

An athlete for all seasons

Freshman Kiser Pannier has earned varsity spots in 4 sports

By Jeffrey Goodson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Most athletes specialize in one sport, some are even dual sport athletes, others at the most, are three-sport athletes. Not Smith-Cotton freshman Kiser Pannier. She excels in four sports: basketball, golf, volleyball and soccer.

Pannier started playing sports at a young age, picking up basketball, soccer and golf at the tender age of 5.

Hard work and grittiness are a few of Pannier's many traits that are recognized by those around her. Smith-Cotton Lady Tigers Soccer Head Coach Meredith Brick praised Pannier's hustle and persona on the field.

"She has a great attitude and work ethic every day, whether it's training or a game. She is just nails. Works hard, is tough on the ball, and is absolutely relentless," Brick said.

S-C Girls Basketball Head Coach Jesse Arnold also recognized Pannier's character on the court.

"She is intense, hard-working, and competitive. She will get after the other team and plays with passion. I like to see a little emotion on the court, and she definitely brings that," Arnold said.

Pannier herself wants to be known for her grittiness.

"I really just wanted to be known as the most hard-working, aggressive player out there," she said.

Pannier spends many hours working on each sport while trying to juggle all of them and her school work.

"All four of my sports take up each season and two of them double dip in the same season,



Smith-Cotton freshman Kiser Pannier lines up a free-throw during the Lady Tigers basketball team's Feb. 1 Courtwarming game against Center. Pannier also plays volleyball, golf and soccer at the varsity level for S-C.

so it's hard to work on the others," she said.

During volleyball season, Pannier would attend practice, then go home and head to the driving range until sunset. During the summer she would go to the driving range every day or every other day. Also during the summer, she would attend most of the open gyms, while playing on a travel basketball team, and crafting her soccer skills

working on different drill and moves in her backyard.

Pannier believes some of her success is due to her upbringing, and her family's success with athletics.

"Most of my success I feel like comes from my background and how I've grown up," she stated. Pannier's aunt, Darla Pannier, was a three-time All-State basketball player who also became the first All-

"(Pannier) has a great work ethic every day, whether it's training or a game. She is just nails."

— Meredith Brick

Lady Tigers Soccer head coach

America player at Central Methodist University for basketball. Pannier's uncle, Ross Dey, was a great baseball player and went on to play on the Team USA fastpitch softball team. Both of Pannier's parents, Sara and Darren, were three-sport athletes in high school and so was her brother, Brice.

Setting goals has helped Pannier obtain success.

"Going into my freshman year, my biggest goal was to earn a varsity letter in four sports," Pannier said. She has already achieved three of the four, (basketball, volleyball, golf) with soccer currently in season. As far as future goals, Pannier hopes to play in college.

"I want to work hard enough and be good enough to play at a D1 school, but NAIA, JUCO, or D2 would be great too," she said. Pannier would love to play any of the sports in college but has her preferences.

"I would love to play either basketball or soccer in college," she said.

Pannier finished her seasons as a first team All-District and All-Conference selection in golf, was Academic All-State in volleyball and was recognized for having the most three-pointers made for the Lady Tigers in basketball.

TIGER TIMES

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Smith-Cotton Student Media

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Students ascend to international contests

DECA, HOSA, Educators Rising make their marks at state competitions

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton DECA, HOSA, and Educators Rising students have finished their time at state competition and are ready to move their projects on to nationals.

DECA had 23 competitors advance from districts to state, and 10 advance from state to nationals. DECA adviser Angie Howard is very proud of the performance from them at state, and proud of some of the underclassmen for competing so well. Howard looks forward to future years with DECA and hopes to see more young talent coming up.

Sophomore Julianna Sonnik is one of those younger talents, as she placed first in her event. Sonnik is very thankful for the opportunity to compete in DECA and is grateful for the hands on experiences it gives her in the world of marketing and design.

As a result of HOSA's state competition,



Smith-Cotton students who qualified for the DECA international competition in Orlando, Fla., are, from left, Lauryn Caldwell, District 4 Delegate; Reagan Braverman and McKenna Perusich, Business Services Research; Julianna Sonnik, Integrated Marketing Campaign; and Tyler Williams and Hayden Ellis, Integrated Marketing Campaign.

10 HOSA students will be advancing on to nationals. Some students qualified from receiving awards. As a first-year advisor, teacher Anna Singer found that it was challenging to prepare for a conference that was also new to her. There were also many first-time competitors.

Singer believes that competing gave the members a better understanding of their HOSA chapter.

"It energized them for future HOSA competitions," said Singer.

Junior Reagen Mullins enjoys competing for HOSA because it's not something the average person would expect.

"It's competitive in a way that's not traditional," said Mullins, who is heading to nationals for receiving the first place

See **CONTESTS**, Page 9

Transition program helps link students to employment

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Transitioning to a new environment can be hard for anyone, but special education teachers at Smith-Cotton are constantly working to make the transition into a work environment easier for their students.

