



“Love the local programs!”

FY26

Local Content & Service Report



For Smoky Hills PBS, FY26 brought unprecedented challenges, from the loss of federal funding to the transition into our new studio. Despite these obstacles, we remained committed to serving the communities that rely on us. Throughout the year, we continued to connect with families through community events, provide valuable educational programs and resources, and bring local sports and stories into homes across Central and Western Kansas. Our ability to overcome these challenges while continuing to reach our viewers demonstrates the lasting value and importance of Smoky Hills PBS to the communities we serve.

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.

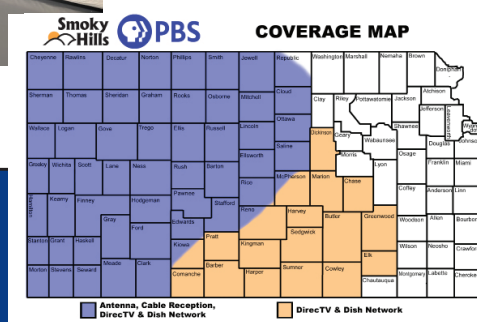
As one of the smallest PBS stations in the country, Smoky Hills PBS accomplishes a tremendous amount with a team of just ten employees. Despite our small staff and limited resources, our team wears many hats to keep the station on the air, produce local content, engage with communities, and provide educational programming and outreach across Central and Western Kansas. Their dedication and commitment allow Smoky Hills PBS to continue serving our viewers and making a meaningful impact throughout our region.



LEFT: NEW studio

“Smoky Hills PBS is my happy place. When I need a break from the world, I turn here for comfort and entertainment.”

KOOD **KSWK** **KWKS** **KDCK**
CH 9 **CH 3** **CH 19** **CH 21**
Hays **Lakin** **Colby** **Dodge City**





LUNCH & LEARN at LIBRARIES

In the fall of 2025, Smoky Hills PBS participated virtually in several library Lunch & Learn events via Zoom. During these presentations, we introduced attendees to our newest local documentaries and shared the many free educational resources available through Smoky Hills PBS and PBS KIDS. These virtual events allowed us to connect with library patrons across our viewing area and expand awareness of the valuable content and services we provide.

Meade Public Library and Ashland City Library

VISITING SCHOOLS

Smoky Hills PBS had the pleasure of visiting Otis-Bison Elementary to celebrate Kansas Day. During our visit, we engaged students and teachers with the educational resources available through PBS KIDS. We introduced students to new PBS KIDS programs and highlighted the many free learning tools available to support classroom and at-home learning. Visits like these are part of our ongoing commitment to partnering with local schools and providing educational experiences that extend beyond the classroom.



ATTENDING EVENTS

In April 2026, Smoky Hills PBS joined families at the Earth Day Celebration at the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo, where Curious George delighted more than 500 children with hugs, photos, and smiles. As part of our commitment to promoting literacy, we provided every child with a FREE book, encouraging a love of reading while connecting with families in a fun, educational setting.



Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo

LOCAL SPORTS COVERAGE

During FY26, Smoky Hills PBS continued to bring local sports coverage to viewers across our region. Our broadcasts give families and communities the opportunity to cheer on local student-athletes, celebrate their accomplishments, and experience important sporting events from home. This coverage remains an important part of our commitment to connecting viewers with the people and events that matter most to them.

