

#### What's inside

#### 3 | Superintendent's message

#### 4 New orchestra program

- 5 | Cottonwood Blue Ribbon School
- 6 | Pinball restoration
- 7 | Investing for their future
- 9 | Passionate paras
- 10 | From industry to the classroom
- 12 | News in brief
- 14 | City of Andover news

#### Meet the team

#### **Board of Education**

Jennifer Seymour, president | Susan DeVaughn, vice president Tim Brunson | Andrew Chaney | Pierre Harter Jill Hodge | Josh Wells Jamie Bohannon, clerk | Sherame Kneisel, treasurer

#### **District Administration**

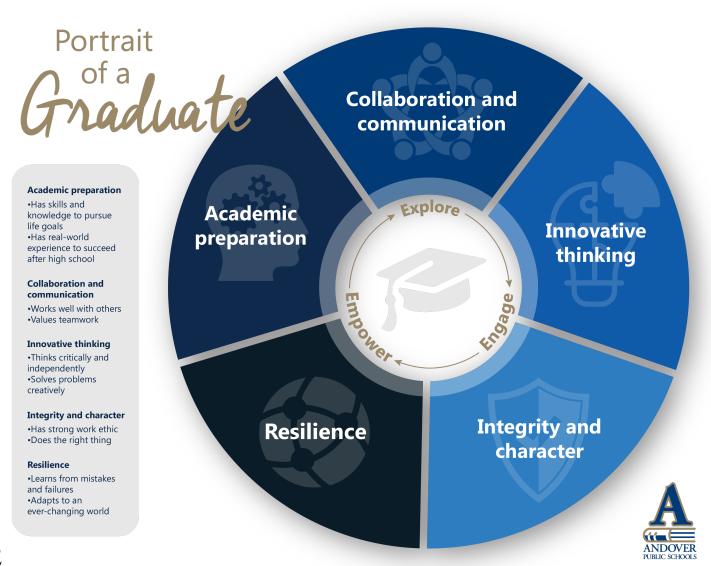
Brett White, superintendent
Jeremy Boldra, assistant superintendent
for human resources

**Jill Lachenmayr,** assistant superintendent for academic affairs

Richard Bell, executive director of operations Sherame Kneisel, chief financial officer Aaron Nelson, director of food service

Terry Rombeck, director of communication Scott Wilson, director of business development

Brad Niessen, director of technology



#### A multi-pronged approach to creating safe schools



Brett White, Superintendent

Safety has never been more important in our schools. Andover Public Schools has made significant investments to enhance security. The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Our district takes an all-hazards approach to emergency preparedness planning, so we are able to respond to a variety of emergencies or disasters. I want to share some of the ways that we ensure the safety of students and staff

Ongoing safety initiatives: Safety efforts are ever-evolving. Our district has a safety committee that meets monthly to review procedures and comprehensive plans. Also, district leadership and Andover Police Department leaders communicate regularly to coordinate safety efforts.

Crisis drills: Students and staff participate in monthly crisis drills covering a variety of areas related to safety. These drills are essential in safety planning efforts. In the past few years, the district has implemented an app called CrisisGo that enables staff members to accurately account for all students in their class during a drill or crisis event.

Controlled access: Safety was at the forefront of the 2017 bond issue. As a result of bond projects, all of our school entrances now have controlled access. This means that entry into the buildings during the school day is accessed through a locked system with video cameras and technology where visitors gain access through the school offices once the reason for their visit has been established.

Storm shelters: The bond issue also ensured that all of our schools have storm shelters. As we experienced on the evening of April 29, tornadoes can cause devastating damage. We utilized our shelters in the schools where staff members were present on April 29, so we know without question that those shelters can save lives.

Bullying: Processes have been established to address bullying concerns in our schools. Students are made aware of the reporting process at their school at the beginning of the year. Students can share bullying reports directly with an administrator or a counselor, or reports can be made anonymously. Lessons about bullying are also taught as part of the curriculum.

Gaggle: Gaggle is a tool used to monitor student safety on school-provided technology. It uses a combination of machine learning and human safety experts to review students' use of technology. School administration is notified when safety issues are discovered. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death in children ages 10-14 in our country. When concerns about self-harm or suicide are discovered with Gaggle, a representative from Gaggle reaches out immediately to school administration. The school administration then connects with the family and the student so the concerns can be addressed.

