

Wiskur's work ethic helped her rehab

By Jeffrey Goodson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Haley Wiskur isn't your typical high school athlete. The dual sport athlete, who plays basketball and volleyball, has a work ethic that is second to none.

"During the season, six days a week for about two hours a day, I'm working on basketball, and for three of those days I drive up to Columbia," Wiskur said.

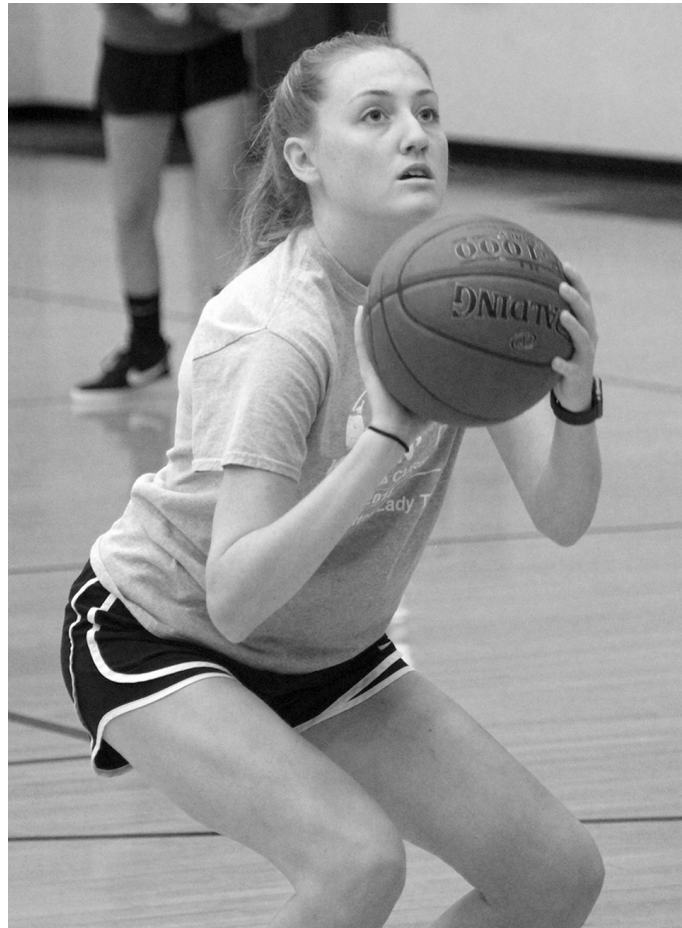
But just like any regular athlete, Wiskur never thought she would suffer a severe medical condition that would affect her ability to play. When Wiskur was in the eighth grade, she was diagnosed with scoliosis, a disease that causes a sideways curvature of the spine that occurs most often during growth spurts. During a one-year span, she grew six inches, and as she grew her spinal curve got worse. On Feb. 20, 2018, Wiskur's athletic career took a turn that she never expected. Doctors told her that she needed to have surgery to repair her spine. About one month later, the surgery took place. Wiskur was expected to be sidelined for six months, and there was still a possibility she would not be able to play sports competitively again.

The idea of surgery left Wiskur antsy.

"Going into it I was super nervous, but I knew it had to be done. But a big thing for me was to have a positive outlook on the whole situation," Wiskur said.

The recovery process was long and hard, but after the surgery Wiskur knew that it wouldn't stop her from reaching her goals.

"When I woke up, I was in some of the worst pain I had ever been in, but I knew that this wasn't going to stop me," Wiskur said. Family, friends,



Smith-Cotton junior Haley Wiskur practices free throws during an open gym session in July, one of the first days she was allowed to take part in physical activity after having surgery to repair her spine.

teachers and coaches were all there for her during the recovery process. Longtime family friend and Smith-Cotton teacher Jonathan Tester was one of those people.

"Her curvature continued to get worse and I remember when her parents told me that surgery was necessary for her to have a high quality of life, regardless of whether she played sports again or not," Tester said. "So, it was important for me to let her know I was there for her in any way possible. Visiting her in the hospital in St. Louis was the least I could do considering what she had to go through."

Tester had also been Haley's

coach for her freshman and sophomore seasons of S-C basketball, and he had nothing but great things to say about her as a player.

"Haley is tough, hard-working, competitive, hungry for success, coachable, great student, great teammate, kind hearted, talented," Tester said.

Current Smith-Cotton Girls Basketball Head Coach Jessie Arnold praised Wiskur's leadership.

