



FY25

Local Content & Service Report



ABOUT

Smoky Hills Public Television, also known as Smoky Hills PBS, provides tremendous value to the state of Kansas by serving as a trusted source of educational, cultural, and public affairs programming. As one of the public media stations in Kansas, we play a vital role in supporting early childhood education, lifelong learning, and civic engagement. Our locally produced content highlights Kansas stories, celebrates regional heritage, and gives voice to rural communities often underrepresented in mainstream media. Through educational initiatives, community partnerships, and free resources for families, Smoky Hills PBS strengthens communities across the state and ensures that all Kansans—regardless of location—have access to quality, enriching programming.



OUR MISSION

Smoky Hills PBS nourishes our curiosity with telecommunications to enrich people's lives and make Kansas a better place to live and work.



Smoky Hills PBS provides a great importance to our coverage area by serving as a trusted source of educational, cultural, and locally focused programming. From award-winning children's content to original local productions and community outreach, we strive to meet the unique needs of the rural communities we serve. Through strong partnerships with schools, libraries, and organizations, we extend learning beyond the screen and into homes and classrooms. Our commitment to accessibility, lifelong learning, and community connection makes Smoky Hills PBS an essential resource for viewers of all ages across central and western Kansas.



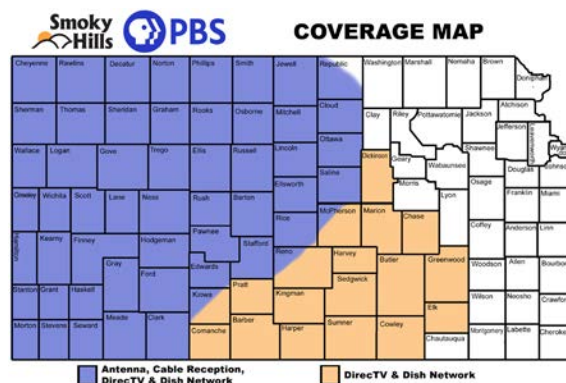
Jeanie Straub Little
I enjoy this station so much

KOOD
CH 9
Hays

KSWK
CH 3
Lakin

KWKS
CH 19
Colby

KDCK
CH 21
Dodge City



VISITING SCHOOLS

Smoky Hills PBS had the pleasure of visiting Russell elementary schools to engage students with our PBS KIDS content. During our visit, we introduced students to fun, educational programming that supports key learning goals in literacy, science, and social-emotional development. Through interactive activities and familiar PBS KIDS characters, we helped spark curiosity and excitement for learning. These visits are part of our ongoing effort to connect with local schools and provide valuable educational experiences that extend beyond the classroom.



ATTENDING EVENTS

Throughout FY25, Smoky Hills PBS was proud to attend community events in our viewing area, including the Lovegrass Festival at Lake Wilson, The Earth Day Celebration in Great Bend, and the Mental Health Awareness Fair. These events provided valuable opportunities to connect with families, share information about our educational resources, and promote the mission of public media. By being present at local events, we strengthened our community relationships and showcased the many ways Smoky Hills PBS supports education, wellness, and engagement throughout the region.



Great Bend Zoo



Mental Health Awareness Fair

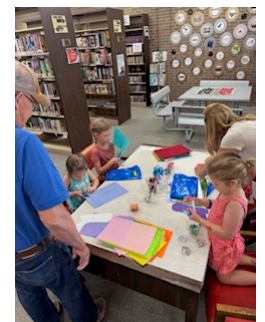


Lovegrass Music Festival

Family Fun Day Events



In August 2024, Smoky Hills PBS brought the Family Fun Day event to the towns of Phillipsburg and Victoria. Smoky Hills PBS had the opportunity to interact with 350 children and provide each one with a FREE book, promoting literacy and community engagement in our viewing area.



FY 25 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT

LOCAL PROGRAMMING



LOCAL SPORTS COVERAGE

Smoky Hills PBS is proud to provide broadcast of local sports, bringing high school athletic events to viewers across our coverage area. By broadcasting these games, we highlight the talents and dedication of student-athletes, foster school spirit, and ensure families and communities can celebrate these moments together—whether they're in the stands or watching from home.

