

# Baseball prepares for season, new space

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

After losing the indoor space it used in past years, the Smith-Cotton baseball team soon will make use of the facilities at Skyline Elementary.

With the addition of the Project Lead the Way wing to the basement of the high school, the team lost the indoor facility it has been using to practice hitting. The building at Skyline was originally being used as storage until S-C baseball head coach Kyle Zimmerman was approached last fall by Athletic Director Rob Davis and Assistant Superintendent Chris Pyle about using the space.

“Once it is completed, it will house our batting cages. We will use it to hit indoors and also for our pitchers to throw off of a mound when we can’t practice outside,” said Zimmerman.

With the start of the baseball season right around the corner, the team has been working since the middle of October with weights after school. Players also have started doing open fields which present an opportunity for students who might be interested to see if it’s something they are serious about.

Senior Colin Polley is coming back from an injury earlier this year. He said that this being his senior year of baseball, he is nervous that he had such a long recovery time.

“It was 16 weeks before I could even pick up a baseball again,” said Polley.

The team kicks off its season hosting the jamboree on March 9. Zimmerman said, “We are very excited for the season to get started.”



Tigers catcher Colin Polley looks to the dugout to see what pitch he should call for during a game against Nevada last season at Liberty Park Stadium.

# Scholar Bowl competes on different field

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

While Smith-Cotton’s athletic teams specialize in scoring touchdowns, hitting home runs, and serving aces, science, mathematics, social studies, and literature are a few of the things that S-C’s Scholar Bowl team specializes in.

Scholar Bowl is a team that participates in academic competitions in which teams of four

players compete against each other by answering questions about multiple subjects. The teams are placed into brackets and compete in five matches before lunch. Following lunch, a new bracket is given out to the teams depending on their record. The teams then compete in the winners or consolation bracket and compete in four more matches.

S-C Scholar Bowl is led by sponsor Michelle Steger. She

prepares the students by reading various questions that they would hear in competition. The students are assigned an area to learn more about for their part in the competition.

Steger believes Scholar Bowl is beneficial to students because they get to learn about new things. Junior Hunter Sparks agrees, stating that it helps her with all around general knowledge as well. Sparks also finds Scholar Bowl fun because

of the out of town tournaments.

Steger graduated most of the varsity team members, so this year she is focusing on building a team. “We have some juniors and sophomores that are doing well and I look for them to really bring the team together next year,” Steger said. She believes that her team needs to work on the area of fine arts, which involves subjects such as architecture, composers, and art-work.

# TIGER TIMES

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## Early childhood center coming to S-C

By Alexa Rowe

Smith-Cotton Student Media

There is going to be one big change coming to Smith-Cotton’s campus for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The Pettis County Early Childhood Cooperative will get a new home on the Smith-Cotton campus.

The construction is scheduled to be done by August 2020. The

reason for the move is to alleviate overcrowding at the co-op. There are also plans for the district’s Central Office to be moved, too, but that idea is still in the works and depends on if there is enough money in the district’s budget, according to Superintendent Steve Triplett.

Currently, the co-op is located at Sedalia Middle School and the District Office is located on

Matthew Drive. Before their current locations, the co-op was located near Bothwell Regional Health Center and the district office was located in downtown Sedalia.

“The land behind and around Smith-Cotton was bought with the idea of growing the campus and adding additional buildings and programs,” said Triplett.

Grace Kendrick, principal at the co-op, hopes that having the

co-op on Smith-Cotton’s campus will give the co-op opportunities to collaborate with some S-C classes and students.

“Building a new facility that is designed for early childhood will give us the appropriate space and equipment and materials needed to serve the unique needs of our students and parents,” Kendrick added.

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## Courtwarding royalty

At halftime of the Smith-Cotton High Courtwarding boys basketball game on Friday, Feb. 1, senior Nia Hawkins was crowned Courtwarding queen and senior Ethan Beard was named Courtwarding king. Princess, not shown, was Laura Haney. **Courtwarding assembly photos, Page 5**

## Summer school provides chance to catch up, get ahead

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton is a school full of opportunity and summer school is just one of them.

Students are offered the opportunity for credit recovery and the chance to get ahead and open their schedules for the following school year through summer school classes. Students are able to take classes such as personal finance, physical education, health, and driver education. However they are also able to take various core classes to open up their schedules.