"Haley was voted as a captain by her teammates, and she leads by example. You can coach her hard, and she holds herself accountable for her mistakes. She takes a lot of the

blame for losses, which shows a leadership quality," Arnold said.

Before coming back for basketball season, Wiskur returned for volleyball. Smith-Cotton Volleyball Head Coach Diane Shipley praised Wiskur's work ethic and leadership as well.

"Haley is a dream to coach. She is a very hard-working, dedicated athlete," Shipley said.

Wiskur excelled on the volleyball court. She led the Lady Tigers in aces and had the best passing percentage.

Remarkably, Wiskur's six-month projected recovery time was shattered in just about four and a half months, which surprised her doctors.

"I knew that she would do everything within her power to get back as quickly as she could, but I didn't know how her body would react," Arnold said. "The fact that she was back in time for volleyball and remained healthy throughout basketball season is amazing. It epitomizes how hard she worked to get back on the court."

Wiskur closed out her comeback by receiving All-District honors in basketball, as well as being named to the KMZU Dream Team and the media All-District team. She has her sights set on the 1,000-point club, and is on pace to surpass the mark by her senior season. Wiskur also helped the Lady Tigers to their first district tournament win in seven years. Along with the basketball accolades, Haley received honorable mention All-District and first team Ozark Independent All-Conference honors.

As Wiskur continues to chase her goal of becoming a collegiate basketball player, she has one message that she hopes her story brings

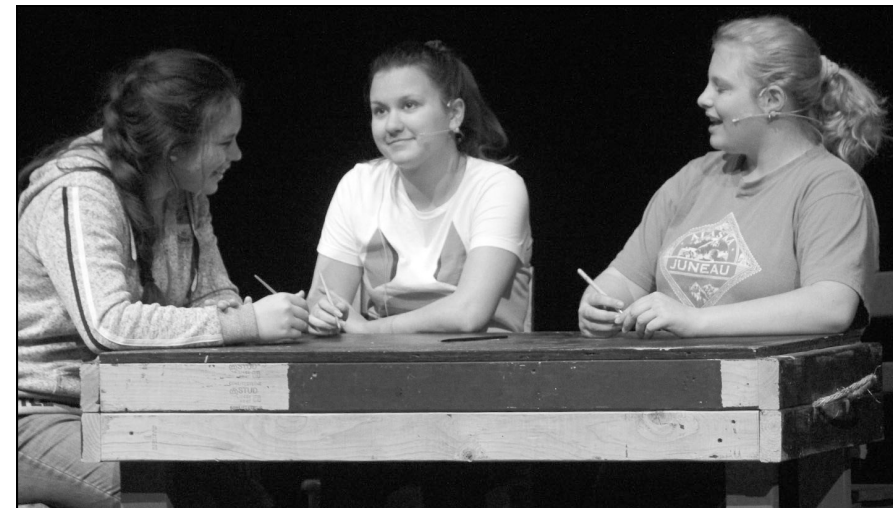
"Keep going! I hope this inspires others to persevere through tough times," she said.

TIGER TIMES

Vol. 3, No. 15

Smith-Cotton Student Media

March 29, 2019



From left, Sarah Hinkson, Isabella Bryn-Johnson and Cassandra Paige rehearse a scene from "Radium Girls" March 25 in the Heckart Performing Arts Center. The S-C spring play will be performed at 7 pm March 29-30 in the Heckart center.

'Radium Girls' provides look at hidden history

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton Theatre Department is performing the play "Radium Girls" and the actors and crew hope that people not only enjoy the show, but gain a greater understanding of a part of history that isn't always told.

"Radium Girls" is a true story that takes place in the early 1900s and tells the stories of women who worked with radium, painting the faces of watches. It goes on to tell how their health was affected by working with the substance and what they did to stand up for themselves.

Director Teri Turner says the preparation for the show is going well. The cast took a look at the historical side of the story and did lots of research to gain a better understanding of the characters.

They also researched the business side to understand the time frame better, as well. Turner also believes that this is a great cross-curricular show that incorporates both history and science.

Freshman Claudia Weese, a member of the cast, said, "This cast has been so much fun to work with. I am excited to tell the stories of the women in the radium plants."

Weese thinks it's cool to be able to give life to their stories that were never heard.

"I want the people watching this show (and the students) to understand that the world has never been simple," said Weese. "I hope students learn about history that is never taught."