In Missouri, it is required that

every student with special needs has a transition plan and an Individual Education Program (IEP) in their files by the age of 16. At S-C, this journey is started during a student's freshman year. This is because the special services department wants to give their students everything they will need beyond high school.

The transition program cur-

rently consists of a class for seniors and next year will have a class for juniors. In these classes, a variety of life skills are discussed and taught to the students in order to help them live independently after high school. Some of the topics covered are budgeting, banking, cooking, social skills, citizenship, and problem solving.

Transition also allows students

to get outside and get immersed with everyday life. This year the students have toured State Fair Community College, visited the disability resource center and the financial aid office. The teachers also started helping with application processes and started helping both students and parents start the Free Application for Federal Student

See **TRANSITION**, Page 2

Big Band Dance is Friday fun we all need

By Alexa Rowe

Smith-Cotton Student Media

The Smith-Cotton cafeteria will be filled with jazz music and dancing on April 12 for the S-C band program's annual Big Band Dance.

The dance is a fundraiser for the Smith-Cotton high school and junior high bands. Band members perform highlights from their year, as well as classic swing tunes. Admission is \$5 and there will be dance instructions from the KC Swingers. Every year, swing clinicians come in, dance with the guests and teach a dance or two.

Director of Bands Grant Maledy said the dance is open to anyone, not just band members.

"This is a fundraising opportunity for our students to show their talents and skills for the community," assistant band director Ashley Peck said.

There also are silent auction items that guests can browse and place bids on. With the auction and admission, the band usually raises about \$2,500, according to Maledy.

"If you want to have a new experience, score a date, or wow your friends, come to the Big Band Dance -- you'll have a blast," Peck said.

"It's easily the most fun thing to do on a Friday night in Sedalia," Maledy said

TRANSITION

From Page 1

Aid (FAFSA).

Transition recently added tours of businesses to see the different job types available. So far they have toured Impact Signs and will be going to the Dollar Tree Warehouse in Warrensburg.

Each month, agencies come to S-C to support the students. The special education department coordinates times for the visits and communicates with the agencies to discuss students on a monthly basis. The first of these two agencies is Vocational Rehabilitation. This agency offers students help with employment or continuing education after graduation. This process starts at the end of a student's junior year. Pre-Employment Transition Services Specialist Bill Fricke comes to the high school three times a month to help tutor the students. In addition, he helps assist with finding vocational interest and preparation for adult living.

The program also offers on-campus On-The-Job Training for these students. Special education teacher Rhonda Enrietto has been involved in this program for several years. Throughout her time she has talked with fellow special education teachers Marcy Cash and Penny Pummill to discuss expanding the program. The three worked and researched a lot of the summer to figure things out. They still meet to talk about it after school and on weekends too.

"We are always thinking about what we need to do, want to do, and would like to do," said Enrietto.

One of the biggest things Enrietto is looking forward to is finalizing a five-year plan and being able to have a program that helps students feel confident enough to go out their front doors feeling prepared for their lives beyond high school.

In January, they started the Senior Transition to Work Program. This allows students who have worked OJT before to work off-campus at one of the schools in the district for half of the day. Junior John Morrison is currently enrolled in the OJT program and is grateful for his experience so far working with custodians. Every day gives him job

"Four years goes by fast and I want to give them as many skills as they might need to continue beyond high school."

— Pam Reimund

Special education teacher

experience and helps him meet new people. "It is a good thing to do, you learn new skills, and also are able to meet new people such as custodians. All of the people are really nice," said Morrison.

Overall, the OJT program has been going very well and they are hoping to add jobs at area businesses in January of next year. Pummill has already spoken with community businesses to make them aware of this program and is looking for employment opportunities for her students.

At the beginning of the year, the department met with Coordinator of Special Services James Bouslaugh and Assistant Superintendent Chris Pyle to discuss the direction of the department. They continue to meet monthly to discuss how things are going and to brainstorm ideas and solutions. Every other month they attend Tri-County Transition Coalition meetings to hear about area programs that students with special needs can get assistance from if needed. The department has a strong support system that has made every new test and trial easier for the team.

"We are very fortunate to have daily support from (S-C Principal Wade) Norton and (Assistant Principal Joe) Doyle so that whenever a situation or question arises, they are quick to respond to the needs of the program with their full support," Enrietto said.

Special education teacher Pam Reimund wants her students to be as prepared as possible.

"Four years goes by fast and I want to give them as many skills as they might need to continue beyond high school. I want them to feel like they have a reason to get up in the morning," Reimund said.

The special services department was asked to speak at a special education conference next fall about the transition programs.

Teachers join Young's bracket battle

By Jeffrey Goodson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Every March, for millions of people throughout the world, it's a yearly tradition to fill out a NCAA Men's Basketball March Madness bracket. It's also a yearly tradition for Smith-Cotton history teacher Ashley Young to organize a bracket pool for teachers from all around the district.

"I always had run or participated in them in college and as I started teaching I decided to keep doing them," he said.

