to pour into track. In our recent interview, she immediately began discussing Jaylin's motivation and talent in all areas of his life. Coach C was quick to say that Jaylin “is not only an amazing athlete but a very academically motivated student.” She is beyond thrilled with Jaylin's talent and character and is excited to see what is next for Jaylin's career with track.

Jaylin is an excellent role model for his team, and his school, on and off the track. During an interview with myself and fellow WYP Newspaper reporter Savanna Cowart, Jaylin kindly credited his coach for her help in preparing him for his races saying that “Coach C has been one of his biggest role models and inspirations.” In addition to the support and encouragement from his coaches, Jaylin has two important disciplines before each race. When asked how Jaylin prepares for an event, he answered “I pray to God before every race and I take stretching seriously.” *- continued on pg 6.*

**BATTLE: Cont. from front page**



Top: Battle at the state track meet.  
Middle: Savanna and Sarah, WYP reporters with Jaylin and medals.  
Bottom: 1st place podium for Jaylin.



There is so much more to running than just the physical aspect of speed and endurance. Track also takes mature, mental discipline, something Jaylin has always possessed. Before each race, Coach C tells her athletes to “visualize their perfect race and, even though track meets have so many kids, to stay focused on their event.” This advice helps each athlete to remain collected, stay confident in their ability, and provides a reminder to give their event everything they have.

It seems Jaylin’s success is a perfect example of Coach C’s words. Jaylin not only possesses great talent in track, but he is also humble and committed to his team, his coach, and his talent. Many congratulations to Jaylin Battle for his success this season and best of luck in future endeavors on and off the track!

**YOUNG VOTERS: Cont. from pg 3**

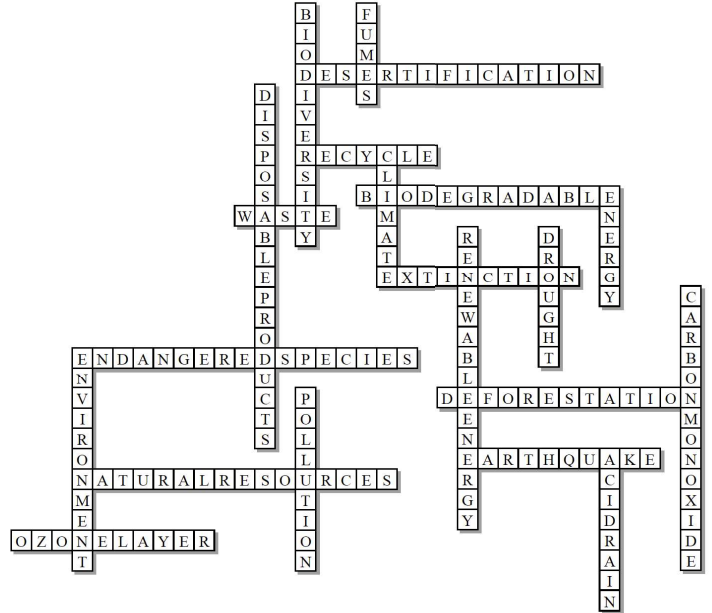
As new voters, we should be engaged in local elections in our community, especially those that have to do with the next generation. Most of us have recently graduated high school and are exiting our most formidable time of growth, a time that these students, who will be impacted in this election, are just entering. Reflecting on our time as elementary, middle, and high school students, it is easy to see the need for us to vote in this election. We needed a determined, caring Board of Education in order to achieve our academic success - and we should try our best to ensure that the next generation has that same support. Young voters need to engage and start letting their voices be heard. The best way to do that is to VOTE. So, fellow young Americans of Walton County, will I see you at the polls in November?



**WE WOULD like to hear from YOU! PLEASE let us know WHO WE SHOULD INTERVIEW FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE. Send an email to [Walton.YouthProject@ci.ohio.gov](mailto:Walton.YouthProject@ci.ohio.gov) With YOUR VOTE!**

- MAYOR JOHN HOWARD**
- STATE REP REY MARTINEZ**
- SOCIAL CIRCLE HIGH PRINCIPAL TIM ARMSTRONG**
- WALNUT GROVE HIGH DRAMA DIRECTOR AMANDA GIBSON**
- MONROE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL: PAIGE HOOD, GEORGIA CITIZENSHIP Education Teacher of the Year.**

**ECO CORNER: Solution from pg 4**



**WALTON YOUTH ADVOCACY BOARD**



We’d like to share a little about ourselves. We’re a group of 27 high-school and college-age students from Walton County. We are youth-led and advised by an adult board of directors. Membership applications open in April, interviews in May, and we may serve on the board from 10th grade - age 21 if we choose to. We started this paper with the goal of creating reliable youth-generated content relevant to Walton County families. We are mindful of all viewpoints, respect privacy, and honor our differences. We protect each other. We will never post a photo without approval, we are careful when posting last names of minors, we are mindful of “sharenting” and we strive for constant improvement. We hope you enjoy our publication. Please email or text your suggestions, article ideas, etc. [walton.youthproject@gmail.com](mailto:walton.youthproject@gmail.com), or call 770-207-3174.

*Thank you for reading!*

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