Turner hopes people take away more than just a history lesson from the

Student Council, Willson honored for excellence

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

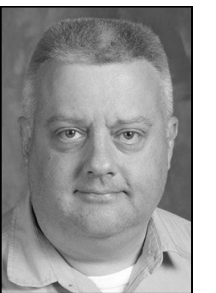
Smith-Cotton Student Council received the Honor Council award at the Missouri Association of Student Councils (MASC) Convention in St. Louis on March 7-10. S-C STUCO sponsor Greg Willson also was honored for his excellence in leadership for the past 15 years.

STUCO earned this honor by submitting an application and meeting certain criteria established by the MASC.

The criteria includes school service, spirit, community service, student and teacher recognition, and leadership training. As stated by the MASC, "Smith-Cotton High School Student Council provides an atmosphere where students and student council can play a vital role in the school. MASC recognizes the advisorship of Gregory Willson who certainly played a large part in the acquisition of this award."

Willson sponsors STUCO because for him, it's just "a whole lot of fun," he said. Willson wants his students to have the best possible experience in high school and believes STUCO is a perfect way to accomplish that. Not only can the students benefit their school, but they're also benefiting their community.

S-C Principal Wade Norton describes Willson as a "quirky, energetic, passionate educator." Willson has organized various STU-



Willson

See RADIUM, Page 2

See WILLSON, Page 2

Team SCREAM returning to FIRST World Championships

Freak accident in regional semifinal damages robot, but team picks up 'wildcard' to advance

By Alexa Rowe

Smith-Cotton Student Media

After suffering heartbreaking setbacks, Team SCREAM is moving on to the FIRST Robotics World Championships again.

Last week Team SCREAM competed in the Heartland Regional in Olathe, Kansas. Team SCREAM was a regional finalist and received the Quality Award, presented by Motorola. "We've had a great weekend. I'm really proud of the kids, they worked so hard." Head Coach Michael Wright said.

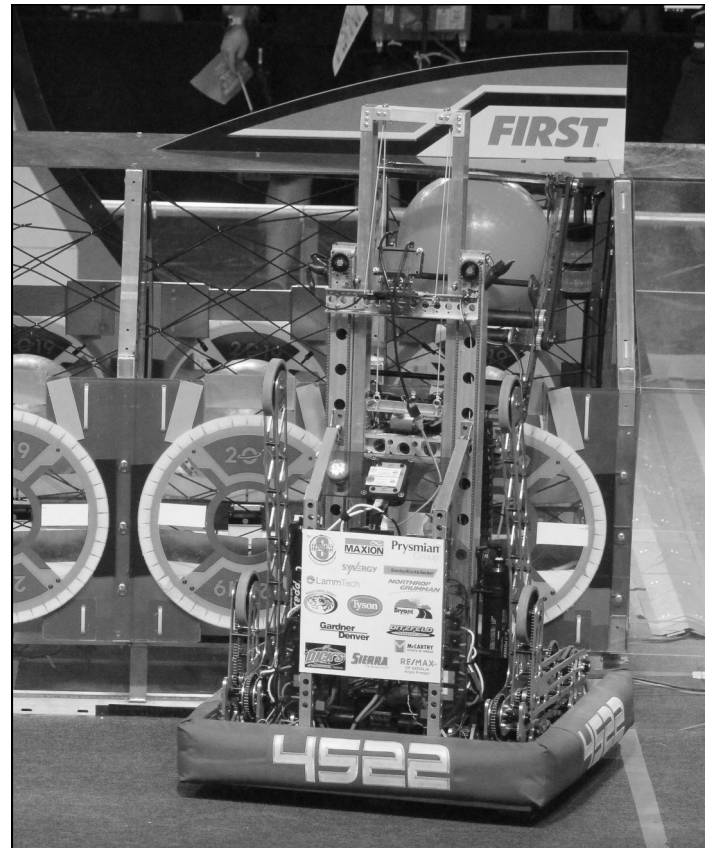
After qualification matches, they were ranked in the lower 20s out of about 40 teams and were selected to the No. 2 alliance by the team from Lee's Summit High School, Team Driven.

During a semifinal playoff match, Team SCREAM and Team Driven collided and SCREAM's drive shaft broke, so the robot couldn't move. The alliance won to move on to the finals, but the problem couldn't be fixed in the pit, so Team SCREAM was replaced for the finals, Wright said.

