

# Girls swim & dive celebrates seniors

By Kali Butts

Smith-Cotton Student Media

The S-C Lady Tigers Swim & Dive Team’s Senior Night was a success, and these swimmers now are ready to dive into the next chapter of their lives. The Lady Tigers hosted the meet Jan. 24 at Joseph W. Arbi-si Memorial Pool. S-C posted dual wins over Warrensburg, Battle, Hickman, Hannibal, Marshall, Nevada and Rock Bridge. Senior Fatima Vasquez has been on the team all four years of high school. Even though she is blind, that doesn’t stop her from doing the things she wants to do. “I am like anyone else with goals and dreams,” she said. Vasquez says that the team is

her second family, and that she always loves the bus rides home with her teammates. Vasquez’s favorite race in her swim meets is the 100-meter backstroke. Smith-Cotton’s other senior swimmer is Hannah Coleman. This is Coleman’s first year on the swim team. She has set personal records throughout the season and has become and asset on the team. Coleman loves the team and how included she feels with all of the other girls. She feels she has made lifelong friends and memories. Coleman’s Senior Night was important to her because she wasn’t involved with other sports and this will be the only major sendoff she gets before she graduates in the spring.

Senior Hannah Coleman prepares for the start of the 200-yard Medley Relay event.



Smith-Cotton junior Hunter Sparks competes in the 100-yard backstroke on Senior Night. She set a personal record in the event, finishing third in 1:13.72

# Powerlifters pressing for more success

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

The Smith-Cotton powerlifting team showed success last year and Coach Charlie McFail hopes the team will continue to grow this season. During competitions, students attempt to increase their maximum lift in three areas: bench press, squat, and hang clean. McFail believes that powerlifting provides athletes with a way to track their progress. It also provides them with an opportunity to gain self-confidence. On Jan. 26, the team competed in Kansas

and had three Top 10 overall finishers. Cameron Finley finished third, Cole Scott finished fourth, and Logan Jaekel finished seventh. Junior Trevon Franklin has seen improvements in other areas of his athletic life because of powerlifting. Last track season, he was able to set new personal records and better prepare for football season. Franklin views powerlifting as an individual sport. “You know you can’t slack, it has to be done on your own,” he said. Franklin is excited to start lifting and getting to competitions. Jinelle Caliston is hoping to not only be-

come stronger and more fit but also gain confidence. She said she is always nervous before she lifts but is excited at the same time. Caliston also plays volleyball and has noticed powerlifting improving her hitting abilities. “Powerlifting keeps me motivated to work harder and to push myself to reach my goal,” Caliston said. McFail thinks the program had faded away in the past due to not only lack of interest among students but coaches as well. Powerlifting isn’t a huge sport in the area so finding places to compete can sometimes be a challenge.

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# Marketing project helps DECA pair open doors, eyes

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media



Seniors Jasmine Hernandez, left, and Karen Sanchez discuss their DECA project, “Entrepreneur’s Guide to Marketing to Hispanic Women,” at a Sedalia Rotary Club meeting at the Best Western State Fair Inn.

Seniors Jasmine Hernandez and Karen Sanchez’s DECA project, the “Entrepreneur’s Guide to Marketing to Hispanic Women” is helping entrepreneurs and business owners become more aware of diversity in the community. The two S-C students have presented to more than 100 business owners and entrepreneurs in the Sedalia community and have worked with local entrepreneurs including Janet and Brian Vincent, owners of Vincent’s Footwear and Ap-

parel. The goal for their project is to give business owners advice and tips to help them improve their marketing techniques for Hispanic women. Sanchez, who has been in DECA for two years, is passionate about the project because it is personal to her. Coming from a Hispanic background, Sanchez wants to make those in Sedalia aware of the diversity and how they can market to it. Hernandez agrees, stating that she never really sees any marketing directed towards Hispanics around the community.

