

Extension office 'Healthy Marriage' contest

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Dale Trefelner II (right), a student at Edgewood Academy, with his parents (L-R) Dale and Sherry Trefelner.

Photo: Contributed

By BRIAN HODGE

The Elmore County Extension Office (ECEO) recently sponsored a contest for students to write an essay about healthy marriages as part of their observance of National Marriage Month. The ECEO took nominations for a couple who demonstrates what a great marriage looks like. Dale Trefelner II, Edgewood Academy, won the high school level contest for his essay about his parents, Dale and Sherry Trefelner, married 25 years. Kacie Thomas, Wetumpka Middle School, won the middle school contest with her essay about her parents, Alex and Margo Thomas, married 18 years. Runners up for the contest included: Baleigh Moseley (high school) of Edgewood Academy, Dalilah Foil of Millbrook Middle School, and Brooke Cooper and Grace Mitchell both from Holtville Middle School.

Entries were open to all middle school and high school age students. Any married couple could be nominated, though students typically write about their own parents.

Excerpt from Dale Trefelener's essay: Strength of Love

Strength of Love

How does someone know when he or she truly loves another? Answering this question is a struggle for people today trying to find their one and only. So many factors and pressures cause

relationships to break or never start at all. If it's truly love, then through all the struggles a couple

has, both ends will strive to hold on to what they have. My parents, Dale and Sherry Trefelner are a prime example of this. While being married for twenty-four years, they had to overcome many struggles that cause too many couples to collapse. From their beginning, to where they are now, it's funny how something as simple as money can break a relationship in a second. My parent's biggest struggle always happened to be money. Starting with almost, nothing at all, having to fight and strive to make money for their survival, to having only each other to depend on, they've still held strong without a single blip in their relationship for twenty-four straight years. On June, 1989, my parents got married. They're able to have fun and relax without all the stress, because nothing can be more stressful than the separation they lived through three years ago. It's very hard to describe their marriage from an outsider view, but if I had to tell anyone how they should live their life or how they should fall in love and stay in love, I would refer them to my parents, who have a bond so strong, even Hercules couldn't break it.