

## 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.

## TWO More Ways To Watch

**hulu + LIVE TV**



In September of 2023, Smoky Hills PBS announced that it is now live streaming on Hulu + Live TV, one of the nation's largest streaming services for live television with more than 4.5 million subscribers.



In March of 2024, SHPBS went LIVE on YouTube TV, giving our local viewers another way to access their local PBS station!



## LOCAL VALUE

Smoky Hills PBS is a vital asset to the communities it serves, providing significant local value through its diverse programming and community-focused initiatives. As a trusted source of quality content, we offer educational programs that enhance learning for children and adults, promote cultural understanding, and support lifelong learning. Our local productions highlight regional stories, celebrate local achievements, and address community issues, giving a voice to the people and events that shape our area. Through partnerships with schools, libraries, and community organizations, we extend our educational resources and foster community engagement. Smoky Hills PBS is dedicated to enriching lives, strengthening community bonds, and contributing to the overall well-being and development of our region.

## FY2024 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, the PBS KIDS 24/7 channel, the CREATE channel, a LIVE TV button where viewers can watch our station LIVE any time, and a SHPBS 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.

LIVE



Episode 1901 - "What's Next: When the Dr. Says Nothing Is Wrong" with host, Jenna Miller, and our guests Dr. Dustin Moffitt and Jessica Moffitt.



## Doctors on Call

In its 19th season, SHPBS continues to connect viewers with local doctors from across our viewing area who answer questions live on-air. This program provides a beneficial service for our small communities, allowing them to access expert medical information without having to travel hundreds of miles. Every Tuesday from January to April, viewers tune in to learn about various health topics and benefit from the insights of different local doctors. [WATCH NOW >](#)

***This season we received calls from:*** Colby, Hutchinson, Hoisington, Victoria, Hays, Winfield, Great Bend, McCracken, WaKeeney, Beloit, Salina, Garden City, Downs, Russell, Dodge City, Wichita, and Salt Lake City, UT.

## The Kansas Legislature

Starting in February, viewers tune in to *The Kansas Legislature* on Smoky Hills PBS on Fridays at 7 PM throughout the legislative session! This live call-in show provides valuable insights into the current Kansas legislative session, featuring discussions with Kansas Representatives and Senators on key state issues. Viewers also have the opportunity to call in with questions for their state representatives, making it an engaging and informative program for all.

[WATCH NOW >](#)

***This season we received calls from:*** Hays, Pratt, Russell, Hoisington, Salina, Ransom, Smith Center, Prairie View, Strong City, Cimarron, Ulysses, Wichita, Winona, Bison, Elkhart, Concordia, Dodge City, McPherson.



Sen. Rick Billinger, Sen. Elaine Bowers Moderator, Becky Kiser Rep. Ken Rahjes, Rep. Troy Waymaster

## 2024 Kansas State of the State Address



Governor Larua Kelly LIVE during the 2024 KS State of the State Address that was held on January 10, 2024.



Smoky Hills PBS was LIVE in Topeka for Governor Laura Kelly's State of the State Address on Jan. 10, bringing

viewers LIVE coverage of an important event with information that matters to all Kansans.

Along with providing national PBS programming, Smoky Hills PBS also sees 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!



Republic Cty. - Courtland, KS - apple farming



Trego County annual celebration

## IN THE COMMUNITY



This season of *Real Ag* took on a new look and feel, aiming 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.

### **Season 12 topics:**

- Seeds of Civilization: A History of Agriculture
- Vanishing Earth: The Soil Crisis
- Bittersweet: The Hidden Side of Sugar
- Dollars & Decisions: The Checkoff Program
- Pesticide Puzzle: A Look at Agricultural Chemicals
- Protein Predicament: Future of Animal Agriculture
- The World of Water: Drought, Climate Change & Ag

**WATCH NOW** > <https://video.smokyhillstv.org/show/real-ag/>



Traveling Kansas highlights the people, places, and attractions in communities throughout Central and Western Kansas. This fiscal year SHPBS was able to highlight 4 different counties through 2 different episodes.

