

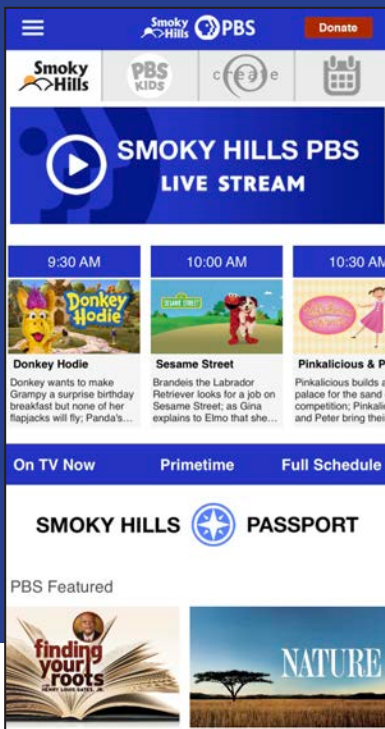
## Our Mission ....

Smoky Hills PBS provides Central and Western Kansas with commercial-free, high-quality programming that nourishes curiosity, enriches people's lives and makes Kansas a better place to live and work.

## Tap Into



In August 2022, SHPBS added a local station app, helping viewers and members stay connected to SHPBS anytime or anywhere! The app can be downloaded to a mobile device for FREE! **Another great way to stay connected to Smoky Hills PBS!**



Scan the QR code above to download the SHPBS app on your mobile device!



IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## LOCAL VALUE

For 40 Years Smoky Hills PBS has been in the neighborhoods we serve with programs, events and educational resources! You can also find us on your TV, tablet, computer, and now your mobile device!

Smoky Hills PBS is a valuable asset to Central and Western Kansas, which is comprised of primarily rural communities. Many residents depend on broadcast television because of their rural location. For some, Smoky Hills PBS is the only channel they receive.

In addition to programming, our services include the distribution of books to children, as well as schools and libraries across Central and Western Kansas.

## FY2023 Key Services

Smoky Hills PBS engaged with Kansas citizens in 71 counties through broadcast of local programming, more LIVE stream options, local sports coverage, Family Fun Day events, Share A Story programs, and our annual PBS KIDS Writers Contest.

## Local Impact

With a broadcast signal that covers most of the Western half of Kansas, Smoky Hills PBS connects Central and Western Kansas residents with commercial-free broadcasting, a 24/7 kids channel, a CREATE channel, a LIVE TV button where viewers can watch our station LIVE any time, and a mobile app.

Click below to access LIVE TV:

<https://video.smokyhillstv.org/livestream>

Click below for more info on the SHPBS mobile app:

<https://www.smokyhillspbs.org/app>

These services are possible through partnerships with educators, community leaders, businesses, and volunteers.

Smoky Hills PBS serves the community by providing events that both **entertain** and **educate**.



Curious George gives the Concordia Fall Festival 2 thumbs up!



Vaffeldagen in Lindsborg!

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Family Fun Days

In FY23, we traveled to 4 different locations throughout our viewing area, bringing a PBS KIDS character with us. Kids could meet the PBS KIDS character, take pictures with them, and give high fives. These events were FREE for all families! Children in attendance received a goody bag full of books and prizes!

#### Fall 2022

In September of 2022, Curious George visited two different towns! His first stop was in Spearville, KS, at the Hickory Hollow Pumpkin Patch where he greeted almost **200** kids! The next weekend Curious George stopped in Concordia for the Fall Festival event where he gave books to **284** children. (at left)



Curious George at Hickory Hollow Pumpkin Patch.

#### Spring 2023

In the Spring, we headed to the Lindsborg Community Library for Vaffeldagen (International Waffle Day). Nature Cat handed out FREE books to **167** kids in attendance! Our last event was in Hays at the Big Creek Crossing Mall. We handed out FREE books to **170** kids in attendance. Nature Cat loved his time in both communities and was very busy giving hugs and high fives!



