

Peace, Joy & Blessings at Easter

Get your Church Easter Service information to us
 email pioneer@ruraltel.net
 call us at 785-282-3371
 stop by 112 W. Kansas St.

THE *Smith County* PIONEER

Published on Thursdays
 Serving the Residents
 of Smith County since 1872

pioneer@ruraltel.net
www.mainstreetmedia.us
 2 Sections - 16 pages

Thursday, March 5, 2026
 Vol. 153, No. 10 ~ Smith Center, Kansas 66967 \$1.00

Hutchinson places first at State Wrestling



Coaches and State Medalist

BY JOLEEN BREWER
 Smith Co. Pioneer

The 1-2-3A State Wrestling Tournament took place in Hays over this past weekend.

Smith Center High School took 10 wrestlers,

five girls and five boys.

Parker Hutchinson returned to SCHS as State Champion. Montgomery and Lady Red Ochoa are State Runners Up. Kattenburg placed third along with Kamper Franklin and Red-

men, Karson Nichols placing sixth. SCHS place seventh as a team.

The Smith Co. Pioneer congratulates all State Qualifiers, You make Smith County proud of your accomplishments.

Lebanon host educational class

Don't let the bed bugs bite

BY JOLEEN BREWER
 Smith Co. Pioneer

John and Jina Kugler, owners of "Bug Hounds" were in Lebanon on Sunday the first of March.

John and Jina, both former residents of Smith Center, were at the Lebanon Community Center where they demonstrate how their dog could detect and alert the first sign of bed bugs.

John and Jina now reside in Wamago KS. but are often travelling with their dogs to jobs. Their cliental are mostly motels, hospitals, nursing homes, libraries, air planes and personal residents.

John and Jina talked on prevention of bring home bed bugs while traveling.

This event was free to the public and very educational.



John Kugler and Cocoa

HOR Spring Celebration approaching fast



Home on the Range

BY JOLEEN BREWER
 Smith Co. Pioneer

Plans for the ninth annual Home on the Range Spring Celebration are being made.

The celebration will take place the first weekend in May, with array of activities.

A four person Golf

Scramble, a Pickleball Tournament and a special Chief's Chat with the voice of the Kansas City Chiefs; Mitch Holthus and other Chief's guest.

This celebration is a fundraiser for The Peoples Heartland Foundations- Home On The Range

Cabin.

Each year the foundation has earmark funds for good use. In 2017-2018 the funds were used the funds to purchase a tractor, mower, back blade and a tour trailer. The next year funds were used to build the award-winning foot bridge and connecting walkway from the cabin to the west bank of Beaver Creek.

Funds from 2021 to present are being used to construct the 90 Road bridge and the approaches. This is necessary for allowance of heavy vehicles to cross West Beaver Creek in preparation for the construction of an amphitheater and for transport of equipment for special events.

Walking trails at the Cabin Suit are also in process.

Scams at all time high

Gold investment scams are booming: the elderly in Texas lost over \$55 million to gold scams, and for most of them, it was all their life savings.

While institutions still issue warnings on safe investments and fraud avoid-

ance, and with gold prices reaching record highs and going beyond \$5,000 per ounce, scammers are preying more and more on Americans, especially seniors, to invest.

In the last two years, FBI •Continued to page B7

Sendoff



Jennie Franklin yells into a megaphone to get the downtown crowd pumped up for the State Wrestling sendoff last Thursday afternoon. State Wrestling took place in Hays, February 27-28.

Joleen Brewer/SCP

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

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

March 29- Palm Sunday

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.

inside:

This week:
 Weekly Moviepg 2
 Townshippg 3
 Opinionpg 4-5
 Community News..pg 8
 Classifieds.....pg 9
 See more inside!

Obituaries
 Zelma Peterson Page 2

Church
 Church service information Page 3

Opinion page
 Editorials, cartoons & more! Pages 4-5

Letter to the Editor
 Voices from all corners! Page 5

Meeting minutes Page 8

Sports
 Page B1-B3

Call Joleen at 785*282*3371 to get your Church Easter information listed in the Pioneer

SCHS
 Thursday, 3/5
 - JH Scholars Bowl at Phillipsburg @ 4:00pm
 - Forensics practice from 7:00pm - 9:00pm
 Friday, 3/6
 - HS 2A Girls Sub-State Finals at Smith Center with teams TBA @ 6:00pm & 7:30pm. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students.
 Saturday, 3/7
 - HS 2A Boys Sub-State Finals at Smith Center with teams TBA @ 5:00pm & 6:30pm. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$6 for students.
 Good Luck, Redmen & Lady Red!!

Weekend Outlook

FRIDAY
 High: 67°F Low: 33°F
 Cloudy in the morning giving away to sunny skies in the afternoon
 SATURDAY
 High: 57°F Low: 35°F
 Mostly sunny skies
 SUNDAY
 High: 71°F Low: 39°F
 Sunny

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

Crop Report
 Prices effective at closing of March 3, 2026 courtesy of Trinity Ag in Smith Center
 WHEAT...\$4.85
 CORN...\$3.59
 MILO...\$3.14
 SOYBEANS...\$ 10.35

the Guaranty STATE BANK & TRUST CO.

Growing to meet your financial needs, while keeping your focus on individual services.

Now with multiple locations to better serve our customers.

www.guarantystate.com

Member FDIC
 EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Did you Know? We offer several FREE Electronic Banking Services
 Toll-Free: 888-738-8000

Online Banking • Online BillPay*
 Mobile Banking • Mobile Deposit

Questions: Give us a call, or use the CONTACT US found on our website (to the right of our bank logo) and send us a secure message for more info.