The credit recovery side lasts for three weeks and it’s for five hours a day. This does intimidate some students and make them not want to take the opportunity that is offered to them. However credit recovery teacher



Walkington

See **SUMMER**, Page 4

## Mattson named secondary Teacher of Quarter

Smith-Cotton High School science and math teacher Chelsea Mattson, left, was named the Sedalia 200 district's secondary-level Teacher of the Quarter for the second quarter of the school year. Presenting Mattson with a congratulatory banner as well as a gift bag is program sponsor Ah-razue Wilt of American Family Insurance. Each quarter, administrators nominate teachers at the elementary and secondary levels for the recognition program, and a panel selects one winner at each level. The elementary Teacher of the Quarter for the second quarter was Tonya Edgar of Skyline Elementary



## For Alexander, teaching is tradition

By Jeffrey Goodson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton has many new fresh faces in the building for the 2018-19 school year, one of them being Freshman World History, Intro journalism and S-C Media teacher Caitlin Alexander.

Originally from Houstonia, Alexander attended Northwest High School in Hughesville. After high school she chose to attend the University of Missouri in Columbia, while majoring in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Social Studies.

Previously at Rock Bridge High School and Battle High School, both in Columbia, this second year "veteran" finds herself back home in Sedalia at Smith-Cotton.

"It all happened so quickly, and coming back home just felt right, I have family here, and I grew up in this area," Alexander said.

Since a young age, Alexander has wanted to become a teacher for many different reasons.



Alexander

"In the third grade, I had a teacher who had been teaching for 30-plus years and she was getting ready to retire and she always told me she was going to haunt me if I didn't become a teacher myself," Alexander said.

Alexander enjoys seeing the growth of high school students.

"I've always wanted to help kids, and it's very fulfilling to see the growth that these kids make from year to year," she said. Along with those reasons, Alexander has family ties to the world of teaching.

"My mom, two of my aunts, and three of my cousins are teachers, so I feel it's in my DNA," she said. So far during her short tenure at Smith-Cotton, she says the people of have been welcoming and great to be around.

"Everyone, ranging from the students to the custodians, is so nice and have provided such a welcoming environment," she said. "Also, the administrators are very proud of the history of Sedalia and this place, and that's something I have a lot of respect for."

## CO-OP

From Page 1

More than 240 students attend the co-op, and the current space is too small and doesn't meet all the program's needs, Kendrick said. She also hopes that the co-op will receive a larger parking lot and a larger playground.

"With a waiting list of over 100 students, the need to expand our early childhood facility is crucial," Triplett said. "This new facility will allow for greater opportunity to serve more students in a more modern and effective environment."

Triplett doesn't foresee any issues with having another building on Smith-Cotton's campus.

*'I thought there was a higher purpose for my life'*

## Barkefelt happy to make a change

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

After 21 years serving in the Army, Yale Barkefelt Sr. found a new calling as a teacher. He is the newest member of the JROTC Tiger Battalion. However he doesn't view this as a job but rather an opportunity to impact young people and make them successful.

"I loved coaching and mentoring kids not only in sports, but I thought that there was a higher purpose for my life than what I was doing with the Veterans Administration," He said.

Barkefelt said, "To be quite honest with you, anytime you can pass knowledge on to other people and make them more successful than you are it's all worth the time and effort that you put into something."

Barkefelt was born just outside of Pittsburgh, Pa., and attended high school at Jannette Senior High School. He later attended college at University of Pittsburgh, then Columbia College and he is currently attending the University of Central Missouri.

He was working on receiving his master's degree in education when the opportunity arose to become a JROTC instructor. Barkefelt was leaving his daughter's soccer game when he received a call from Command Sgt. Major Randy Woods who had heard that he was interested in the position. Woods told him to look up Smith-Cotton and its JROTC program and to give him a call if Barkefelt was still interested. "I applied that evening after talking with CSM Woods," said Barkefelt. "As they say the rest is history."

When he isn't coaching or teaching, Barkefelt is spending time with his four kids and his wife, Donna Barkefelt. Wrestling has been a big part of his life from a young age and he is thankful for the opportunity to help with the Smith-Cotton wrestling team, with whom his son is a participant. Barkefelt participated in wrestling all through high school and college. He also wrestled his first three years in the Army for the Colorado All-Army team. He was able to spend a few days with the S-C team and he said that it is a program that is moving in the right direction and thinks some



1st Sgt. Yale Barkefelt, a Smith-Cotton JROTC Army instructor, leads Tiger Battalion cadets in marching exercises as they prepared for the Homecoming parade.

successful wrestlers will come out of it. Smith-Cotton has been very welcoming said Barkefelt. The city of Sedalia and the school have been more than happy to welcome the Barkefelt family with open arms. He sees Smith-Cotton as an opportunity-rich environment for its students. He said that if students aren't involved then they are missing out because so much is of-

fered. "One night I literally ran from the wrestling meet to the Heckart PAC to watch students sing that were in my class because they asked me to go," said Barkefelt. There isn't a department in the school that isn't willing to work for their students or for the community, he said. Barkefelt is just thankful to be a part of it.



