



St. Mary's Catholic Church
3rd Annual Fish Fry
 Friday, March 27th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM
 403 Highway 36 in Smith Center

THE *Smith County* PIONEER

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 1 Section - 10 pages

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Chamber Banquet draws 43



Trooper Ben Gardner

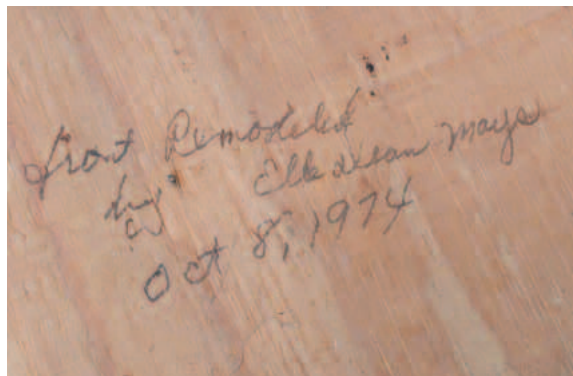
BY JOLEEN BREWER
 Smith Co. Pioneer

The Smith Center Cham-ber or Commerce held their annual banquet on Saturday, March 21, at the VFW

in Smith Center. Denim and Dimonds was the theme for the banquet that hosted 43 people. Attendees enjoyed a catered meal from Pooches of chicken fried steaks and smoked pork chops. Chamber president Chris Huffman introduced the Chamber board members before presenting awards. The awards were split into three categories, Business of the year, Person of the year, and Club or Organization of the year. All voting was open to the public and the end results were the "Peoples Choice Awards". Receiving Business of the year was Farmers Union Insurance with Greg Frank. Peoples choice for Person of the year was Marie Overmiller.

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1974



Found written on a board in the front window of Huffman's Floor Covering is a message from the last contractor who remodeled the store front at 115 S. Main Street. Contractor was Elle Dean Mays and is dated Oct. 8, 1974. His wife was my first grade teacher here in Smith Center.

Submitted photo

Area students earn Hansen scholarships

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation of Logan, Kansas has named 229 high school seniors from 47 Northwest Kansas schools as winners in its 51st annual scholarship competition.

In selecting award winners, the Scholarship Committee considered proficiency in verbal and writing skills. Other important factors are academic records, test scores, and community service in

which the student may have participated.

The Foundation offered seventy scholarships for Hansen Student winners. These awards are for \$4,000 and may be renewed for one additional year provided the student has maintained a satisfactory academic record. This year's winners are: Gavin Hickert, Smith Center H.S. Emma Howland, Smith

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SCHS
Thursday, 3/26
 - HS Forensics meet at Smith Center @ 3:30pm

Friday, 3/27
 - HS Forensics meet at Washington Co. @ 4:00pm

Saturday, 3/28
 - HS Forensics at Norton @ 8:00am
 - HS Cheer tryouts at SCHS gym @ 6:00pm

Sunday, 3/29
 - HS Cheer tryouts at SCHS gym @ 2:00pm

Good Luck, Redmen & Lady Red!!



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 Call 785-282-3371

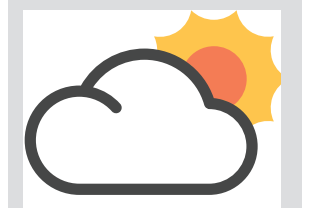
Weekend Outlook

FRIDAY
 High: 54°F Low: 28°F
 Partly cloudy skies

SATURDAY
 High: 60°F Low: 40°F
 Partly cloudy skies

SUNDAY
 High: 77°F Low: 50°F
 Intervals of clouds and sunshine

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



Crop Report
 Prices effective at closing of March 24, 2026 courtesy of Trinity Ag in Smith Center
 WHEAT...\$5.18
 CORN...\$3.78
 MILO...\$3.33
 SOYBEANS...\$ 10.36



Classes offered by Smith Co. Memorial Hospital

SCMH invites farm families & community members to learn three simple steps that can help save a life.

Life in rural communities is built on neighbors helping neighbors.

Smith County Memorial Hospital welcomes everyone to a free QPR suicide prevention training on Thursday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at the hospital located at 921 E Highway 36 in Smith Center.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer.

These are three simple steps anyone can learn to help someone who may be struggling with thoughts of suicide. Like CPR for heart emergencies, QPR gives people the tools to spot warning signs, start a caring conversation, and guide someone toward professional support.

Farming brings many rewards, but it also comes with real challenges, such

as unpredictable weather, changing markets, long hours, and the responsibility of caring for a family. In rural areas, people often keep these struggles to themselves. Learning to notice when someone is having a hard time and knowing how to help can truly save lives.

"Sometimes the most important thing we can do is simply ask someone if they're okay," said Laura Kingsbury, RN and certified QPR trainer, who will lead the session. "When more people in a community know how to start that conversation, lives are saved."

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Tractor safety classes offered

This summer, thousands of Kansas teenagers will begin their first job working for a farmer or rancher. Those who are ages 14 or 15 must complete a tractor safety course in order to be legally employed. A thirteen-year-old may enroll in the training if turning 14 before the next year's class is offered, but the certificate will not be issued until their fourteenth birthday.

To help prepare some of those youth for the upcoming work season, several K-State Extension Districts are collaborating and will host three in-person tractor safety classes on April 18 (Great Bend), April 25 (Beloit), and May 28 (Solomon).

This course will meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor's Hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture (HOOA). The HOOA regulations state that youth ages 14 and 15 who wish to work as a hired employee for someone other than a parent or legal guardian and

operate a farm tractor with 20 HP or greater must suc-

cessfully complete a tractor safety training program.

On Duty



On Friday, March 20th, 2026 Trenton Frydendall graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC). Frydendall started working for the Smith County Sheriff's Department on December 1, 2025. He is married to wife Autumn and they have two children son Weston and daughter Addison. We look forward to having him patrolling the county.

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

March 27- 3rd Annual Fish Fry @ St. Mary's Parish Hall 6:30-8:00 PM
March 29- Palm Sunday
April 3- Good Friday
April 5- Easter Sunday
April 10- Smith Center's Shop n' Stroll
April 19- Kiwanis Club Annual Spaghetti Feed

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: Tuesdays at noon for ads. Mondays for Legals and Obituaries

Regular Meetings

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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