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# Swafford named this year’s S-C Outstanding Associate

By Jeffrey Goodson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Hardworking, dedicated, energetic. These are a few of the few traits used to describe Smith-Cotton’s “first line of defense,” Sharon Swafford, an administrative assistant in the attendance office. Swafford was recently named Smith-Cotton’s Outstanding Associate of the year. People who work around Swafford have nothing but positive things to say about her character and the way that she carries herself at her job. “Mrs. Swafford is very dedicated to her job.

She is an energetic individual who can multi-task with the best of them.” said Smith-Cotton Assistant Principal Joseph Doyle. Swafford’s presence is well know all throughout Smith-Cotton by her peers. “She is very professional and knows her job, students and parents well,” said Keyla Sharp, Swafford’s partner in crime in the attendance office. “Mrs. Swafford always shows professionalism in every aspect of her job and makes students and adults feel welcome in our school. She is efficient on making sure that all staff and students are safe, manages numerous phone calls for attendance and is always will-

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Administrative Assistant Sharon Swafford is the first person visitors see when they come to Smith-Cotton High School.

# NHS set for inductions

By Victoria Wheat  
Smith-Cotton Student Media

Each year Smith-Cotton High School inducts new members into its National Honor Society chapter. NHS is a service program that helps connect high school students to the community. S-C English teacher and NHS sponsor Lorin Blackburn has been involved with the program for five years. “I love helping the community and seeing what the community can do,” said Blackburn. In order to qualify for induction, each student must meet certain criteria. A student must first have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. If a student does then they are sent an invitation to attend a meeting about NHS. These typically happen in the middle to end of January. Leadership experiences in the school and throughout the community are considered one of the biggest things that is looked at when a student is selected. A student’s character is also heavily

looked at during the selection process. The faculty council must look at both positive and negative qualities a student possesses. According to the S-C NHS webpage, “A person of character demonstrates the following six qualities: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.” NHS does have a service hour requirement, but the chapter requires more than just community service. When applying, there is a minimum of 20 service hours with signatures, but there is a yearly requirement of 35 service hours if a student is inducted. The induction process is typically pretty formal. “The new students are sometimes nervous, but it is a fun night,” Blackburn said. NHS offers scholarship, leadership, character, and service to the students in the chapter. Students will complete several community service projects throughout the year and will be put in many leadership roles.



As part of their “Entrepreneur’s Guide to Marketing to Hispanic Women” DECA project, Smith-Cotton seniors Jasmine Hernandez and Karen Sanchez helped Vincent’s Footwear & Apparel create advertisements to target Spanish-speaking audiences.

## DECA

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“We’re helping entrepreneurs to be more open with diversity,” Sanchez said. Hernandez added that oftentimes, English-speaking business owners admitted that they were scared of advertising to Hispanics because they didn’t speak Spanish or were afraid they would come off as offensive or cliché. “It’s heartbreaking to know that Hispanics are not truly advertised,” Hernandez said. “It doesn’t make us feel like we are going to feel comfortable walking inside a business which has Caucasian models all over their windows and walls.” The girls showed entrepreneurs and business owners seven tips on how to market to Hispanic women.

Sedalia’s population of about 25,000 was made up of roughly 9 percent Hispanics in 2017, DECA advisor Angie Howard said. Howard is proud of the two girls for embracing their culture and educating business owners and entrepreneurs in their own community. Howard believes that the girls will do well in DECA competitions with their project. A DECA student has a variety of options when competing at the district level. Hernandez and Sanchez chose to do an Entrepreneurship Promotion Project, a Chapter project that must include a partner. DECA members also have the option of doing an interview and test about a certain topic or present a written document of 10 or 20 pages to a judge. The girls hope that their project opens the community’s eyes to marketing to more diverse groups.

# SWAFFORD

From Page 1

ing to help anyone with whatever the need.” A common denominator is her attitude. “Mrs. Swafford is a pleasant, smiling face

for guests to S-C. Everyone that comes into the building must pass through her door and she greets them all with a smile.” Doyle said. Sharp also mentioned Swafford’s presence and attitude, and the smiling face she brings to work everyday. “Mrs. Swafford makes students and adults feel welcome in our school. She goes the

extra mile to establish a good rapport with our students and always has a smile on her face.” The award means a lot to Swafford. “Being chosen as S-C’s outstanding associate of the year is a great honor! We have an amazing staff who are all also exceptional employees who are very deserving as well!” she said.



