

Boys soccer strives to meet many goals

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

With a record of 4-1, Smith-Cotton boys soccer is off to a good start in the 2018 season. Head Coach Ethan Weller said that a huge part of their team this season was goal setting. The team had a few big goals going into this season: 16 wins, which he thought was very possible; win the S-C Shootout; finish 2-1 in their other 2 tournaments; win districts; and finish in the Top 10 of Class 3. However, one of the biggest differences between the team last year and the team this year is chemistry. Many of the players on the team last year had played together for many years so they had good connections. “This season we are really focusing on how to work together as a team, because last year most of the team played together since elementary school,” said senior goalkeeper Colby Edgar. Weller said that at this point in time, tall that this team lacks are being able to fill holes and keeping possession. “I feel that our biggest strength is our counter-attack ability,” Edgar said. He believes that the Tigers’ communication skills as a team could use some work but that, those along with team chemistry, will come with time. Weller said while the team likes to have fun, “Work ethic has been sufficient and we are taking steps forward on a daily basis.”



S-C Rodrigo Rodriguez advances the ball during the Tigers’ win over Oak Grove to start the season.

Volleyball teams building success with crop of new players

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Goal setting can be a huge part in any sport and this year the S-C volleyball teams have been setting many of them. Over the summer, the teams played in two summer leagues, did conditioning, and held open gyms to prepare for this season. Head Coach Diane Shipley’s main goals for this season are to help athletes grow and become better players of the game. “The volleyball team is a fun group and we have a lot of new players this year,” said Shipley. She believes that the teams have great hitters and play well on defense, but their weakness is passing. She hopes that throughout the season they can improve not only on passing, but also smaller things. One of Shipley’s main goals is to

be well above .500 and advance through districts. This year has had a unique set of changes for the C team. In previous years, upper class students were able to play down to help the team progress, but this year they have a high percentage of new athletes to the program. Shipley welcomes new players and looks forward to progressing through the season while helping the girls grow as not only better volleyball players, but better people too. Assistant coach Jeremy Bartz has been coaching the volleyball team since 2014 and has many goals for the teams this year. His first goal is to help the team become better people and help give back to the community. “We constantly talk about doing things for others and stepping out of our comfort zones to make sure other students in the

school always have a positive experience around us,” said Bartz. On the C team, there are many new athletes so Bartz’s second goal is to help the girls understand the game and progress up to higher levels of the program. “We talk about leadership and teamwork and how that relates to moving up to the more advanced skills as well,” said Bartz. Using volleyball as a platform to build life skill is a major goal both Bartz and Shipley have this season. The coaches said one of the common strengths is the players’ attitudes. The girls show up to every practice looking to improve their skills and help their teammates. Although it is too early in the year to compare to last season, Shipley is confident in this season and thinks the girls will do fine. “I am excited about the season and expect a lot of wins,” said Shipley.



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Activities royalty

During the Smith-Cotton High School Activities Assembly on Sept. 7, senior Jonzel Washington was named activities king and senior Grace Edgar was crowned activities queen. Princess, not shown, was Michylah Hawkins.



Seniors add creativity, color to S-C parking lot

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

The Smith-Cotton High Class of 2019 has set out to start a new tradition this year. On Sept. 4, seniors were able to decorate their own parking spaces and make them their own. S-C Senior Class President Reagan Braverman came across this idea while scrolling through Pinterest and saw other various schools doing it. “I thought it would be something cool for us to do and start a tradition, since my class is the first ones to be at the high school all four years,” said Braverman. When she first brought up the idea

to administration in the spring, they were already busy with graduation so she waited until the beginning of this school year to run the idea by them again. Braverman came to the high school almost every day this summer to plan and figure things out. Both social studies teacher Steven Vandevender and Assistant Principal Joseph Doyle helped Braverman with this project. They had to figure out which parking spots to use, how much they were going to charge, and also whether it would be just seniors or available to underclassmen. A lot of research went into this project as well.

