

The Andover Update



**Calm after
the storm**
School community rallies
to support tornado victims
SUMMER/FALL 2022



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Meet the team

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Tim Brunson | Andrew Chaney | Melinda Fritze
Jill Hodge | Josh Wells
Jamie Bohannon, clerk | Sherame Kneisel, treasurer

District Administration

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Jeremy Boldra, assistant superintendent
for human resources
Jill Lachenmayr, assistant superintendent
for academic affairs
Richard Bell, executive director of operations
Robert Cain, transportation general manager
Sherame Kneisel, chief financial officer
Aaron Nelson, director of food service
Brad Niessen, director of technology
Terry Rombeck, director of communication
Scott Wilson, director of business development

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



Generosity from near and far helps in tornado aftermath



Brett White,
Superintendent

“At the end it’s not about what you have or even what you’ve accomplished. It’s about who you’ve lifted up, who you’ve made better. It’s about what you’ve given back.”

- Denzel Washington

The tornado that struck our community on April 29 showed us the impact that the “givers” have. They were there in a time of great need. They didn’t wait for an invitation; they just showed up. They brought healing and hope. Some were familiar faces, and others were strangers with servant hearts and a desire to give back.

In this magazine, you’ll read the stories of a few of our staff members and families who were personally affected by the tornado. Our Andover Public Schools family immediately began caring for its own. It was a remarkable thing to watch, seeing first-hand how deep those bonds are in times of adversity.

But equally impressive and humbling is the support our district has received from the outside, particularly when it comes to the damage at Prairie Creek Elementary School.

Here are some examples:

- Just hours after the tornado, at the crack of dawn on Saturday morning, a couple dozen Hutton staff members were on site, beginning the cleanup process. By the end of the day, the school was secured, roof repairs had begun, and much of the debris had been removed.
- Several restaurants provided meals to Prairie Creek staff members as they planned for the final two weeks of the school year at alternate learning locations.
- Pratt Industries provided thousands of dollars in boxes and packing tape to salvage materials inside Prairie Creek.
- The maintenance staff at Maize Public Schools helped move boxes from Prairie Creek to storage.
- St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church volunteered the use of classroom space for our Pre-K programs. The church’s Knights of Columbus donated to purchase supplies for the Prairie Creek Fun in the Sun event.

- Classes or schools in Buhler, Spring Hill, Mulvane, Valley Center, Haysville, Hutchinson, Goddard, Augusta, Derby and Maize held fundraisers for their Prairie Creek peers.
- Derby Public Schools provided snacks for staff in every building in the district.
- Two Wichita State University basketball players volunteered their time to shoot hoops on the playground with Prairie Creek students.
- Botanica, the Sedgwick County Zoo, JAG Gymnastics, the Augusta Historic Theatre and others opened their doors for free field trips for Prairie Creek students.
- Crestview Country Club donated use of its course for the Foundation for Andover Schools to host a golf tournament to benefit Prairie Creek. The event sold out and raised over \$15,000.

This is far from an exhaustive list, but it gives you an idea for the type of support we have received. I have no doubt the Andover community would do the same if a neighboring school district found itself in the same situation.

The more than \$50,000 that has been donated to the district and The Foundation for Andover Schools will help educators purchase instructional materials and classroom items that will benefit students and enhance learning opportunities. This will provide some peace of mind to our educators as we enter what will be a somewhat uncertain beginning to the school year.

To our community and those outside who have provided support: Thank you. You have made this difficult situation much easier to endure. We feel your love, and it has lifted us. It has made us better. We will come out of this stronger because of the difference you have made.

I wish all of you an outstanding start to the 2022-23 school year!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brett White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brett White
Superintendent



Julia Miller, ACHS choir teacher, helps clean up damage at the Rummery house following the April 29 tornado.

HELPING HANDS

Volunteers step up to support those affected by tornado



Sydney and Brooks Rummery outside their house after the tornado.