Since Team SCREAM's alliance lost in the finals, they lost their chance to go to Worlds. However, their alliance ended up with an extra wild card entry, which was given Team SCREAM to secure their ticket to Worlds.

"When we found out about Worlds, everyone started crying; we got really emotional," robot operator Lilly Wagenknecht said.

"We are looking forward to Worlds; it is always our goal. It relieved pressure. (We are) going to get our robot better than



Team SCREAM's robot, Abyss, places an orange cargo ball into the cargo hold during its final qualifying match March 16 at the FIRST Robotics Heartland Regional at Olathe South High School in Olathe, Kansas.

ever," said Wright.

"It's an experience that I can't explain," said robot driver Andrew Sadler.

Team SCREAM's next competition is April 5-7, here at Smith-Cotton, then the FIRST World Championships are April 16-21 in Houston, Texas.

WILLSON

From Page 1

CO projects such as blood drives and a drive held for victims of the Houston floods last year. Various items were collected and driven down to Houston on a semi.

STUCO treasurer Karlie

Franklin states that Willson was a huge factor in improving her leadership skills and confidence.

"Last year she wouldn't say hi, yes, or boo to anyone," Willson said.

Franklin adds that the energy Willson puts into STUCO is what really helped her come out of her shell.

RADIUM

From Page 1

show.

"Trust your instincts even if it's going against what people believe," Turner said.

"Radium Girls" will be performed at 7 on March 29 and 30 in the Heckart Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, and can be purchased through the sedalia200.org website or at the door.

Wrestling, cheer, cross country may be added at JH

By Kali Butts

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton Junior High already has a few sports programs, which are volleyball, boys and girls basketball, and track. Now there are plans to add a few more. The Sedalia 200 Board of Education is trying to figure out if it is in the budget to bring in three new sports. If it is, they could be brought in for the 2020-21 school year.

The three sports programs would be cross country, cheer, and wrestling. There are many opportunities to add more sports, according to Rob Davis, the director of Smith-Cotton athletics.

"It will give students the opportunity to experiment with new opportunities at a lower level so they can decide what they like to do before getting into high school," he said. "It will also help provide them with some basics they need in order to compete in those activities."

Davis thinks students will take advantage of this and get involved. Davis said when he looks for coaches, they will look for the best applications from either inside the school district or outside the school district.

Eric McNeal, head coach of the Smith-Cotton High School wrestling team, is for having the junior high sports. McNeal said, "It would expose more athletes to the sport at an earlier age and help prepare them for high

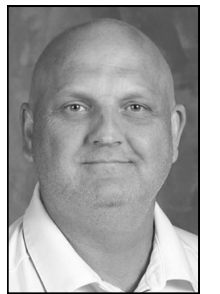
school success, decreasing the amount of incoming freshmen that are starting from scratch." McNeal also thinks that having junior high sports would make the transition easier.

"It will also give junior high students another opportunity to participate in an activity and generate a greater sense of school pride.

More opportunities for participation at all levels can only benefit the school," said McNeal.

Jason Curry, principal at Smith-Cotton Junior High, also believes that bringing more sports to the junior is a great idea. Curry said "This has several benefits; as students become engaged in extracurricular activities that are school sponsored, they learn the expectations of the programs at an earlier age and are better prepared for the high school program's requirements."

Curry thinks adding new sports will increase involvement and that any extra curricular activity would be great for the junior high. He also said "I have no doubt that the coaches would do a good job in recruiting and selling the program to the students to get as much involvement and participation as possible."



Davis



S-C's Jackson Hazel follows through on his 37-foot throw, which earned him first place in boys shot put in the S-C Quad meet Friday, March 15, at Tiger Stadium.

S-C track teams setting fast pace to start season

By Alexa Rowe

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Track is off to races again and they are having a very good start to their season.

With the start of the new season, track has several goals, but their main goal is to get many people through districts as possible, Head Coach Brad Hagedorn said.

"Track is off to a great season, we have great times, our veterans are great, so are our rookies," said Hagedorn.

The track team's first meet was March 15. Because of the weather they only ran half of the meet. The team also had a meet on March 18 where senior Nate McFail broke the school record in pole vault with a height of 15 feet, 7 inches.

"We had an exceptional day.

We got lots of medals, plus good times," Hagedorn said.

The last meet, which was March 23, the boys team placed first out of six teams and the girl's team placed second out of six teams.

"I'm looking forward to our future; we have a young team full of energy," said Assistant Coach Jad Mulgrew. "We should see some great performances."

