

The Andover Update

Shipping out

ACHS senior Abbie Lester
prepares for Naval career

SPRING/SUMMER 2022



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Meet the team

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Portrait of a Graduate

Academic preparation

- Has skills and knowledge to pursue life goals
- Has real-world experience to succeed after high school

Collaboration and communication

- Works well with others
- Values teamwork

Innovative thinking

- Thinks critically and independently
- Solves problems creatively

Integrity and character

- Has strong work ethic
- Does the right thing

Resilience

- Learns from mistakes and failures
- Adapts to an ever-changing world



Annual awards tell the positive stories of Andover Public Schools



Brett White,
Superintendent

One of our district's time-honored traditions is our Board of Education Outstanding Service Awards.

These awards, which date back to the 1980s, honor outstanding members of our school community, including educators, support staff, volunteers and community partners.

We recently announced and celebrated the 2021-22 Outstanding Service Award winners. Like always, the list is a who's-who of staff and others whose contributions to the

district make it a better place to learn and work every day. Countless others who were nominated are also deserving of the awards.

We always enjoy hearing about the impact individuals make on our students and families.

But this year felt a little more special.

The past two years have been hard on those who work in, and on the behalf of, our schools. Covid created stressors that none of us could have predicted. Students' needs have never been greater, whether academically or from a mental and emotional health perspective. Political divides have made our education system, and those who work in it, prime targets for criticism.

We talk a lot in public education about telling our story. As the nominations rolled in for our Outstanding Service Awards, we were reminded – time and time again – that no matter what story others might tell, ours is a story about hope and success. It's about educators helping students overcome obstacles and achieve goals. It's about helping students explore their interests to connect them with their passions.

Some examples:

- A Pre-K teacher who delivered balloons, student-made cards and recorded videos from classmates to a student's home because she was home sick with Covid on her birthday.
- A PTO president who is constantly asking the principal, "What do your teachers need?" and then delivering on the needs.
- An administrative assistant who challenges students to a game of tic tac toe while they are waiting to be picked up early.
- An IT tech who is both effective at solving tech issues, but also spreads joy and "makes your day better when he comes around to do work in your school."

These are the types of stories that show what our schools, and what public education as a whole, are about. And there are hundreds more examples to choose from, just from the Outstanding Service Awards nominations. These, no doubt, are the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the positive stories we have to tell in our schools.

Author Melody Beattie said, "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life." I would encourage you to send a note of thanks to an educator, staff member, Board of Education member, volunteer or community supporter as a way of letting them know you see their efforts and appreciate them.

Those expressions of gratitude, and the stories about dedicated staff members who go above and beyond, are the sparks that keep our school community's fire burning. Thanks to all of you for a great school year, despite the challenges, and we wish you an enjoyable and relaxing summer in preparation for 2022-23!

2021-22 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

SPARK AWARD

- Joel Schaefer (AHS/Saturday Academy)

GOLD KEY AWARD

- Becky Wolfe (Andover Area Chamber of Commerce)

BRIGHT RED APPLE AWARD

- Kora Snavelly (MES)
- Bella White (PCES)
- Kristi Raehpour (AHS)
- Ashley Hurley (CAPS)
- Shelly Smith (RMES)
- Whitney Vernia (SES)

GOLDEN APPLE AWARD

- Heather von Merveldt (SES)
- Kevin Brightup (ACMS)
- Rebecca Alstatt (eCademy)
- Brooke Holcomb (MES)
- Stephanie Lane (RMES)
- Regina Harshaw (PCES)
- Heather Hawkins (ACHS)
- Kate Suhr (AHS)
- Janelle Tittsworth (AMS)
- Ashley Wiltse (CES)
- Tobe Wallace (WES)

SCHOOL BELL AWARD

- Sandy Kramer (eCademy)
- Richard Dixon (technology)
- Desiree Shellenberger (RMES)
- Holly Day (PCES)

HELPING HAND AWARD

- Wally and Melissa Boozer (ACHS)
- Betsy Poland (WES)
- Katie McCracken (RMES)
- Sandy Jones (SES)



Officers Angelica Sell, Katie Russell and Steph Peltier at the Andover Police Department.