Many teachers are annual participants, such as Smith-Cotton freshman English teacher Stacey Steinkuhler. Her competitiveness and love for watching basketball continues to bring her back to the pool each year.

"I'm a competitive person. I like seeing how I stack up against others in the pool, and I love to watch basketball," she stated.

Steinkuhler uses a simple, somewhat biased strategy when filling out her bracket: "Every year I pick, and want Kansas to win and I want to win the money, but obviously that didn't happen this year."

The pool has an entry fee of \$5 per bracket, with the top three finishers taking home the winnings. This year's winner was math teacher Caleb Myers, who was among just three entrants to correctly pick Virginia as the national champion. The others were junior high teacher Martin Zerilli, who finished second, and S-C science teacher Jerry Tankersley. Former S-C boys basketball coach Bill Barton took third

place.

Consistently placing high in the pool is very unlikely. Young said, "In the past 11 years, we've only had two repeat top three finishers."

Both Young and Steinkuhler are like many other fans in that they enjoy seeing

upsets and figuring out who that year's Cinderella team is.

"Cinderellas for sure," Young said when asked what his favorite thing is about March Madness. "I love seeing the teams that shouldn't win pull off the upset." The same can be said for Steinkuhler.

"I like seeing the upsets, seeing the teams that shouldn't win, win. That's what March Madness is all about," she stated.

Year in and year out Young continues to run the pool because the enthusiasm that it brings to his colleagues.

"I love seeing the enthusiasm it brings to others. It's great to see certain people take a bracket, then decide they want two or three after filling out the first one," he said.

Next March, Young hopes to see his pool continue its yearly growth. There were 71 participants in this year's March Madness challenge.

"Hopefully other teachers throughout the district see the article and want to get involved. We usually see growth every year," he said.



Young

Inexperienced golfers driving for success

By Kali Butts

Smith-Cotton Student Media

The boys golf season is under way with lots of new faces on the S-C team.

Head Coach Chris Guffey said that the golf team is very young; he has been starting four freshman on varsity.

"With such a young team, there is the excitement that comes with immediate improvements, but also the frustration of inexperience and simple mistakes," said Guffey.

Senior Brett Robertson started golfing for S-C two years ago, but has been golfing for four. Robertson isn't ready for his senior year of golf to end.

"It's kind of sad because last year was a lot of fun," Robertson said. "I wish I would've joined earlier, I really don't want it to end."

Robertson says he won't be playing golf in college, but he will reach out to students around campus and go play.

Senior Lyndon North, who has played for S-C for two years, thinks his season is going alright. North is also upset that it is his last year of high school golf, especially since "it will be my last competition in anything," he said.

Even though there have been some setbacks, Guffey says the Tigers' season is getting progressively better, with a recent eighth place finish at the Smith-Cotton Classic and a score of 365.



Lady Tigers soccer unbeaten

Smith-Cotton junior Sabra Moon battles for the ball against a Clinton defender during the Lady Tigers' 4-1 victory on April 2 at Susie Ditzfeld Memorial Field. The S-C girls soccer varsity team is still undefeated with a 6-0 record at press time.



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Principals on duty for home activities

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Most Smith-Cotton home games are full of loud crowds, black and gold, and a high school principal to make sure that everything stays safe and under control.

There is a principal on duty not only to make sure that everyone stays safe, but also in order to have a better connection with the community. The principals get a chance to interact with students, parents and fans, and to represent the school.

S-C principals are not the only ones on duty; other administrators in the Sedalia 200 district serve in the role, too. An administrator from another Sedalia 200 school may supervise if they have a son, daughter, or other family member involved in the sport or activity. Sedalia 200 Superintendent Steve Triplett also allows a Central Office administrator to cover one game per season. He believes that it is important for those in central office to be involved in activities. Triplett also realizes that covering every home event is hard for the S-C administrators, and by having the Central Office staff covering some games, it gives S-C Principal Wade Norton and his assistants six fewer events to worry about.

Activities Director Rob Davis says that it is important to make sure the games are being played in a way that represents S-C well. Weather situations are also an enemy that the principals and administrators have to keep an eye out for. While it is not MSHAA mandated to have an administrator at every home event, it is mandatory to have a staff member present. In most cases, that staff member may be the coach. According to Davis, S-C keeps an administrator at home games in case there are incidents in which the coach might get ejected. If there was no other staff member available, the game would have to be forfeited.

The principals and Davis get together and split up home events evenly among them all. Norton says that on average a principal spends about 7-10 hours a week supervising events. Norton enjoys being at the home events because it helps him keep connected to the students and parents. By being at the home events, the principals can keep the student section in line and are able to answer questions from those in the crowd.

Because of the principals and their fellow district administrators, home events are held under control and a good representation of S-C's athletic and activity programs.

ACT®

THIS WEEK'S TIP

Work questions out of order: Spending too much time on the hardest problems means you may rush through the easiest. Instead of working questions in order, ask yourself whether a question is a Do Now, Later, or Never.

