

# Butts takes 6th at state wrestling meet

Tigers' senior Uptegrove competes in boys bracket

By Jeffrey Goodson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

For a wrestling program that's in a "rebuilding phase," according to head coach Eric McNeal, sending two wrestlers to the state championship meet was not only a major accomplishment for the participants, it was a major step in the right direction for the program.

Sophomore Kali Butts and senior Jaydon Uptegrove were supported not only by teammates, coaches, and families, but also by their classmates and Sedalia 200 district officials.

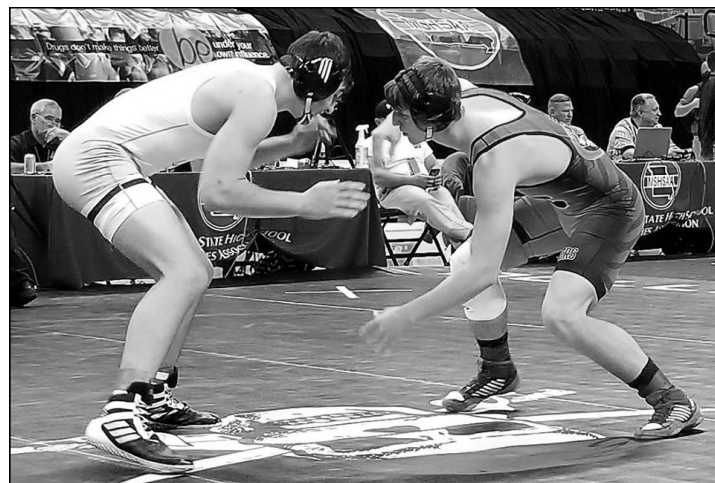
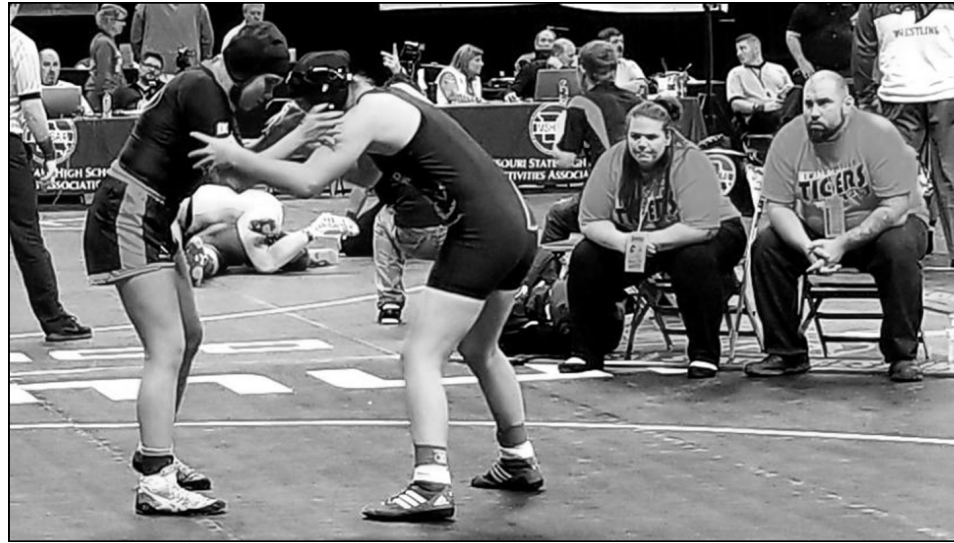
"We had a ton of support from the school. Different school board members and principals came out and watched. I also had a ton of support from different students," said Butts. Uptegrove had quite a bit of support from outsiders, as well.

"I had for the most part a good amount of support from the school, and I had some support from the community as well," he said.

Getting to the state tournament is exciting, but an environment like that can be stressful for a high school student. That was the case for Butts.

"At first, it was very exciting, but super nerve-racking. The venue was huge, and there are so many different matches going on," Butts said. At the start of the tournament nerves also got the best of Uptegrove. "I felt like I went out onto the mat ready to compete, but I was shell shocked because the arena was so big," he said. "I feel like I could have went out less nervous, but my mind took over."

