

## GREENE COUNTY RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING AREA YOUTH

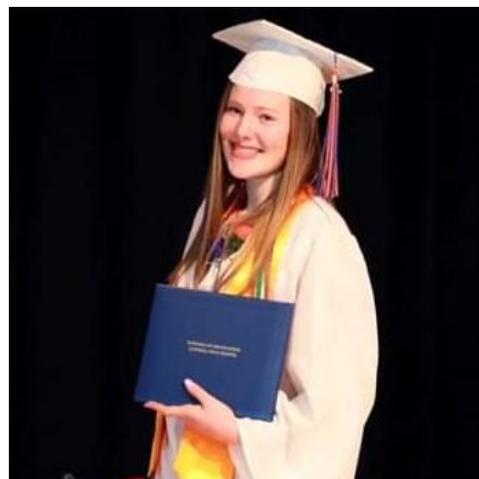
The Greene County Children, Youth & Community Advisory Board is pleased to announce their selections for the annual Greene County Youth Awards.

A description of the activities and involvement within the community for each youth nominated was submitted to the Advisory Board portraying a caring, dedicated individual whose efforts and accomplishments should be recognized. Selecting the awardees out of the many excellent nominations was a very difficult task. However, they are confident that the awards are being made to very deserving young members of our county: **Sage Murphy, Coxsackie-Athens High School – 2020 Greene County Youth of the Year; Aizlyn O’Connell, Catskill High School – Children, Youth & Community Advisory Board Chairman’s Award and Kane & Killian Schrader, Coxsackie-Athens High School – Greene County Department of Human Services Director’s Award.**



Sage Murphy, daughter of Missy Fitzpatrick, is a member of St. Mary’s Church in Coxsackie. She has been involved in the church’s Youth Ministry, as well as Children’s Liturgy by helping young children understand the daily readings from a child’s viewpoint. She assists with the church’s coffee hour in any capacity that she can. She has played an active role within the parish by helping the Pyramid Life Center, at the parish Game & Family Night, and Keeping Families Together which helps peers with problems to find solutions. In addition, she is a member of the Youth Task Force which works with community organizations to better serve area youth. She recently joined Unbridled Thoroughbreds which is a care program for horses. As a student at Coxsackie-Athens High School, she was served as her class treasurer, as well as treasurer for the Student Council. She has been active in several clubs and has participated on the track team, and the soccer team, earning 2018 MVP. In addition, she has volunteered in the Coxsackie-Athens School District mentoring younger children, and assisted at the Middle School in the library & art program. Being a fan of dance, she volunteered her time to serve as an assistant coach & teacher. She has run in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life to help raise money. In 2017, she was named Rotary Club Student of the Month and also received the Knights of Pythias Award. Her continued learning is not limited to in school as she has earned her Lifeguarding License, has gained college credits from Columbia-Greene Community College, and has learned Sign Language. In 2019, she attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indiana. Quite a list of achievements for a young woman.

Aizlyn O’Connell, daughter of James & Megan O’Connell, is an active member of Greene County 4H. She has served in the Banana Club, as a Teen Ambassador for 4H, belongs to Flora & Fauna, and helps with the 4H & Can Drive. She has served as a judge for various 4H presentations in Greene County, as well as Columbia Ag-Fest County. This year, she was named Outstanding 4H Member for Columbia-Greene Counties. She has volunteered to bake goods & make ornaments for the county’s home delivered meal program, and the Salvation Army; make cards for residents of local nursing homes; helped maintain a garden at the Town of Cairo Park, and has done roadside trash clean-up. As a CHS student, she has given her time to Santa’s Helpers and serves on the school’s Suicide Prevention Program. In 2018, she was named a youth member of the Greene County Children, Youth & Community Advisory Board, and has volunteered at the Senior Angels Community Thanksgiving Dinner. She has served as a speaker for Questar III Criminal Justice Program. Over the years, Aizlyn has been



the recipient of numerous awards on the local as well as regional level. These include Presenter Public 4H (Sectional), Coaches Choice Awards in Varsity Cross County, JV Basketball & Girls Basketball; Skills USA, Speech (2<sup>nd</sup> place Regional), and Section II Scholar Athlete. She has been named to the High Honor Roll at CHS and serves as President of the National Honor Society and also Questar II Skills USA Program. She was named Captain of the Varsity Track & Field team, Cross County and Basketball teams. She is an amazing young lady and roll model.



Kane & Killian Schrader are the twin sons of Melissa Vail and Ryan Schrader. As the boys do everything together, they were jointly named recipients of the award. Both boys played for PAL basketball, as well as on the Cocksackie-Athens Basketball and Baseball teams. They have both made the school's Honor/High Honor Roll over the years and shared the title of Varsity Basketball Team captain this past season. Kane received Most Improved and the Indian Award in baseball, as well as was named NYS Section 2 Most Homeruns in a Game holder, and named to the Senior All-Star Basketball Team this past season. They have been supporters of the Autism Connection of Greene County; Make-a-Wish Foundation, and the American Cancer Society by participating in numerous walks and events. Both boys

attended Questar's Heavy Equipment Program and plan to work in the construction field with heavy equipment. They hold several certificates from OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and NCCER (National Center for Construction Education and Research). Kane & Killian proudly follow in a family tradition back to their great-grandfather by serving as volunteer firefighters with the West Athens-Lime Street Fire Company.



All of the youth are to be commended and will be honored at the July Greene County Legislature's meeting for their accomplishments.