HOME TO SERVE

Three Andover grads return to begin careers in policing

When Angelica Sell, Katie Russell and Steph Peltier started as Andover police officers, they had an advantage that most officers don't have: They already knew the community.

Sell, Russell and Peltier – all graduates of Andover Public Schools – each are embarking on law enforcement careers with the Andover Police Department, serving the community that raised them.

“We’re all friends,” Russell says. “And we’re the only three females who are officers here. There are a lot of bonding experiences. It’s a cool thing.”

Russell, a 2014 graduate of Andover Central High School, started on patrol in 2021 and transferred this spring as School Resource Officer at Andover Central Middle School. Sell and Peltier both graduated from Andover High School in 2015; Sell started on patrol in 2021, and Peltier is expected to complete her officer-in-training status this month to hit the roads on her own.

Though the trio have much in common – young women, natives of Andover, recent college grads – they each

followed a different path to law enforcement.

Russell graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in criminal justice and worked at a juvenile detention facility in Arkansas before coming back home to be closer to family.

Sell studied criminal justice at Wichita State University. She knew she wanted to be an officer early in life, with parents involved in local crime commissions. Her mother, Michelle, is currently president of the Andover Police and Fire Foundation.

And Peltier earned a degree in criminal justice and certificate in emergency management from the University of Central Missouri before traveling the world doing mission work for two years. She says her mission work – which included such diverse experiences as building flamingo habitat and ministering to street workers – informed her world view, but convinced her she wanted to move back home.

Together, they are helping to fully staff a department that, like many across the country, has had challenges hiring officers.

“They’re really important additions to our department,” says APD Chief Buck Buchanan. “Everybody’s a recruiter. But even more so than other officers, they might have a good feel for the type of person that would make a good officer to serve this community. It’s an opportunity to sell the department so young ladies, especially, have someone to look up to.”

‘Tight-knit’

Sell says it’s easier beginning her career around the same time as Russell and Peltier.

“I’m 100 percent glad we get to do this together,” Sell says. “Especially being female, it’s different. Having gone through the Academy around the same time, it’s easier to bounce things off each other. We’re learning what our strengths are, and how to lean on each other. We’re tight-knit, and I’m glad it’s not just me or one of the others doing it by ourselves.”

Peltier agrees.

“We have a lot in common,” she says. “Even when we’re on opposite shifts, it’s been fun to see where they’re at in their career.”

Peltier says seeing her home community as an officer has given her renewed pride in Andover.

“It’s refreshing, because you see how the people serving care about the community,” she says. “As a citizen, we are a service you can call on to help. Being part of it, you see the emotions and how much of an impact it can make on them.”

Sell understands that putting on the uniform every day gives her an opportunity to positively represent the law enforcement profession and community.

“We know some people have poor experiences with law enforcement,” she says. “We want to make it a little more comfortable for them, that they have a positive interaction with someone in uniform, so they’re generally more comfortable with people in uniform going forward.”

‘Nostalgic feeling’

The change in perspective is especially strong for Russell, who is now working as an SRO in a school that she once attended. Her SRO, Buchanan, is now her chief.

“There are little déjà vu moments because I’m working with some of the teachers who taught me,” she says. “There’s a nostalgic feeling, even though everything has changed so much.”

In her role, Russell has to balance befriending students with the need to sometimes be strict. Yes, she wears the uniform and badge, but she wants to be a listening ear as well.

On a recent Thursday, Russell stood in the ACMS entryway and fist-bumped track and tennis athletes to wish them good luck in competition that afternoon. She chatted with them as they waited to board the bus.

“I can relate,” she says. “I’ve been in their shoes. I want them to know they can come to me and talk to me. Sometimes, the uniform makes it more intimidating, but I can be there for them, too, and relate to them. We’re people, too.”



Officer Katie Russell talks with ACMS athletes.



THE KICKBACK PODCAST

CAPS students produce new podcast

Andover Center for Advanced Professional Studies students Leo Wurth, Lou Blackman and Brock Stupka, all in the Business Strand, have been friends since the third grade. Now in their senior year, the trio decided to start The Kickback Podcast.

“It’s just something that we’ve always talked about, and we thought this was a good opportunity to pursue it,” Leo says.

The podcast was originally formed to talk about sports but now covers multiple areas of pop culture.