“Let’s just buy a home in Wichita.”

In the hours after their first home was sucked up by a tornado, Sydney and Brooks Rummery couldn’t bear the idea of rebuilding in a place they would associate with a painful memory.

But then, something happened.

The next morning, their yard was full of volunteers ready to help – literally – pick up the pieces. Many were teachers and students at Andover Central High School, where Sydney teaches Spanish. They swarmed like busy worker ants, methodically picking up debris and organizing the Rummerys’ salvageable belongings while other items dangled in a treeline nearby.

“After the community support was so amazing, we decided we had to see this through,” she says of rebuilding. “After seeing all the people who want to help you, after seeing the community come together, this is where we want to raise our kids. When times get tough, you see who shows up. And people showed up.”

‘People helping people’

The April 29 EF-3 tornado that cut a narrow swath through Andover on April 29 damaged more than 230 buildings, according to Andover Fire-Rescue. Approximately 35 of the homes destroyed belonged to families of Andover Public Schools students or staff members, and many more families had their homes damaged. Gratefully, no students or staff members were reported among those injured.

While the devastation will continue to be a challenge for those affected, at least some of the victims say they hope the outpouring of community support is what ultimately defines the tornado.

“I really hope, someday, we can think about this as being a positive experience about people helping people,” Rummery says.

‘People came together’

Steen Danielsen paused, chainsaw idling in hand, and surveyed the crowd that had gathered on his lawn to help.

The previous evening, the ACHS assistant principal and his wife, Taylor, a Cottonwood Elementary School teacher, shepherded their two young children to the basement before a paddleboat smashed through their front door. Now, he was in awe of the number of people who were willing to give up their Saturday to get his family’s life back on track.

The ACHS football team. The baseball team. The boys soccer team. The band. Current teachers. Retired staff members. More than he could even track.

Two people brought skid steers to scoop debris into donated trucks. Others brought chainsaws. Still others brought food.

“Andover people came together,” Danielsen says. “They knocked it out of the park.”

‘Rejuvenation’

After a sleepless night at her sister’s home, Kim Hett and her family made it back to the spot where their home of 18 years once stood.

The previous night, Hett, her husband and son made it to the basement just seconds before the tornado ripped their home from its foundation. Their daughter, ACHS senior Gracie, was returning home from work at the time and avoided the tornado.

When the Hetts arrived the next morning around 7, what they found stunned them.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” says Hett, lead teacher at Andover eCademy. “We went out there, and everyone was there – all my eCademy family, teachers, people from all over town. It was amazing. I’ve never seen anything like that. I had no idea.”

Each time someone discovered a prized possession in the rubble – passports, Gracie’s cap and gown for graduation, wedding rings – the entire group cheered.

In the weeks that have passed, the help has continued to flow in. One of Gracie’s teachers offered makeup. Another teacher donated meal kits with handwritten recipes. Another brought a full family meal to celebrate Mother’s Day.

As the Hetts begin the rebuilding process, the support has given them a new perspective on life.

“The fact that the community came together helped us be positive about this,” Hett says. “It’s been a rejuvenation. It’s helped restore my faith in humanity. The times we break down and cry, it’s more about the outpouring of support than the loss of things. We’re just so grateful for this community.”



Volunteers, including members of the ACHS football team, survey tornado damage.



Prairie Creek work continues to progress

After a tornado struck Prairie Creek Elementary School on April 29, work began early the next morning with the goal of getting the building ready for students and staff once again.

While students finished the 2021-22 school year at alternate sites, work was underway to secure the outside of the building, dry out the inside and gather salvageable items indoors.

Since then, as of press time in late June, crews have worked on replacing the building’s roof, repainted many classrooms, begun replacing about 38,000 square feet of carpet and replaced some duct work.

The Prairie Creek office is on schedule to open July 18. While the district’s goal is to have as many staff and students as possible back at Prairie Creek when school begins, it is likely temporary classroom spaces elsewhere will need to be utilized while some classrooms are being finished.

