

Hofheins to build from state experience

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Gracie Hofheins has come a long way since freshman year when she had no previous golf experience. This year, the S-C junior advanced to the girls state golf tournament. Hofheins first found an interest in golf when she moved houses. The driving range at the Sedalia Country Club was right across the street from her, and she started golf her freshman year. Before the first day of practice, she was getting lessons on the range from a soon to be seventh grader, now freshman Kiser Pannier. Pannier gave Hofheins some tips on golfing at a junior golf camp before the season when she was 12. “It was nice to be able to kind of help her out,” Pannier said. Since then, Hofheins has grown to a state qualifier. Hofheins has done this by staying late after practice and working every week in the offseason. Even since last season, Hofheins believes that she has gotten more consistent and has developed a more confident approach. Girls Golf Coach Chris Guffey is thankful to have Hofheins as a leader on the team. “Gracie is a character,” Guffey said. “She likes to have fun, but is also passionate about being the best athlete she can,” he added. Guffey says that Hofheins is very encouraging to the younger girls and helps them to feel part of the team. “But you have to keep your eye on her as she likes to play a few jokes from time to time,” said Guffey. Hofheins finished tied for ninth at districts with an 86, which advanced her to sectionals where she placed sixth with an 88. She finished 59th at state with a 194. Next season, Hofheins plans to advance to state again and finish in the top 30. “I’m really proud of how far I’ve come,” Hofheins said. Although she was sad that she was the only member of the team to advance to state, Hofheins has a positive outlook on the team’s postseason performance next season.



Smith-Cotton junior Gracie Hofheins earned a trip to the Class 2 girls golf state meet by finishing in a tie for ninth at districts then a sixth place finish at the sectional meet.

Volleyball team resets season, looks forward to district play

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton Lady Tigers volleyball went into this week with a record of 17-9-2. (District play started Monday evening, after this edition went to press.) This year the C team won the most they have ever won in the years that Coach Jeremy Bartz has been with the team. JV has also made big strides as a team, said Head Coach Diane Shipley. She says that her team is a talented group of girls who have a high level of potential. The team has had a very fun season with many ups and downs and they hope the fun will continue into the week of districts.



Luebbert

season. They have been preparing by watching film from previous games and finding what they need to work on. Shipley said that as long as the team plays like they know how to then they should be walking

Junior Jorey Luebbert said, “This season has been up and down but we have been able to push through the rough patches.” First round of districts the team plays Rock Bridge and they feel confident. S-C was seeded fifth. S-C beat them earlier in the

away with a win like earlier in the season. Shipley said S-C has “good passers, setter and hitters. When we pass well to setters, we have hitters to finish plays.” She feels the team could use some work on communication and bringing energy to the court. The team also said that they were restarting their season to go in with a clear head. “It means committing to every ball and giving 100 percent on every point,” Luebbert said. The team has consistent hitters and setters and considers this to be one of their biggest strengths. Luebbert added that the success the team has had this season wouldn't be possible without their coaches and what they do for the team.



TIGER TIMES

Group helps prepare future teachers

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Educators Rising is a new program at Smith-Cotton and many students are already involved. The chapter works with Sedalia School District 200 to help students in the community with activities to become better teachers for the future, providing them with the necessary

tools and skills they will need. Career Pathways teacher Marina Scheiner is the chapter’s Teacher Leader; her role is to help the students in any way possible and to help them gain an understanding of how important a role teachers play in children and young adult lives is. This is her second year being a leader for the chapter. Scheiner is looking forward to

the many events the group has planned and is excited to see what the future holds for her members of the chapter. “There are few careers that make a larger impact than teaching. If an individual wants to make a difference in the world, teaching is it,” Scheiner said. Senior Quinn Jones joined the program because she wants to

be a teacher, so it felt like the right club for her. “This program will help me hopefully prepare for actually teaching in the future and getting more experience with kids,” Jones said. She already was in the Career Pathways to Teaching class so she was aware of the chapter

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Fire Inspector Jamie Volk presented Smith-Cotton JROTC officer Erika Tackett with a Sedalia Fire Department challenge coin as a token of appreciation for her helping fellow cadets salute Volk for his service.