“We were going to try to do sports, because we’re all kind of big sports guys,” Lou says, “but then we got feedback after our first one saying that people got bored of us talking about sports.”

Now, The Kickback Podcast discusses movies, restaurant rankings, beverage rankings and more.

The group has produced six episodes with another one in the works.

“I feel like it was a good learning experience for us,” Brock says.

Interested in listening to The Kickback Podcast? You can find the episodes on Spotify and YouTube.



Leo Wurth, Lou Blackman and Brock Stupka



Mac Evans sorts through donated dresses.

122 dresses

CAPS Closet distributes prom attire to area students

When Mac Evans went prom dress shopping, she was inspired to create the CAPS Closet, a philanthropic effort that provides free prom dresses and accessories to students in the Andover area, with her friend Morgan Nelson.

“I just thought we should try and help other girls find good dresses,” Mac says.

Mac, a junior in the Andover Center for Advanced Professional Studies Business Strand, and Morgan, a senior in the CAPS Create Strand, created a flier asking for donations for the event and posted it on social media.

To prepare for the prom dress giveaway, Mac and Morgan collected and organized the items and set up for the event.

At the prom dress giveaway event, hosted March 26, Mac and Morgan were able to help 36 teens find dresses and accessories for prom. In all, they collected 122 dresses.

“Watching girls come in and just being able to find a dress they really liked was just really really nice to see,” Morgan says.

The CAPS Closet program will host the prom dress giveaway next year and is currently accepting donations for the 2023 event.

Andover **CAPS**
Center for Advanced Professional Studies



CAMPAIGNING FOR A CAUSE

AHS sophomore earns Student of the Year title for cancer fundraising

When he was young, Gentry Brown remembers hearing the same word over and over.

“I kept hearing that I had cancer,” he says, “but I didn’t know what that meant.”

Fast-forward 10 years, and Gentry is working to make sure other kids aren’t in the same situation. The Andover High School sophomore and acute lymphocytic leukemia survivor recently teamed with two friends, also cancer survivors, to raise more than \$125,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. They were named regional Students of the Year by the society.

“My main mindset is that kids won’t have to hear the words, ‘You have cancer,’” Gentry says. “I know how hard it is to have to go through the treatments.”

Gentry’s diagnosis came at age 3. During treatments, he met and befriended Joey Bacon from Garden Plain and Jesse Whiteside from Derby, who were his teammates on the Student of the Year project. They were known as Team Kickapoo, named after the cabin they shared at Camp Quality, a camp for “cancer warriors.” They dedicated their Student of the Year campaign to a friend, JC, who died of cancer.

The group’s goal was to raise \$100,000. They met with corporate and individual sponsors, and held events

such as a bingo night, rummage sale and pickleball tournament.

“We were lucky because we had good connections with people from big companies, or who knew which companies might be able to help out,” Gentry says. “We were very organized throughout the campaign.”

Projects that raise more than \$50,000 sponsor an individual research project. Gentry, the son of Andover Middle School social studies teacher Karen Brown, is looking forward to hearing what project his group will sponsor.

While he has been in remission for 10 years, Gentry says the campaign was still difficult to discuss his history with cancer.

“It was emotionally draining, having to re-imagine some of the struggles I went through,” he says.

But he says the project was worth it, not for the award, but because of the potential of doing a small part to help cure cancer.

“I really hope it contributes to child cancer research more than anything else,” he says. “It’s reassuring to see how good people can be, that they were willing to help us raise money for our cause.”



Leukemia facts

- Leukemia and lymphoma are cancers that affect bone marrow, blood cells, lymph nodes and other part of the lymphatic system.
- Approximately 186,000 people were diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma in 2021.
- Blood cancers account for approximately 9.8% of cancer diagnoses in the United States each year.
- There are approximately 1.5 million people living with or in remission from blood cancers.



READY TO SAIL.

ACHS senior embarks on military career with appointment to Naval Academy

Abbie Lester admits she doesn't know much about the Navy. Truthfully, she's never been on a ship.

But that doesn't stop her from wanting to do difficult things – like enrolling in the U.S. Naval Academy this fall.

"I want to serve our country and make an impact," the Andover Central High School senior says. "I could enlist, but I really wanted to challenge myself."