More details will be communicated to Prairie Creek families as they are available.

2022-23 STUDENT REGISTRATION

Student registration for the 2022-23 school year is right around the corner! This is your opportunity to:

- Provide or update information about your student(s)
- Pay fees
- Arrange transportation, if necessary

Online registration

Online registration opens around noon on Tuesday, July 19. Parents will receive an email that day with directions for how to begin the process.

If you do not have internet access at home, you may access a computer at the District Office, 1432 N. Andover Road, or at your child's school beginning July 19.

New students

Students who have never enrolled at Andover Public Schools should complete the Intent to Register form before July 19. The form can be found at usd385.org.

Free/reduced

Families who meet certain income requirements are eligible for free or reduced meals and fees. To apply, please find the free/reduced application at usd385.org or visit Support Services, 202 W. Market in Andover.

Meals for 2022-23

The U.S. Department of Education's free meal program has been discontinued for the 2022-23 school year. Meal prices are \$2.90 for elementary student lunches; \$3.45 for middle school student lunches; \$3.50 for high school student lunches; \$1.95 for all student breakfasts; \$4.75 for adult lunches; and \$2.40 for adult breakfast. Some students also have the opportunity to purchase a la carte options.

Fees

All fees can be paid online through RevTrak, the district's online payment processor. A 4 percent service fee is added for online payment. School-related fees also can be paid by check at your child's school. Transportation fees must be paid at District Office, 1432 N. Andover Road.

Transportation

Durham School Services provides transportation services for Andover Public Schools. Transportation is provided at no cost to students who live 2.5 miles or more from their school. Students who live closer than 2.5 miles must pay a fee of \$275 per student, or a maximum of \$400 per family, to ride the bus. Transportation fees must be paid by the first full week of school to continue riding the bus. Please contact Durham School Services at 316-218-4621 if you have questions.

Health Office

Parents/guardians will receive an email with instructions for how to update their students' health records through the Health Office portal. It is important for our schools to have current student health information on record to best meet the needs of your child, especially in a medical emergency.

Questions?

Visit usd385.org/register, contact your child's school, email info@usd385.org or call 316-218-4660.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

June 13 - July 18:

PowerSchool not available to parents.

July 19:

Online registration opens around noon. Parents will receive an email with instructions for how to begin registration.

Aug. 3:

Last day to register and be guaranteed transportation during the first two weeks of school. Otherwise, the first day for guaranteed transportation will be Aug. 29.

Aug. 4:

Transportation information available to parents through PowerSchool.

Aug. 11:

First day of school, grades 1-6, 9 and new students to USD 385 in grades 7-8 and 10-12.

Aug. 12:

First day of school, grades 7-8 and 10-12.

Aug. 16:

First day of school, kindergarten, Pre-K and Early Learning.

Aug. 29:

Students who signed up for transportation after Aug. 3 are guaranteed transportation.

Sept. 2:

Final deadline for online registration; accounts will be deactivated for those who have not completed registration.

BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST

By Alysia Rich, family engagement consultant

School is still a few weeks away, but there are several things you can do now to help ensure your family is ready to go in August.

Elementary school

- Purchase school supplies (wait to label until you have specific directions from teachers)
- Plan your family's school year routine now!
 - Morning routine
 - After school routine
- Begin practicing routines at least two weeks before school begins, including school year bedtimes
- Have young children practice opening lunch box/items and backpack on their own
- Consider childcare needs and make arrangements
- Ensure children are aware of how they will get to/from school and develop a system for changes (children thrive on routine and knowing what to expect, so plan for the unexpected!)

Middle/high school

- Middle school: Purchase school supplies
- High school: Purchase basic supplies (notebook, pencils, backpack). Teachers will notify students what is needed for each class on the first day.
- Work with your child to create/update a space for studying
 - Make sure necessary materials are there
 - Remove distractions if possible (TV, video games, etc.)
 - Include a comfortable place to sit and work (what does your child prefer?)