Butts finished in sixth place in the girls 143-pound weight class; Uptegrove lost



**ABOVE:** S-C's Kali Butts, left, squares off with an opponent at the state wrestling meet as assistant coaches Morgan Renfrow and Joseph Hulsey watch. **LEFT:** Jaydon Uptegrove, looks to shoot on his opponent.

both of his matches and was eliminated on the first day. McNeal was very proud of both of his participants.

"Jaydon had a bad draw, but he wrestled extremely hard and left everything on the mat," McNeal said. "Kali had a chance to medal, but the environment may have affected her, but overall she wrestled a very good tournament and picked up two wins

and faced some really good competition."

McNeal praised both for their competitive spirits and ability to be coached.

"Both Kali and Jaydon love to compete. Both had to learn new things and make adjustments to get to where they made it to, so you could definitely say both are extremely coachable," McNeal said.

## JROTC program reschedules drill meet for March 23

Tiger Times staff

The Smith-Cotton High School JROTC program has rescheduled its drill meet for March 23 at the high school. Inclement weather forced postponement on the originally scheduled date.

Drill meet events start at 8:30 a.m. and end with the awards ceremony around 2 p.m. Nine teams will be competing, and the event will include color guard, unarmed exhibition, armed exhibition and team inspection competitions. S-C JROTC Senior Army Instructor LTC (Ret.) Harry Cunningham said, "This is a

great way for the community to see the different teams perform from different schools throughout Missouri and the surrounding states."

Admission is free of charge, and concessions will be available with proceeds supporting S-C JROTC. There also will be more than 80 silent auction items available for bidding, with winners announced during the awards ceremony.

For more information, contact 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Yale Barkefelt at [barkefelt@sedalia200.org](mailto:barkefelt@sedalia200.org)

# TIGER TIMES

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## A lot goes into decision to call off school

By Jeffrey Goodson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

This school year, Smith-Cotton has lost multiple days of school because of weather. So far a total of seven days have been lost due to snow and ice, and at this point school will be running through May 29.

On days with bad weather, school officials go through an ongoing process to decide

whether to cancel or delay school. Multiple people go out and drive bus routes and main roads in the wee hours of the morning. The group of individuals includes superintendents, bus barn employees and others. The group always has a decision made by 5 a.m.

"Mr. Chris Pyle, assistant superintendent, lives north and east of Sedalia so he checks on the roads in those areas of our

district. Mr. Triplett checks on the roads in city limits. I live south of town so I drive those county roads to check conditions," said Assistant Superintendent Dr. Todd Fraley.

Communication is key during the decision-making process. "We all communicate with each other and (First Student Location Manager) Ms. Connie Miller before making any decisions. We do this the night be-

fore if weather has begun and then again beginning at 4 a.m.," Fraley said. There's always a decision made by 5 a.m.

"We need to make a decision on either canceling school or having a delayed start by 5 a.m. in order to communicate appropriately with everyone. The buses have to be started well before leaving for routes in

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### Hilario receives presidential volunteerism award

Smith-Cotton High School senior Erika Hilario, left, receives the President's Volunteer Service Award from S-C Assistant Principal Joe Doyle on Feb. 25 at the school. Hilario was recognized for her efforts with the Girl Scouts benefitting the Sedalia Animal Shelter. Hilario and fellow members of Girl Scout Troupe 104 sold homemade cookies to raise money for the shelter; they also volunteered at the shelter for three days. Hilario worked more than 250 hours to benefit the shelter and raised about \$2,000 for new blankets, toys and food.

## DECA, FBLA fare well at districts, look toward state

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton DECA and FBLA students are preparing to head to state competition after their performances at districts.

FBLA adviser Bryant Lazenby was very proud of his students' performances at districts and believes that they will carry the same energy right on to state. At the competitions, FBLA members can compete in a variety of different events such as knowledge, role play, production, and review and solve. The students who are advancing to state: senior Alex Beard, first in economics and personal finance, and fourth in political science, freshman Emma Dillon, third in insurance, junior Reagan Mullins, fifth in business communication, and senior Michylah Hawkins, first in production.

Hawkins made a digital production video about how FBLA can benefit students.

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STATE

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Hawkins participated in the project because Lazenby thought it would be a good fit for her. She believes that her project will do well at state. The projects for state are already pre-judged, so some students do not get to present theirs. However, Hawkins believes she will have a good chance at presenting her project.