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# Art students to display their works downtown

By Alexa Rowe  
Smith-Cotton Student Media

Some Smith-Cotton students’ artwork will be presented in the Mid-Year Art Show from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2 at the 7th Street artist co-op located at 7th Street and Missouri Avenue.



Sotelo

Heimsoth. One of Heimsoth’s students, Jesus Sotelo, has three pieces in the show this year. His pieces are mostly ceramics. “People should just give ceramics a try. It’s really fun,” said Sotelo. Another art student, Katya Sheremet, has six drawing and 12 pieces of pottery in this year’s show. “I’m proud of my work; It’s nice to get



Jesus Sotelo will have this ceramics piece and more on display at the Smith-Cotton Mid-Year Art Show on Feb. 2 at the 7th Street artist co-op.

my name out there,” Sheremet said. “My pieces are nicely done, I’m ready.” Emma Flowers has about nine pieces in the show; most of them are chalk pastels while others are drawings. “I’m very excited and I feel very accomplished,” Flowers said. The Mid-Year Art Show is smaller than the annual End of Year Art Show, so only the top 20 percent of the students’ pieces go to the show, Heimsoth said. The End of Year Show features a larger collection of

student works. There is another difference, as well. “There isn’t going to be a competition like the End of Year Show; it’s an exhibition,” Heimsoth said. The Mid-Year Art Show is free and open to the public, Heimsoth is hopeful that there will be a nice turnout and that the community will support S-C artists. “There is a lot of cool stuff there. It’s nice to have people see my work,” Sotelo said.

# Plans coming together for annual JROTC drill meet

By Alexa Rowe  
Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton’s JROTC program is hosting its 14th annual drill meet on Feb. 16 at Smith-Cotton. There will be 16 schools, and each school will have multiple performances from both armed and unarmed drill teams. There are

also be performances by color guard and exhibition units. The top three places in each event get a trophy. Another performance will be IDD, or Individual Drill Downs; an instructor will call drill movements and the last few people will receive a medal. S-C JROTC will have a concession stand and a 50/50 raffle to raise money for the program. “We’re hoping for a very successful day.

We are feeling very ready and prepared,” Cadet Laura Haney said. Planning for the event started before the school year and the cadets have worked on it ever since, Haney said. “It’s more professional and more organized than any other meets the drill team has been to. More cadets are planning it,” said battalion Commander Jessica Miller. The Drill meet is free and open to public.



# Alpacas factor into statistics class project

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton High School’s statistics class found new ways to learn by incorporating alpacas into one of the students’ recent projects.

The project required students to use numerous calculations, equations, and statistics to find out which pair of alpacas from Hasselbring’s Harmony Ranch would produce the best offspring. For the project, students chose from a number of male and female alpacas and decided which pair would produce the best and worst offspring for both breeding and fleece production.

Many students in statistics teacher Jennifer Crane’s class had never been close to alpacas. Senior Dalton Gear had seen them before, but did not get the chance to get close to them. He found the project both enjoyable and informational.

“It opened my mind to the possibilities revolving around the concepts that we learned about,” Gear said.

He found that the project was applicable to the concepts the class discusses and found it was based on very literal applica-



Smith-Cotton seniors Reagan Braverman and Will Knight get a close-up view of Tornado, a Suri alpaca, in Jennifer Crane’s statistics class. Patty Hasselbring of Hasselbring’s Harmony Ranch brought two alpacas to the class to kick off a project assignment.

tions.

Seniors Alex Beard and Vlad Husyev were partners for this project. They had to look at and compare reports and numbers that would give them an idea of how good the alpacas’ traits were. After looking at the information provided by Harmony Ranch owner Patty Hasselbring, they put their results into a PowerPoint and presented it to the class.