Nature Cat loved his time at the Lindsborg Community Library.

Along with providing PBS programming, we also see the importance of highlighting the people, communities, and landscapes of Central and Western Kansas through our local programming.

A majority of our coverage area is made up of rural areas and small towns that have a passion for their community and the people within it. Smoky Hills PBS is able to bring that passion to life through many of our local productions throughout the year, telling more of the stories that matter most to our viewers!



## Traveling KS is BACK with a NEW LOOK ...

We were so excited to be able to bring back one of our popular productions: *Traveling KS!* We were able to give viewers a glimpse into 3 different counties with this new episode. We explored Smith, Jewell, and Republic counties.

Highlights included the Home on the Range Cabin, Jewell County Historical Museum, and

Belleville High Banks Race Track.



**Smith - Jewell - Republic Counties**

## IN THE COMMUNITY



In Season 11 we took a look at these topics:

- Farm Safety
- Air Spraying
- Side Hustles
- GMOs
- Poultry
- Disease Management
- Sunflowers

*Real Ag* is an exciting show for both consumers and those in the agri-business industry, showing the importance of agriculture and some of the issues impacting agriculture.



Above: On location for the episode of SIDE HUSTLES.



## Kansas Candidates

Kansas Candidates is a Smoky Hills PBS production that brings in local candidates to discuss topics that matter to Kansans.

KS Candidate Debate Forums (FY23)

- Salina Forum: Saline County Commission Dist. #5 (7/7/2022)
- Salina Forum: KS House Dist. 69 & 107 and State Board of Education 7th District - Presented by Salina League of Women Voters (7/7/2022)
- House of Rep. Dist. #122 & 123 (Garden City) (7/12/2022)
- House of Rep. Dist. #119 (Goetz vs Ralph) (7/13/2022)
- House of Rep. Dist. #109 (Waymaster vs. Erichsen) (7/19/2022)
- 2022 Governor's Race from the KS State Fair in Hutchinson, KS (Schmidt vs. Kelly) (9/10/2022)
- House of Rep. Dist. #111 Debate (Wasinger vs. Hammond) (10/5/2022)
- League of Women Voters of Salina Candidate Forum (10/12/2022)



10-5-22 - House of Representatives District #111 Debate

**LIVE**



## **Doctors on Call**

In this 18th season, we bring in local doctors across our viewing area that answer questions called in by our viewers LIVE on-air. It's a great way for our small communities to connect to doctors they would normally have to drive 100s of miles to see. Every Tuesday viewers look forward to a different topic and different local doctor for great health advice!

## **The Kansas Legislature**

Fridays at 7 PM, beginning in February, viewers are able to tune in to *The Kansas Legislature* on Smoky Hills PBS! This show was created to give viewers insight into the current Kansas legislative session. This call-in show is LIVE and features KS Representatives and Senators discussing state issues, taking place during the legislative session. It also allows viewers a chance to call in with questions for their state representatives.



Episode 1807 - Heart Disease with host, Jenna Miller, and our guest Doctor David Battin.



Inside the 2023 KS State of the State Address that was held on January 24, 2023.

## **2023 Kansas State of the State Address**



Smoky Hills PBS was LIVE in Topeka for Governor Laura Kelly's State of the State Address, bringing viewers LIVE coverage of an important event with information that matters to all Kansans.

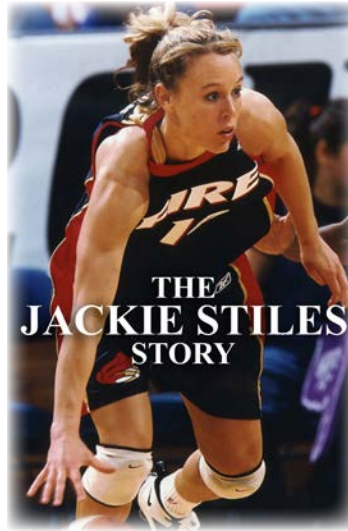
## Local Programs that Matter Most to Our Viewers