Abbie will move to Annapolis this summer, following a tradition of military service in her family. Her father, Andrew, was an Army Ranger. Her brother, Xavier, a 2020 graduate of ACHS, now serves in the Air Force, working in aircraft armaments for the F-23. And Abbie's step-sister, Libby Engle, is a fellow ACHS senior and will be enlisting in the Army after graduation.

"Service is important in our family," Abbie says. "A lot of our family's values come from what my dad did."

Abbie applied for all three service academies. The stringent process for being appointed to the Naval Academy involved four separate interviews. She said she's never considered anything other than military service after graduation.

"I didn't really have another idea of what I wanted to do," she says. "I'm thinking I'll make it a career."

Abbie is looking forward to getting to "the Yard," as the Naval Academy campus is known. She believes her disciplined family lifestyle will transfer well to Annapolis, where companies go to class, eat lunch and exercise together. When she graduates in four years, she will be eligible to be a Naval officer, with a five-year service commitment.

She'll have at least a couple of familiar faces at the Academy. ACHS senior Trevor Hopkins also earned an appointment, and Sophie Scrivner, a 2019 graduate of ACHS, is already a student there.

While she isn't sure what specialty she might be interested in, she is leaning toward becoming a flight officer.

Abbie has served as ACHS student body president this year, and she's proud to help resume the Rumble in the Jungle class competitions after a two-year, pandemic-related hiatus. She also has played tennis and earned a 4.0 GPA.

"She seems to handle stress pretty well," says Sherri Goforth, one of Abbie's teachers. "She's very detail-oriented. She doesn't let things go by the wayside."

"It's going to be a totally different environment. It's a new adventure. I have no doubt she'll rise to the occasion."

While Abbie says she's proud of being appointed to the Naval Academy, she says the accomplishment is the culmination of years of hard work in and out of school.

"I like to challenge myself and grow a lot as a person," she says. "The academies provide a lot of opportunities to push yourself and hold yourself to high moral standards. I want to be there. I earned my spot, and I'm going to work hard to keep it."

'Keep on living'

AHS senior overcomes health challenges to graduate



Ashlyn Wheeler could choose to focus on the challenges.

The joint issues. The headaches. The inability to digest food. Trouble walking.

But when she crosses the Andover High School graduation stage this month, her focus will be on her accomplishments.

"I want to be happy all the time," Ashlyn says. "I'm going to strive for that. I want to always have a positive attitude."

Ashlyn has struggled with health issues most of her life. Her joints were flexible, and she was injury-prone with dislocations. She had migraines, and had gastrointestinal issues. She would get lightheaded and pass out.

It wasn't until February 2020, right before the pandemic hit Kansas, that she received her official diagnosis of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. The syndrome is inherited and affects the skin, joints, blood vessel walls and organs. In her case, simply operating her wheelchair can cause joints to dislocate. She has a central line for sustenance.

For some, the obstacles might have been enough to sideline their schoolwork. But not Ashlyn.

Partnering with AHS counselor Beverly Lang, Ashlyn has completed her high school coursework and will graduate with her class. Though she was able to attend a few days of in-person school during the past two years, she mostly finished her work online because of her health concerns.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself to finish," Ashlyn says.

"From an academic perspective, she never stopped being an amazing student," Lang says. "She always had the sticktoitiveness to complete her work."

Ashlyn admits being away from AHS for most of two years has been challenging. She's a social person, and it's been difficult to maintain friendships from afar. She says the distance has made her appreciate her closest friends even more.

Ashlyn is an ambulatory wheelchair user, which means her wheelchair use is dependent on her health at the time. Some days she can walk, some days she can use a walker and other days she uses a wheelchair. She says that has led to a learning opportunity for those who wonder why she doesn't always need the wheelchair.

"When I was younger, I wanted to be a teacher," she says. "But now I want to educate people about how to treat someone with a disability, and educate people about ableism."

Now, Ashlyn has a different career goal: To become a child life specialist, a health care professional who helps children navigate the challenges of their disease or other condition. She plans to major in psychology at Wichita State University, then attend the University of Arkansas.

During a recent visit to AHS, Ashlyn brought a thank-you gift to Lang for partnering with her to finish high school.