“I think I’ll do pretty well and that the judges will want to see my project,” Hawkins said.

There is also an FBLA category called “Straight to State,” where the students are given a longer time to work on their project and skip districts. They present it only at state, and may move on to nationals from there. The Straight to State projects are being presented by seniors Joseph Anderson and Marta Treuner, and freshman Carson Hunolt.

As DECA adviser Angela Howard explained in a previous interview, DECA students have a variety of options to compete at districts as well. They can choose between an interview and test about a certain topic, or create a written paper and present it to a judge. The written projects can range from 10 to 20 pages, and have a higher chance of state advancement because not as many students choose to do

FBLA DISTRICT RESULTS

\*State Qualifier  
**Reagen Mullins**  
5th Business Communications\*  
4th Electronic Career Portfolio  
**Lauren Grey**  
5th Computer Applications  
Top 10 Word Processing  
**Alex Beard**  
1st Economics\*  
1st Personal Finance\*  
4th Political Science\*  
**Emma Dillon**  
3rd Insurance and Risk Management\*  
Top 10 Intro to Parliamentary Procedures  
**Michylah Hawkins**  
1st Digital Video Production\*  
**Ember Guthrie**  
Top 8 Graphic Design  
Top 8 Desktop Publishing

**Karen Sanchez & Jazmine Hernandez**  
5th Entrepreneurship  
**Destiny Clancy**  
Top 10 Sales Presentation  
**Marta Treuner, Carson Hunolt and Kaylee Bohle**  
Top 8 Marketing  
**Amanda Moore and Angilicia Ward**  
3rd Social Media Campaign  
**Tyler Eckhoff**  
6th Business Law  
**Brett Hockett**  
Top 10 Networking Concepts  
**Andres Juarez**  
Top 10 Spreadsheet Applications  
• **Straight to State Events**  
**Marta Treuner, Joseph Anderson, Jasmyn Bayless**  
American Enterprise Day Chapter Project  
**Davin Scribner & Tyeler Amberg**  
Mobile Application Development

them.

Senior Drake Johnson qualified for DECA state competition through a professional selling project intended for a security system for a general manager in a retail store. This is Johnson’s first year in DECA, so he was extremely surprised that he advanced to state. Johnson decided to do this project because of his personal experience. He works at JCPenney, and often has

to convince customers to sign up for credit and rewards deals. Johnson believes this is what gave him success in his project.

Lazenby’s advice to state qualifiers is to continue to study the material and be familiar with what they are presenting. Lazenby is proud of all students that competed. Although not all students were advancing to state, 15 FBLA members earned medals.

DECA DISTRICT RESULTS

\*State Qualifier  
**Jasmine Hernandez and Karen Sanchez**  
2nd place, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project\*  
**Julianna Sonnik**  
1st Place, Integrated Marketing Campaign-Event\*  
**Hayden Ellis and Tyler Williams**  
2nd Place, Integrated Marketing Campaign-Service\*  
**McKenna Perusich**  
1st Place, Business Services Marketing\*  
**Reagan Braverman and Chase McMullin**  
2nd place, Public Relations Project\*  
**Marta Treuner**  
1st Place, Learn & Earn\*

**Inna Maksimov and Diana Ivanova**  
3rd place, Integrated Marketing Campaign-Product\*  
**Reagan Braverman and McKenna Perusich**  
1st Place, Business Services Research Event\*  
**Reagan Braverman and Drake Peterson**  
3rd Place, Business Law & Ethics  
**Envie Johnson**  
1st Place, Retail Merchandising\*  
**Lauren Caldwell**  
1st Place, Leadership Delegate\*  
**Caleb Egbert**  
5th Place, Apparel & Accessories Marketing\*  
**Anna Slipych**  
1st Place, Entrepreneurship Event\*  
**Alexis Spencer & Karlie Franklin**  
3rd Place, Sports and Entertainment Marketing\*

**Drake Johnson**  
1st place, Professional Selling\*  
**Envie Johnson & Austyn Wenner**  
2nd place, Business Services Marketing\*  
**Andrea Umana**  
5th Place, Quick Serve Restaurant Management\*  
**Jessie Hayes**  
5th Place, Restaurant & Food Service Management\*  
**Marta Treuner & Ramey Kempton**  
5th place, Marketing Management  
**Meredith Webb & Gentry Fowler**  
4th Place, Sports & Entertainment Marketing\*  
**Jon Ptomey**  
3rd place, Principles of Hospitality and Tourism



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SAME GAME, NEW DIRECTION

New coaching staff has long-term focus for girls basketball

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

The Smith-Cotton Girls Basketball coaching staff saw some new faces this season.