*"I want to drop you a line and tell you how much I appreciate the show "Cottonwood Connections". I live in Wichita and am a big fan of PBS. Because I have Dish Network I am able to receive PBS in Wichita and your station. I appreciate all of your localized programming. I wish other PBS stations would carry some of your locally produced programming as I think people in our area of Kansas would enjoy it. I DVR a lot of your programs. I will never change from Dish Network so I can always receive your programming."*

~ B. Collins - Wichita, KS

Smoky Hills PBS strives to bring local programs that matter most to our viewers in Central and Western Kansas. This year we were able to bring 2 programs that showed a great local connection to our viewers.

### The Jackie Stiles Story



During FY23 we were able to offer 4 separate airings of *The Jackie Stiles Story*.

This is the story of a 5'8" girl from Claflin, Kansas, who became a basketball legend in the Midwest. Against all odds, Jackie became the all-time leading scorer in NCAA history, a record she held for 16 years. This feat was accomplished through hard work and unwavering determination. Her coaches and teammates agree that

Jackie's work ethic will probably never be matched.

## COTTONWOOD CONNECTIONS

Smoky Hills PBS was able to air Season 1 and Season 2 of *Cottonwood Connections*.

Through these episodes, viewers are able to explore the Great Plain's rich past with archeologist and cowboy historian Don Rowlison.

Each episode covered a different topic like:  
How did settlers on the Great Plains survive?

How did they build houses of stone?

How were businesses and towns established on the wide open country?

What was life like before the settlers arrived?

*Cottonwood Connections* explore these and various historical topics related to the Great Plains region.



*Cottonwood Connections* is now available to our viewers any time! Viewers can now stream all episodes on [Smoky Hills PBS PASSPORT](#).



## Sports on

Rural towns take great pride in their High School athletics and turn to Smoky Hills PBS to cover some of these great sporting events:



*A look behind the scenes at the 2022 Kansas Shrine Bowl.*

**2022 Kansas Shrine Bowl**  
July 2022

**2022 KSHSAA State Volleyball**  
2A and 1A (Nov. 2022)

**2022 KS Sports Hall of Fame**  
Nov. 2022

**2022 8-Player State Football Championship**  
Nov. 2022

**2023 3-2-1A State Wrestling**  
LIVE Coverage - Feb. 2023

**2023 KSHSAA State Track & Field**  
LIVE Coverage - May 2023

### 3-2-1A Wrestling comments from viewers:

**Carol Taylor Farber**  
Thank you for doing this!!!


Like Reply Hide 16w Edited

 Author  
**Smoky Hills PBS**  
Carol Taylor Farber we love doing it & it wouldn't be possible without the many volunteers & supporters of our station!