Threat assessments: All threats are taken very seriously. We use a threat assessment process to determine the credibility of any threat that is made. These protocols ensure that the school response is appropriate for the given situation.

Vape detectors: Vape detectors are installed in strategic locations at each high school. The vape detectors alert school administration if vaping is occurring in the building. We also plan to install vape detectors in the middle schools in the coming years.

School Resource Officers: The district and City of Andover partner to provide four School Resource Officers to serve our schools. One SRO on each side of the district is assigned to a high school and one feeder elementary, and the other SRO on that side of the district has a middle school and the other two elementary schools in that feeder pattern. SROs help with safety in many different ways, and the relationships our SROs build with students are really powerful.

Positive cultures: Relationships matter. Positive, caring cultures in our schools create environments where students are comfortable reporting safety concerns. Thus, the cultures in our schools not only enable students to flourish, they also positively impact safety. All of our schools have dedicated counselors, nurses, educators, administrators, and other staff members who are here for students and are committed to their development, health, and success.

Although this is certainly not an all-inclusive list, it is important for you to know how important safety is in our district, and the systems we have in place to protect our students and staff.

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**Andover Public Schools** 



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## **World on a string**

#### Startup orchestra program gaining traction





Kathy House teaches students at Sunflower Elementary.

Laura Hutchins leads rehearsal at Andover Middle School.

The rich tradition of quality arts programs in Andover Public Schools expanded this fall with the addition of an orchestra program.

Now, the sounds of soothing strings can be heard in the hallways in each of Andover's schools.

"The energy is there," says Kathy House, who teaches orchestra at Andover Central Middle School, Andover Central High School, and Meadowlark, Prairie Creek and Sunflower elementary schools. "Kids are excited to be part of what they are creating."

Orchestra rooms were added to the middle and high schools as part of \$188 million in bond-funded construction projects approved by voters in May 2017. But uncertainty during the pandemic delayed the start of the orchestra program until this fall.

Now, students in grades 5-12 can learn violin, viola, cello and bass in classes taught by House and Laura Hutchins, who teaches at Andover High School, Andover Middle School, and Cottonwood, Robert Martin and Wheatland elementaries. Both teachers previously led orchestra programs in Wichita Public Schools.

House has about 80 students total; Hutchins has 100. Though some students are experienced string players, the majority are beginners. The beginning of the first semester was spent covering the basics, such as how to hold a bow.

"Now, they're really becoming an orchestra," Hutchins says. "They're doing really well. I'm really happy."

Both House and Hutchins say they're excited to help grow an orchestra program in Andover. They're looking forward to showing off their students' talents through concerts and other performance opportunities.

"It's been a blast working with them," House says. "We want to use word of mouth that strings is fun and something they should consider."



# COTTONWOOD BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

The U.S. Department of Education has named Cottonwood Elementary School one of 297 National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2022.

The Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing Schools Award recognizes schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and have dramatically improved student performance in the areas of reading and mathematics.

"This recognition confirms what we already know about Cottonwood – it's a family-oriented school where the staff works hard to help students achieve their potential," Superintendent Brett White said. "We're so proud of Mrs. Rooks and the Cottonwood team for earning this honor."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award dates back to 1983. Nearly 10,000 schools have been honored during that time. Three Kansas schools were recognized this year.

"We're proud to be a Blue Ribbon School," Principal Shari Rooks said. "The hard work our staff and students put into learning and building relationships makes Cottonwood a special place to be." Everything at Cottonwood is focused on its mission: We will work together at Cottonwood Elementary to be responsible, respectful, and resourceful life-long learners. We will do what is right.

Among Cottonwood's highlights:

- Explorations program, which provides opportunities for students to learn about topics such as yoga, magic, trick shots and Irish dance, all the while making relationships with staff members, community members and students from other classes.
- Connections with classes in the nearby Andover Middle School and Andover High School.
- Staff training in dyslexia and phonics, and support systems to help students who need additional assistance.
- Use of a student-centered math curriculum, with help of a math interventionist.
- A focus on relationships, through Explorations; buddy classrooms that connect grade levels; Career Days to learn about future opportunities; and volunteers in classrooms.

Principal Shari Rooks, teacher Sophia Davis and Superintendent Brett White traveled to Washington, D.C., in November to accept the award.





## PINBALL WIZARDS



Toward the end of last school year, River Quintero and Ryan Ketchum noticed an old pinball machine in the engineering lab at the Andover Center for Advanced Professional Studies.