Head coach Jessie Arnold, also a teacher at Smith-Cotton Junior High, was originally an assistant coach for the 2017-2018 season, but moved up this year. Arnold likes to center everything around commitment, hard work, and sportsmanship.

Junior Varsity Head Coach Kelsey Griffin coached the seventh grade team last year and has done individual skills coaching for the last five years. She decided to start coaching basketball because she has always had a love for the sport. Griffin, who teaches at Sedalia Middle School, is a Smith-Cotton alum and now that she is coaching it is a great feeling to be back at the high school.

“I’ve had a basketball in my hand since I was a little kid and I want to share my passion for basketball with other athletes and hope for them to have the same passion one day, if not already,” said Griffin.

Just like Griffin, C team head coach Erica Stone has been involved in the sport since she was little. A teacher at Parkview Elementary, Stone has been playing basketball since she was in kindergarten and loves everything about it.

Assistant Varsity Coach, Kevin Matz has coached various sports at different levels for more than 20 years, but this was his first year at Smith-Cotton. He has hopes to pass on his love of the game to his players. He also teaches at the junior high.

This season all coaches had similar goals. They wanted to help the girls learn the game of basketball at new levels. They focused on fundamentals and drills such as layups, free throws and dribbling with their heads up.

“We have seen a huge change from the beginning of the season to the end,” said Stone.

The coaches would talk about their objectives at the beginning of each practice and would try to work towards them the whole practice. The coaches tried to stress that things take time and that with hard work and practice, good things will happen, as change doesn’t happen overnight. Another



ABOVE: Girls basketball JV head coach Kelsey Griffin addresses the team during a game against Boonville as assistant coach Kevin Matz looks on. LEFT: Varsity head coach Jessie Arnold talks to the Lady Tigers during a timeout; behind her is C team coach Erica Stone



plan was to teach the girls how to have a winning mentality that doesn’t focus necessarily on winning, but playing hard and strong.

As a coaching staff, the team tried to build a new culture.

“I believe with a brand new coaching staff we have the program and the girls ... heading in the right direction,” said Griffin.

All four plan to continue coaching next season.

Matz believes that the girls he gets to coach are young and hardworking and he

wants to be around next year and longer after that to see the successes the team will have in the future.

“When you’re involved with a fun, hard-working group, you never want that to end,” Matz said.

Stone wants to stay and be able to see the growth of the girls. She looks forward to seeing the hard work that the team put in this year pay off next year’s season. Griffin plans to coach as long as she can; she loves to see the girls go out on the court every night and play hard.

“I am looking forward to being around a great coaching staff and also a great group of young ladies that are ready to turn the program around and see it be more successful,” said Griffin.

# S-C girls golf going into state hall of fame

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

The Smith-Cotton girls golf team is being rewarded for its years of success with induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. The S-C girls golf program started in 1975. Since then the team has had six Missouri State Championships, along with two second place finishes and three third place finishes as a team. The team will be inducted on March 23 in Springfield, and anyone who has been a part of the program has been invited to attend including past players and coaches along with current team. About two weeks ago, Athletic Director Rob Davis knew of the possibility for the program to be inducted. Then on Feb. 15 he received the call to confirm the induction. “The girls golf program has a rich history. Someone with the Hall of Fame was going through some old records that demonstrated our dominance in the ’80s and ’90s and thought we were worthy of a nomination,” Davis said. He added that the team is one of the most successful golf programs in Missouri high school history. S-C has had a total of 14 state teams, and 10 district and conference titles. The team has had five coaches since the program started. B.J. Curry was head coach of the team for 24 years, from 1990 to 2013. Four of the six state championships were won while he was the head coach. He believes that the team was already on its way

to success. “The program had already established itself as a threat by winning state titles in 1985 and in 1988. I just helped continue their success,” he said. Curry is honored to be a part of the experience. “It meant a lot. As an educator/coach, anytime I get the opportunity to help individuals fulfill their potential, it justifies why you do this job,” he said. Junior Gracie Hofheins is proud to be a contributor to the team and has been to the state finals once. “I think this brings a lot of respect to our program and it’s just going to increase the number of eyes that keep watching our program and the talent that comes along with it,” she said. She has a great sense of pride about being inducted, however Hofheins said, “(T)he Hall of Fame isn’t about me at all, it’s about the many amazing women who have gone through this program at some point of their life and gave it their all, in order for us to have this accomplishment today.”