2025 KSHSAA State Volleyball

NOV 15 & 16 - Dodge City, KS

2025 State Football - 1A, 2A, 3A

LIVE NOV 28 & 29 - Hutchinson, KS



2025 Kansas Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

NOV 27 - Washburn University - Topeka, KS



2025 8-Player State Football DI & DII 2025 6-Player State Football

DEC 6 & 7 - Greensburg, KS

2026 3-2-1A State Wrestling Boys & Girls

LIVE FEB 27 & 28 - Hays, KS

2026 3-2-1A State Wrestling Recap Show - Boys & Girls

March 2026

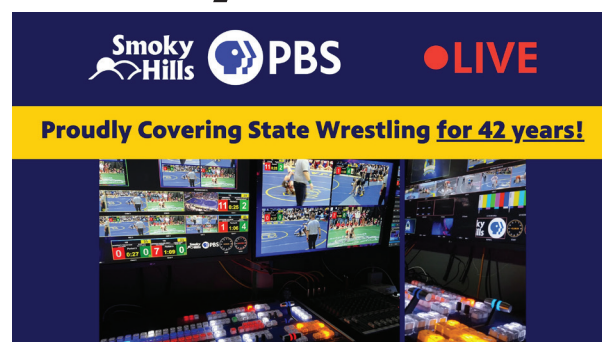
2026 KSHSAA 1A DI State Bball

March 21 & 22 - Dodge City, KS



2026 Kansas Shrine Bowl

LIVE June 27 - Emporia, KS



FY 26 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026) LOCAL PROGRAMMING



For FY26, Smoky Hills PBS's original production schedule looked a little different as we transitioned into our new building and studio. While the move limited our ability to produce our usual in-studio programming, we were still able to complete one original production at the beginning of the fiscal year. Growing Together was produced in our former studio and continued our commitment to creating local content that provides valuable information and resources to the communities we serve.

Growing Together

September 2025 - Smoky Hills PBS introduced GROWING TOGETHER with 3 ALL NEW episodes, providing proven resources for raising kids. Whether the

littles in your life are in diapers or about to leave the nest, GROWING TOGETHER is a gathering place for practical, evidence-based advice for all who raise children.



The set of Growing Together

2026 Kansas State of the State Address



January 13, 2026 - Smoky Hills PBS proudly brought the 2026 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 26

TRUSTED PARTNER CONTENT

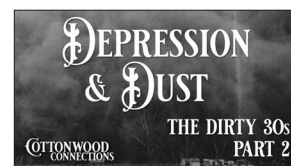
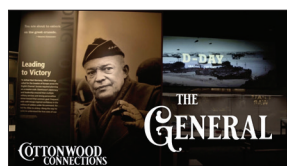


COTTONWOOD CONNECTIONS



During FY26, Smoky Hills PBS proudly premiered Seasons 7 and 8 of Cottonwood Connections, continuing to bring viewers engaging stories from across

the Sunflower State. Through the expertise of archaeologist and cowboy historian Don Rowlison, the series explores how Kansas has played a significant role in our nation's colorful and compelling history, preserving the people, places, and events that have shaped our region and our country.



Watch ALL episodes on the PBS app or PBS.org



August 2025 - Smoky Hills PBS was able to highlight the history of the Main Street Arts Council. The Main Street Arts Council is inspiring hundreds of kids through music, theatre, and the arts and we were proud to share their story in FY26.

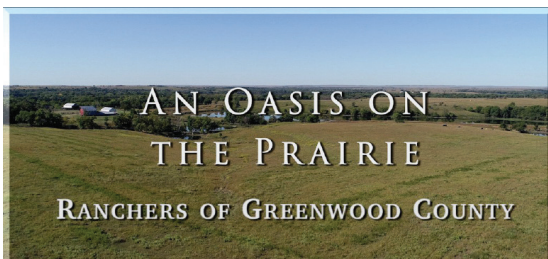


September 2025 -This documentary was from Tiger Media at Fort Hays State University that focused on housing and homelessness in Hays, Kansas.



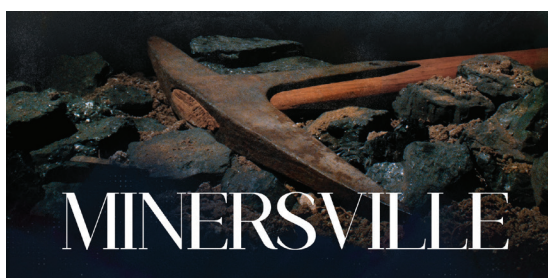
January 2026 - For over a century, the German Family Massacre has haunted the High Plains. The capture of four surviving sisters became legend, often distorted by sensational accounts. The Moccasin Speaks reveals the truer, tragic story of a pioneer family, the Cheyennes forced from their land, and an eventual reunion.