No need to agonize—this decision can be made very quickly:

NOW: Does a question look OK? Do you know how to do it? Do it now.

LATER: Will this question take a long time to work? Leave it and come back to it later. Circle the question number for easy reference.

NEVER: Know the topics that are your worst, and learn the signs that flash danger. Don't waste time on questions you should never do. Instead, use more time to answer the Now and Later questions accurately.

Source: Princeton Review

Team SCREAM finds positives in regional results

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Team SCREAM went into its home competition, the FIRST Robotics Central Missouri Regional, feeling confident with high expectations. The team fell just short of the finals, but still feel as though they had a successful weekend.

The Smith-Cotton competitive robotics team received a No. 3 ranking, which has been their highest so far this competition season. Head Coach Michael Wright said that while they were disappointed with their semifinals loss, they were happy for the team that won, as this was their first win in 14 years of competing. Team SCREAM made adjustments to their robot between the competition that took place on March 14-16 and the Central Missouri Regional, held April 5-7 at S-C.

Many hectic days and long nights went into hosting the regional. The planning of the competition had been in the works for the past year. Wright said that the competition itself relied solely on volunteers. There were more than 150 volunteers helping things run smoothly. People from around the community, from the school district and even some from the Kansas City area and other teams helped out.

Wright said, "It was an all-around team effort." He would like to give a big thanks to the other people who helped such as JROTC, S-C custodial staff, security, the kitchen staff, and administration. He said the event went well and the team was happy to help plan and host

it. Wright hopes to host again as soon as next year.

Team SCREAM driver Andrew Sadler said that he was excited to see the amount of community support. He went into the weekend a little nervous but was confident the team would do well. Sadler and the rest of Team SCREAM were prepared to fight until the end to be successful. When it came down to it, Sadler said it was just strategy and human error.

In preparation for the upcoming FIRST World Championships in Texas, Sadler is doing lots of driving practice and is working on communication with Wright.

Sadler said that there were many advantages to hosting and being at home. The team didn't have extremely late nights, and having all of the support helped calm what little nerves he had going into the weekend.

At the regional, Team SCREAM earned the Gracious



Team SCREAM and Head Coach Michael Wright display his trophy and banner after Wright was named a Woodie Flowers Award National Finalist at the Central Missouri Regional. The award recognizes outstanding adult coaches and mentors in the FIRST Robotics program.

Professionalism Award for the first time. Wright also won the Woodie Flowers Finalist Award. This is a national recognition through FIRST for mentors and coaches. Students submit essays for their coach or mentor and previous winners read the submitted essays. Wright said that being recognized at home just made it that much more special.

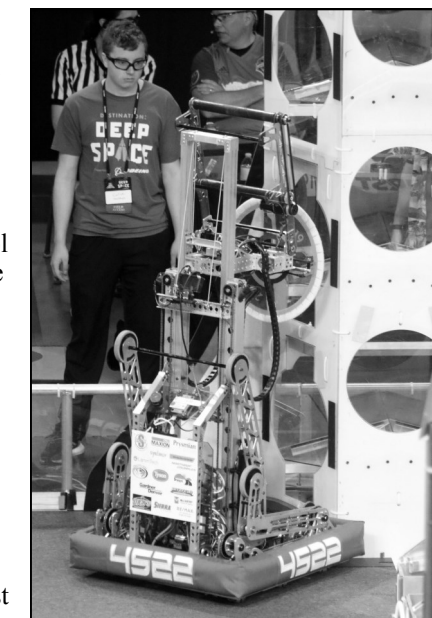
"It meant the world to be honored and it feels good to be

reignited," he said. Wright appreciates that the team thinks of him with such high regard and they took the time to put in an essay. In the Sedalia 200 news release, Wright said being named a Woodie Flowers finalist "is one of the coolest things that have ever happened to me. To know that the kids spent that much time and effort for me to be recognized, that it's something they are so passionate about, it means the world to me. I love those kids and all they do for this team. They make this job and this thing we do totally worth it. I am just very honored, humbled and happy to be recognized."

As Team SCREAM looks toward Worlds, they are excited for one last competition and to celebrate their season.

"We are excited to travel and represent our school and community," Wright said.

Aside from competing, the team also plans to visit NASA. Team SCREAM will be one of around 600 teams in attendance. They are excited to see where they rank in comparison to other teams from around the world.



Team SCREAM's robot, Abyss, places a hatch panel on a rocket during a qualifying match at the FIRST Robotics Central Missouri Regional on April 6 at Smith-Cotton High School. Team SCREAM finished qualifications ranked third out of the 36 teams.

POLL QUESTION

How do you prefer your water — room temperature or ice cold?



"Cold."

— Adam Webb, sophomore



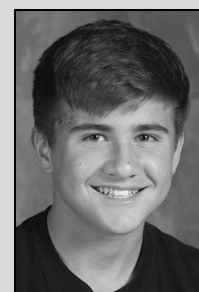
"Cold."

— Reagan McGathy, freshman



"Cold, with lots of ice."