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# Drawing inspiration from an S-C legend

Wrestling is one of the most important loves in my life. I recently met someone who

loves the sport as much or more than I do. The fact she is female is a big deal.

Emily Webster is a four-time national champion who competed in wrestling at Oklahoma City University. She's a big deal, not only to me but to Smith-Cotton history; she went to school at Smith-Cotton and graduated in 2011. Webster is S-C's first female state

qualifier in wrestling; I am the second. She was a qualifier for boys state finals too, which is even cooler.

It was such a great experience to meet her, and listen to her accomplishments, her stories, what it took to get there, and listening to some of the staff who adored her. I have a lot in common with her,

Webster talked about how she wrestled boys her whole life and when she had her first ever girls match, she

lost. When I was in Sedalia Youth Wrestling Club and last year as a freshman, I was always the only girl. I had a tournament against boys for my first matches of the year this season where I took second, then I had my first ever girls match under the new MSHSAA rules, which is for

girls, basically it means if there's a girl in my weight class, I will wrestle them instead of the boy in my weight class, and when I do wrestle the guys, whether I win or lose it doesn't go on my record. I went to the first ever high school girls wrestling scramble and lost my first girls match. I remember getting upset to my

mom, and being embarrassed. I told my mom, "I can't believe I just lost to a girl!" I need to remember this is new for me, and that not everything can go the way I want.

I admire the things that Webster did to get where she did, from making her own type of food to putting all things aside to focus on the sport she loves the most. I think that the best part was that she came to us the day we were leaving for our first day of districts. Webster made sure we had all of our questions answered and she gave great advice that wasn't for just the girls, but for anyone in wrestling. She told us "take it one match at a time."

I made sure that during districts I repeated this to myself over and over. I have a bad habit of looking at my bracket to see who my opponents could be if I were to win or lose. Not only did I look at it as one match at a time, I looked at it as one period at a time, one move at a time, one second at a time.

I took in every bit of information I could get from her that I might be able to use. I knew that everything she would say could be useful and important.

Webster also was inducted into the Smith-Cotton Athletic Hall of Fame the same evening as districts. She definitely deserved the induction based on her accomplishments, and I hope that one day my quality and work ethic will pay off in such praise for me, too.

I am working to follow in the footsteps of someone who has inspired me so much. Emily Webster is a great role model not only for athletes like me, but for all S-C students.

*Kali Butts is a Smith-Cotton sophomore.*



**Kali Butts**  
Commentary



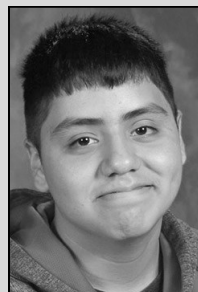
**Webster**

## POLL QUESTION

What do you like or dislike about Valentine's Day?



*"Chocolate."*  
— **Bailey Brown**,  
freshman



*"I hate Valentine's Day but I love chocolate."*  
— **Jesus Sotelo**,  
sophomore



*"I like chocolate but I don't have a boyfriend."*  
— **Hunter Sparks**,  
junior



*"Going out for a steak with my wife."*  
— **Caleb Myers**,  
teacher



*"I like the romance that's in the air but most couples do way too much."*  
— **Jonzel Washington**,  
senior

# Book it: Theatre For Cause set for Feb. 21

By Alexa Rowe

Smith-Cotton Student Media

This year's Theatre For A Cause performance will help provide books for families in need.

Theatre For A Cause is an annual student-run production of the Smith-Cotton Department of Theatre that addresses a contemporary issue and raises money for a local charity. This year's Theater For A Cause will be performed at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Heckart Performing Arts Center.

The play is called "Perfect Score," written by Katie Henry. It's about four friends overcoming the challenges of high school as graduation approaches.

This year's charity is First Book, an organization that provides books to children and families who cannot afford them.

"I chose this because a proper education starts with reading, and reading is a central part of life nowadays," said director Derrick Gilger. "I think what's special about this show is that the audience will find it extremely relatable and funny at the same time."

The cast members were chosen by Gilger and assistant director Meredith Tester.

They said they chose who knew would best fit the roles.

Last year's show was a collection of small



Krysta Ott, left, and Derrick Gilger perform a scene from "Sure Thing" as part of the 2018 S-C Theatre for a Cause production in the Heckart Performing Arts Center. Ott also served as the production's director, the role that Gilger has taken on this year.

pieces of plays pieced together into one big play; it included three scenes and three different plays. This year's performance is one play. Tester said

"It feels great being able to have a say in things, and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to experience assistant directing and

helping out in an amazing cause," Tester said

"I think that anyone who has time on (Feb. 21) should definitely come and watch the show since all money made goes to a good cause," Gilger added.