All ages

- Designate a place to keep all information from schools (print and digital) so you can refer to it as needed
- Sort clothing and make a plan to purchase new items as needed
- Schedule any necessary medical/dental appointments prior to first day
- Organize a family calendar to mark days off of school, conferences, etc.
- Create/update a place and system for collecting school work and papers
 - For multiple children it's a great idea to have a file system with a folder for each child where you can easily add papers as they come home
- Plan with your children what they will do for lunch
 - Eating at school?
 - Set a budget with older kids
 - Print menu and put where everyone can see it easily
 - Mark days when child will eat at school if not every day
 - Packing a lunch?
 - Create a list of ideas for easy packing
 - Have younger children practice packing their own lunch
 - Make sure everyone has a lunch box/bag
- Become familiar with the school/district websites
 - Skim topics covered on the main pages
 - Scroll resources/parent information and familiarize yourself with where to find info
- Ease worries/fears by frequently discussing the school year with your child
 - Ask questions about what they're most excited about, what they're curious about, what they may be nervous about
 - Listen! Let them share how they feel and listen with the intent to validate their feelings, not just offer a solution
 - Connect children with friends and classmates before school begins so they don't feel alone on the first day

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer! Plan a fun adventure or two to experience as a family. Read and play together. Spend time together without distractions. Summer goes by quickly, so be intentional and make some memories!

FAMILY

TALK



ACHS principal named to Women Who Lead list

Amanda Grier, principal at ACHS, has been named to the Wichita Business Journal's Women Who Lead in Education list for this year.

Grier

Grier is beginning her second year as principal after serving 10 years as an assistant principal in the district.

"I love working with the staff and students," she told the Business Journal. "The staff in my school care about each other and their students. They are fun to work with and make me enjoy coming to work each day."

District Office now open

The new Andover Public Schools District Office at 1432 N. Andover Road is now open for business.

Staff members moved into the new facility in May. Completion of the project marks the close of major projects approved by voters with a \$188 million bond issue in May 2017. The new District Office houses district administrative staff and the Information Technology department. It will be the site of Board of Education meetings beginning in August.

Andover captures 5 state track and field titles



Klein



Barkdull



Harshaw

Three track and field senior athletes captured five 5A state championships in May at the Kansas State Track Meet.

Tayton Klein of AHS led the way with three state titles, winning the 300-meter hurdles, 110-meter hurdles and long jump.

Ashton Barkdull of ACHS won the state pole vault, setting a new 5A state record at 16 feet, 7 ¼ inches. The vault was the sixth-best in state history among all classifications.

And Brittany Harshaw of ACHS won the high jump, leaping to a personal-best of 5 feet, 6 inches.



AHS girls win state swimming

The Andover High School girls swim team capped a successful year in May by winning the 5-1A state title.

The girls, coached by Bethany Bastian, scored 258 team points, well above second place St. James Academy at 202. They won four events:

- 200-yard medley (Mari Griffin, Kiersten Elliott, Sophia Mandanis and Natalie Neugent)
- 400-yard freestyle relay (same swimmers as above)
- 50-yard freestyle (Neugent)
- 100-yard backstroke (Griffin)

The title caps a successful first year for the Andover Public Schools Aquatics Center. The ACHS boys also won their state championship in the winter.



AHS students win FBLA honors

Several AHS students recently took first place honors at the state's Future Business Leaders of America competition. They were:

- Dylan Basinger in the category Help Desk.
- Lauren Brown, Annabelle Tantemsomboon and Sophie Ramsey in the category Business and Financial Systems.
- Caitlin Reilly, Raegan Brotsky and Elise Brown in the category Introduction to Event Planning.

Holly Avalos is the FBLA sponsor.