"I thought, 'Oh, that's cool. An old pinball machine," River says. "It's a great conversation piece."

Little did they know that this fall, they would invest more than 100 hours into restoring the machine, and that it would even spur one of them to consider a career in electrical engineering.

A local business owner approached CAPS engineering students about restoring the machine, which has a "Picnic" theme and dates back to 1958. It was one of 850 manufactured by the Gottlieb company.

The late 1950s were a period of transition for pinball machines, with electric portions paired with mechanical parts. But when compared with its original wiring diagram, this particular machine was more complicated because of alterations made to it through the years.

"There are parts that are supposed to be there but aren't, and parts that are there that aren't supposed to be," says Seth Scripter, engineering teacher.

Ryan and River, both Andover Central High School seniors, set out to restore the pinball machine to working condition. They quickly realized it was going to be difficult.

First, they had to figure out how to even open the cabinet, then how to remove its contents. They documented the entire process meticulously so they could eventually get every part back where it belonged.

Then came time to test the electrical components. They were able to do that one-by-one using isolated power, but

running power to the entire machine required replacing a worn-out transformer with three separate transformers.

"It felt like we were finally accomplishing something when we got it powered up," River says.

"It was really cool," Ryan adds.

The flip side? "Before, we couldn't see how many problems there really were with it, because it wouldn't turn on," Scripter says. "It's a huge project. To fully restore it, you'd have to go component by component."

Referencing online forums and videos, Ryan and River have worked through challenge after challenge. Now, they are at a crossroads and need to decide if they will continue on the project during the spring semester or hand it over to others.

"This has definitely taught me persistence," River says. "As we've had trouble, we had to take things step-by-step to tackle the issue, then move on to the next challenge."

After graduation in May, River plans to continue pursuing his aerospace engineering interest as a career. Ryan, however, had planned on either aerospace or mechanical engineering. Because of the pinball project, he's now added electrical engineering to his potential career fields.

"I had played pinball," Ryan says, "but I had no idea what went on inside to make it work."



River Quintero, left, works with Ryan Ketchum.



Braden Rupp talks with Nathan Wiggans.

### **INVESTING FOR THEIR FUTURE**

CAPS team excelling in international finance competition

**B** raden Rupp got hooked on investing as a young boy, when he started investing casually with the help of his grandfather.

This semester, he and a team of students at the Andover Center for Advanced Professional Studies have become one of the top investment teams in the world.

Braden, a senior at Andover High School, is leading a team of four in the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania. At press time, the Andover team was 156th out of more than 5,000 teams.

"Right now, we're beating the market," Braden says.
"We're at 8.5 percent return on investment, but yesterday we were at 10 percent. It shows how volatile the market is."

In the competition, students are given \$100,000 in simulated money and a set of parameters by which they can invest. They are investing on behalf of a fictional persona who is accompanied by a case study explaining his or her investment needs. The Andover team's fictional investor is a believer in green energy and also wants capital to open a yoga studio in five years. The team must find investments that would fall within the investor's values.

"There's a moral value of stock, and there's the actual value," Braden says. "They're willing to take a loss short-term for gains long-term."

Other team members include Kael Mears, a senior at Andover Central high School; Nathan Henning, a senior at ACHS; and Nathan Wiggans, a junior at AHS.

Kael says his favorite part of the competition is researching companies, such as referencing their 10-Q disclosure forms, reading news articles and considering how current events could affect companies.

"It's helped my perception of what's going on in the world," he says. "We've had to know things like how the situation in Russia and Ukraine is going to affect grain prices. We may not think we're personally affected by it, but it makes you want to know more."

Braden was already considering a career in investing. Now Kael says he is, as well.

"It's make-or-break time for me," Kael says of his upcoming high school graduation. "I needed to know: 'Do I enjoy this?' And I love the problem-solving process and researching different companies."



We're excited to welcome our newest learners for the 2023-24 school year! Our high-quality programs are designed to prepare your child ages 3, 4 or 5 for kindergarten and beyond with:

- Certified teachers and highly-qualified support staff.
- Low student-teacher ratios.
- Half-day classes meet four days a week, Monday through Thursday. The morning session is from 8:35-11:50 a.m. and the afternoon session is 12:30-3:45 p.m.
- Students participate in library, art, music and physical education instructed by certified teachers.