Like Reply 16w


**Marsha Moss**  
Thank you and very good coverage!!!!

Like Reply Hide 16w


 **Rosie Standley**  
Will be watching. So glad for all the work you all put in for this

Love Reply Hide 16w

### State Track comments from viewers:

 **Aimée Kenyon**  
The coverage has been great, thank you!

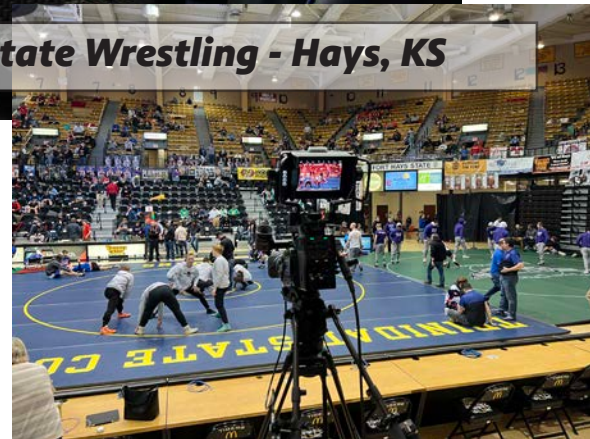
Like Reply Hide 3w

 **Kathy Booth**  
The coverage was excellent today. We appreciate you and the sponsors. Thank you!

Love Reply Hide 3w



### 3-2-1A State Wrestling - Hays, KS





## Music on

### Messiah at Tabor College

The Tabor College performance of Handel's "Messiah" aired on Smoky Hills PBS on Dec. 23, 2022. Conducted by Dr. Gregory Zielke, director of choirs, The Tabor College Music Department delivered their annual performance of Handel's "Messiah", where Alumni, community members, family and friends were all invited to sing alongside the Tabor Concert Choir.



### Tuba Christmas

The Garden City Community College Music Department invited community members to take part in the 48th annual international musical event, TUBA-CHRISTMAS.

Smoky Hills PBS captured this musical tradition in Garden City.



### Max Haverfield Concert

Max and his seven-member ensemble of vocal and instrumental talent performed songs of the season such as "Sleigh Ride," "Little Drummer Boy," and "O Holy Night!"

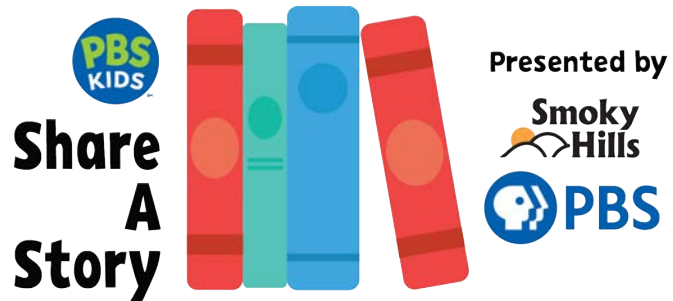
Ensuring all children within our viewing area have the educational resources they need is an important mission of Smoky Hills PBS. The more a child reads and is read to, the more likely they are to read for enjoyment. Throughout FY23, we provided many opportunities for kids to receive FREE books and encourage them to read and write!

## First Book Club

In FY23, Smoky Hills PBS distributed **6,787 FREE books** to children throughout our viewing area. These books were given to children enrolled in public preschools and Head Start programs during their school day. This is made possible because of our partnership with many foundations throughout our coverage area. The FREE books are also used by teachers as part of their curriculum.



*“Having been the Head Start literacy coordinator for over 20 years, I know that educational research consistently shows there can never be too many books in the home! And as I have said before, receiving a book from a local community foundation is showing families that they are seen, that they matter, and they belong to the community in which they choose to live and raise a family. Supporting lower-income families by helping them provide books for their children is an impactful way to show them that being part of a community matters!”* ~ Kathy Dawson (Literacy / Adult Ed specialist - Cloud, Republic, Ottawa Counties)



## Share A Story

During the summer of 2023, we traveled throughout our coverage area visiting libraries and encouraging children to read! This year's theme was "All Together Now". During this Share A Story program our presenters follow the following Learning Triangle:

1. **READ IT** - Read a PBS KIDS book.
2. **WATCH IT** - Watch a PBS KIDS show related to the book.
3. **DO IT** - Put together a craft.

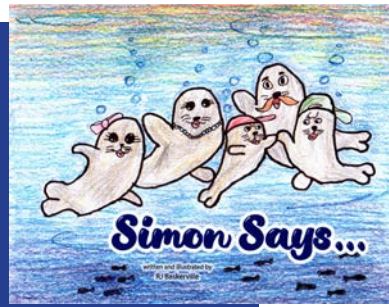
Each child in attendance received a FREE book! We were able to distribute 1,492 books to 76 libraries within our viewing area.





