



Gaylord Firemen Pancake Feed
February 21, 2026 @ 5PM
Gaylord Community Center

THE *Smith County* PIONEER

\$1.00

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 of Smith County since 1872

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Smith County awarded \$1.8 Million for Old Hospital Project

Smith County, working with the developer Rural Redevelopment Group (RRG) of DeSoto, Kansas, will receive \$650,000 in Moderate Income Housing (MIH) grant funds and \$1,155,000 in Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credits (KHITCs) for a combined award of over \$1.8 million.

These state funds leverage local investments collected for the project including a \$150,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, a \$50,000 grant from Smith Center Economic Development, a \$2,000 donation from ITC, and the \$122,000 county contribution of roof replacement proceeds from insurance.

The Old Hospital Project, which will transform the facility at the south end of Smith Center into 33 apartments, is estimated to cost \$3.5 to \$4 million. RRG is expected to begin cleaning out in the next few weeks and will complete the project according to the state award timeline. RRG is currently working with local contractors to collect bids for the project. To place a bid, contact Shane Lamb at 620/418/9500.

RRG purchased the property from the county in 2025, and will operate the apartment complex, named Hannah Heights at Smith

Center, as a private business, along with other housing development projects in the region.

Seventeen Kansas initiatives will receive a combined total of \$6,187,944 in MIH funds, and \$7,629,000 in KHITCs, to develop affordable housing for moderate-income families in rural areas of the state.

The awards, made possible through the state of Kansas' Moderate Income Housing (MIH) program and Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credits (KHITC), provide resources to develop housing in rural communities.

The state awards, with the amount leveraged by each community to support the proposed initiatives, represent a total investment of \$55,068,561 and a net gain of 425 affordable, quality homes for the state.

This round of state MIH housing awards will assist with the development of 17 initiatives:

- 33 multifamily rental units in Smith County
- 2 single family homes in Ashland
- 4 multifamily rental units in Atchison
- 22 duplex units in Concordia
- 232 single family homes, 2 duplex units and 12 multifamily rental units in Dodge City

10 single family homes in El Dorado

10 duplex units in Garnett

4 duplex units in Grainfield

10 duplex units in Hiawatha

8 single family homes in Humboldt

4 single family homes in Minneapolis

8 multifamily rental units in Peabody

8 multifamily rental units in Ulysses

24 multifamily rental units in Wamego

32 multifamily rental units in Wellsville

The MIH program has been funded annually by the Kansas Legislature since the program's inception in 2012.

The program was not funded in 2025, so these awards exhaust all current MIH funding.

The state's housing development programs, including the MIH and KHITC programs, are administered by Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC), a self-supporting, nonprofit, public corporation committed to helping Kansans access the safe, affordable housing they need and the dignity they deserve. KHRC serves as the state's housing finance agency, administering essential housing and community programs to serve Kansans.

Kiwanis Club announces winners



**Mckayla and Joe Stansbury
 Shawn Stansbury**

The local Kiwanis Club held a fundraising raffle recently.

The Stansburys came out top winners.

Mckayla and husband, Joe and Shawn Stansbury are pictured here with the

lap quilt they won. They also received a 100.00 gift card from Gene's Heartland Foods.

The money raised will be used for the many community and youth projects.

Local Auxiliary collecting for Veterans

Beginning in February, the Kingsbury-Chase VFW Auxiliary #1141 will be collecting clothing items for the Leavenworth VA Hospital and Ft. Dodge Soldier's Home.

Our Veterans are in need of new white men's and women's socks, t-shirts, and underwear.

The hospitals are in need of all sizes, especially

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Community EVENTS

SMITH COUNTY COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Submit your "Community Connection" the Pioneer today!

Stop By the Office or Call 785-282-3371
 Email your notice to pioneer@ruraltel.net

Upcoming Events

- Feb 14- Valentines Day** *Murder at the Masquerade, Mystery Dinner at Kensington *Smith Center Firemen Pancake Feed
- March 10-** Smith County YEC Trade Show & Presentation in Kensington
- March 21-** Smith Center Chamber of Commerce Banquet
- March 6-** 1:30 PM World Day of Payer @ the First Christian Church in Smith Center

Regular Meetings

- Smith Co. Commission, Mondays at 8:30 a.m.
- USD #237 School Board, 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m.
- S. C. City Council, 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6pm
- Deadlines:** Mondays at noon for ads. Fridays for Legals and Obituaries

Regular Meetings

- Smith Co. CommissionMondays at 8:30 a.m.
- USD #237 School Board2nd Mondays at 7 p.m.
- USD #110 School Board2nd Mondays at 7 p.m.
- Smith Center City2nd and 4th Mondays at 6 p.m.
- Kensington City2nd Mondays at 5 p.m.
- Lebanon City2nd Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
- Gaylord City2nd Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
- Athol City1st Mondays at 7 p.m.
- Cedar City1st Monday at 7 p.m.
- Deadline:** Mondays at noon for 'Community Connection' notices.

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 Philip Hardman
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Church
 Church service information
 Page 3

Opinion page
 Editorials, cartoons & more!
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Meeting minutes
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SCHS
Friday, 2/13
 - FCCLA Week
 - HS Girls Regional WR Tournament at Trego (1200 Russell Ave) @ 12:00pm. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students.
 - HS BB at Smith Center vs Norton @ 4:30pm. The order of play will be JV Boys, Varsity Girls, and then Varsity Boys. At halftime of the boys game, there will be a Chuck-A-Duck Post Prom fundraiser. See attached flyer. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$5 for students (USD 237 students get free admission).
 - JH WR Dual at Smith Center Elementary School vs Plainville @ 5:00pm. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$5 for students (USD 237 students get free admission).
 - HS Boys WR Dual at Smith Center Elementary School vs Plainville after the JH Dual. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$5 for students (USD 237 students get free admission).
Saturday, 2/14
 - HS Forensics at Norton @ 8:00am
 - JH WR Tournament at Phillipsburg (410 S. 7th) @ 9:00am. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$5 for students.
 - HS Girls Regional WR Tournament at Trego (1200 Russell Ave) @ 10:00am. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students.
Good Luck, Lady Red & Redmen!!

Weekend Outlook

FRIDAY
 High: 60°F Low: 37°F
mix of cloudss and sun early, becoming cloudy later

SATURDAY
 High: 57°F Low: 30°F
Rain showers early with some sunshine later in the day.

SUNDAY
 High: 60°F Low: 38°F
 Mainly sunny sky
Information from The Weather Channel printed is current as of press time; subject to change

Crop Report
 Prices effective at closing of February 10, 2026 courtesy of Trinity Ag in Smith Center
 WHEAT...\$4.53
 CORN...\$3.41
 MILO...\$3.01
 SOYBEANS...\$ 9.36



Brand New

The Smith Center Public Library received a new sign on Monday, the ninth of February. Center Monuments of Smith Center were the company to install the sign.

Pam Gibble/SCP

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