Andover USD 385

2022-23 District Calendar



2022

July					August					September				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
				1	1	2	3	4	5				1	2
4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30

October					November					December				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4				1	2
10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9
17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16
24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23
31					28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30

2023

January					February					March				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3			1	2	3
9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17
23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24
30	31				27	28				27	28	29	30	31

April					May					June				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5				1	2
10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9
17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16
24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23
					29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30

July	19	Online registration begins
August	3-4	New teachers report
	5	Flex work day
	8	All teachers report
	11	First day, grades 1-6, 9 and new students to USD 385 in grades 7-8 and 10-12
	12	First day, grades 7-8 and 10-12
	16	First day, kindergarten, Pre-K and Early Learning
September	2	Professional learning day
	5	Labor Day
	26	Professional learning day
October	12	End of first quarter
	13	All schools closed; parent/teacher conferences
	14	Morning flex work day
November	7	Professional learning day
	23-25	Thanksgiving break
December	20	End of second quarter; dismiss two hours early
	21	Morning flex work day
	22-Jan 3	Holiday break
January	13	Professional learning day
	16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February	17	Professional learning day
	20	Conference credit day
March	9	End of third quarter
	10	Morning flex work day
	13-17	Spring break
April	7	Professional learning day
May	1	Professional learning day
	11	eCademy graduation
	14	AHS and ACHS graduations
	23	Last day for students; dismiss two hours early
	24	Morning flex work day
	29	Memorial Day

- School not in session
- All schools closed - Teacher professional learning
- All schools closed - Teacher flex work day
- All schools closed - Conference credit day
- All schools closed - Parent/Teacher daytime conferences
- Registration begins
- End of Quarter

This calendar may be altered at the discretion of the Board of Education and/or the administration. The policies of the Board of Education of USD 385 prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion and sex in all programs and activities of the district. Additionally, discrimination on the basis of age is prohibited in employment. Equal Opportunity Employer. **Adopted by the Board of Education 12/13/2021.**

1st quarter: 42 student days
 2nd quarter: 43 student days
 3rd quarter: 43 student days
 4th quarter: 45 student days

Thank you for your support!

A huge thank you to the many partners who have helped and continue to be of service during the tornado response and recovery. Thank you to first responders, area public works departments, countless agencies and nonprofits, debris removal helpers, donors, volunteers, and many more in multiple cities and communities.

CITY UPDATE

Message from The Mayor



**Ronnie Price,
Andover mayor**

Andover Citizens,

I want to start by letting everyone displaced by the tornado know that you and yours continue to be in the forefront of my mind. I drive through all the neighborhoods affected by the tornado regularly and will continue as needed. You all are truly Andover Strong.

The City of Andover has developed a Long-Term Recovery Committee and the

first meeting was held on June 8. The committee will be responsible for strengthening disaster relief/recovery and case management will be ongoing. As of now, 200 names have been submitted to the United Way of the Plains. If you or someone you know still needs assistance and has not reached out to United Way of the Plains, you can do so by calling 2-1-1.

Andover has a lot to look forward to and by the time this message comes out, we will have enjoyed the Chris Janson concert and Taco Fest. Stay up to date at andoverks.com on upcoming shows. The Police and Fire Community Cookout is Tuesday, Aug. 2 and will coincide with National Night Out. The 6th Annual Grub and Groove is set for Saturday, Aug. 20 and it will be a

good time for all. Last, but certainly not least, Melissa Etheridge and Keb' Mo' is on Saturday, Sept. 24. Melissa, a Kansas native, needs no introduction but if you haven't seen or heard of Keb' Mo', he is a living legend and you don't want to miss this show. Check andoverks.com often as we are always announcing new entertainment at the Capitol Federal Amphitheater®.

Saturday, July 9, is the Andover City Scramble Golf Tournament and it is sure to be a lot of fun. Oaks Golf, operators of the Andover Municipal Golf Course, has been working hard to beautify and enhance your golfing experience, so come on out and support its efforts to bring people together in our city.

