

Smith County



A SOD HOUSE AND MILL (above) were built by two millers and a blacksmith. The mill now stands in Smith Center's Wagner Park. The cabin (below) was made famous by the Kansas state song, "Home on the Range."



Community remembers past and looks ahead to a bright, new future

HOUSING

A new housing development, Smith Estates, is in the process of being built across from Western Plains. This housing development has 10 units which includes an attached garage.

BUSINESSES

Main Street has seen many changes recently. The Smith County State Bank is under new ownership known as The Peoples Bank; J. S. Limestone is a new business owned by Joe Stansbury. Joe's products include carving and etching on limestone, wood, and glass. Dream Inc., a drug and alcohol counseling program has closed. Meyers Hardware, aka, Hardware Hank has been purchased by Mike and Lori Hess. Mike and Lori have hardware available along with equipment rental and lawn service. Trish Wiehl & Ken Depperschmidt purchased Smith County Insurance Agency from The Peoples Bank and are now located in the East side of Rethorst Real Estate Building. Center Glass was purchased from the Gardner family by Dave Frydendall and Norbert and Lou Ann Benoit. They feature glass repair, refinish furniture, make keys, operate tuxedo rental, and windshield repair. Kloster Chiropractic was purchased by Dr. Michelle Goscha and is opening under the name of Midway Chiropractic. Dr. Goscha features adjustments and acupuncture.

REDMEN PRIDE

The Smith Center football team earned its fifth year title of state-championship. This included breaking a national title of number of wins in a row.

This of course was led by the coaching skills of Coach Roger Barta, who was recognized as the National Coach of the Year. The U.S. Army All-American Bowl Selection Committee has

announced Roger Barta, Smith Center High School, and Smith Center, as the winner of the 2008 Field Turf Bill Yoast National Coach of the Year Award. The National Coach of the Year award honors the nation's top high school football coach. The winner of the award must not only be a great coach, but also serve as a positive influence to the youth of America on and off the field.

The street formerly known as School Avenue was renamed in his honor as Roger Barta Way. The Smith Center Wrestling Team became state champions in 2008.

The Smith Center wrestling team won their third year state championship under the coaching instruction of Brock Hutchinson.

The Smith Center High School is working on fund raising for a new eight lane track.

VOLUNTEERISM

A newly formed PRIDE organization has been formed and has been busy creating a Christmas scene at the main street park. They are now working on improving the roadside park on Hwy 36.

FUTURE PLANS

A Public Transportation plan has been approved at City Council. Word should be coming from them very soon on approval.

The Park Beautification committee received a grant to update the playground equipment.

BOOK COMING OUT SOON

Joe Drape, a well-known journalist for the New York Times, resided in Smith Center, along with his family, for five months involving himself with the community and sports program. He has written a book entitled, "OUR BOYS, A Perfect Season on the Plains with the Smith Center Redmen". It has gone to press and will be available in August.



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