2024 Kansas Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

October 2024 - Topeka, KS

2024 KSHSAA State Volleyball - 2A & DI

November 2024 - Dodge City, KS

State Football - 1A, 2A, 3A

LIVE NOV 29 & 30 - Hutchinson, KS

KSHSAA 8-Player DI & DII State Football

KSHSAA 5A State Football

KSHSAA 6-Player State Football

December 2024 - Greensburg, KS

KSHSAA 3-2-1A Wrestling

Boys and Girls

LIVE FEB 28 & March 1, 2025 - Hays, KS



Jeremy McGuire and Larry Jantz have been the voices of our football broadcasts for over 20 years! They have been bringing the excitement of Kansas high school football into homes across

Central and Western KS for decades!



For over 40 years, Smoky Hills PBS has proudly broadcast the KSHSAA 3-2-1A State Wrestling Championship, making it a cherished tradition and a viewer favorite throughout our region. In FY25, we were especially proud to expand our coverage to include girls wrestling for the first time—highlighting the growing strength and talent of female athletes across Kansas. This broadcast has become a staple for families, schools, and communities, showcasing the dedication, sportsmanship, and talent of Kansas high school wrestlers. We're honored to continue bringing this exciting event into homes year after year, celebrating the athletes who represent the heart of our local communities.



"BIG kudos for SHPTV's coverage of high school wrestling in Hays. While my wife and I were on-site for the tournament, many of our friends and family were able to tune in via your

broadcast to watch our granddaughter take second in state. I appreciate all that you and the entire SHPTV staff do!" ~ Ron Michael, Lindsborg, KS

KSHSAA 1A DI State Basketball

March 2025 - Dodge City, KS

Kansas Shrine Bowl

June 21, 2025 - Dodge City, KS

FY 25 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT

LOCAL PROGRAMMING



LIVE Call-In Shows

Our LIVE productions, Doctors on Call and The Kansas Legislature, provide meaningful and timely connections for the rural communities we serve. Doctors on Call offers viewers direct access to local medical professionals who answer health-related questions live on-air—an especially valuable resource for individuals in areas where healthcare options may be limited. The Kansas Legislature gives viewers an inside look at state government, featuring Kansas Representatives and Senators discussing current issues and taking live questions from the public.

These programs inform and engage our rural audiences and ensure their voices are heard!

Doctors on Call



2025 marked the 20th season! This interactive, viewer call-in program connects rural Kansans with local health experts—covering topics like chiropractics, pain management, pulmonology, wound care, and many more! It offers timely medical insights, answers to viewer questions, and bridges the gap for communities who may lack easy access to healthcare services.



Simone Korbe

Excellent program. Love Doctors on Call. Jenna also does a very great job with her questions!

23h

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The Kansas Legislature



The Kansas Legislature returned to Smoky Hills PBS in 2025 with six new episodes during the legislative session. This informative, live call-in program featured 14 Kansas legislators who provided updates on key issues and discussed the work being done at the State Capitol. By offering direct access to elected officials, the show helps keep our rural communities informed and engaged in the legislative process.



2025 Kansas State of the State Address



Smoky Hills PBS proudly brought the 2025 State of the State Address by Governor Laura Kelly to viewers across our entire viewing area. This LIVE presentation provided Kansans—including those in rural communities—with direct access to the governor's insights on statewide initiatives, priorities, and updates, ensuring they stay informed and connected to important state policy.

FY 25 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT

LOCAL PROGRAMMING



Smoky Hills PBS Productions

Smoky Hills PBS takes great pride in producing original, local content created by our dedicated staff. From educational interstitials to full-length programs and live productions, our team works hard to highlight the people, stories, and issues that matter most to our region. These locally produced programs reflect the values and voices of our communities, reinforcing our commitment to serving and celebrating the unique character of central and western Kansas.



Real Ag

Season 13 of Real Ag aired on Smoky Hills PBS, featuring 8 NEW episodes! This new season aimed to entertain, empower, and educate viewers on how agriculture isn't just about raising plants and animals; it's about the environment we live in, the economy we rely on, and the future we create.



Max Aguiar, Director, interviews Rachel Stroer, President of The Land Institute.

Traveling Kansas: Rooks County

In November 2024, Smoky Hills PBS explored Rooks County, giving viewers an inside look at the people, places, and stories that make the area unique!