City staff and Chief Chad Russell have received and are reviewing the design drawings for the new fire station and we are hoping to break ground on the infrastructure towards the end of October. The Lodge in Central Park has been totaled but we look forward to the opportunity to involve the community in the rebuilding process.

Enjoy your summer, please stay hydrated, and do not overdo it in the heat.

Stay healthy, happy, and safe.

Ronnie Price, Mayor
City of Andover

FREE MOVIE

Saturday, August 13, 7 p.m. | Capitol Federal Amphitheater®

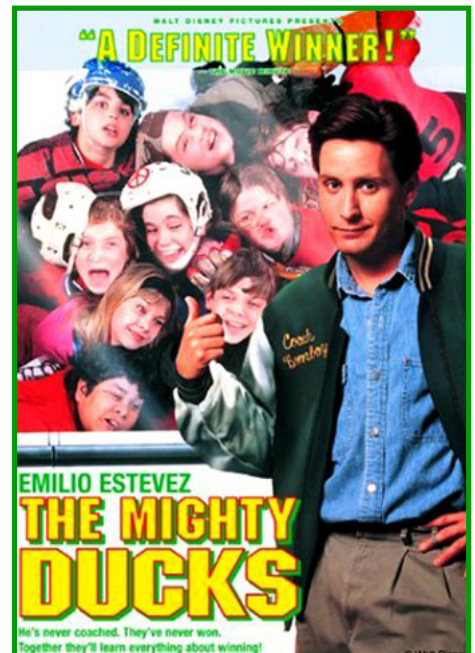
© Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.



Free movies in the Park

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

- The Mighty Ducks: August 13
 - Casper: October 22
- Sponsored by Evergy © Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.





Greater Andover Days dates announced

Stand With Andover - Greater Andover Days 2022

Dates: Friday, September 30 – Sunday, October 2

Resilience. Strength. Community. Three words Andover has been no stranger to over the last few months. In April, members of the Andover community and Butler and Sedgwick counties were affected by the tornado, including the YMCA and Prairie Creek Elementary School. Neighbors and surrounding communities continue to stand together with Andover. We cannot wait to come together to celebrate all that has been done over the last several months at Greater Andover Days this fall. Enjoy the parade, disc golf tournament, carnival, fishing and archery clinic, food trucks, music, and so much more jam packed into three days of fun! Buttons go on sale in September.



Police and Fire Community Cookout

The Police and Fire Community Cookout will be held in conjunction with National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 2. This is the perfect family-friendly community event for everyone. Join us for free hamburgers and hot dogs along with demonstrations and static displays by the Andover Police Department's K-9 teams, Andover Fire-Rescue, and more. Sponsored by the Andover Police & Fire Foundation.



Melissa Etheridge and Keb' Mo' coming to Andover

Melissa Etheridge and Keb' Mo' will perform at the Andover Capitol Federal Amphitheater® on Saturday, September 24, starting at 7 p.m. General admission tickets start at \$30 and are available at capfedamphitheater.com.

Known for her confessional lyrics and raspy, smoky vocals, Etheridge has remained one of America's favorite female singer-songwriters for more than two decades. On Sept. 17, 2021, Melissa released a new album called *One Way Out*. The 9-track album is a collection of songs Etheridge wrote in the late '80s and early '90s that never made the cut — until now! The time is finally right, and fans will get a deeper glimpse to who Melissa was then.

With five Grammys and a groundbreaking career spanning nearly 50 years under his belt, Keb' Mo' stands as one of the most accomplished and respected artists working in contemporary roots music today. Keb' got his start working behind the scenes as a guitarist, songwriter, and arranger before breaking out internationally with the release of his 1994 self-titled debut, which earned widespread acclaim for its genre-bending take on old school sounds. In the decades that followed, Keb' would go on to top the Billboard Blues Chart seven times.

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City of Andover KS



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Ready for better.

Fall classes start
August 22.



ButlerCC.edu