"We have started the season off strong, and each day of practice we spend bettering ourselves," junior Lauryn Caldwell said.

"Track is nice in comparison to other sports, because if individual time is improving, then the team is also improving, and that means we are seeing success," Mulgrew said.

Track's next meet is April 2 at the Central Methodist University Invitational in Fayette.



TIGER TIMES

A publication of
Smith-Cotton Student Media

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Take time to appreciate the little things

As a sophomore in high school, I have learned to find little things to look forward to throughout my day. When you take a step back and look at your day, at what makes it a little easier and gives you something to look forward to, you realize how important those little things are.

It can be things as simple as who you high five on your way to class, who you stand with in the lunch line, or who waits for you by their locker to walk with you to class and find out how your day's going.

If there's one thing I can think of that I look forward to on a daily basis it's Makaela Burnett. She stands in the B Wing in between classes. She's a freshman and at the beginning of this school year she would just say, "Hi," to me anytime I walked past her and she says, "Hi," to many other students, as well. I had always said, "Hi," back and I went about my day and didn't think much of it. Eventually I found myself continually looking forward to this small gesture that always manages to make me smile.

As the school year went on, Makaela fi-

nally asked my name and occasionally would ask what class I was going to. It doesn't matter what mood I am in, I can always look forward to and count on her to say, "Hi," to me. This serves as my small reminder that something as simple as a greeting can make someone's day. Makaela helped me realize that it doesn't take more than that and asking someone's name to make them smile.

I feel like people, including me, take things for granted. My goal this school year was to immerse myself in what was going on around me and take note of all of it, including the seemingly small things that I probably won't remember five years down the road. Things such as smiles across the hallway, high fives from friends, what teachers tell me good morning on my way to class, who I walk into school with, and what song plays when I get in my car in the morning. For now, those things serve a much greater purpose. They make the long days and late nights worth it. I hope they remain some of my most vivid memories from high school.

I have noticed that the more that I take time to point out and appreciate the little

things, the happier I am as a person. It doesn't take some grand gesture to make someone smile or make their day a little bit easier. It can be something as simple as telling them good morning or to have a good day.

Faith Johnson is a Smith-Cotton sophomore.



Faith Johnson
Commentary

ACT®

THIS WEEK'S TIP

Choose a "Letter of the Day": There is no penalty for wrong answers on the ACT, so you should never leave any blanks on your answer sheet. When you have to guess on questions or run out of time, pick your favorite two-letter combo of answers and stick with it. For example, always choose A/F or C/H. If you're consistent, you're more likely to pick up points.

POLL QUESTION

What one class would you recommend incoming S-C freshmen take, and why?



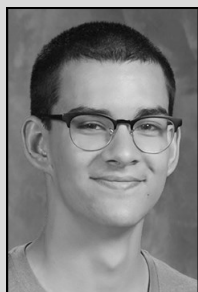
"Foreign language, because colleges look for it and it can help you find jobs later."

— **Carin Whittall**, senior



"Health, because by the time you're a senior, you won't want to take it."

— **Curtis Schirmann**, freshman



"Theatre 1 and 2, because it helps you put yourself out there in front of an audience."

— **Josh Johnson**, sophomore



"Health, so later on you can take classes that pertain to your interests."

— **Stacey Steinkuhler**, teacher

INSTAGRAM RESULTS

We asked the same question on our @SC_TigerTimes Instagram account. Some of the replies:

- P.E.
- JROTC
- Art 1
- Mixed Chorus
- Intro to Business

NHS adds members, earns state honor

By Kali Butts

Smith-Cotton Student Media

More than 40 Smith-Cotton sophomores and juniors were inducted into National Honor Society on March 13 in the Heckart Performing Arts Center.

Students are nominated for membership based on the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership and character. During this year's induction ceremony, Chad Harter, the district's secondary level instructional coach for mathematics, received an honorary induction.

Breanna Hoover, the new NHS president, said the group is more than an honor roll. She said members show outstanding character, and leadership on top of scholarship. She also said that the committee that selects new members pays attention to how students present themselves in the classroom, their leadership roles, and community service.

"To be in NHS means making a commitment to serving the school and the community," Hoover said, adding that most students in NHS are worried about betterment of the students around them rather than personal gain.