"It makes me much more secure, knowing Mrs. Lang has fought for everything I've needed," Ashlyn says.

"I care about you, so there's that," Lang replied. "Your drive as a student makes me want to match that drive in trying to help you. I haven't had to drive you to succeed. You have that drive."

"To me, I can't see it any other way," Ashlyn says. "I can die or keep on living. I choose to keep on living."



KASEN'S BEST SHOT

Meadowlark student targets success through archery

In February, Kasen Reed reconnected with his love of archery by entering a tournament. A month later, he's the top-ranked elementary archer in the state.

Kasen is enjoying his newfound success in a sport he was inspired to pursue through a PE archery unit at Meadowlark Elementary School, where he is a fifth-grader.

"You feel good about it," Kasen says about his success. "I get more confident for the next tournament when I win. It motivates me to want to practice."

Kasen, the son of Christopher and Melissa Reed, competes through the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), which also provides resources for archery lessons in schools across the country, including in Andover. He previously competed pre-pandemic when the family lived in Hawaii.

Traci Crusinberry, PE teacher at Meadowlark, says archery is a good way to teach discipline because success comes through a methodical 11-step process taught by NASP. The best archers have a balance of mental focus and physical ability.

Crusinberry has been teaching archery in school since 2015.

"I had never shot a bow before," she says, prior to going through a certification process. "It was totally new. But the kids love it. Now, when I say, 'We're going to learn archery, the kids look at me like, 'Has she lost her mind?'"

How archery tournaments work

- Some are 2D (shooting at a target) and some are 3D (shooting at animal mannequins).
- Archers shoot from 10-meter and 15-meter distances.
- A bullseye is worth 10 points, with each ring moving outward worth one point less.
- The number of bullseyes in a tournament is a tiebreaker.
- A perfect score is 300.



Crusinberry tells students each year they can enter tournaments, but Kasen is the first to pursue the opportunity. She'd eventually like to form a club for Andover students who are interested in competing.

Kasen has quickly made a name for himself, taking first among elementary students in four of the first five tournaments he's entered and qualifying for the NASP Nationals in late April in Utah. (Results were not available at press time.)

Kasen practices in his backyard. He especially loves shooting at the end of the day, when the wind has died down but there's still enough light to see. When he's not practicing archery, he often has a fishing rod in his hands.

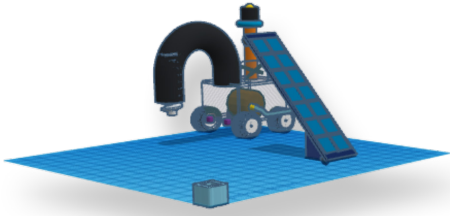
"We don't know if it'll be hunting or fishing, but he'll be on the Outdoor Channel someday, either way," Melissa Reed says.

Kasen has his sights set on another possible goal down the road: The Olympics.

"That would be awesome," he says. "I've got to work hard. Really, I just need to practice a lot, keep a clear mind and stay focused."

SHOOTING FOR THE MOON

eCademy student hopes national honor will propel her to a space career



It seems like serendipity that Sistine McKown lives in Hutchinson, home of the Kansas Cosmosphere Science Education and Space Museum.

Her love and interest in space occupies much of her free time and soaks through her conversations. She wants to pursue a career as an astronaut.

“Every great space scientist started out as a kid who was interested in space,” Sistine says. “They learned about it and then they achieved their goals.”

Sistine, a fourth-grader at Andover eCademy, turned her space enthusiasm into national recognition this spring through the Lunabotics Junior Challenge.

The NASA-sponsored design competition challenges students in grades K-5 to design a robot that can move lunar soil (regolith) from one area of the lunar south pole to a holding container near a future moon base. The regolith could be used for multiple purposes, including building concrete for buildings or extracting oxygen to breathe.

Sistine’s design, which she called Athena the Navigator, was one of four finalists in the competition out of approximately 1,000 entries.

“Even now, I think back and it’s just crazy,” she says. “I’m really proud of myself and what I achieved.”

Sistine’s design includes a corkscrew digging device that extends and gathers regolith, then contracts, keeping the regolith stored inside. She designed it in Tinkercad, a 3D modeling software she taught herself for the project.