### • **Trego County**

Aired: 10/26/23

*Traveling Kansas: Trego County* features a look at the history, places of interest, and annual celebrations of Trego County. Explore the Smoky Valley Scenic Byway, Cedar Bluff State Park, the Buzzard Bash and the Christmas City of the High Plains, WaKeeney. **WATCH NOW**



Trego Cty. Museum

### • **Smith, Jewell, & Republic Counties**

Aired: 3/21/24

Meet the locals injecting energy into rural towns with arts, technology and ways to attract businesses, residents and creative solutions to create a new future that honors and celebrates rural culture and the legacy of those who came before. **WATCH NOW**

## 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 inside our coverage of the KS Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



LIVE coverage from Memorial Stadium in Dodge City for the 1st Summer Kickoff Classic: Kansas vs. Colorado



### KS Sports Hall of Fame

2023 Induction Ceremony  
Thanksgiving Day  
Aired Nov. 23, 2023



### 2023 State Volleyball Tournament

Dodge City, KS  
1A DI State Volleyball Tourney  
Aired Nov. 18, 2023  
2A State Volleyball Tourney  
Aired Nov. 19, 2023



### 2023 8-Player State Championship

**LIVE Coverage**  
Fischer Field - Newton  
Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023



### 2A Basketball State Championship

Dodge City, KS  
2A Consolation Games  
Aired March 16  
2A Championship Games  
Aired March 17



### 2024 Track & Field State Championship

**LIVE Coverage**  
Cessna Stadium - Wichita  
May 24 and 25



### 2024 Summer Kickoff Classic

**LIVE Coverage**  
Memorial Stadium - Dodge City  
June 1, 2024



### Kansas Shrine Bowl

**LIVE Coverage**  
\* SHPBS covered 2 Shrine Bowl events in FY 2024  
July 15, 2023  
June 29, 2024

Smoky Hills PBS partnered with many organizations around our viewing area to provide educational spots during our daytime programming.

# Children's Interstitial Videos

Our children's interstitial video series showcases original content produced by Smoky Hills PBS in partnership with community organizations like:

- The Kansas Wetlands Education Center (KWEC)
- Trooper Tod (Kansas Highway Patrol)
- K-State Extension

This series is designed to benefit children in our region by providing engaging and educational content. We have intentionally strengthened our social media engagement with the public through these children's interstitials, allowing us to reach and impact more families. These videos have enhanced our community connections and further supported the educational development of children in our viewing area.

**Smoky Hills PBS**  
 Posted by Amanda Smith  
 Nov 16, 2023 · 🌐

We spent our morning with [Trooper Tod KHP Hays, Kansas](#). We are working on an interstitial that explains CAR SEAT SAFETY! Thank you Trooper Tod for helping us inform our viewers on the law of booster seats!

👁️ Be on the lookout, this spot will be coming to [#SmokyHillsPBS](#) Daytime in the weeks ahead!

**Smoky Hills PBS**  
 Posted by Samantha Duckworth  
 Mar 27 · 🌐

Get ready for some fun in the sun! ☀️ We recently had a blast filming a new informative spot all about [#SunCare](#) For Kids. Here's a behind-the-sc... See more

## Local Programs that Matter Most to Our Viewers



Director and Producer: Ed Lowry

*Cottonwood Connections* is available to our viewers any time!

Viewers can stream all episodes on [Smoky Hills PBS PASSPORT](#).

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 several local programs to our viewers.