Praise is 2-way street

Freshmen aid Firefighters Memorial; JROTC cadet’s gesture earns reward

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Through an annual project by the Smith-Cotton Freshman Academy, courageousness shined through one student in particular this year. The annual Firefighters Memorial Fundraiser that the Smith-Cotton freshmen participate in started off as service project for Homecoming 10 years ago. The Academy starts off the fundraiser by getting their students involved and asking them to donate to the cause. Last year, the Academy made about \$1,100. This year the goal was higher and a school wide fundraiser was held. The Freshman Academy partnered with Little Caesar’s Pizza to allow students to be able to preorder pizza for their lunch shift on Friday, Oct. 19. For the last three years, Fire Inspector Jamie Volk from the Sedalia Fire Department has put on a presentation for the freshmen class. The presentation usually consists of two parts, one part is presented in an English class, while the other is in a math class. His first presentation is in English and is about the history of Sedalia, Missouri history, along with the history of the fire department, and safety. His second presentation is about the equipment the fire-

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Students of the Month

Here are Smith-Cotton High School's Students of the Month for October. Front, from left: Alissa Sonnik, Team Victory; Kaitlyn Kinner, Social Studies. Second row, from left: Jasmine Hernandez, Electives; Aaron Bilbruck, Team Valor; Levi Barth-Fagan, Team Legendary; Carlos Cedillo, English; Evan Meloy, Math. Back: Aaron Hughes, Science. Students are selected by teachers in the specific content areas and from the freshmen teams.

NHS committed to service

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

At the base of the Smith-Cotton National Honor Society chapter are the four main pillars of leadership, scholarship, character and service. NHS is involved with many service projects throughout the year. In order for students to be inducted they must have 20 hours of community service and once inducted they must have a total of 35 hours every year to remain a member.

Senior Alex Beard said that service is very useful and gives students different learning skills, along with the fact that it is nice to help others get things done. It makes a good impact on the community, as well.

Teacher Lorin Blackburn Thierfelder, the NHS adviser, said that not only is service required but it makes a big impact on the community. One of the most successful service projects was the tiny libraries that they

did last year. Blackburn Thierfelder said, “It affected lots of people and there was a lot of community support.”

Beard would have to agree that the project was very successful. They put lots of work into it and also had help from teacher Zach Vandevender.

Ideas for service projects are typically generated by the students and staff of S-C, however if there is something going on in the community they may be contacted for help. One project that Beard helped with was helping prepare for an Easter egg hunt at Convention Hall. He was able to participate with his friends.

NHS is also helping Student Council put on their annual food drive before Thanksgiving. The two organizations teaming up for this project is a tradition every year. Blackburn Thierfelder said that they hope to help stock the Sedalia food pantry and help those in need.

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fighters in the department use and a deeper look at what the Firefighter Memorial is about. English teacher Stacey Steinkuhler believes the purpose of the annual presentations and events is to help educate the students about the service Volk and other firefighters provide.

“I hope they gain awareness of how our community is affected by public service and hopefully one day they get involved,” Steinkuhler said.

This year before one of Volk’s presentations in an English class, senior JROTC officer Erika Tackett and a group of freshmen cadets marched into the classroom, stood and faced Volk, and saluted him. Her actions left Volk shocked and honored.

“They paid me the highest honor they knew how. I am humbled by their actions,” said Volk.

Tackett decided to help the freshmen because they all seemed excited to honor Volk and she couldn’t turn down their request for help.

“I would do anything to help those guys be successful. The cadets who took part in this are all amazing young me. They are super respectful and I am proud of all of them,” Tackett said.

During Volk’s presentation, he talked about the importance of challenge coins and what they were. Each firefighter carries a challenge coin, which is printed with the department emblem and the department’s four values: honor, integrity, respect and professionalism.

Later that day Tackett met up with Volk again and he gave her his challenge coin. Tackett was shocked.

“Tears came to my eyes and I get super honored that he even thought about giving it to me,” Tackett said. She didn’t think she had done anything special, but Volk thought she had done so much to honor him. “Erika showed what it means to care. She takes it upon herself to help the kids out that are struggling. It is a choice to help someone. She is a great role model for all S-C students,” Volk said.

Tackett hopes students learn that whenever they put others before themselves, they will be rewarded in the most unexpected and amazing ways.

“My experience with Volk was for sure an honorable series of moments I’ll never forget. It was definitely one of those ‘give you goosebumps’ moments. I am forever changed because of his generosity, his commitment to his organization, and his service to the city of Sedalia,” Tackett said.



Tigers victory

The Smith-Cotton Tigers football team defeated Center, 29-6, on Oct. 19 at Tiger Stadium. S-C will host Hickman on Friday, Oct. 26, in a first-round district playoff game.



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TEACHERS

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ahead of time. After finding out about it, she got involved and eventually became president of the chapter. Now she is in charge of running the meetings.