Hofheins

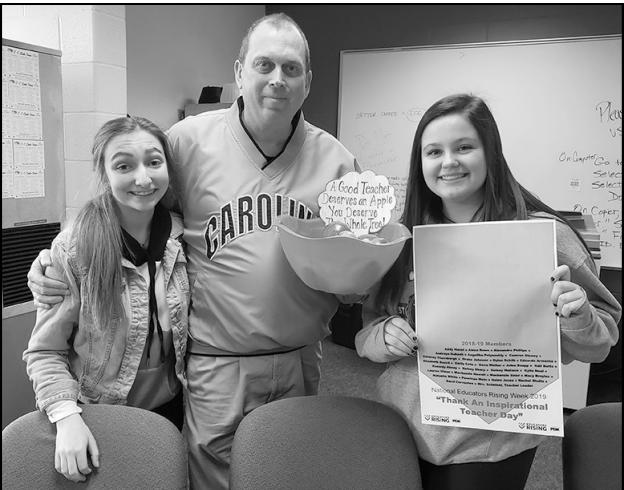
Hofheins is looking forward to her senior season and is viewing it as her last opportunity to give it her all. Hofheins plans to start the upcoming season strong and finish even stronger. She also thinks that the program’s success will continue in upcoming seasons. “Kiser Pannier is going to be a really big asset to the team next year and after I’m long gone,” said Hofheins. “I can only imagine her capabilities and passion will only push the team further in future years and keep our golf program alive and striving.”

## DECISION

From Page 1

order to warm the engines and buses for students. Additionally, our cooks come into the buildings usually by 5:30 a.m. So we have set 5 a.m. as our decision time,” said Fraley. According to Sedalia School District 200 Superintendent Steve Triplett, many factors go into making the decision to cancel or delay school. “The main things to look at when considering altering our day are: A. The slickness of roads, sidewalks, and parking lots; B. Temperatures of zero degrees or below and/or wind chill of -15 degrees or below; (and) C. Forecasted weather,” Triplett said. Another cautionary measure that is usually taken is consulting oth-

er school districts. “I have a group text set up with many of our surrounding school districts and we are constantly sharing our thoughts with each other,” Triplett stated. Along with the weather causing school to be cancelled, it also has caused multiple winter sporting events to be cancelled, including boys and girls basketball and girls swimming. Weather caused both basketball teams to miss an important night, not only for themselves but their friends and family. S-C basketball Senior Night was canceled and ultimately never got rescheduled. For players who were expecting to have a Senior Night, it was strange. “I wish we could’ve worked out a date to play on Senior Night,” said S-C boys basketball senior Will Knight. “It just feels weird that we didn’t get a Senior Night and every other senior did.”



### Recognizing teachers

Educators Rising Week was Feb. 18-22. Despite the weather issues, there were a few activities for the high school group for students who aspire to become teachers. Feb. 19 was "Thank An Inspirational Teacher" day, and chapter members delivered apples to each school in the district.

# PLATO has helped students for decade

By Kali Butts

Smith-Cotton Student Media

For more than 10 years, Smith-Cotton has been helping some students get ahead or catch up through PLATO online classes. Kathy Walkington is the PLATO teacher for Smith-Cotton High School. She has been working with PLATO since 2009 and says it has been really good for students and has improved their academics. The PLATO program has more than 70 courses available, ranging from all levels of English, math, science, social studies, fine arts, practical arts, as well as, electives. Typically, a student will only have one or two class periods in PLATO, depending on how many credits the student needs to recover and how well they work in the classroom.



