

## Soccer team's season ends earlier than hoped

Tigers advance to district final, but fall to Helias, 2-1; seniors Naylor, Edgar both earn top All-District honors

By Faith Johnson

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton boys soccer ended its season last week with a 2-1 loss to Helias in the District 13 championship game.

S-C (16-7-2) hosted the district games. Head Coach Ethan Weller said that going into the first round on Oct. 30, starting the game out strong immediately calmed the little nerves he had. The team beat the Marshall Owls, 5-1, to move on to the second round.

Senior goalkeeper Colby Edgar said, "I knew that we had a really good chance to go pretty far in the state playoffs, so I was really determined to get the job done in districts and then move on further."

During the game against Marshall, the team played through tough weather conditions consisting of heavy rain and strong winds. However, Weller said that the team had played in conditions previously and didn't play a factor until late in the game. Edgar said that the conditions didn't change his job in the goal box at all but it made players have to watch the weight of their passes more and have good control.

In the district championship game, the Tigers put up a fight through the whole game. Helius scored early, but S-C has had the same playing style all year and was strong on counter attacks, Weller said. Edgar said that at the beginning of the game he felt nerves turn into pure excitement knowing how



**TOP:** S-C goalkeeper Colby Edgar sends the ball toward the Tigers' offensive end during the District 13 championship game against Helias. **ABOVE:** Senior Landon Naylor covers his head as the horn sounds at the end of the title game, which Helias won, 2-1. Naylor scored S-C's lone goal.

much the team wanted the title. As the momentum switched, Helius was on their heels.

"When Landon (Naylor) tied the score, I was thrilled to be back in the game. At that point, I felt like we were dominating and had a very good chance to put them away with another goal," said Edgar. However, Helias sent home a goal with just over 17 minutes left and was able to hold on for the title.

Weller still remains proud of his team even with a disappointing end to their season. "While losing is never fun, only one team wins," he said.

Weller hopes that his players take what they have learned on the field and apply it to real-life experiences; he also wishes them good luck in their next phase of life.

"I am definitely going to miss playing school soccer. It was great getting to know and play with everyone on the team and I'm honored to be voted captain for the past two years," said Edgar. "I am especially going to miss the coaches. They have really motivated me and they have pushed me to be who I am today. I couldn't thank them enough."

Naylor was named the Class 3, District 13 Offensive Player of the Year, and Edgar was Co-Goalkeeper of the Year with Ben Rehagen of Helias.

Also making the All-District First Team from S-C were forward/midfielder Eduardo Alonso and defender Tommy Branstetter. Selected to the second team were midfielders Wesley Morrison and Viktor Tsymbal, and defender Keith Hawkins.

Nick Brandt of Helias was the district Player of the Year, and Helias's Jay Hebenheimer was Coach of the Year.



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## JROTC Raiders finish third in nation

The Smith-Cotton High School JROTC Raiders team competed Nov. 2 in the All-Service Raider National Championships in Molena, Ga. The Tiger Battalion finished in third place in the nation overall. The S-C squad took second place in the 5-kilometer team run, third place in both the rope bridge and gauntlet events, and fourth place in the physical team test. Competing for the Tiger Battalion were, front row, from left: cadets Josefina Reyes, Anthony Krumroy-Salvador, Hannah Fujii, Sarah Bradbury, Abrianna Barnett, Estrellita Quetzecua, Yuliya Kalashnykova; back row, from left: cadets Tristan Perkins, Morgan Arnold, Haden Stock, Aaron Bilbruck, Daltin Butts, Zachary Thornton, Miriam Allen, and Gene Walker.

## Lang taking shots at online stardom

Hunter builds big Instagram following

By Victoria Wheat

Smith-Cotton Student Media

When S-C physical education teacher Alexander Lang first started his Instagram account a few years ago, he never thought it would gain such a large audience.

Lang started his Instagram in college to share his hunting experiences and trips he's been on with friends. He would normally post to share with his friends who followed him. At first, Lang didn't have many followers, but about a year into having Instagram his posts started to get noticed by others. More people started to like

his pictures and share them. He now has more than 162,000 followers.

Lang's target audience is very broad and can range from the age 18 to 40. He also gets many messages from younger kids who have started hunting because they followed his Instagram. "It is very cool because in this generation, not a lot of kids are able to go hunting because their dads don't like it," Lang said. He believes kids need a chance to go and experience what hunting is like. "They would most likely enjoy it," said Lang.

Hunting is a big part in Lang's life and he hopes to help inspire others to hunt and not give up in the activity.

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## Programs praise academic successes

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Smith-Cotton has done a lot over the beginning of the school year to recognize the students who excel in academics. Not only has the school added a new student of the month program, it also has hung banners to highlight academic honors students.

S-C has had student of the month programs on and off over the years. Principal Wade Norton wanted a program that recognized student success in the classroom in each of the core classes: science, math, social studies, and English, as well as electives. The freshman teachers also select a student from each team. Norton also wanted the students to be able to have a shirt and be taken out to lunch as a group. S-C reached out to Equity Bank in Sedalia, which was willing to provide a \$2,000 donation to cover these things for the students.