Interview with Jayne Prockish about the Stockton Barn Quilt Wall.

Educational Interstitials

Smoky Hills PBS completed 3 NEW local educational children's interstitials in FY25, each featuring people and places from communities across our viewing area! These short engaging segments showcase familiar faces and hometown settings and inspire learning through locally produced programming.

- **STEM Careers in Kansas**
- **Family Reading Time**
- **Music Builds Reading Skills**



Music Builds Reading Skills

BEHIND THE SCENES
WITH LOCAL AUTHOR LINDA CROWDER
AND



Kansas Governor's Scholars Award Program



Smoky Hills PBS was honored to provide LIVE coverage of The Kansas Governor's Scholars Award Program. This program celebrates outstanding graduating seniors who rank in the top 1% of their high school class. For over 41 years, this prestigious program has recognized academic excellence across the state, and our live broadcast ensured families, schools, and communities could join in celebrating these exceptional Kansas students.

Bringing Trusted Programming to Our Communities

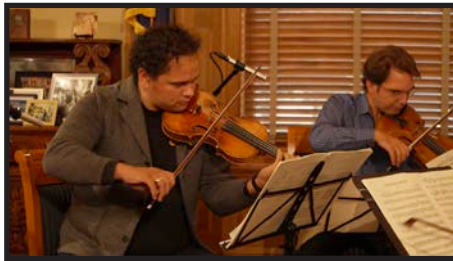
Smoky Hills PBS carefully curates and selects high-quality, educational programming to ensure our viewers have access to content that matters most to them. By selecting trusted programs from national and independent producers, we provide meaningful, relevant, and enriching content that supports learning, inspires curiosity, and reflects the values of our communities.



Life On The Harvest Run

Smoky Hills PBS is proud to bring locally produced documentaries like Life On The Harvest Run to our viewers, showcasing stories that reflect the heart of our region. Produced by Fort Hays State University, this film follows the lives of two Kansas custom harvesting families—the Beforts from Hays and the Froeses from Inman—offering a powerful glimpse into the hard work and traditions that

shape rural life. By airing content like this, we celebrate local voices and provide meaningful, relatable programming that strengthens community identity and pride.



LG Desk Concerts

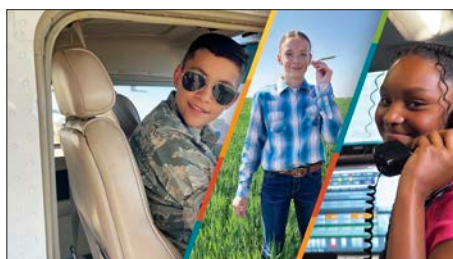
LG Desk Concerts is a unique production by our friends at KTWU, showcasing the incredible performing arts talent found throughout Kansas. Filmed live from the office of the Lieutenant Governor, this series highlights musicians from across the state, bringing their artistry to a wider audience while celebrating Kansas's rich cultural landscape. It's a creative blend of government and the arts, offer-

ing viewers a front-row seat to local talent.



KANSAS POETRY OUTLOUD

Smoky Hills PBS proudly brought the Poetry Out Loud competition to our viewers, showcasing the best young high school poets from across Kansas. By selecting this powerful program, we highlighted the creativity, talent, and expression of students as they performed classic and contemporary works—bringing the beauty of spoken word into homes throughout our region.



Cool Careers

A Series for Kansas Kids

In this engaging series, a crew of Kansas kids travels across the state to

discover high-demand careers—introducing young viewers to real professionals, local opportunities, and the skills needed for success. By highlighting careers close to home, Cool Careers helps connect students with their futures and showcases the possibilities available right here in Kansas.

COTTONWOOD CONNECTIONS



Cottonwood Connections is a local series that offers viewers fascinating insights into the rich history and diverse culture of the Great Plains region.

Through engaging storytelling and in-depth exploration, the series highlights the people, places, and events that have shaped our part of the country.



Throughout FY25, Smoky Hills PBS was proud to air Ellis Trail to Nicodemus, a powerful documentary that gave viewers a glimpse into the journey of a family traveling west in 1877 from

central Kentucky to the promised lands of Kansas. This meaningful program highlighted a significant chapter in our state's history and shared the enduring legacy of those who helped shape the Nicodemus community.