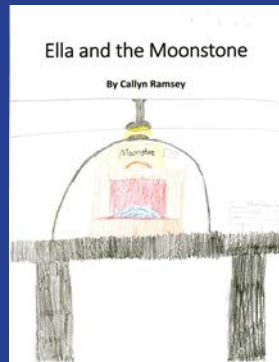
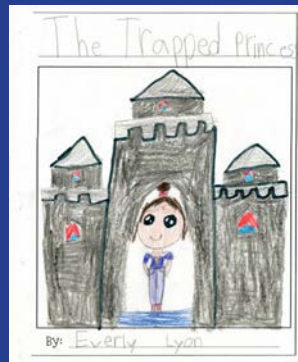
# Literacy Initiative Continued

My Mountain Bike  
By Riley Schroeder



The PBS KIDS Writers Contest is an annual event that encourages children to write and illustrate their own

stories! In FY23, we received 92 stories from children across our viewing area! The top 3 stories in each age group (K-3rd grade) were chosen by our judges. The winning stories were then read and announced on-air. These winners received books and prizes in the mail!



Watch the PBS KIDS Writers Contest Winners Show on our website:  
[www.SmokyHillsPBS.org/kids/pbs-kids-writers-contest/](http://www.SmokyHillsPBS.org/kids/pbs-kids-writers-contest/)

**Smoky Hills PBS broadcasts 60+ hours of safe, non-violent, educational children's programming every week!**



on



Opening worlds of possibilities for all of America's children has been the mission of PBS KIDS for over 50 years. Mister Rogers said it best:

**"You are special, you matter and there's no one else in the world exactly like you."**

PBS KIDS programming puts the child first, lights a spark, inspires exploration, and strives to help all kids reach their potential and to discover a world of unlimited possibilities.

*Research consistently demonstrates that starting a child's developmental and educational journey at birth supports the greatest educational outcomes. Before children begin their formal education in kindergarten there are many things for them to learn cognitively,*

*physically, and social emotionally. Children who*

*begin school ready for the rigors of kindergarten are much more successful, more likely to perform on grade level and learn to read before reaching 3rd grade. Many children in Garden City do not have access to quality day cares and preschools that would help improve their kindergarten readiness. This is the reason that the PBS educational programming is so important in Garden City.*

*Alma's Way is one of the programs on PBS. Watching Alma's way helps children learn to empower themselves when dealing with a problem. It also offers children the opportunity to see children that look like them (mirrors), also to learn new perspectives from others (windows). Through Alma's Way children can learn to celebrate differences, practice empathy, and accept others living in our community.*

*Sesame Street, another PBS show for over 50 years, has served many families as an educational tool. Children who watch the show as a toddler gain an advantage in literacy and language skills, math concepts, and have an increased vocabulary. **PBS KIDS programming in Garden City is a perfect fit for our diverse families and many disadvantaged children as a way to help prepare them for kindergarten.***

~ Mary Karlin, USD 457 - Early Childhood grant coordinator





During FY23 we were able to engage in many of our communities, educating our viewers on who we are and what we bring to their communities.

## 1. Non-Profit Fair - Garden City, KS

At the Non-Profit Fair we were able to showcase Smoky Hills PBS during the Food Truck Friday event in downtown Garden City.

## 2. Garden City Early Childhood Summit

We were able to share information with families of future and current students within the Garden City area. Families had a chance to visit our informational table and listen to Coy Bowles, a member of the Zac Brown Band, who is an author of five children's books.

At right: Amanda Smith, SHPBS Marketing Director, alongside one of our foundation partners, Caverly Hart (Finnup Foundation).



Above: Production Dept. explains how we use cameras to capture images and video for our local productions.

## 3. After School Program - Russell, KS

We were invited to Bickerdyke and Simpson Elementary schools in Russell to put on a program about Smoky Hills PBS. We watched a Wild Kratts show, gave hands on instructions about running a production camera, and handed out Free books to each student attending.

## 4. Mental Health Awareness Great Bend, KS

The Mental Health Awareness Fair in Great Bend gave us the opportunity to talk about all the programs and services we offer in regards to mental health. We were able to visit with approximately 150 people during this event.

Right: Sara Oberle, SHPBS UW Associate, informing the public about our mental health resources.



