

VA Heath Fair Townhall Meeting
 Saturday, March 28th @ 8:30 AM
 Kensington American Legion Hall
 114 S. Main Street in Kensington KS

THE *Smith County* PIONEER

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Scammers impersonating DMV

BY JOLEEN BREWER
 Smith Co. Pioneer

This week's Scam report is about the text megaseism you get about paying for a toll fee.

My husband received one last Wednesday night. We have not been anywhere that we would need to pay a toll fee. We have been on the main high ways and county roads for the last 4 months. Sometimes I will get them and the next week my husband will get one.

We will go a whole month with no one trying to steal from us then, BAM! four in a week. Some back to back from different numbers.

If these people would put their minds to good instead of trying to rip people off, the world would be a better place.

Now a days with technology being so advanced, it is easier to take advantage of people.

Scammers are impersonating the DMV and toll au-

thorities and sending urgent texts that demand immediate payment for "unpaid traffic tickets" or "outstanding tolls." These messages often threaten license suspension to pressure victims into clicking malicious links.

State of Kansas agencies emphasize the following:

KDOT does not manage tolls and will never request payment via text.

The Kansas DMV (KDOR) will never text you to demand payment for fines or notify you of suspensions.

Official notifications from KDOR are sent via the U.S. Postal Service, not via unsolicited text messages.

To protect yourself from potential fraud, do not click on links within suspicious texts, as doing so can expose your sensitive personal and financial data to scammers. If you believe you may actually owe a fine, verify the claim by contacting the relevant or-

ganization directly through official channels rather than using a link provided in a text. Additionally, you can check the status of your driver's license for free on the KDOR website at www.kdor.ks.gov/Apps/DL_Status/login.aspx. Finally, use your phone's "Report Spam" feature before deleting the message to help prevent future attempts.

Kansas is one of several states currently being hit by this coordinated effort. Staying informed of the facts and remaining skeptical of unsolicited texts is your best defense against persistent scammers.

If you have already provided financial information to a fraudulent website, contact your bank or credit card company immediately to freeze your accounts. Report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov or the Internet Crime Complaint Center at ic3.gov.

YEC



Alli Peterson took part in the Smith Co. Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge students set up their booth at Thunder Ridge High School last Tuesday, March 11. Alli's business project was Hooves of Hope. This business is utilizing horses to equip people with hope, healing and health.

Pam Gibble/SCP

inside:

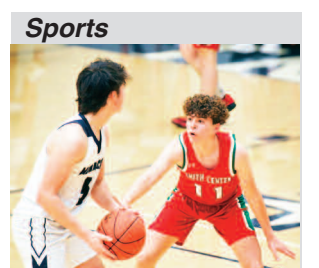
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Smith Center City Council Meeting
 March 31st
 @6pm

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

SCHS
 Thursday, 3/19
 No School -SPRING BREAK
 Friday, 3/20
 - No School - SPRING BREAK
 Good Luck, Lady Red & Redmen!!

Weekend Outlook
FRIDAY
 High: 91°F Low: 49°F
 Plentiful sunshine. Near record high temps
SATURDAY
 High: 92°F Low: 42°F
 Mainly sunny skies
SUNDAY
 High: 59°F Low: 34°F
 A few clouds from time to time, Gusty Winds in the early AM

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

Crop Report
 Prices effective at closing of March 16, 2026 courtesy of Trinity Ag in Smith Center
 WHEAT...\$5.47
 CORN...\$3.78
 MILO...\$3.33
 SOYBEANS...\$ 10.68



Lebanon Community Library to host Book Fair

Our Monday game nights are growing in popularity.

On March 2nd we had eight plus the librarian and the 9th it was seven with a

planned absence of our most regular attendees. We played Yahtzee – one game ended up staying until 7:30 to finish it.

The Girl Scouts deliv-

ered their cookies the 9th also, so if you ordered some and have not received them, they are probably at the library waiting for you. And

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Recognition Dinner



Members of the Mt Suribachi Marine Corps League were treated to a dinner by the Late John Overmiller family. John was a member of the Mt Suribachi Marine Corps League and was the most recent member to pass.

Submitted Photo

Lions Club Commodities distribution date approaching

The Smith Center Lions Club will be distributing commodities on Tuesday, March 24 starting at 9 a.m. with sign in prior to that, at Western Plains Village Meeting Room.

This is the second distribution of 2026. Distribution is on a first come-first serve basis for those that are income eligible. Proxy sheets will be available to have someone pick up your commodities with a signed

form but cannot be picked up by just anyone on the day of distribution.

The list of products available is listed but sometimes certain items are not available. They are: Black beans; Mixed fruit; Green beans; Pears; Sliced Peaches; Whole Chickens; Carrots; Refried Beans; Cream of Mushroom Soup; and Dried Cranberries. Please bring bags or carts to take home your products.

Smith Center Lions Club also provides commodities in Kensington, Gaylord and Lebanon. Please check the schedule at those locations for distribution times. This project is part of the service to our community for the Prevent Hunger effort worldwide. Smith Center Lions is a non profit service club that provides community service. We Serve.

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 23- School resumes at USD 237 with all classes dismissing at 3:30
 March 29- Palm Sunday
 April 3- Good Friday
 April 5- Easter Sunday
 April 10- Smith Center's Shop n' Stroll

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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