Tickets are \$5 and available at the door.

# Prairie to Ivy trip opens eyes for students

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Prairie to the Ivy is a program that allows Smith-Cotton juniors to travel from the up-and-down weather of the Midwest to prestigious colleges and universities across the country.

To qualify for the trip, S-C juniors must have scored within a set range on the ACT or PSAT. This is the third year Prairie to the Ivy has taken place and is funded by S-C alumni. Its name came from the first year's trip to Ivy League schools on the East Coast, but the program has grown to spread out to other high-caliber

schools.

S-C Principal Wade Norton has observed that most students look at colleges close to the Midwest region.

Norton believes there are various reasons, such as cost and being close to home, but he adds that it may be because many students have not experienced seeing an Ivy League school with their own eyes.

S-C senior Dalton Gear attended the trip last year as a junior, and agreed that it was very eye-opening. Gear noticed the dif-

ferences and similarities Ivy League schools had to schools nearby. Gear added that seeing the cities that are home to these schools.



**Gear**

"I was able to see all the cool stuff those cities had to offer," Gear said. S-C counselor Katie Ellis agrees, stating that it's fun for students to visit colleges from farther away. Some of them have never looked outside of central Missouri.

S-C counselor Carmen Brock says students who visit an Ivy League school are better in-

formed of what they want in a college.

"Being informed allows the student to make the best decision for them," Brock said.

According to Ellis, Ivy League schools offer various things that local colleges may not, including research opportunities, advanced global studies, and ways to help students with financial challenges.

This year, Prairie to the Ivy will take the students to Columbia University in New York City and Princeton University in Princeton, N.J.. Eight S-C students, as well as two students from Sacred Heart will be attending the trip.

# NOTEWORTHY HONOR

## Maledy named S-C High's Outstanding Educator for '18-19

By Jeffrey Goodson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Much to his own surprise, Smith-Cotton Director of Instrumental Music Grant Maledy was named the high school's Outstanding Educator for this school year.

Maledy is very humble about the honor of receiving the award, which is presented by the Sedalia Community Educators Association. was pretty well caught off guard when he found out that he had won the award.

"I really didn't expect to win at all, there are so many others deserving of this award, and I really do appreciate my peers thinking so highly of me," Maledy said.

With character as high as his, Maledy is well respected by his peers and his students.

"He takes his job very seriously, but he also likes to joke around and have fun every now and then," said Smith-Cotton sophomore band member Blake Osteen.

Ashley Peck, director of percussion for grades 5-12, also enjoys the presence of Maledy. "He is very upbeat, hardworking, and full of informative energy. I rarely see him at a dragging low speed. If he ever is, he hides it well and does all he can to reset for each ensemble



Grant Maledy, the Smith-Cotton's director of instrumental music, conducts the concert band during the winter band concert in December 2017. The Sedalia Community Educators Association named Maledy the high school's Outstanding Educator for the 2018-19 school year.

ble he works with throughout the day. He comes in ready to teach and learn," Peck said.

He is also praised for his work ethic.

"Maledy knows how to get stuff done, and he is always striving to help us succeed," said Osteen.

Peck also praised the time and effort he puts into the band programs

"He puts in a lot of time, day and night, to ensure the contin-

ual success of the entire band program grades 5-12. The time shows. The commitment is there. The drive to be better everyday is there," Peck said.

Maledy believes that many other members of the staff at S-C were very deserving of the award.

"It truly is an honor, there are so many great teachers/staff members here. I feel like one of them easily could've gotten it," Maledy said.

*"Maledy knows how to get stuff done, and he is always striving to help us succeed."*

— Blake Osteen

S-C band member

## SUMMER

From Page 1

Kathy Walkington wants students to understand that they are putting a semester's worth of information into a three-week time frame.

She encourages summer school for many reasons, the biggest of them being it presents an opportunity to be more successful

in your high school career.

"If you are willing to make changes in your life to better your future, there are many resources available to help you along the way," said Walkington.

Using the online programs LAUNCH and PLATO, students have more options available to them. Most of the classes offered, with the exception of driver education, are taken online.

"Many students have talked to me about

how they have made mistakes their freshman or sophomore years of high school and they wished they had paid more attention, put in more work, or just took every opportunity given to them more seriously," said Walkington. "For credit recovery, they are able to gain back their credits in order to graduate on time and be back on track."

To find out more, make an appointment with your class's counselor.



### Courtwarding Assembly

The Courtwarding assembly, held Feb. 1 in advance of the basketball games against Center High, included performances by the cheer and High Voltage squads, some lip synch competitions and the traditional musical chairs game. The freshmen came away with the spirit award.