Senior Sarai Cervantes sits along Jones’s side as vice president of the chapter. Cervantes has always known she wants to teach, but never knew how to get started in



Jones

any way they can is one of the chapter’s main goals this year. Senior Mackenzie Newell also joined this program because of her interest in the teaching field, but also joined to get more involved in the community.



“This program is such a good way to get involved and get prepared for a future job in the teaching field; there are so many opportunities.”

— Mackenzie Newell

“This program is such a good way to get involved and get prepared for a future job in the teaching field; there are so many opportunities,” Newell said. She hopes to make connections with her future students and help them find a profession they are passionate about as she is with teaching. Now that she is in Educators Rising, she can clearly see a future in teaching and is finding new ways to prepare for her future job.

Since the chapter just started to be open to all students, it hasn’t been able to do a lot yet, but members have an event on Oct. 25 where they will be participating in the Read For A Record Day. Members of the chapter will be joining schools all across the nation to read a common book in a 24-hour period. Members will be reading the book “Maybe Something Beautiful” to the

elementary schools. The Sedalia Area Literacy Council partnered with the chapter to provide them with the books, which will be donated to the elementaries schools. “Our local chapter introduced the project to our elementary schools and the Co-Op and they have been wonderful to work with,” Scheiner said.

The chapter has monthly meetings, on the second Thursday of each month. In these meetings they have been working on projects and opportunities to serve the school district. The chapter will soon start to focus on competitive events too. The officers of the chapter have attended a conference in September and will have another conference in the spring.

The chapter plans to create a firm foundation for other students who want to join in the future.

POLL QUESTION

What are your thoughts as we reach the end of first quarter?



“Happy that there’s 3/4 of school left but unhappy because grades are due.”

— Mikki Lancaster, sophomore



“It went by fast and I am ready for second quarter.”

— Oceana Lane, junior



“Insane that we are already a quarter of the way through school.”

— Andrew Schildmeier, teacher



“I think it went by pretty fast.”

— Natalie Parnell, freshman

PLTW wing opens options for students

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

This year Smith-Cotton High School has built a new wing to house the Project Lead The Way classes, which focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, education.

The PLTW wing consists of three types of classes; biomedical science, computer science, and engineering. The wing allows the three areas of PLTW to be located in classrooms close to each other with the necessary space and equipment needed for students to succeed.

With the addition of the new wing, this year is biomedical science teacher Anna Singer’s first year at S-C. The course she currently teaches is Principles of Biomedical Science, which is the first of four classes students can take. Next year S-C is planning to offer the second biomedical class, Human Body Systems. Singer hopes that the students involved in these courses benefit from the hands-on activities that they are able to provide.

“They will work on lab techniques and communication skills. All of this experience will prepare them for careers in



Smith-Cotton High engineering and robotics teacher Michael Wright discusses the advantages for students of the new Project Lead the Way wing for members of the Sedalia School District 200 Board of Education and board meeting attendees at the start of the board's Oct. 22 meeting.

the medical field,” Singer said.

The biomedical classes that she teaches must have a fully equipped laboratory classroom; without a lab students would not be able get the full experience of the course.

The engineering and computer science classes have particular

needs, as well, in order for students to get the best learning experiences. Engineering and robotics instructor Michael Wright needs to have the correct machines and robotics testing areas for his students to be successful, while computer science teacher Rush Walters

needs to have an up-to-date computer lab with 3D printers for his course.

“We are fortunate to be able to give these things to our students now, compared to other schools that can’t,” Walters said.

The installation of the new wing is set to help students gain a better knowledge of STEM career fields and expose them to possible jobs. The teachers of these courses have common goals to help prepare their students for the future and to help them gain knowledge of the importance of these classes.

“Students will have the opportunity to gain insight into the types of careers that are available,” Singer said.

In Superintendent Steve Triplett’s “Day Trippin’” video on the PLTW wing, junior Lilly Wagenknecht said the additional space and equipment has boosted efficiency for students. “Now I feel like we are able to grow more,” she said.



Smith-Cotton High sophomore Andrew Sadler, left, discusses safety protocols for the new Project Lead the Way wing with, from left, School Board President Dr. Jeff Sharp, Board Treasurer Kenny Coffelt, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Todd Fraley and Board Vice President David Wolf. Board members toured the new wing at the start of their Oct. 22 meeting.

Teachers express creativity through fine art pieces

Heimsoth awarded first place in statewide show for art teachers

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Teachers do a variety of things when it comes to their time outside of school. Some Smith-Cotton teachers use their free time to create artwork.