"As next year's president, I'm hoping to learn more about what it takes to be a leader," Hoover said. "I'll be making many



Meredith Tester is congratulated by Principal Wade Norton on her induction into National Honor Society during the March 13 ceremony.

decisions alongside (NHS adviser Lorin) Blackburn-Thierfelder for the group, so I'll also be learning the process of big decisions, and hopefully the decisions we make will lead to the betterment of the group."

The S-C NHS chapter recently went to the state convention and did "awesome" according to Blackburn-Thierfelder. S-C was recognized as the second most active chapter in the state, and was named president school, which means Smith-Cotton NHS will run next year's state convention. According to Blackburn-Thierfelder, being

2019 NHS INDUCTEES

Juniors

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Acklin Jacob | Autumn Bauer |
| MacKinzie Brinesbeach | Lauren McFail |
| Macy Broyles | Claudia Gonzalez |
| Camden Gear | Sophie Martin |
| Samantha Hisle | Reagen Mullins |
| Roman Morelos | Haley Stuver |
| Jordy Ortiz-rivas | |
| Freja Ketilsson* | |

*Honorary membership, foreign exchange student from Denmark

Sophomores

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Natalie Adermann | Madeline Allen |
| Elizabeth Beard | Abigail Bruce |
| Michael Cho | Carmen Cinta |
| Emily Cote | Ethan Daly |
| Malacki Ehlers | Melissa Fernando |
| Karlie Franklin | Maria Hernandez |
| Envie Johnson | Anamaria Magana |
| Macy Mathew | Caroline Matz |
| Andrew Matz | Chase McMullin |
| Kylie Neal | Olivia Poteet |
| Alyssa Ream | Andrew Sadler |
| John Skaggs | Julianna Sonnik |
| Alexis Spencer | Cody Strecker |
| Meredith Tester | |

president school is the highest honor in the state.

"It's kind of a big deal," she said.

Seniors working to keep whiteboard interesting

By Alexa Rowe

Smith-Cotton Student Media

A small group of seniors spend their morning, not eating breakfast, talking with their friends, they are writing funny saying and absurd holidays on a whiteboard on the outside of the D-wing.

The whiteboard tradition was created about three years ago, by a group of juniors and seniors. Before they graduated, they picked a group of people to take over the whiteboard. This year the board is run by seniors Ethan Beard and Colby Edgar.

"Once we graduate, we need people to step up and fill our shoes," said Edgar. "We love doing it."

Each day, Beard and Edgar write the daily holiday on the board, then draw a picture that

is related to that day. They also write people's birthdays or promote school activities. Edgar writes the holiday, while Beard draws the pictures. Most of their inspiration comes from the National Day Calendar website.

"The board is fun because people make it fun. I hope it has a long stay at Smith-Cotton," Beard Added.

Assistant Principal Joe Doyle said there have been no issues with the board since it was started. The only rule was to make it school appropriate.

"The school decided to paint the pillar the board sits on because it became a fixture of the school and (we) wanted it to look nice," Doyle said.

"It's good to hear that administration appreciates it, and we are super grateful they got the whole pillar decorated," said Beard. "I'm just happy to be a part of it."



The whiteboard has become a fixture in the north locker bay.

S-C SPIRIT SQUADS

High Voltage, cheer teams set for 2019-20 fall season

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

The Smith-Cotton High Voltage and Cheer have built their teams for next fall's season.

Tryouts for High Voltage were March 11-14. During tryouts, High Voltage coach Julie Willadsen looks for dancers who can pick up choreography quickly, have sharp technique, can dance in time, and are strong and flexible. Sophomore Emma Pettigrew is excited that High Voltage will have a bigger team next year because they can try different formations and moves. This past year there were 12 dancers on the team, but this season there will be 16 dancers.

Willadsen's favorite thing to see throughout the season is how the dancers improve from tryouts to the end. She also enjoys seeing the experienced members help the new dancers and make them feel part of the team.

Pettigrew would describe her experience in High Voltage as a positive one. Even though she dances a lot outside of school in the studio, Pettigrew states that High Voltage has helped her build various life skills. The dynamic of the team is like family to Pettigrew.