— Mary Flandermeyer, teacher



"Room temperature."

— Carson Hunolt, freshman

ONLINE RESULTS

We asked the same question on our @SC_TigerTimes Instagram and Twitter accounts:

Twitter, 83 votes

80% Ice cold

20% Room temperature

Instagram, 74 votes

86% Ice cold

14% Room temperature

Engineering internships help students build skills

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton engineering students are getting the opportunity of a lifetime through internships offered by Stanley Black & Decker.

Stanley Black & Decker reached out to engineering instructor Michael Wright in order to provide an internship for students interested in engineering as a possible career path. By participating in the internship, students are able to work with professionals and see how a job in the engineering field works, and if this is something they would like to do in their future.

Senior Ian Humphrey is currently participating in the internship at Stanley Black & Decker. Humphrey first found out about the internship from Wright. It seemed interesting to him, so he decided to apply and explore his options. Some of the things Humphrey is learning are data entry, general knowledge about the plant, and Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) programming, a programming system used for manufacturing processes. "It helps you pick up a lot of skills," said Humphrey.

The students applied by receiving applications from any of the Project Lead the Way teachers: Wright, Rush Walters, and Anna Singer. They announce it to their students to see who is possibly interested. There is another opportunity for the Stanley Black & Decker internships in the fall.

Wright believes this is a good opportunity for students because they are only able to learn so much in the classroom. By experiencing what a job is like at Stanley Black & Decker, they are able to witness real life situations in the engineering field.

"It's a way for them to educate themselves on an idea of the industry," said Wright.

Humphrey is thankful for the opportunity at Stanley Black & Decker because it helped him confirm his interest in engineering. Wright looks forward to setting up more internship opportunities for his students in the future.



Sprucing it up

Smith-Cotton NHS students took time Monday, April 8, to paint the tiny library the chapter maintains at Smith-Cotton Junior High.

S-C taking leading role in battling e-cigarettes

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

As time and technology has evolved, so have the fads that teens are partaking in. One that has been on the rise since around August 2017 is the use of e-cigarettes and other types of vapes including the most popular, JUUL.

According to thetruth.com, at the end of 2018 JUUL accounted for 75 percent of all cigarette sales. JUUL usage been on the rise not only at Smith-Cotton but also in other high schools in the area and around the United States.

In November, S-C hosted a meeting for Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals (MOASSP) where principals from the area talked about issues going on in their schools and what they are doing to help solve them. S-C Assistant Principal, Joe Doyle said that use of JUULs had been brought up and some administrators from surrounding areas were unaware of it.

MOASSP brought up the fact that many people were ignorant to the product and how it was being used in

schools. S-C Principal Wade Norton and Doyle were asked to bring it to the attention of school administrators to help them gain a better understanding and make schools safer.

Norton and Doyle put together a presentation to show at the MOASSP spring conference and it was presented to principals from all over the state of Missouri. They showed and explained the measures that they were taking at S-C to help prevent nicotine addiction in high school students.

Doyle said that administration have done things such as checking camera angles, better trained staff on behaviors to look for, along with reminding students and staff of bathroom policies.

On parent night, S-C administrators also offered a presentation to parents to better inform them of what their students could possibly be partaking in.

Doyle said, "It's scary how something like this that is such a health risk has spread so quickly." He also doesn't think students realize the risk that they are taking and how their chance of falling victim to addiction skyrockets.

CONTESTS

From Page 1

award at state in Pharmacy Science. To prepare, she plans to do more job shadowing and keep reviewing the books and competition guidelines. Mullins believes HOSA is a great organization and suggests that if anyone is thinking about joining, they should do it.

This is S-C's first year having an Educators Rising chapter. Teacher leader Marina Scheiner thinks the

group is amazing, and they were the largest group at state competition. Before national competition, Scheiner is reviewing judge comments with the students and adjusting and refining their projects. Scheiner believes Educators Ris-

ing is a great opportunity for students to get real-life experience.

Sophomore Kali Butts enjoys Educators Rising because of the experiences she gets to have with children. Butts wants to be a teacher in future, so she thinks that it helps her get actual experience in that field. Even though Educators Rising is new to everyone at S-C, Scheiner is proud of the students for giving their best efforts.

"Nothing ever happens if people don't try," said Scheiner. For nationals, Butts plans to continue reviewing PowerPoint presentations so she can place.

DECA, HOSA, and Educators Rising students are working hard on preparing for their national competitions and look forward to seeing the results.