Any child living in Andover Public Schools boundaries is eligible. Classes meet at Prairie Creek Elementary School, 654 S. YMCA Drive in Andover.

Applications for Early Learning Services will open at 7 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18. Visit usd385.org/preK for more information and to apply!

#### Programs include:

- Fee-based Pre-K for ages 3, 4 and 5
- State-subsidized Pre-K for 3-year-olds
- State-subsidized Pre-K for 4-year-olds
- Fee-based peer model program for children ages 3½ and 4
- Early Childhood Special Education

#### **Early Learning Info Night**

6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 5
Prairie Creek Elementary School
Meet teachers, tour classrooms, learn
about programs and ask questions!

## PASSIONATE PARAS

A paraprofessional, or para, is an educator who works with a licensed teacher to provide support to students.

"Paraprofessionals are vital in our schools," says Amy Petricek, Robert Martin Elementary School principal. "They dedicate their time and energy to students, support general education teachers and special educators, serve as caring and trusted adults as well as being a sounding board for colleagues."

#### BRADEN BARR

"There's never a dull moment," says Braden Barr, a third-year para at Meadowlark Elementary.

Barr started working as a para to gain classroom experience. As a para, he has the opportunity to work with students with a variety of needs.

"His calm demeanor, his patience, his playful nature and his ability to connect with students on an academic, social and emotional level have been so beneficial," says Dana Matheny, Meadowlark Elementary principal. "Braden's experience as a para will be invaluable when he begins his journey as a classroom teacher."

Barr's mornings are spent helping in the kindergarten-third grade classrooms. He wants to be a middle school math teacher, so he spends his afternoons helping with the upper grade math classes.

"Being able to really get to know these students and push them to what we know they can achieve is awesome," Barr says.





#### JACKIE FRANKLIN

Jackie Franklin, a para at Robert Martin Elementary, has always wanted to work in the classroom.

After working as a hairdresser for 15 years, she decided to pursue a career in education. Franklin started working at Andover Public Schools as a teacher's aide and is now in her second year as a para.

"Jackie is a ray of sunshine in my classroom and our building. She has such a love for kids and what she does," says Tracy Burrus, kindergarten teacher at Robert Martin Elementary.

Franklin spends most of her time in the classroom helping students that need support. This includes behavioral, emotional and learning support. Her favorite part about being a para is watching the kids grow.

"The biggest thing is when you see them from the beginning of the year to the end of the year and know that you were able to help," Franklin says. "It's just so rewarding."

#### Interested in becoming a paraeducator?

- Go to usd385.org/jobs
- Click "Apply for special education and paraprofessional jobs"



## NEW 19 SCH99L

#### Andover couple find second careers in the classroom

eaching was never part of the plan for Ashley or Cole Hurley.

"When I was in nursing school, if you would have said, 'Hey, you're going to teach 11th and 12th graders a medical program,' I would've laughed at you and said, 'Absolutely not going to happen,'" Ashley says. "Obviously that has changed."

Now, Ashley is in her second year as a Medical Strand teacher at the Andover Center for Advanced Professional Studies. Cole, her husband, started this year teaching industrial arts classes focused on metals.

Andover Public Schools has approximately 400 certified teachers, but the Hurleys are among a handful who teach students from both Andover High School and Andover Central High School.

"I love the fact that we have both Andover High and Central kids, and it's amazing to see how they interact," Ashley says. "It's been really cool to witness that."

They are serving in their own community. Cole grew up in Andover and graduated from ACHS. The couple have three boys, one each in elementary, middle and high school.

Check out the next page for the Hurleys' thoughts on teaching.

#### **Cole Hurley**

**Background:** Helped run his family's sheet metal business.

On making the career change to teaching:

"I've noticed that there's a need for more handson industrial type workers. And so I thought maybe this would be a good chance for me to give some of my knowledge to some younger people and hope they can continue that."

On learning to teach:

"Everything I know about metal and soldering and welding came from my grandpa and my dad. Teaching these kids the basics and teaching them what it's like to start a project and see it all the way through is completely more satisfying than me ever teaching an employee how to do something."

What are the best parts of teaching?

"When a kid gets frustrated or just says they can't do something, and I keep encouraging them and try a little different way to do it. And when they get excited and bring it to me and say, 'Look at this – look at what I did!' It's just really neat to see."