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School teaching staff filled with lots of new faces

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

With school back in session, many students are seeing their favorite teachers and familiar faces throughout the hallways. However, there are many faces that might not seem so familiar. This is because 16 new teachers have been added to Smith-Cotton. Principal Wade Norton had a lot of work to do over the summer with hiring new teachers. He and the administrators are making sure the new teachers are fitting in well by giving them a “buddy teacher,” which is another teacher in the building with experience to help them. They also have monthly meetings to check up on everyone and make sure that they are comfortable and are adjusting well. The new teachers also have a mentor to help them, Marsha Ball. A veteran educator, Ball mentors first-year teachers in the Sedalia 200 district. This year, she mentors seven teachers at Smith-Cotton Junior High and seven teachers at S-C. Ball only mentors first-year teachers, so some teachers who have taught before but are new to S-C rely on a buddy for mentoring. Ball observes the teachers in the classroom and completes observation forms provided by the district. She observes the teachers a few times a week during September and October, but she visits less and less throughout the school year as the teachers progress and don’t need her help as much. This can make first-year teachers more comfortable in a school setting. New teacher Tyler Janke believes his transition to S-C is one of the best decisions he’s made in his life. Janke teaches AP world history and freshman world history

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Casto keeping S-C safe

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Officer Kelley Casto is one of the newest members to the Sedalia School District. With over 17 years of law enforcement experience and 20 years spent in the United States Army, he is glad to bring that background to better protect S-C students and staff.

Assistant Principal Joe Doyle said, “Mr. Casto has extensive law enforcement background brings things from years of experience with him.”

After many years spent with the Sedalia Police Department, Casto, a Smith-Cotton graduate, saw an opportunity to do something good for the school district.

“I think he will bring the energy and dedi-

cation that is necessary to ensure students’ safety,” Doyle said. “Casto is very approachable likable guy” who is able to build relationships with students easily.

Casto said he appreciates the communication of Smith-Cotton and right now he is just trying to understand how the school operates and better understand what it’s about. Casto said his welcome to S-C couldn’t have been better.

Upperclassmen might view Casto as the new guy and he understands that. However he wants them to understand that he is approachable and is very open to other people’s opinions.

When Casto isn’t worrying about the safety of the students and staff at school, he is spending time with his wife and his grandson. He said his grandson keeps him on



Officer Kelley Casto brings an extensive background to serve as Smith-Cotton High’s new security officer.

his toes and his wife keeps him in the yard doing yard work with her and he thoroughly enjoys both.

“It’s an awesome feeling working here where I went to school,” Casto said. “Even though it’s a different location, the nostalgia is still the same of coming back to the school you graduated from.”

‘Sound of Music’ to fill Heckart PAC

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

This year at Smith-Cotton, the halls are alive with “The Sound of Music,” the fall musical. The S-C Theater Department is hoping to put on a show that all ages can love and enjoy.

Theater teacher and director Teri Turner chose “The Sound of Music” because it is popular and widely loved.

“The story of family dynamics in the early stages of World War II is a story that is enchanting and intriguing,” said Turner.

Unlike last year’s show “Little Shop of Horrors,” which was for more mature audiences, “The Sound of Music” is family friendly.

“Entire families can find common ground when they attend,” said Turner.

“The Sound of Music” also

has many aspects of history behind it, so it’s a good learning experience for students. However, “The Sound of Music” is similar to past plays because it is a “musical about a dysfunctional family who doesn’t realize they need help until someone enters their life and

shows them what life could be like as a family,” said Turner.

Junior Cora Sadler has been in her fair share of musicals, as she participated in “Mary Poppins” as a freshman, and she was in “Alice in Wonderland” the following summer. Sadler also was in “Little Shop of Horrors” last year. In “The Sound of Music,” she will be playing the part of Liesl Von Trapp, the oldest of the Von Trapp chil-



Caroline Beard

dren. Sadler looks forward to the play because that’s how she expressed herself. “I enjoy doing plays because I’m able to escape reality and just be myself,” said Sadler. “I’m never afraid to be myself when I’m on stage,” she added.

Freshman Caroline Beard has also been

in a fair amount of musicals, starting when she was 5 years old. In “The Sound of Music,” she is playing Maria Rainer, the lead role. Caroline looks forward to the play because she gets to learn all the great songs. She is excited to work with the cast, and her views on musicals are similar to Sadler’s.

“Plays are a great way to become close with other people and let go of stress,” Caroline

said.