Mullins

Smith-Cotton High School

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MOVING ON

Smith-Cotton students who have qualified for national or international competitions:

DECA

Lauryn Caldwell - District 4 Delegate

Julianna Sonnik - Integrated Marketing Campaign, first place

Hayden Ellis and Tyler Williams - Integrated Marketing Campaign, second place

Reagan Braverman and McKenna Perusich - Business Services Research, second place

HOSA

Jasmine Sims - Personal Care, first place

Reagen Mullins - Pharmacy Science, first place

Bridgette Schilb - Personal Care, second place

Audrey Currey - Nursing Assisting, third place

Autumn Bauer - Healthcare Issues Exam, Top 10%

Hayden Karkiewicz - Healthcare Issues Exam, Top 10%

Maggie Sparks and Hunter Sparks - presenters of the Chapter Scrapbook for the Outstanding HOSA Chapter Recognition

Edward Toderescu-Stavila - State Level Barbara James Service Award

Katelynn Montgomery - Bronze Level Barbara James Service Award

Educators Rising

Alexander Phillips - Educators Rising Moment, third place

Kali Butts - Exploring Education Administration Careers, second place

Penelope Main - Exploring Support Services Careers, first place

Kelsey Sharp - Exploring Support Services Careers, fourth place

Mackenzie Newell - Job Interview, fifth place

Elizabeth Beard and Kylie Neal - Pre-K Children's Literature, third place

Emily Cote and Rachel Shultz - K-3 Children's Literature, fifth place

Dylan Schilb - Arts Lesson Planning and Delivery, second place

Drake Johnson - STEM Lesson Planning and Delivery, fifth place

Alexandra Phillips - CTE Lesson Planning and Delivery, second place

Macy Broyles - CTE Lesson Planning and Delivery, third place

Gene Walker - Impromptu Speaking, third place

Sarai Cerventes, Quinn Jones, and Delaney Thornburgh - Inside Our Schools Presentation (team), third place

Elizabeth Beard, Adaleigh Hazel, Kylie Neal, Kelsey Wallace - Ethical Dilemma (team), third place

Senior headed to state in 2 speech, debate categories

By Kali Butts

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Edward Toderescu-Stavila is already involved in many activities, and is adding more on top of everything else.

Toderescu-Stavila, a senior, recently qualified for the state speech and debate competition in two different categories, International Extemporaneous Speaking and Lincoln-Douglas debating. In International Extemporaneous Speaking, a student draws a random topic and prepares a seven-minute speech in just 30 minutes. They can only use the props they bring with them, such as a dictionary or encyclopedia, and they cannot go online for research. Toderescu-Stavila said there was not much to prepare on International Extemporaneous Speaking because it is all on the spot, but he reads a lot of articles and magazines to stay updated with the news.

The other category that he will compete in is Lincoln-Douglas, which is a one-on-one debate which he can choose which side of the argument he wants to do, positive or negative. For Lincoln-Douglas, meet organizers gave out the

resolution months before.

The state meet is April 11-13 at Missouri State University in Springfield. Michael Kailus, sophomore English teacher and Toderescu-Stavila's speech

and debate coach, believes Toderescu-Stavila has worked very hard.

"He is a special case," said Kailus.

Kailus said to get to state, students have to beat out the best speakers and debaters at districts.

"He's built up his lifestyle to work for this event," Kailus said, and Toderescu-Stavila beat everyone he has faced so far.

Toderescu-Stavila also is involved in the S-C Band, where he has served as a Woodwind Captain and was a four-year West Central Missouri Music Educators Association All-District Band member and a two-year All-State English Horn alternate member of Missouri All-State Orchestra.

He also is president of the Missouri chapter of HOSA-Future Health Professionals and a member of National Honor Society. In 2017, he led Smith-Cotton's Quiz-Bowl team to a MSHSAA district championship.



Toderescu-Stavila

Exchange students enjoying S-C's family atmosphere

By Alexa Rowe

Smith-Cotton Student Media

This school year, Smith-Cotton has two foreign exchange students from Denmark, Freja Ketilsson and Ronja Larsen.

Ronja has been in the U.S. for eight months; she is from Copenhagen. Freja has been here for nine months and is from Denmark's northernmost point, Hirtshals.

Ronja chose to come to America because she had heard great things about it, and the movie industry. "I love it here. I want to stay," said Ronja.

Freja couldn't pick the country, but her top choice was America because it's a beautiful country and she wanted to experience a culture that was very different than her own. "It was hard leaving my family and friends behind," said Freja.

With such a big move, there was bound to be culture changes to get used to. The one big difference in the culture they have noticed is people swear as much as they want back in Denmark.

There really are no curse words in Danish so they have to watch their words here. "It was a big adjustment, but I think I got used to it. It wasn't as hard as I thought," said Ronja.

Ronja and Freja's favorite thing about Smith-Cotton is that everyone knows each other and everyone is nice and friendly. They also learned to let their guard down and to take more chances and be more open-minded. With this mindset, these young ladies have been able to make a great impression on their host families and teachers alike.

"Ronja is a very outspoken and independent young lady. I didn't want to get too friendly with her to begin with because I was afraid of the day when she would leave," said Ronja's host mother,



Ketilsson



Larsen

Becky Jeppson. "We wish her well in her endeavors when she returns home and will continue to keep in touch with her."

The Rapps, Freja's host family, uttered many of the same sentiments as Ronja's. "Freja is an amazing young lady. She is quiet when you first meet her, but once she is comfortable with someone, she displays a smart, witty, warm personality," said Tracey Rapp. "Freja will do great things with her life as she is not afraid to tackle her fears."