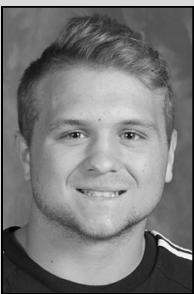
“It was a really fun way to apply statistics. It was one of the best projects I’ve done in school, and I had a lot of laughs throughout it,” said Beard.

## POLL QUESTION

What Courtwarming spirit day are you looking forward to the most?



*“Pajama Day.”*  
— **Lindsey Davis**, freshman



*“America Day.”*  
— **Tanner Harris**, junior



*“America Day.”*  
— **Joe Anderson**, senior



*“All of them, but mostly Pajama Day.”*  
— **Carmen Brock**, counselor

# THERE HE IS ... MR. S-C

## Annual male pageant a chance to have fun, make memories

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media



Mr. S-C is a male beauty pageant that Smith-Cotton High School puts on annually. This year it will take place at 7 p.m. March 7 in the Heckart Performing Arts Center.. Tickets are \$5.

Competitors are selected by club sponsors and coaches whose activity the competitors are involved in. They typically choose someone who encompasses and reflects on S-C pride.

When the competition takes place, contestants are judged in four categories: talent, spirit wear, formal wear, and question and answer.

There is also a People's Choice competition. People attending the Mr. S-C contest are able to put change into jars for each contestant. At the end of the night, the contestant who has the most money in their jar wins People’s Choice.

The show is organized by the theatre department officers and S-C Director of Theatre Teri Turner. While Mr. S-C is a form of entertainment is also serves as a fundraiser for the theatre

department to help students attend the state thespian conference.

Turner believes this is an opportunity for people to make memories and have a good time.

Senior Colby Edgar participated last year and is ready to return.

“I had way too much fun last year not to do it again,” Edgar said. “I want to have another great night.”

He is looking forward to the group dance number and seeing other people's creativity through their selected talent during the competition.

Senior Ethan Beard is looking forward to making his friends laugh.

“I want to make it an entertaining night for all,” Beard said.

Turner said that because it takes place on stage in front of their peers and other people, some students don't want to compete. However, Edgar says that he views this as a way to get out of his shell. He hopes that the memories he makes at Mr. S-C stick with him.

“I hope that we can do as well as last year's participants,” said Beard. “Every act last year was hilarious.”

**ABOVE:** Colby Edgar tries to whip up the crowd during the spirit wear competition in the 2018 Mr. S-C pageant. **RIGHT:** The 2018 Mr. S-C pageant participants pose for a photo after the formal wear competition. Senior Brinton Beard won the crown.



# Everyone wins with chess, game club

By Jeffrey Goodson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

One of Smith-Cotton’s “hidden gem” activities is English teacher Michael Kailus’s chess and board game club. The club was founded on students’ general interest and enjoyment for chess and later grew to board games as well. “Another teacher had a group of students who were very interested in chess, and had also shown some interest in board games,” said Kailus. The idea to start a club became more and more of a reality. “After we heard all the interest and want for it, we decided to start a club,” he said. Students involved in the club love it, including S-C junior David Rogers. “I first heard about it over the intercom

freshman year,” Rogers said. He viewed it as a way to meet new people and ran with the opportunity. Joining the club for him has paid off. “My favorite thing about the club has got to be the friends that I have made,” Rogers said. Another student who loves being part of the club is sophomore Elizabeth Meller. “There’s always a lot of people, and the making friends aspect and meeting new people is always there, and it’s always fun,” she said. Meller also enjoys the ease of joining the club and the laid-back energy. “A lot of the other clubs are more active, and have a fee. This one is free and only meets once every other week,” Meller said. For Kailus, seeing the students enjoy each

others’ company and the games that are played is very fulfilling. “Stuff like this is something a lot of kids have an interest in, and don’t have an outlet for, so being able to see them have a good time with it is awesome,” said Kailus. The club is always looking for new members to join. “Anyone is welcome. We would love to have new members; we play a variety of different games so just come on in and someone will challenge you to a game,” Rogers said. Kailus also expressed the welcomeness of the club: “It’s not something you have to register for, so drop in and come play a game or two with us.” The club meets every other Monday after school in Kailus’s room until about 5 p.m.