## COTTONWOOD CONNECTIONS

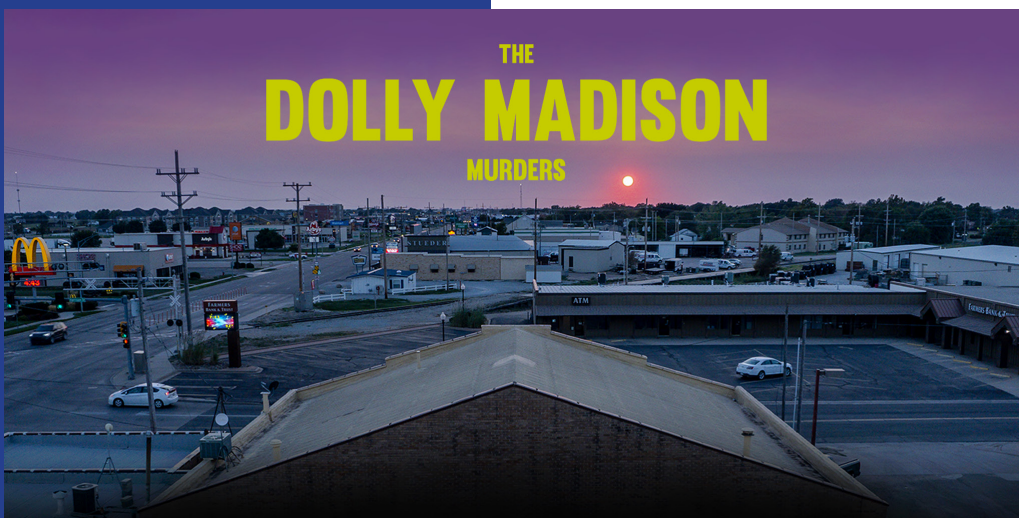
Season 3 and 4

Smoky Hills PBS aired Seasons 3 and 4 of Cottonwood Connections, allowing viewers to explore the Great Plains region alongside archaeologist and cowboy historian Don Rowlison. Through these episodes, audiences gain fascinating insights into the history and culture of the area.

- The Smoky Hill Trail
- War Times
- Historic Fort Hays
- Art of the Saddle
- Home on the Range Cabin
- The Law and the Outlaws
- The Iron Horse
- The Western Cattle Trail

And many more! [Click here](#) to explore all episodes of *Cottonwood Connections*.

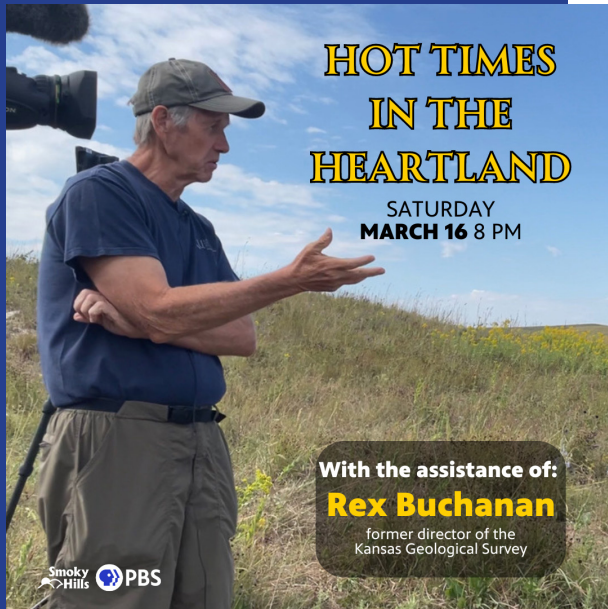
## THE DOLLY MADISON MURDERS



Director: Aaron Mull

*The Dolly Madison Murders* aired several times during the year as this documentary shed light on an unsolved murder that happened within our viewing area. In September 2002, two women were found dead inside the

Dolly Madison bakery in Great Bend, Kansas. Twenty years later, a filmmaker finds there might be hidden reasons as to why it has remained unsolved for so long.



## Hot Times in the Heartland

On March 16, Smoky Hills PBS aired a powerful film examining the impact of climate change on Kansas. Through extreme weather events and personal stories, the film showcases how Kansans are adapting to these challenges.

*“The broadcast premiere of our documentary has taken place on Smoky Hills PBS, whose signal reaches across western Kansas. Although I was unsure how receptive the station might be to this topic, the program director enthusiastically accepted the offer to broadcast the show and the person in charge of promotions really did a stellar job.”*

~ Dave Kendall - Producer of “Hot Times in the Heartland”



Music on  



*Salina*  
s y m p h o n y

Yaniv Segal  
Music Director & Conductor

On December 9th, we recorded the Salina Symphony’s Christmas concert and shared the enchanting melodies with our viewers on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

In this local production, viewers enjoyed a holiday tradition with song and dance from the Salina Symphony, Iron Street Dance Company, Tamara Howe School of Dance, Salina Chorale, Kansas Wesleyan University Chorale, and Salina Youth Choir.