Karla Bates Adams
Thank You [Smoky Hills PBS](#) for sharing this information. You must be seeing how all of the out of area folks are wanting to watch. Good For You. Appreciate! KUDOS! 🙌🙌
And that's my cousin. 😊

16m Love Reply Message Hide



Coming Fall 2025 ...

During FY25, Smoky Hills PBS has been hard at work filming and conducting interviews for our upcoming local production, Growing Together. This informative series will explore important topics such as responsive feeding for babies, the dangers of vaping, and preparing for adulthood—providing valuable resources and real-life insight for families across our region.

Growing Together



The set of Growing Together

FY 25 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT

LITERACY INITIATIVES

FIRST BOOK CLUB

In FY25, Smoky Hills PBS distributed 4,707 FREE books to children across our viewing area. These books were provided during the school day to children enrolled in public preschools and Head Start programs, thanks to the generous support of partner foundations throughout our region. In many classrooms, teachers incorporated the books into their lessons, making them a valuable tool for early literacy and learning.



PBS KIDS WRITERS CONTEST

In 2025, the Smoky Hills PBS KIDS Writers Contest had an inspiring impact, with over 100 creative story submissions from children across our viewing area. This annual contest encourages young writers in grades 1 through 5 to use their imaginations to write and illustrate their own original stories. A panel of judges selected the top three entries in each grade level, celebrating the talent, creativity, and hard work of these young authors. The contest not only promotes literacy and storytelling skills but also empowers children to express themselves and take pride in their accomplishments.



We also presented an Osborne Elementary teacher with an award and supplies for her classroom because she has been helping her students submit stories in the PBS KIDS Writers Contest for 21 years!



"I love the writers' contest because it brings out the creativity in each of my individual students and gives them a chance to write (for most of them) their very first story! It can also be challenging for them at first to come up with their ideas, and when their story is finished they are so proud of their accomplishment! We read so many stories throughout the school-year so the students get to see firsthand how much work goes into writing and illustrating a story!"

~ Osborne Teacher (submitting stories for 21 years!)

"Thank you for helping with this contest. My kids enjoyed participating!"

~ Gina Elizabeth (parent)

"The 4th Graders that entered the contest last year, came to our room to watch the winners show. I think they were just as excited as the third graders who won this year! It was seriously so sweet... It's like their excitement from last year carried over for them wanting to see the 3rd graders have the same joy! They were so happy for the winners. I wanted you to know that because that really is the impact that it has on the kids!"

~ 3rd Grade Teacher Otis-Bison

FY 25 LOCAL CONTENT AND SERVICE REPORT

LITERACY INITIATIVES



SHARE A STORY

During the summer of 2025, Smoky Hills PBS visited 82 libraries across our coverage area to encourage reading through our Share A Story program, themed around Curious George. Following the Learning Triangle—Read it, Watch it, Do it—children enjoyed a story, watched a related PBS KIDS episode, and completed a fun craft.

Each child received a FREE book, and we distributed over a thousand books expanding the home libraries to families throughout our viewing area.



Smoky Hills PBS proudly serves our **1,489 members** by providing quality educational programming, engaging local productions, and exclusive member benefits. Through their generous support, we're able to deliver trusted content that informs, inspires, and connects communities across our region. Our members play a vital role in sustaining public television, and we remain committed to serving them with programming that reflects their values and supports lifelong learning.

"I enjoy using PBS passport. Great educational programs for kids and adults. Have enjoyed many of the storylines: All Creatures Great and Small, Downton Abby, Atlantic Crossing, Ridley, The Marlow Murder Club, Call the Midwife and Austin City Limits etc." ~ SHPBS member

"Smoky Hills PBS is such a great asset to Western Kansas."
~ SHPBS member



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SMOKY HILLS PBS MOBILE APP



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OUR THREE BROADCAST CHANNELS

9.1 Smoky Hills PBS

Our main broadcast channel that engages, educates, and inspires.



9.2 PBS KIDS 24/7

Educational children's programming proven to boost early development.



9.3 Create @create

The first DIY channel: viewer favorites on food, travel, arts & crafts, and more.