Because of their 'can-do' attitude, Freja and Ronja have been invaluable in the classroom as well. Teachers of both students sang their praises. "Ronja is a hard-working student that did well in my class," said FACS teacher Kathy O'Dell.

"Freja is a hard worker, and participates well! Her background is completely different and that makes her a unique student," said history teacher Jonathan Tester.

Over the course of the year, Ronja and Freja have been able to slip right into life at Smith-Cotton, and join various groups and organizations. Ronja was on the Volleyball team this fall and she is currently a member of Student Council. Freja is on the girl's soccer team and was recently inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS).

"This has been the best year of my life," Ronja added.

"I just want to say thank you to those supported me for making this year amazing," Freja said.

Sproles dwells on the details of dance

By Kali Butts

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Gabbie Sproles, a senior at Smith-Cotton High School, is finding all her dancing dreams are coming true.

Sproles has been dancing for Studio A Dance Conservatory for nine years. She dances in the following styles: jazz, ballet, pointe, modern, lyrical, and hip-hop. Sproles spends a lot of time in the dance room, but she also spends significant practice time at home. She practices Monday through Thursday and Saturdays, and the sessions can last anywhere from three to six hours. This time doesn't include what she spends practicing at home. Sproles is motivated by her attention to every detail.

"I'm a perfectionist so I always want to be the best, I'm very competitive," she said.

Many people have been big supporters of her dancing career, but Sproles's dad, Michael, has been her biggest supporter.

"He's always given me the opportunities I need to succeed," she said, adding that having a great dance teacher the past nine years has been crucial, as well. Anna Crumley Nelson, Sproles' instructor, has been at Studio A Dance Conservatory for nine years, and says that Sproles has been a pre-professional company member for eight.

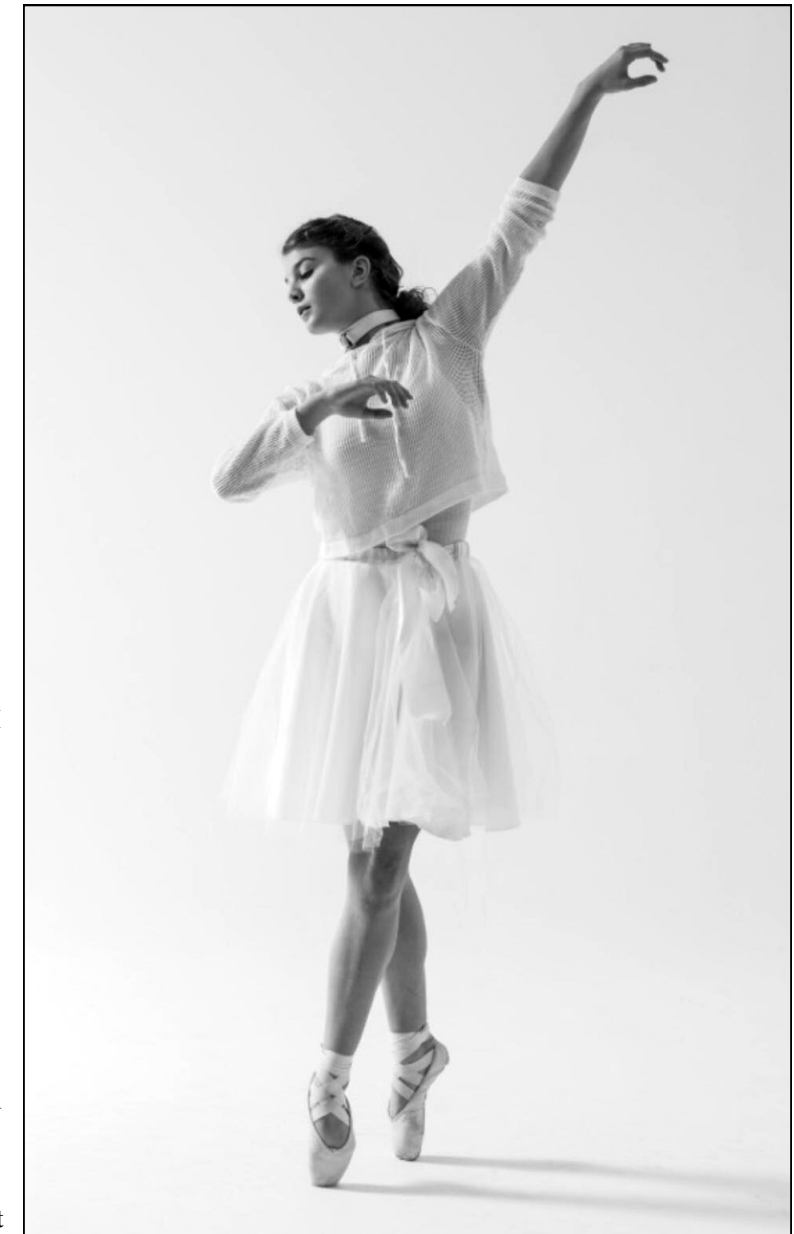
"Miss Ana has worked me from my shell and helped me realize who I am as a person," said Sproles. Even though dance has come easy to Sproles, there are some challenges she faces because she is so involved with it. Sproles finds it hard to manage time, and wants to practice everyday when she is stuck at school.