Watch NOW on the PBS app or PBS.org



March 2026 - An Oasis on the Prairie features a number of ranch families in the Flint Hills of Greenwood County, reflects on the changes that have taken place in the past century, as well as considering the challenges ranchers face today.

Watch NOW on the PBS app or PBS.org



June 2026 - Minersville is an award-winning documentary about the impact and spirit of a 1870s lignite coal-mining ghost town in the Belleville-Concordia area. The film tells the lost story and legacy of the town's 500 residents and 28 mines..

Watch NOW on the PBS app or PBS.org



June 2026 - Smoky Hills PBS brings back the Miss Kansas Pageant to broadcast television! The 2026 Miss Kansas competition brought contestants from across the state where they competed for the crown through talent, interview, evening wear, health and fitness, and on-stage conversation.

FY 26 LITERACY INITIATIVES



PBS KIDS WRITERS CONTEST

In FY26, the Smoky Hills PBS KIDS Writers Contest experienced tremendous growth, receiving 175 original stories from young writers across our viewing area—a significant increase from the previous year. This year also marked the first time we introduced a theme, giving students a creative starting point while encouraging them to develop their own unique stories and illustrations. This year was a ZOO theme. Feedback from teachers showed that the theme was especially helpful for students who may struggle with getting started, while still inspiring a wide range of creative ideas. One teacher shared:



“This has been such a great learning process for the kids. The more I got into it this year, the more I believed the theme was a great addition. It really helped the kids who may typically struggle with just getting started. So many creative ideas off of the zoo theme.”



The strong participation and enthusiastic response demonstrate the contest’s continued success in inspiring creativity, building writing skills, and fostering a love of storytelling among children in our region.

LEFT: Prizes given to some of our winners!

AWARD SHOW

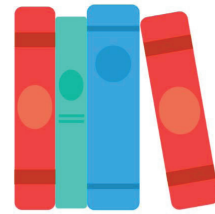
The 2026 PBS KIDS Writers Contest was celebrated with the Smoky Hills PBS Writers Contest Award Show, giving young authors the opportunity **to see their hard work recognized on television**. This special program featured the winning stories and celebrated the creativity and accomplishments of students from across our viewing area.

Watch NOW on the PBS app or [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org)

Share A Story

During the summer of 2026, Smoky Hills PBS took our Share A Story program to approximately **70 libraries** throughout our viewing area, connecting with **1489 children** and families through the power of reading. With a Dinosaur Train theme, children enjoyed watching a related movie, reading a PBS KIDS book, and completing a fun craft. Most importantly, we gave away **1304 FREE books**, helping put books into the hands of children and encouraging a love of reading across the communities we serve.

PBS
KIDS
Share
A
Story



Presented by
Smoky
Hills
PBS



- Read a Story
- Watch an Episode
- Do a Craft



Coming to a
Library
NEAR YOU!

WATCH



READ



CREATE



FY 26

NEW BROADCAST CHANNEL

Smoky
Hills
PBS



As part of our commitment to providing programming that matters most to our viewers, Smoky Hills PBS replaced the CREATE channel with SH Local, a channel dedicated to

showcasing the best of our local programming. SH Local gives us the opportunity to highlight Smoky Hills PBS productions, local documentaries, community stories, and special programs that reflect the people, places, and history of Central and Western Kansas. By creating a channel focused on our region, we can provide even more of the local content our viewers value and enjoy.

Effective 2/1/26

NEW Channel!



MAIL

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Bunker Hill, KS 67626

TELEPHONE

785-483-6990 or
toll-free: 800-337-4788

EMAIL

shptv@shptv.org

ONLINE

SmokyHillsPBS.org

LIVE TV

video.smokyhillstv.org/livestream



SMOKY HILLS PBS MOBILE APP



@SmokyHillsPBS

New Home, New Beginning
140 6th Street • Bunker Hill, KS



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Nick Levendofsky - Courtland
Brynae Thompson - Paradise
Michael Moeder - Paradise
Debra Tremblay - Hill City

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 SH Local
Highlighting SHPBS productions and local programming important to viewers in Central and Western KS