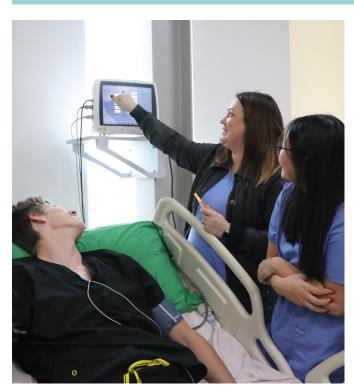
On serving the community where they live:

"Our sophomore has teachers that I had in high school that are still there. It's neat to be able to give back to a community that has given me so much. It's a great community to raise our kids in. It's home and it'll always be home."



Cole Hurley superivises a student welding project.

#### **Ashley Hurley**



Ashley Hurley teaches her students how to read the results of a five point electrocardiogram.

**Background:** 

Registered nurse who worked in a variety of settings, most recently in an OB/GYN office.

On making the career change to teaching:

"For me to show my skills and teach the next generation of healthcare workers coming up was what really caught my interest. I get to help them decide, 'Do I really want to do this later as a career?'"

On learning to teach:

"I think being able to teach what I love, and I think it's easy to teach it because it's my passion. I love nursing and so being able to show the kids and know what they need for the future comes easily."

What are the best parts of teaching?

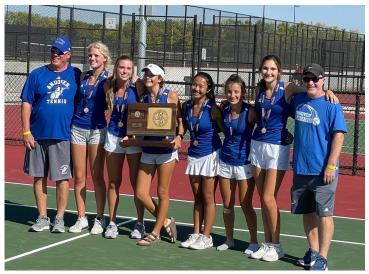
"Medicine is difficult and it all kind of plays together. So when they start putting things together, it's just clicking and you can see the lightbulb go off, it's amazing."

On serving the community where they live:

"We're invested, obviously. We're not going anywhere. One hundred percent invested. It's an amazing district. I couldn't be more proud to work in Andover."

#### news in brief \_

#### Tennis teams dominate at state





AHS tennis team

Chon & Geoffroy, ACHS

Andover tennis players continued their success on the court at the 5A State Tennis Tournament in October at the Andover Public Schools Tennis Complex.

Andover High School earned its second straight 5A state team championship. Andover Central High School earned runner-up status.

Additionally, ACHS senior Maya Chon and sophomore Bryer Geoffroy won the state doubles championship, defeating teammates Grace Schaefer and McKinnley Evans, both seniors.

The Trojans are coached by Stephen Alexander and Mark Cross. The Jaguars are coached by Janet Glaser and Jaren Glaser.



Harter

#### Harter fills position on Board of Education

Pierre Harter is the newest member of the Andover Board of Education.

The Board appointed Harter to fill its member-at-large position left when Melinda Fritze retired from the Board

this summer after 11 years of service.

Harter and his wife, Kristin, have four children in Andover schools – three at Robert Martin Elementary School and one at Andover Middle School. He has more than 20 years of experience in executive leadership and engineering roles in the aerospace industry and is associate vice president for research operations at Wichita State University and director of research and development for the National Institute for Aviation Research.

"I'm excited to serve on the board because I believe educating our children is one of the most important duties we have as a society and I want to do my part to make this district all the it can be for our kids," says Pierre.



Цанніс

#### James Harris of AHS named to Hall of Fame

James Harris, Andover High School speech and debate teacher/coach, has been inducted into the Kansas Speech Communication Association Hall of Fame!

Since Harris arrived in Andover in 2005, AHS has had:

- Nine state speech state champions and five runnersup.
- 2022 state team runner-up.
- 55 qualifiers to the National Speech and Debate Association national championship.
- A 2015 national champion in oratory.
- A 2016 national runner-up in oratory.
- Seven students named Academic All-Americans
- And many other speech/debate achievements.

"I can't think of anyone who is more Hall of Fame material than Mr. Harris," says Brent Riedy, AHS principal. "AHS students are fortunate to have a teacher as dedicated and skilled as Mr. Harris."

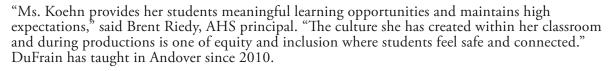
#### Koehn, DuFrain named Teacher of the Year nominees



Koehn

Wheatland Elementary School, have been named the Andover Public Schools nominees for 2024 Kansas Teacher of the Year.

Koehn has taught in Andover since 2004.



