

Starting March 5, 2026 the Smith Co. Pioneer will be published on Wednesdays making the *Pioneer* available on **THURSDAY MORNINGS!**

# THE *Smith County* PIONEER

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Serving the Residents  
of Smith County since 1872

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1 Section - 12 pages

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## Government Voices

A Legislative coffee was held at the Cross Eyed Coffee Shop on February 21, 2026. Senator Bowers and Kansas Representative Waymaster spoke about the bills and policies each is working on.

Pam Gible/SCP

## World Day of Pray to be held locally

The Smith Center Ecumenical Council will observe World Day of Prayer March 6, 1:30pm at the First Christian Church. The public is encouraged to attend the program written by

the women of Nigeria. World Day of Prayer is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns and prayers of women from around the globe. The

women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

## Kensington Home Foundation gives back

Due to the generous support of the community the Kensington Home Founda-

grants in 2025! Since we began dispersing grants in 2015, we have been able to

pletion of our capital campaign and having 6 Legacy grants we will be able to give at least \$20,000 annually in the future. We truly are doing GREAT things in Kensington!

2025 projects funded: Thunder Ridge High School for STEM supplies, chess club, and KAY pool equipment, KHS/Thunder Ridge Alumni association for postage, Legion Auxiliary for uniform updates and kitchen equipment, Spirit Task Force for Memory Garden equipment, Kensington Community Store for freezer update, Kensington Housing Authority for apartment enhancements, SAL for new lights and tables, United Church for PC replacement and Christmas package postage, St. John Lutheran church for AC replacement, City of Kensington for new Main Street flags, and the American Legion for partial funding of a mural.

The 4th annual Arnold & Evelyn Levin Legacy grant was awarded to the Kensington Community store for new security cameras.

The 3rd annual Pauline Seemann Gardner Legacy Grants were awarded to the Kensington Commercial Club for their Christmas Kickoff event and additional Christmas lights.

The 3rd annual Fraser Legacy Grant was awarded to Kensington Senior Center for water heater

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## 30 Years



Sheriff Travis Conaway gifted Kent Levin a award for 30 years of service as a County Dispatcher. Travis stated that Kent is a rock and goes beyond and gives it his all no mater what situation come across his desk. The celebration took place at the Smith County Courthouse on Monday, February 23. Thank You Kent.

Joleen Brewer/SCP

tion board of directors was able to award \$22,00 of contribute \$77,392 to our community. With the com-

## Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge fast approaching

The annual Smith County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) will be held on March 10 at Thunder Ridge High

School. The competition challenges junior high and high school students attending a school district or

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## Honored



Kharson Montgomery was recognized during the 2026 Isis Shrine Player Recognition Banquet on February 22. Kharson is pictured here with is grandparents Ray and Jean Montgomery and little brother Kingston Montgomery.

Submitted Photo

## 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 27-28- SCHS State Wrestling @ Hays
- March 6- 1:30 PM World Day of Payer @ the First Christian Church in Smith Center
- March 8- Time Change
- March 10- Smith County YEC Trade Show & Presentation in Kensington
- March 17- St. Parick's Day
- March 21- Smith Center Chamber of Commerce Banquet

#### 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

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- Smith Co. Commission .....Mondays at 8:30 a.m.
- USD #237 School Board .....2nd Mondays at 7 p.m.
- USD #110 School Board .....2nd Mondays at 7 p.m.
- Smith Center City .....2nd and 4th Mondays at 6 p.m.
- Kensington City .....2nd Mondays at 5 p.m.
- Lebanon City .....2nd Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
- Gaylord City .....2nd Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
- Athol City .....1st Mondays at 7 p.m.
- Cedar City .....1st Monday at 7 p.m.
- Deadline: Mondays at noon for 'Community Connection' notices.

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**Good Luck at State Wrestling!**

**SCHS**  
**Thursday, 2/26**  
- NO SCHOOL  
- FFA Week  
- Teacher Inservice from 8:10am - 12:00pm  
- Parent Teacher Conferences from 1:30pm - 7:30pm  
- FFA Ag Sales & Job Interview at Smith Center @ 9:00am  
- HS Forensics at Natoma  
- HS Sub-State Girls BB at Smith Center vs Rawlins County @ 6:00pm. No students or adults can be on the court prior to or during the game. Admission is \$8 for adults and only KSHSAA passes are accepted.  
**Friday, 2/27**  
- NO SCHOOL  
- FFA Week  
- HS State WR Tournament at Hays Gross Memorial Coliseum (Cunningham Hall, 600 Park St) @ 9:00am. Admission is \$11.  
- HS Sub-State Boys BB at TMP (1701 Hall St) @ 6:00pm. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and only KSHSAA passes are accepted.  
**Saturday, 2/28**  
- HS State WR Tournament at Hays Gross Memorial Coliseum (Cunningham Hall, 600 Park St) @ 9:00am. Admission is \$11.  
**Good Luck, Lady Red & Redmen!!**

#### Weekend Outlook

**FRIDAY**  
High: 72°F Low: 36°F  
Mainly sunny sky  
**SATURDAY**  
High: 55°F Low: 19°F  
Some sun in the morning with increasing clouds during the afternoon  
**SUNDAY**  
High: 39°F Low: 20°F  
Mostly cloudy skies

Information from The Weather Channel printed is current as of press time; subject to change

#### Crop Report

Prices effective at closing of February 23, 2026 courtesy of Trinity Ag in Smith Center  
WHEAT...\$4.86  
CORN...\$3.51  
MILO...\$3.06  
SOYBEANS...\$ 10.22

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