At Smoky Hills PBS, one of our primary goals is to ensure that every child in our viewing area has access to essential educational resources. Research shows that children who read and are read to are more likely to develop a love for reading. Throughout FY24, we provided numerous opportunities for kids to receive FREE books to encourage reading and hosted a contest to inspire writing!

## First Book Club

In FY24, Smoky Hills PBS distributed **6,557 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.



*“With the challenges our nation faces, we need to give our children the best possible start. To accomplish this task, children need a variety of books in their home. Early reading and skill building are key components to school success... We are very appreciative of the donation of books we receive from Smoky Hills PBS. This matters in the life of a child.”*

~ Donna Hudson-Hamilton, Early Childhood Connections



## Share A Story

During the summer of 2024, we traveled throughout our coverage area visiting libraries and encouraging children to read! This year's theme was Nature Cat.

During the Share A Story program, our presenters follow the Learning Triangle below:

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 **1,252** books to **77** libraries within our viewing area.



# Literacy Initiative Continued



Our winners remain unaware of their victory until the premiere of the PBS KIDS Writers Contest Award Show. Clara, the 4th-grade winner, had a priceless reaction when she discovered her story had won!



The PBS KIDS Writers Contest was an annual event that encouraged children to write and illustrate their own stories! In FY24, we adjusted the age group to 1st-5th

grade and saw an increase in stories. This year we received 150 stories from children across our viewing area! The top 3 stories in each age group 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:

[SmokyHillsPBS.org/kids/pbs-kids-writers-contest/](https://SmokyHillsPBS.org/kids/pbs-kids-writers-contest/)

*"Thank you for all the work put into the contest. Our student, Clara Yust, was so excited to see she had won 2nd place for 4th grade."*

*"The kids were so excited! This was awesome. Thank you so much for all the work you guys do in putting this together!!"*

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



on



Smoky Hills PBS is dedicated to nurturing young minds by broadcasting over 60 hours of safe, non-violent, and educational children's programming each week. Our diverse lineup features beloved PBS Kids shows that promote literacy, STEM learning, social skills, and creativity. From engaging animated series to interactive science programs, each show is carefully selected to provide quality content that is both entertaining and enriching. By offering this extensive range of educational programming, Smoky Hills PBS supports parents and educators in



fostering a love for learning and helping children reach their full potential.

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

In Hays, Clifford was joined by his friends from the Hays Public Library, Sternberg Museum, Hays PD, Hays FD, and Hays EMS.



## Events



In FY24, we hosted Family Fun Day events in four different locations across our viewing area, featuring a beloved PBS KIDS character. Children had the opportunity to meet and take pictures with the character, creating lasting memories. These events were completely FREE for all families! Each child in attendance received a FREE book and a FREE craft, adding to the fun and educational experience.

### Fall 2023

In October 2023, Clifford the Big Red Dog visited two different towns! His first stop was in Little River, KS, at the Fall Festival, where he greeted **147 kids and 196 adults**. The following weekend, Clifford stopped in Colby for the Boo at the Mu event, where he gave books to **203 kids** in attendance.



Clifford The Big Red Dog in Colby, KS.

### Spring 2024

In the spring, we visited the Brit Spagh Zoo in Great Bend for the Earth Day Celebration, where Clifford the Big Red Dog handed out FREE books to nearly **300 kids** in attendance! Our final event was at ARC Park in Hays, where we distributed FREE books to **328 kids**. Clifford the Big Red Dog had a fantastic time in both communities, giving out plenty of hugs and high fives!

*"Thank you so much for participating in our 3rd annual Earth Day Event. Despite the snow and chilly temperatures, we had over 600 people come out to participate!"*  
~ GB Zoo Supervisor



Clifford loved his time at the Zoo in Great Bend!