S-C teacher Josh Heimsoth's work can be found in Jones Gallery in Kansas City. He currently has a ceramic platter displayed in Pittsburg, Kansas, and two more sculptures will be displayed in Springfield in November. Heimsoth teaches pottery, advanced pottery, and



Heimsoth

Art I classes at S-C. Springfield hosts an art contest that is free to any art teachers in Missouri. The contest is juried, meaning that a panel of judges reviews the submitted work and picks the ones that are good enough to be sent to the show. Both of Heimsoth's submitted pieces were accepted into the show, and were both featured on the show's promotional poster. One earned a first place award.

ESOL teacher Melissa Lackey has more degrees than just those related to teaching English as a second language. She has an associate's degree in art, a bachelor's in fine arts for painting, and a bachelor's in education for art. Lackey has always enjoyed art and has always had a creative mind. Her grandfa-



TOP: Josh Heimsoth's pottery entry was awarded first place in the Statewide Juried Art Exhibition, an annual art contest specifically for Missouri art teachers. **ABOVE:** Teacher Melissa Lackey's piece "Dear Christian ..." is watercolor mounted on wood.

ther was a self-made artist and passed some of his tools down to her.

Lackey had strayed away from art since the passing of her son, but has gotten back into it and now does a lot of water color painting.

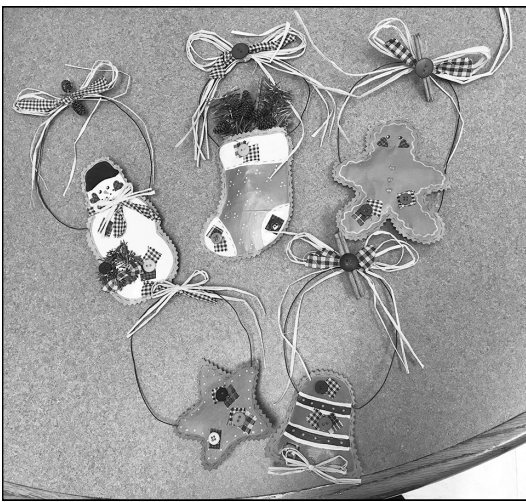
"Art is who I am," she said.

Lackey's art is currently being

displayed at the Blackadder Cafe in Warrensburg. A friend of hers owns the cafe and gave Lackey the opportunity to showcase her art. Lackey plans to have her art displayed in another show at the 7th Street Artists Co-op in downtown Sedalia along with the art of fellow S-C teachers Heimsoth and Michael



Lackey



TOP LEFT: Sedalia Middle School art teacher Kelly Hagen works in ceramics and sculpture. **TOP RIGHT:** Pam Moon, who works at Central Office, makes ornaments from paper and wire. **BOTTOM LEFT:** An example of SMS librarian Jeremy Fry's work. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Skyline art teacher Kelsey Raines takes commissions for pet portraits.

Shukers and Sedalia Middle School teacher Jeremy Fry.

Outside of school, Heimsoth creates mostly sculptures made of a variety of materials such as clay, wood, and steel. Heimsoth also does drawings, as well as paintings and collages. This art can be found at the 7th Street Co-op. Shukers teaches classes at S-C such as Art I, Fundamentals of Drawing, Digital Arts and Photography I, and Advanced Digital Arts and Photography. Not only is Shukers a part of 7th Street Co-op, he is also a member of the Missouri Art Education Association (MAEA) and the Sedalia Pop Up Art Show. Shukers had also been working on a graffiti project in downtown Sedalia with former S-C student Brody Debates. The two are preparing to have a second mural added this coming winter.

Fry is a library media specialist, instructional technology specialist and interim principal at SMS. Fry's work found at the 7th Street Co-op includes conceptual figurative works and portraiture. Fry uses graphite charcoal, colored pencil, paint and found

objects when creating his artwork.

"I have always been intrigued by found objects and the human form and how to put the two together," Fry said.

These teachers have put in work outside of school and throughout their life to have their art displayed. "Everybody sucks when they start," Heimsoth said. "It's not about the talent, it's about the work to get there."

There are various other teachers across the Sedalia 200 district who create art. Among them are SMS art teacher Kelly Hagen, who creates ceramics and sculptures, which are currently displayed at the 7th Street Co-op. Skyline Elementary teacher Kelsey Raines takes commissions of pet portraits and shows them at the Missouri State Fair. The district's student information and data director Pam Moon makes ornaments out of paper bags and wire.



Shukers