Karate kids earn black belts

By **NICK WAGNER** Sentinel sports writer

There's been something brewing over the past three and one half years in Port Royal.

A young family with four children has been training in the art of Tang Soo Do.

The two oldest members of the Miller clan each have accomplished something out of the ordinary for a pair of adolescents. Reagan, 13, and Declan, 11, have both earned black belts in the first degree.

Their parents, Kari and Theron, caught up with their kids in September 2011.

"It's not as much fun because we don't feel like we are better than them anymore," Declan chuckles. "We're all the same now."

The two youngest Millers, Octavian, 6, and Jayseelan, 5, are also taking classes.

The Millers have been participating in the sport at the Fayette Lions Den under the direction of Kerry Jezewski. Jezewski's program caters to kids ages 6 and older.

Declan was the first Miller to take on the task of Tang Soo Do. The youngster decided that he wanted to go outside the box and try something that, he says, every kid wants to try.

"It was just something some kids always want to try," he says. "I went, watched it and decided this looks cool and I'm going to try it"

Unfortunately for Declan, he didn't realize how difficult it was going to be at first

"The first day I actually came and did something physical, I went home and was very sore," he says. "It was fun, kept me working and it was what I expected."

Tang Soo Do literally means "China Hand Way." The art is based on a ranking system that uses colored belts, starting with white and ending with black. There are 10 dans, or under belts, that precede the black belt. Each of those belts is earned when an individual passes a test.

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Reagan Miller strikes a pose while practicing Tang Soo Do at the Jezewski Martial Arts school at the Fayette Lions Den.







Declan Miller works with pads during training for Tang Soo Do at the Jezewski Martial Arts school.