Alison McKown, Sistine’s mom, says the Lunabotics project is a

great example of why eCademy has been a “great fit” for their family. Sistine can get her schoolwork done efficiently, then have time for additional projects and to explore her interests.

“She’s always had an interest in space,” McKown says. “We seek out opportunities for her. We talk all day long about it.”

Michelle Johnson, Sistine’s teacher, says it didn’t take long to learn about Sistine’s affinity for space.

“She is so energetic and excited about learning,” Johnson says. “Mark my words, she will be working for NASA one of these days.”

The finalist designation has given her confidence that she might have success in a space career.

“It makes me think about the things I can do in my life,” she says. “Even if I’m in a good mood, thinking about space makes me even happier.”

Learn more about the Lunabotics Junior Challenge at futureengineers.org. Learn more about Andover eCademy at andoveracademy.com.



Koehn

Koehn wins Wolfe Teaching Award

Sarah Koehn, theater teacher at Andover High School, has received a 2022 Wolfe Teaching Excellence Award from the University of Kansas School of Education. KU students can nominate teachers from around the world “who have encouraged and positively influenced them to dream, aspire and persevere.”

Paul Turner, a 2018 AHS graduate, nominated Koehn. He wrote: “Sarah Koehn is the most outstanding teacher that I have ever known. She has had an unbelievable impact on my life, as well as the lives of countless other students. Ms. Koehn is also an incredible leader, and a mentor to generations of students. Her leadership and mentorship abilities started with the respect and esteem she had for her students. She saw potential in everyone. ... She is a superlative teacher, director and human being.”

Koehn will be honored alongside the other two recipients at KU’s Commencement celebration weekend in May. She will receive a \$3,000 award and the school will receive a \$1,000 award.



Schmoll

Schmoll wins state Horizon Award

The Kansas State Department of Education announced band director Madison Schmoll as a 2022 Kansas Horizon Award winner. Dr. Randy Watson, Kansas Commissioner of Education, called her to share the news. The award honors outstanding teachers in their second year in the classroom, and there were only 32 announced throughout the entire state.

Schmoll teaches at Andover Middle School, Andover High School, Robert Martin Elementary, Wheatland Elementary and Cottonwood Elementary.



Chan

AMS student wins state journalism award

Zoe Chan, an eighth-grader at Andover Middle School, has been named the 2022 Mary Patrick Aspiring Young Journalist by the Kansas Scholastic Press Association. Zoe, who is in Haley Winegar’s yearbook class, submitted a portfolio of work including photography, writing and yearbook layout.

In her application materials, she wrote about using photography as a way to show the community feel of her school.

Faces in the news



Jeremy Boldra is joining Andover Public Schools this summer as assistant superintendent for human resources. Boldra most recently served seven years as superintendent at Flinthills USD 492 and previously served as superintendent in Solomon, principal at Marmaton Valley in Moran, and athletic director at Shawnee Mission Northwest. He replaces Dr. Russell Miller, who is retiring.



Richard Bell has been named the new executive director of operations. Bell has 22 years in public education, most recently serving five years as assistant superintendent for personnel and operations for Maize Public Schools. He previously was an elementary principal in Clearwater and an assistant principal at Arkansas City Middle School. He replaces David Jackson, who is retiring.



ACHS Scholars Bowl team goes back-to-back

The Andover Central High School Scholars Bowl team has claimed back-to-back state championships.

The team won the 5A title Feb. 12 in Newton.

Team members are Garrett Kane, Jun Byun, Jacob Norris, Aymed Hemed, Drew Friesen and Alex Ritter. They are coached by Brent Ruggles.



ACHS swimmers win 2nd straight title

Congratulations to the ACHS boys swim team, which earned its second consecutive 5-1A state championship on Feb. 19 in Topeka! Coach Allison Craig's squad's victory included first-place finishes in the 400-yard freestyle relay and an individual championship by Lucas Krueger in the 500-yard freestyle. They also set nine school records at the meet. Other team members included PJ Damico, Beau Blankenship, Noah Krueger, Jackson Lee, Ethan Finney, Ayden Fooshee, Brian Nguyen and Xavier Van Hiel.