# 2022 KAB Awards



## Winner of 13 KAB Awards in 2022

### In-Depth News Reporting

1st Place - *Real Ag: The Pandemic Effect* - Matthew Campbell

2nd Place - *Real Ag: Government Policy* - Matthew Campbell

Honorable Mention – *A Conversation with Lynn Rogers*  
Smoky Hills PBS Staff

### Single Topic Event Coverage

1st Place – *3-2-1A State Wrestling Recap* – Les Kinderknecht

### Sports Feature

1st Place – *3-2-1A State Wrestling Recap* – Les Kinderknecht

### Station Promotion Announcement

1st Place – *Mildred Janzen DAR Award* – Matthew Campbell

2nd Place – *3-2-1A State Wrestling Recap* – Les Kinderknecht

Honorable Mention – *3-2-1A State Wrestling* – Les Kinderknecht

### Station Promotion Campaign

1st Place – *Family Fun Day* - Matthew Campbell

### Special Program

1st Place – *A Conversation with Bob Davis* – Les Kinderknecht

### Recurring Program

1st Place – *Doctors on Call* – Smoky Hills PBS Staff

### Station Website

1st Place - Amanda Smith

## Non-Metro Television Station of the Year



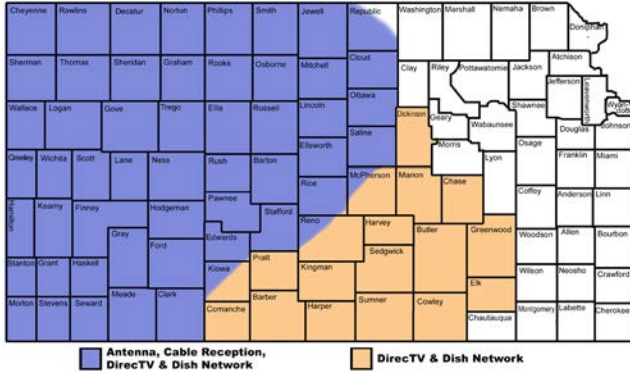
7th Year In A Row!

*“What an amazing job by our staff to receive THIRTEEN awards. None of this could have been possible without hard work and dedication by each of our employees. To win the Non-Metro Station of the Year for seven years straight says a lot about our station and the things we are able to accomplish each and every year. I’m so proud of our team and look forward to another successful year!”*

Betsy Schwien, Smoky Hills PBS  
General Manager



### COVERAGE MAP



## 40 Years: In Your Neighborhood

Smoky Hills PBS, reaching **71 counties** in Kansas, has now provided public broadcasting and educational resources to Central and Western Kansas for 40 years!

At Smoky Hills PBS, we work hard all year to produce quality programming for everyone. We are busy all year creating programs that educate, inform, and delight in ways no other television station can. Our viewers remind us all the time that no one else can match the wide and compelling array of high-quality programming you see every day on SHPBS.

Smoky Hills PBS serves the citizens of Central and Western Kansas, and in return receives support from its viewers. This support ensures the future of SHPBS.

FY23 brought many NEW and exciting things and we are excited to see what the future holds for the next 40 years!

To learn more about Smoky Hills PBS' programming and services, visit [SmokyHillsPBS.org](http://SmokyHillsPBS.org)

Your feedback is the best way for us to measure how well we are serving Central and Western Kansas. Please do not hesitate to let us know how you feel about our programming, events or services. We welcome comments and questions by phone, email and mail.



Smoky Hills PBS  
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Bunker Hill, KS 67626

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785.483.6990  
shptv@shptv.org

**Provides Access Through:**  
Smoky Hills PBS DT  
Create  
PBS Kids 24/7

**Website:** [www.SmokyHillsPBS.org](http://www.SmokyHillsPBS.org)

**LIVE TV:** [video.smokyhillstv.org/livestream](http://video.smokyhillstv.org/livestream)

**ALL NEW:** Mobile app ->