"It's hard to do homework because I don't have a lot of hours, and I'm at the studio every night until nine o'clock," she said.

Sproles recently was accepted into a dance school. She will be continuing her dance career at University Of Missouri-Kansas City. Her greatest memories of dance are going to Joffrey in New York for ballet, and the goofy things that happen at the studio.

Nelson said, "Sproles is a wonderful role model at the studio for all the students who know her. She sets a positive example to all the students by her work ethic, determination, pride, and constant encouragement she gives to all."

Nelson added she is excited for Sproles to



Smith-Cotton High senior Gabbie Sproles has devoted much of her life to dance, and will continue pursuing her passion after graduation as she moves on to the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

"Strive for perfection, but always know your limits. Be in competition with yourself and not others."

— Gabbie Sproles

mature in dance and life, and that she has tried to mentally prepare her student for the real world and the dance life.

"Dance is physically hard and mentally even harder," Nelson said. She added to be

good at dance you have to have 100 percent commitment to it every day. Nelson said that Sproles has learned from dance the discipline it requires and to never give up even on the hardest days. She said those are skills she will carry with her forever in all she does. Nelson also said "Sproles has been one of the most influential dancers I have ever taught. She has had such an impact on my life and I certainly know that God brought us together for a reason."

Sproles's advice to younger dancers is: "Strive for perfection, but always know your limits. Be in competition with yourself and not others."

TURNING THE PAGE

S-C paraprofessional Kandy Derden publishes children's book

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

After 18 years of hard work and dedication, Smith-Cotton paraprofessional Kandy Derden's children's book, "Let's Go To the Circus," is finally being published.

Her journey to publishing the book started with an idea from her publisher Kathy Barnett. Barnett's idea revolved around a series of books starting with "let's go." There are potentially three, or more, other books in this series that are currently in progress.

Derden's current book focuses on two characters, a cat and a lion who are going to a circus. It follows their experience throughout the adventure and eventually leaves room at the end for the many sequels that are to come. This unique touch was Barnett's idea.

One of Derden's biggest struggles with her current book was the difficulty finding an illustrator. It took ten years for her to find the right person for the job. After searching for years with no luck, she finally found an artist named Dan Clevenger, whom she worked at Walmart with.

"I could watch him draw something and find it neat, so I asked him if he had any experience with illustration. He said no, of course, but when I asked him if he would be willing to submit a preview he agreed to it," said Derden.

The two automatically understood what the other one wanted when it came to the



Kandy Derden displays her book, "Let's Go to the Circus," which is available through Amazon.

interpretation of the illustrations. Clevenger could read the story and draw for it with no problem, but sometimes would add new twists to his drawings and make them different than anything she had ever imagined. Derden appreciated this and ended up loving the outcome of his work.

"There is this one part in the book where this cat is envisioning that it is walking across a tightrope and the way Dan drew the scene just tickled me to death. The whole idea of what he took wasn't what I had in my head, but it was funny," Derden said.

Before the idea of her book even came to mind, she developed her love for writing early on. When Derden was attending S-C she participated in a story writing contest for the Tiger Tales (the former SCHS school newspaper). For this contest, the top three stories would be printed in that edition. When she won second place she decided to look into creative writing and journalism. Derden loved her journalism class and found a passion for writing and reporting. The next year, she took the class again and became one of the editors of the paper. At this point, Derden had caught the writing bug and knew she wanted to continue with it. Throughout college she wrote many different things and continued to explore writing as a passion.

Her biggest motivations for writing are her grandmothers. Both of her grandmothers loved to read and both of them had dreams of writing the Great American Novel.

"Neither of my grandmothers actually followed through and created that novel, but that's OK because they encouraged my love for reading," said Derden. Derden has taken after them and has hopes to be the one from the group that actually publishes the novel they always dreamed about. She has yet to accomplish this goal, but currently has a manuscript in progress that she is hoping to submit to Hallmark. In the future, she plans to continue her writing and publish as many books as she can.

"Let's Go To The Circus" can be ordered through Amazon.

Busy time for Theatre

The Smith-Cotton Department of Theatre staged two productions recently, both receiving positive reviews from audiences. The spring play, "Radium Girls," was based on a true story about women who worked with radium, the health issues they encountered and their battles for survival. The annual Theatre for a Cause production was "The Perfect Score," about four students preparing for life after high school.



SENIOR WILLS

Hey, Class of 2019!

It's time to submit your Senior Will. Check your school email account for the Google form link from Mr. Satnan, or go to the S-C High page on the district website and look under Quick Links to access the form. Don't be left out — these memories will last a lifetime!