Four students named National Merit Finalists



Norris



Ng



Lee



Hippisley

Four Andover students have been named National Merit Finalists, meaning they placed in approximately the top half of one percent of all juniors who completed the PSAT exam. Local finalists are Jacob Norris and Melissa Ng of Andover Central High School, and John Hippisley and Daul Lee of Andover High School.

Faces in the news



Azure Henwood is joining Andover Middle School as new assistant principal. Henwood comes to Andover from Haysville West Middle School, where she taught sixth-grade social studies for two years. She previously taught in the Wichita and Derby districts.



Doug Jefferson is joining Andover Middle School as new assistant principal and athletic director. Jefferson most recently spent two years as assistant principal/athletic director at Rose Hill Middle School. He spent most of his career at Augusta High School, where he taught from 1998 to 2020.

Road improvements, events highlight busy summer ahead



Ronnie Price,
Andover mayor

Andover Community,

While you may be planning summer vacations, the City of Andover is getting ready to be very busy in the next few months. For starters, let's talk about road construction. Many of you have no doubt noticed the work occurring on North Andover Road.

This work is for utility relocations in preparation of some substantial improvements coming to

this stretch of road. By school's start in the fall, North Andover Road will have the following enhancements: a center left-turn lane; right turn lanes at major driveways; a bicycle/pedestrian path in front of Andover High School and Middle School campuses, plus a path connecting to the south end of the path at Ira Court; and traffic signals at Allison St. and the North Andover High School driveway. The City is utilizing federal funds that were secured through the Kansas Department of Transportation and Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to pay for more than half of the project costs. The City of Andover and USD 385 are sharing the local costs. This is yet another example of the USD 385 School District and City of Andover working together for the betterment of our community.

Parks and Recreation Staff are working diligently to get things in place for us to have summer fun right here in our own backyard. Movies in the Park return this summer and are better than ever. Chris Janson, and special guests Drew Green and Shane Profitt, will take the stage on June 24 at Capitol Federal Amphitheater®. The next day, Cap Fed Amphitheater will host Taco Fest. Yes, "the" Taco Fest! The new and improved Central Park Playground should be complete in the next few weeks, just in time for park weather. Finally,

it's worth noting that the fishing docks at Lake George are being replaced for your enjoyment. There are more events coming as well, so be sure to go to andoverks.com because there is fun for everyone in your family and we don't want you to miss it!

The preliminary work is being done for the new fire station, remodel for station #1 as well as the 13th Street Park, and we will keep everyone updated as things move forward.

It's noticeable that Heritage Square is bursting out of the ground and soon will be taking shape. On the south side of US54 in the Market Place, construction of the Redler Institute of Culinary Arts is moving right along and will be complete in time for fall classes.

There are many things going on in the world out of our control or our ability to influence them, but we can influence our summer by enjoying family time and fun with our friends and neighbors. Let's focus on living life and enjoying the good things this summer has in store for us.

Stay happy, healthy and safe.

Ronnie Price, Mayor
City of Andover

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New Central Park playground opening soon

The new playground at Central Park is opening very soon and there are several improvements to come and check out:

- A solid surface Forever Lawn Safety Surfacing, which is more accessible than the previous loose wood chip style
 - Imaginative play features, which add a better balance of features for children ages 2-5 and 6-12 years old
 - Super Net Plex Tower, which has a spiral belt climber for an increase in use
- Stay updated on our Facebook page for more information.



Central Park
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Upcoming events

Saturday, June 4

- Police and Fire Community Cookout

Friday, June 24

- Chris Janson in concert
- Tickets available at capfedamphitheater.com

Saturday, June 25

- Taco Fest
- Tickets can be purchased at wichitatacofest.com

Thursday, September 29-

Sunday, October 2

- Greater Andover Days



Taco Fest

Saturday, June 25, 3-9

Join us at the Capitol Federal Amphitheater® in Andover for music, lucha libre wrestling, jalapeno eating competition, \$2 tacos, craft margaritas, and more!

Tickets can be purchased at wichitatacofest.com



Movies returning to Central Park

Bring your chairs, blankets and movie snacks to watch movies on the big screen. All movies begin at 7 p.m.

- Iron Man: July 9
- The Mighty Ducks: August 13
- Casper: October 22

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Redler

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