Caroline’s brother, senior Alex Beard, was cast as Captain Von Trapp. He also was in many plays and musicals in his childhood, but this is his first play at the high school. In previous falls, he played soccer. Alex enjoys plays because of the way it makes the audience feel.

“I like entertaining others and making people feel happy,” said Alex.

Not only is the cast extremely important to the success of a musical, but the technical crew is just as vital. They do a lot of work ahead of time on costumes, makeup designs, set construction, special effects design, props, and more.

“They make the magic work behind the curtains,” Turner said.

“The Sound of Music” will be performed at 7 p.m. Nov. 16-17 and 2 p.m. Nov. 18.

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for Team Valor. To Janke, S-C is very different than the previous places he’s taught, Buffalo and Lakeland. He enjoys department teaching, because at his previous school he was the department teacher for grades 9 through 12. Janke also appreciates the diverse students of S-C.

“That appeals to my approach to teaching because I love getting students from diverse backgrounds to understand where each other comes from,” Janke said.

Principles of Biomedical Sciences teacher Anna Singer is also new to S-C, and agrees with Janke about the love of diverse teaching.

“It’s fun to be a part of a big school with a wide variety of opportunities for students,” she said.

Janke wanted to come to S-C because students are pushed to do their best in every aspect.

“(S-C administrators) support teachers who want to be relent-



Principles of Biomedical Sciences teacher Anna Singer has a classroom in the new Project Lead the Way wing.

less in their pursuit of student success inside and outside of the classroom,” said Janke. This aligns with his teaching style. “It’s a natural fit,” he said.

Singer also helps push her students to success, as she has been given the chance to start biomedical science classes as

part of Project Lead the Way. Singer has also gotten to know S-C’s HOSA chapter as the members plan their year.

DECA advisor Angie Howard teaches marketing and personal finance, but she’s not exactly brand new. She previously taught at Sedalia Middle School, State Fair Community College, and S-C. She took a six-year break from teaching to be the marketing manager at Inter-State Studios, where she worked for three and a half years. After that, she did marketing consulting work for some local businesses and worked for a sports marketing franchise for about a year. In the year before coming back to S-C, Howard was the communications coordinator for the Center for Human Resources.

Howard loves teaching, but her true passion is marketing so she made a promise to herself not to return to teaching unless there was a marketing teaching position available. The previous marketing teacher, Holli Goodrich, decided to transfer to the history department, so the marketing position became

available.

“I was thrilled that Mr. Norton invited me to come back,” said Howard.

Norton is very impressed so far with the performance of new teachers, and says that getting involved is helping them fit in with the students and fellow teachers. Veteran teachers have been forming relationships with the new teachers and have come to know and trust them.

New teachers’ impact on students is “mostly positive” said Norton, because there is new energy and new connections being made through teachers and students.

“There (are) new models of thinking being introduced,” said Norton. However, all the new faces may be saddening to students, knowing that they might have lost a bond with teacher who has left.

“They might have lost connections, and they might have lost a friend,” said Norton.

Although many favorite teachers might have moved on from S-C, there is no doubt that new connections are being made.

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They had to figure out which paints to use and the best way to do things by looking at what other schools did. They got paint donations from Sherwin Williams and in total received 50 gallons of paint.

Figuring out a time for students to meet to paint was one of Braverman’s struggles.

“Everyone is busy their senior year, so it was really hard to figure out when we could all come and paint,” said Braverman. Many students have jobs and other extracurricular activities that take up their time, so it was hard for Braverman to find a good time for everyone.

In the future, Braverman hopes to have another painting day for students and hopes now that students have seen what it is, they will want to participate.

“It’s individual expression and that’s good for students,” said Vandevender. Next year they have hope that this tradi-



Science Club donation

Ryan Ball of Rick Ball Ford of Sedalia, left, presents Smith-Cotton High School Science Club adviser Mona McCormack with a donation of \$2,630, which was raised over the summer through the Driven to Give fundraising program. McCormack said the funds will be used to pay for science club activities and an end-of-year field trip.



Senior Emma Sharp’s parking space features a Harry Potter theme.

tion will grow and that students will continue to participate.

“I just hope that this is something that underclassmen look forward to for their senior year and that they’re excited to come paint their parking spots senior year,” said Braverman



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