Throughout FY24, we actively engaged with our communities, informing viewers about our mission, how to connect with us, and the valuable services we provide to their communities.



## Non-Profit Fair - Garden City, KS

July 24, 2023

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



## After School Program - Russell, KS

Oct. 11, 2023 and Oct. 12, 2023

Smoky Hills PBS was asked by USD 407 to lead activities during their After School Program. Various staff members helped with an Mad-Libs activity to help promote our PBS KIDS Writers Contest, as well as a Clifford activity to encourage kids to come to our Family Fun Day events in October.



## Mental Health Awareness - Great Bend

May 21, 2024

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 170 people of all ages during this event.

Left: Amanda Smith, Director of Marketing, and Sara Oberle, SHPBS UW Associate, informing the public about our mental health resources.

# 2023 KAB Awards



## Winner of 7 KAB Awards in 2023

### In-Depth News Reporting

**Honorable Mention** – *Real Ag: Farm Side Hustles*  
Matthew Campbell

### Single Topic Event Coverage

**Honorable Mention** – *SHPBS Writers Contest*  
Michael Quade, Max Aguiar

### Station Promotion Announcement

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

### Special Program

**1st Place** – *Traveling Kansas*  
Les Kinderknecht, Sara Oberle

### Recurring Program

**2nd Place** – *Doctors on Call* – Smoky Hills PBS Crew

### Station Website

**Honorable Mention** - Amanda Smith

### Station Excellence

**Honorable Mention** - Betsy Schwien

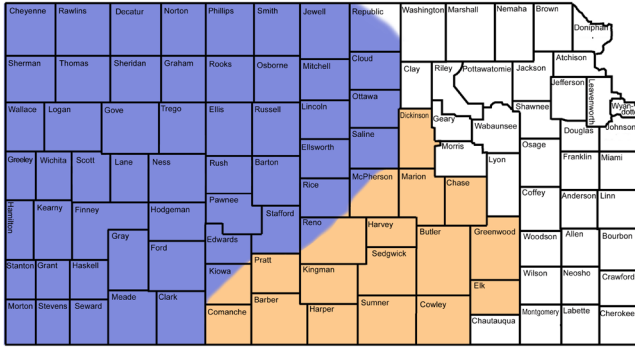
*"I am so proud of the work  
that our team has done!  
I look forward to another  
successful year!"*

Betsy Schwien, Smoky Hills  
PBS General Manager





### COVERAGE MAP



■ Antenna, Cable Reception, DirectTV & Dish Network  
■ DirectTV & Dish Network



## 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 41 years!

Smoky Hills PBS has a profound local impact by serving as a cornerstone of education, culture, and community engagement in Central and Western Kansas. Through our diverse programming, we provide educational resources that support lifelong learning for children and adults alike. Our local content showcases regional stories, preserves our cultural heritage, and gives a voice to community issues and events. By partnering with local schools, libraries, and organizations, we extend our reach and enhance our community's access to vital information and educational materials. Smoky Hills PBS is committed to enriching lives, fostering community connections, and contributing to the overall well-being and development of our viewing area. We look forward to making this impact for many years to come.

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.

<b>KOOD</b>	<b>KSWK</b>	<b>KWKS</b>	<b>KDCK</b>
CH 9	CH 3	CH 19	CH 21
Hays	Lakin	Colby	Dodge City



Smoky Hills PBS  
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800.337.4788  
 785.483.6990  
 shptv@shptv.org

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

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

**Connect:** Mobile app ->



# Supporting Documents

Thank you for  
the birthday stuff.  
I Love the books  
Wyatt Fayer

Thank you so very much for being part  
of our Summer Reading Program  
this year!!

The kids loved it!!  
We so appreciate all you do for us and  
for our community!!

Thank You again for all the wonderful services & work  
you do to help out the Public.

Miss Debbi  
Thank you! We love  
the books!

chiz Antos Conner  
Solomon  
Remington  
Thanks for the  
Scissor Cutting  
Books! Brock  
Kaideh  
Valentin  
&  
Miss Debbi  
Miss Emily  
Naviy MN