Walkington



Hampton

“Over the years, the PLATO program has helped students who have made mistakes and overcome those mistakes throughout their high school career to get back on track to graduate on time with their class,” Walkington said. “Some students struggle in different areas of study.” This is hard for Walkington because if students struggle, then they won’t apply themselves without her there. “Online course work is not for everyone, but for most of the students I have had, it has been a great benefit for them to work at their own pace and since I am more able to work one-on-one with students at their pace; they don’t have that fear of asking questions when they don’t understand something,” Walkington said. “I can focus directly on what they are not comprehending.” When Walkington can focus on these

*“Online course work is not for everyone, but for most of the students I have had, it has been a great benefit for them to work at their own pace.”*

— Kathy Walkington

students, they have someone to push them to keep on track in the course they’re taking. She reminds students that this is what they need to graduate and move forward. Shelby Hampton has been using PLATO for seven months, and Michael Sutherland has been in it for four years. Hampton had to catch up on four classes and Sutherland has five to catch up on. Both students said that the PLATO program has helped them catch up, and Hampton is even on track to graduate a whole year early. This is possibly the last year S-C will use PLATO; the district is planning to move to the Launch program through the Springfield Public Schools district next year.

# New school year bringing new classes to S-C

By Alexa Rowe

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton will be seeing changes come its way for the 2019-2020 school year, that included offering brand new courses. Smith-Cotton is adding several new classes in the Project Lead The Way wing including the next level Biomedical Science class, and Aerospace Engineering, plus two new music classes, Music Explorations I and II, for students who need a fine art credit who don’t really like to perform or draw. There are also some more advanced placement and dual credit classes that are being offered. “We chose to add these classes because of student interest and teachers went to department chairs and asked for these changes, and it’s ultimately for the benefit of our students,” Counselor Katie Ellis said. In order to graduate high school, you must have three credits each of history,

science, and math, plus four credits of English. You must also have one credit each of PE, practical arts, fine arts, half a credit of health, and seven additional electives. “When picking your classes, make sure you pick something that interests you; you are more likely to enjoy the class,” Counselor Ashley Burris said. “Read the planning guide cover to cover, it has so much information,” Ellis said. Both Burris and Ellis agree that students should try to push themselves with AP or weighted classes, but warn not to overload yourselves. “There are so many benefits of AP classes, earning college credit, in high school, you are earning both high school and college credit at the same time,” Ellis added. Another change in the next year is the course planning guide will only be available in digital form; no printed hard copies will be available. Get with your grade level counselor if you have any questions or concerns.

### NEW CLASSES FOR 2019-20

- Pre-AP English I
- Advanced Placement English and Language and Composition
- Advanced Placement World History
- Dual Credit US history since 1877
- The last 50 years in history
- Music Explorations I and II
- Fundamentals of music theory for the vocal/instrumental student
- Aerospace engineering
- Cybersecurity
- Human Body Systems
- Medical Interventions
- Biomedical Innovations
- International foods
- Marketing Leadership
- Retail store operations
- Supervised Marketing Education
- Jobs for America's graduates





Vocal Velocity performs during the Community Reveal concert. The group took first place in the prep category at the Harrisonville competition.

## Show choirs making most of weather-worn season

By Alexa Rowe

Smith-Cotton Student Media

The Smith-Cotton Show Choirs, Vocal Velocity and New Score, are having a successful season despite the bad weather that has kept them out of some of their competitions.

With all the bad weather, the show choirs have only been to one out of four competitions. They competed at Harrisonville in January and Vocal Velocity placed first in preparatory choir and advance to finals, while New Score placed third runner-up and won first for best costumes.

“For me as a senior, the weather is definitely a bummer, but we trying to keep our spirits up,” said senior Olivia Dailey.

“Show choir is having an excellent year, and they’re performing at an exceptionally impressive level,” said Director of Vocal Music Anna Wooderson.

Vocal Velocity’s theme this year is “Happy Days of the 1950s” and New Score’s theme this year is Leonardo Da Vinci and the creative process of all humanity.

This year Wooderson decided to cut the all-female choir Cabaret, and

combined it with Vocal Velocity, formerly Broadway Velocity. Wooderson doesn’t regret cutting Cabaret.

“Not regretting my decision. Cabaret was going up against choirs with 50-plus girls. It just wasn’t a fair fight,” she said.

Vocal Velocity is the preparatory choir, getting students ready to perform with New Score. Last year, Broadway Velocity, which was only ninth grade, was the prep choir. This year, Vocal Velocity is grades 9-12.