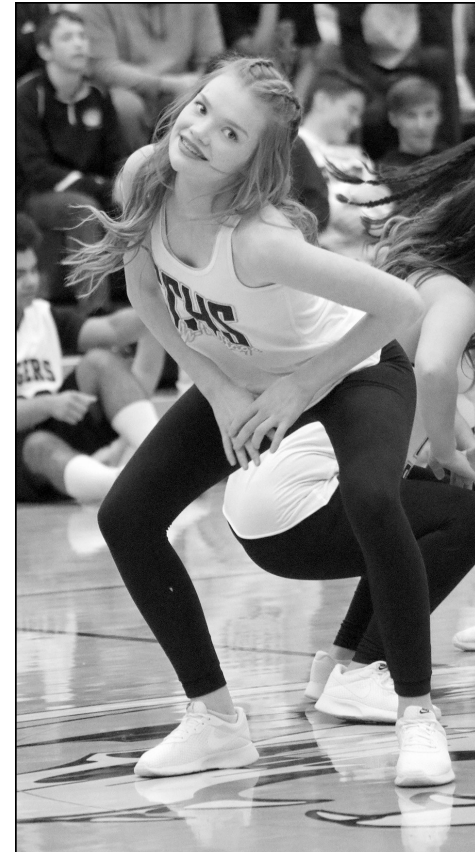
"You can really come to anyone on the team with anything and they're there for you like a sister would be," Pettigrew said.

Another thing Pettigrew noticed about High Voltage is that it brought her out of her comfort zone. At first she was shy about trying new styles of dance, but she now believes that it has made her a stronger performer.

Tryouts for football cheer were March 19-



Morgan McKeon, left, returns to the S-C cheer squad while Jessi Layton, right, again earned a spot on High Voltage.



21. S-C Football cheer coach Karmen Butler noticed that there were many eighth and ninth graders trying out this year. Butler looks for sharp motions, good jumps, uplifting positive attitudes, and girls who are coachable, meaning that they are willing to work hard and learn new things.

Junior Morgan McKeon transferred to S-C from Sacred Heart this past school year. Although the cheer experience here is different, McKeon has adjusted and enjoyed being part of the team. Part of that has

been the positive dynamic that surrounds her.

"This team picks you up when you are down," McKeon said.

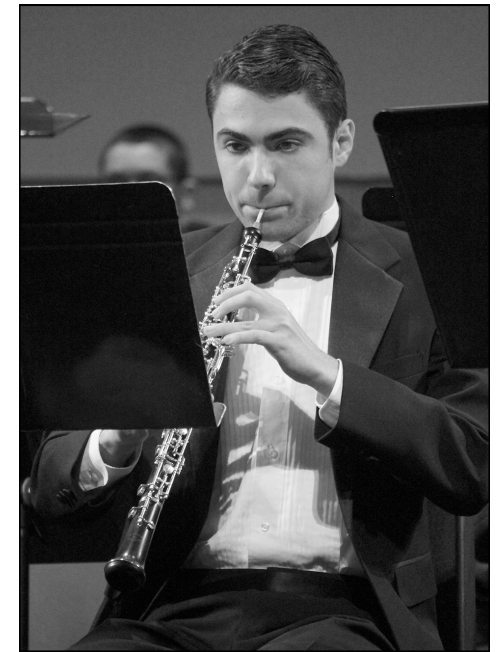
Butler looks forward to all the new faces and experiences that she will see in the upcoming season. Junior Harley Burton has noticed that every season they bring in new members that create a tight knit family. Burton doesn't expect this year to be any different, and McKeon agrees, adding that everyone is excited and ready to start.

High Voltage 2019-20 team

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Abbygail Mullins | Alyssa Ream |
| Anna Parent | Cassidy Polley |
| Courtney Balke | Delaney Mayes |
| Emily Beltran | Emma Dillon |
| Emma Pettigrew | Envie Johnson |
| Jessi Layton | Khloe Shelledy |
| Madi Canon | Mya Fowler |
| Rocio Castillo | Teagan Berger |

S-C cheerleading 2019-20 fall teams

- Varsity:** Annie Stover, Harley Burton, Taylor Eppes, Madison Lyles, Shelbi Smith, Erica Franklin, Morgan McKeon, Makayla Ridinger, Kaitlin Garrison, Kathryn Philbrook, Joshua Johnson, Heaven Ferolito
- JV:** Abigayle Caballero, Whitney Vest, Jasya Grant, Amanda Moore, Victoria Wheat, Talayah Wright
- Freshmen:** Niya Jefferson, Thelma Saldana, Paige Drysdale, Susan Gonzalez, Marianna Clark



Band, orchestra concert

The Smith-Cotton High orchestra and concert band had their pre-contest concert last week. The orchestra performed "Tower Music for Strings" and "Take Five." The band played "October" and "Inchon."