Sarah Koehn, theater teacher at Andover High School, and Amanda DuFrain, first-grade teacher at

"Amanda is everything a professional educator should be," said Elton Armbrister, principal at Wheatland. "She is student-focused with a quality balance between being a nurturer for elementary children and high academic expectations. She is well respected by everyone at Wheatland!"

Regional finalists will be named in March, with the Kansas Teacher of the Year announced in September 2023.



**DuFrain** 



#### Four AHS seniors earn National Merit Semifinalist honors

Congratulations to our district's four semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program! They are among the top approximately 1 percent of seniors who completed the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as juniors.

This year's four semifinalists, all from Andover High School, are Alexis Brown, Danton Nguyen, Jeremiah Rather and Corbin Hoppas. Finalists will be announced in February, with National Merit Scholarships awarded in spring of 2023.

#### Wyrick, Meins named district's Horizon Award nominees



Wyrick

Levi Wyrick, PE teacher at Andover Central Middle School, and Cassidy Meins, third-grade teacher at Wheatland Elementary, have been named the district's nominees for the Kansas Horizon Award.

The award, given by the Kansas State Department of Education, goes to outstanding educators in their second year of teaching.



Meins

"Mr. Wyrick builds positive relationships with students, families, and colleagues," says Leslianne Craft, ACMS principal. "He is completely engaged with his students during lessons providing them with feedback and assessing for mastery. He encourages his students to do their very best. He is a terrific role model. He is very professional and interested in growing the teaching profession."

Elton Armbrister, principal at Wheatland, says Meins' relationships with students, knowledge of curriculum and instruction, and teamwork and collaboration set her apart.

"Cassidy's dedication to teaching, her love of learning, exceptional work ethic, and positive relationships have given me evidence to know in my heart that she will have an outstanding career ahead of her," he says.

Statewide Horizon Award winners will be announced in January.



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Ronnie Price, Andover mayor

A ndover Citizens,

It's been a busy and unexpected year for the City of Andover. Andover experienced an EF-3 tornado on April 29, 2022, and it did not take long to realize that when tragedy strikes, the surrounding communities come together to support. In fact, all of Kansas and beyond became a part of our community in cleanup

efforts and much more. There is not enough time in a day to list all of the great people, municipalities, and businesses that joined our community in the aftermath. It has been a life-changing year for many Andover citizens, and while we aren't through it by any means, we continue to move forward in the rebuilding process and will come back even stronger. As of November, the Long-Term Recovery Committee had awarded a total of \$122,146.08 to 29 families from United Way of the Plains and Great Plains Disaster Fund.

The Capitol Federal Amphitheater® hosted many great events including two concerts featuring Chris Janson and Melissa Etheridge. Not only were there concerts, but additional events including Music Theatre Wichita performances, Grub and Groove, Jazz Fest, and Taco Fest.

Greater Andover Days was a blast as always with fun for the entire family. We have been hard at work planning next year's lineup, so be sure to visit andoverks.com for a calendar of events.

Andover held the groundbreaking ceremony for the new fire station at Andover Road and Minneha in October. The fire station will provide a better response time throughout our city and surrounding areas. As the new station is completed, renovation of the current fire station will begin. This is a big step forward for community.

We have all been watching Heritage Square at US-54 and Yorktown Road rise up from the ground. We are excited to welcome in new businesses to Andover. Stay tuned on our social media channels throughout the year for announcements on how Andover is growing.

The Butler Community College Redler School of Culinary Arts is holding classes now. Heartland Welding Academy is coming to Andover and is currently renovating the building at 656 N Andover Road. Classes will be available starting in January. It is an exciting time for Andover's younger residents to have opportunities to discover different paths to success.

As we look forward to a smoother 2023, we wish you and your family a Happy New Year!

Stay happy, healthy and safe,

Mayor Ronnie Price



#### Thank you, volunteers!

The City held three volunteer work days which took place in September, October, and November to help clean up efforts in the Yorktown tree row affected by the tornado. Volunteers assisted in picking up debris along the tornado path.

Thank you, United Way of the Plains, Butler County CERT team, and all of the wonderful volunteers who showed up to help. We appreciate you!





#### Holiday closures for city departments

To allow employees to spend more time with their families during the holidays, all non-emergency, city departments will be closed the following dates:

Christmas – Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26 New Years – Monday, Jan. 2, 2023

Emergency personnel will be available and ready to assist should they be needed.

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