“The change has caused them to perform at a higher level, but they are blowing their competition out of the water,” Wooderson added.

“We changed the name since the group changed. We kept ‘Velocity’ because we’re still the same group, just different and more improved,” sophomore Kayla Holloman said.

To prepare for competitions, Wooderson compares numbers from the last competitions and finds areas to improve upon.

“Wooderson is a great teacher; she puts in a lot of work,” Dailey said. “I’ve improved over the last four years.”

The next competition is March 9 at Battle High School in Columbia.

## Graduated driver’s license to be topic of presentation

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Safety should always come first, especially on the road. On March 20, there will be a First Impact presentation over the importance of Missouri’s Graduated Driver’s License law. It requires all first-time drivers between the ages of 15 and 18 to have time driving with another licensed driver before fully getting their driver’s license.

The purpose and significance of First impact is to help reduce motor vehicle fatalities, injuries, and crashes involving teen drivers. This will be done by increasing the awareness of parents and the enforcement of the GDL. Pettis County Deputy Dustin Southard will be presenting the topic and looks forward to seeing teen drivers and their parents. Southard hopes that this presentation will allow parents and teens to see a new perspective of the GDL and hopes parents will lead by example and enforce it in their home and behind the wheel.

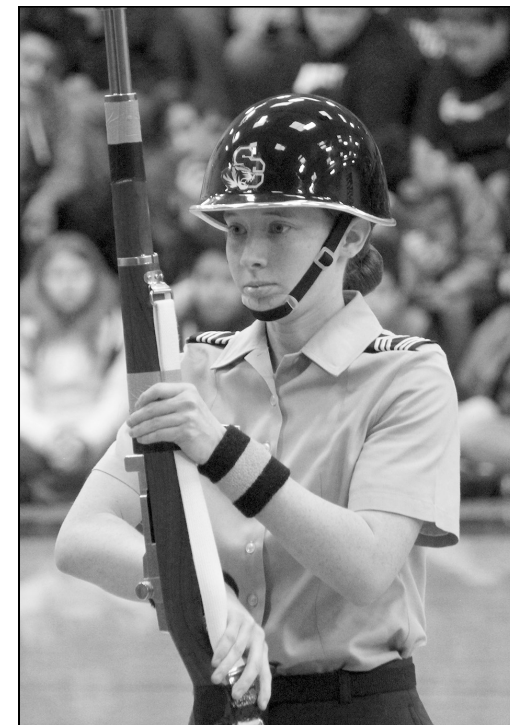
“I hope parents and teens will understand the heightened risks teens face while driving at night, driving with multiple passengers, driving distracted, and driving unbelted,” said Southard.

First Impact was established in 2014 by Think-First Missouri in order to educate parents and students about the GDL law. When asked, 81 percent of parents said they were either not aware or familiar with the law.

According to SaveMoLives.com, traffic crashes are the number one killers of teens and it is important for new drivers to have support and the right knowledge about driving. In 2016 there were 10,073 crashes involving teen drivers ages 15-19 in Missouri. In these crashes, 637 teens were either killed or seriously injured, 78 percent of fatalities were because a seat belt was not worn.

Throughout his 10 years in law enforcement, Southard has worked with many accidents involving young teens and hates to see more happen. He originally heard about the presentation at a law enforcement conference and immediately felt it was something the community of Sedalia needed and could benefit from.

“I felt anything I can do in addition to enforcement, which can reduce the number of teens impacted by high risk behaviors while driving is well worth it,” Southard said. Students and parents can register at [Eventbrite.com/e/first-impact-new-driver-parent-education-program-at-smith-cotton-high-school-tickets-56387169542](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/first-impact-new-driver-parent-education-program-at-smith-cotton-high-school-tickets-56387169542)



### JROTC recruiting assembly at SCJH

The Smith-Cotton JROTC Tiger Battalion provided a look at some of the program’s opportunities during a recruiting assembly at S-C Junior High. Senior Army Instructor LTC (Ret.) Harry Cunningham spoke to the students - especially the eighth graders who are selecting their freshmen year schedules - about the program’s commitment to academic excellence and the structure it provides for its cadets. The assembly included performances by the color guard, unarmed exhibition team and armed exhibition team.