# Thespians make mark at state conference

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

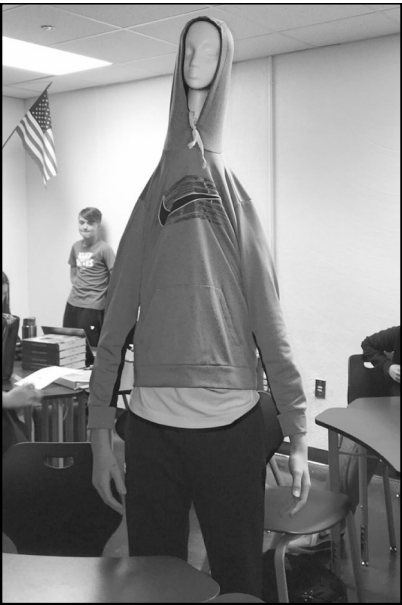
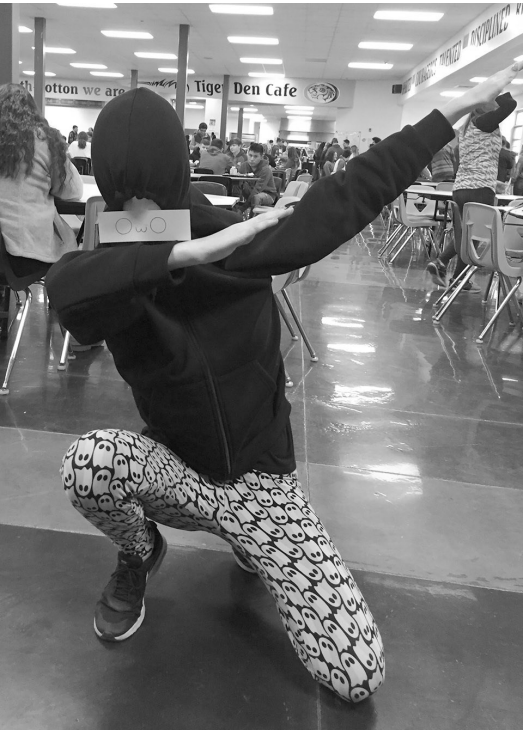
Smith-Cotton’s thespians attended the Missouri State Thespian Conference in Kansas City, where they learned more about theater and improved their skills. The four-day conference where theater allows students in grades 9 through 12 to participate in workshops, presentations, and audition for opportunities like the all-state show. Sarah Hinkson auditioned for the all-state show and was one of six girls to be selected to perform. Hinkson enjoys the conference because she gets to make a lot of new friends. She noticed that she saw thespians from other schools wearing shirts from a show they’ve done in the past or shows they plan to do, and she found it was east to bond with them.



Smith-Cotton thespians Kennedy Keele and Angilicia Ward, right, are recognized by state thespians officer Samantha Thomas at the Missouri State Thespian Conference.

Derrick Gilger agreed, stating that it’s a great opportunity to meet new people in a “good and positive environment.” Another theater student who had success at the conference was Kennedy Keele, who participated in the costume event and received good reviews. S-C’s thespians’ improv team competed, but their act was cut short due to bad weather. However, their one-act play was very well received. Gilger performed the opening number at

ThesCon. Theater teacher Teri Turner takes inducted thespians, as well as those wanting to be thespians, to the conference. While students have to be a thespian to participate in the events, the non-thespians are welcome to observe. Hinkson would encourage not only thespians, but everyone to at least come and observe because they can learn tons of new things and have lots of fun.



## Courtwarding Spirit

The first two days of Courtwarding Week featured Pajama Day and Favorite Meme Day. Courtwarding is Friday, Feb. 1, against Center High.