Teachers in each department/team nominate students they believe should

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# ACADEMIC

From Page 1

er brought the idea up to Norton and he had it done as soon as possible. "I think we need to celebrate our academics," Dean said. She also added that there are talented students in many areas and this is another way to highlight the work that is put into academics at S-C. For Dean, academics has always been number one. The youngest member seen on the banners is sophomore Malacki Ehlers. He believes that more sophomores would be seen on the banners if more of them knew that they are eligible to take the ACT at the end of freshman year. He also thinks that taking the ACT early benefits students in the long run and better prepares them for the required ACT during junior year. "It helps you become more accustomed to the test," Ehlers said. He added that a student's score is likely to improve the more times the student takes it. Ehlers completed his first ACT with a score of 31. He hopes to get a higher score on it as he

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Banners recognizing Smith-Cotton High's academic achievers have been hung in the main entryway.

takes it again so he can get into a higher level college. The banners will stay up until the senior awards night of the students' senior years. The seniors currently listed on the banners will receive them this year, but the banners of the juniors and sophomores will stay up for the upcoming school years until they graduate.

Those listed on the banners are: seniors Dalton Gear, Joseph Snelling, Edward Toderescu-Stavila, Nate McFail, Katelynn Montgomery, Maria Aonzo, Ethan Beard, Alex Beard, Vlad Husyev, Katerina Sheremet, Hannah Beebe, and Audrey Currey, junior Hunter Sparks, and sophomore Malacki Ehlers.

# LANG

From Page 1

Senior Colin Polley is one of the many people who follow Lang. Polley also is a hunters and said Lang's posts inspire him to continue hunting and keep improving. "His Instagram is very helpful and inspiring," said Polley. Currently, Lang posts about his hunting trips, his dog, and products he uses for hunting. He likes to highlight his hunts and show how they happen. Lang doesn't have any big plans for his Instagram for the future, but he does plan to continue his journey on the platform.



Here is a post from teacher Alex Lang's Instagram account that racked up 2,000 likes.

## All-District Bands

Smith-Cotton High instrumental music students' rankings at districts:

- Honor Band**
  - Sydney Kocsis, 3rd chair flute
  - Autumn Bauer, 11th chair flute
  - Edward Toderescu, 1st chair English Horn
  - Michylah Hawkins, 2nd chair bassoon
  - Gabriel Decker, 8th chair trumpet
  - Wyatt Flandemeyer, 8th chair trombone
- Honorable Mention Band**
  - Emily Beltran 5th chair flute
  - Autumn Bauer 1st alternate piccolo
  - Edward Toderescu 2nd chair oboe
  - Logan Goodwin 1st alternate trumpet
- Jazz band**
  - Tyler Soendker 1st chair Tenor saxophone
  - Sydney Schlup 2nd alternate bari saxophone
  - Michylah Hawkins 2nd chair trombone
  - Joseph Snelling 3rd chair trombone

# Arnold ready to coach up Lady Tigers

By Dane Foster

Smith-Cotton Student Media

Jessie Arnold isn't an average sixth grade English teacher, she also is head coach for Smith-Cotton's girls basketball team. This is her first year as head coach of the Lady Tigers, having served as an assistant coach last year. "I have had prior head coaching experience so the transition from JV to varsity head coach has gone smoothly," she said. "It's exciting getting to work with the same student-athletes in a new role. The girls are picking up my philosophy and expectations well, and I am eager to see how that plays out for us on the court." Coaching basketball is Arnold's dream. "I have known my entire life that this is the career path that I wanted to pursue," she said. "I am a third generation basketball coach and college basketball player, so it's something I have been around since I was born. I feel very fortunate pursuing the family business."

Arnold was born in Antwerp, Ohio, and went to Antwerp Local Schools. She played basketball all four years of high school and went on to play four years at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Mich. Arnold knew she wanted to become a coach around the age 4 or 5 while watching her mom's basketball practices. Her mom, Shelly, coached at Antwerp High for 10 years but has retired from the sideline.



Lady Tigers basketball Head Coach Jessie Arnold works with a young player during an open gym over the summer at Smith-Cotton High School.

Arnold's mom told her to follow her instincts and heart when making decisions. Junior Haley Wiskur, who is on the girls varsity team, said her goals for the team are to have a winning season and win districts. Wiskur says she's looking forward to competing. "I'm hoping to learn how to be a great leader on and off the court from Arnold," Wiskur said.

Arnold plans to get the team back on track with hard work, commitment and buying into the program. "Our girls are hungry and ready to work. I think we have all the necessary pieces to build a great program," she said. "Now it's time to put the plan into action. ... We have a lot of work in front of us, but again, I think we will surprise several people this year by simply outworking teams."

# Winter cheerleading squad gets new coach

By Natalie Adermann

Smith-Cotton Student Media

The Smith-Cotton cheer team is shaking things up this basketball season. Not only are new routines in store, there's a new coach on the court.

Football season cheer coach Karmen Butler coached both the fall and winter seasons the past eight years, but this year she decided to step back. Since her husband, Michael, was deployed, Butler feels that she needs to stay home more with the children so she has limited herself to only coaching during



Martin

teacher Carrie Martin has taken over coaching winter cheer. Martin cheered in high school and had watched her daughter cheer in high school, as well. She has always enjoyed the

football season. However, Butler still plans to coach fall cheer in future years. S-C junior high special education

sport, but has never gotten around to coaching it. This is her first year being able to coach cheer. Martin's plans for the season include having an extended pregame routine as well as a surprise for Courtwarming. Senior Audrey Currey says the team will also work on having more crowd involvement and making the routines more "showy." Martin wants her cheerleaders to work on being leaders in their community. She believes that Butler has done a great job so far with coaching the cheer-

leaders, and wants to go forward on that. "I want to enhance what she has started," Martin said. Currey believes that things under Martin are definitely run differently, but the team has to work on adjusting to a new leadership style. "We're just trying to keep everyone's heads together through this adjustment period," Currey said. No matter the coach, the S-C cheer team is looking to hype up students and the community for the upcoming basketball season.

## TIGER TIMES

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