

New Mexico Zuni Tribe members visit El Dorado to collect turkey feathers



Stafford Chimoni, left, and Matthew Neha, right, hold up a turkey carcass that they will remove the feathers from. Once the feathers are removed, the carcass remains will be buried in respect for the animal and as an offering to Earth. Photo by Nikole Babb.

By Nikole Babb
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Driving 12 hours to collect turkey feathers seems like a daunting task. For two men from the Zuni Tribe, also known as the Ashiwi, it’s a routine trip that will pay out spiritual dividends for their entire community.

The Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt, (KOSTH), a nonprofit organization based out of El Dorado, brings dozens of people into the oil town each year. Those in attendance are hand selected hunters of youth and adult age, all gunning for the biggest turkey they can hunt. Among them, dozens of volunteers are running the show from field guides, land-owners, lunch servants, raffle

donors and more – there are many stories waiting to be told among the group.

One particular story stood out during the short 3-day event; the story of two men from the Zuni Tribe belonging to the New Mexico area, who also known their community as Ashiwi. Stafford Chimoni and Matthew Neha, two friends who are members on the Zuni Tribe Reservation, took the long drive to El Dorado from New Mexico to collect the turkey feathers that otherwise wouldn’t be used after KOSTH hunters cleaned their game.

The team from the Kansas Governor’s One Shot Turkey Hunt had historically communicated with the Zuni Tribe to invite members

each year to gather the feathers, but over the years and organizational change, communication had been lost. Once the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt had been founded, communication was organized to invite them once again.

The feathers that were taken, which were by the hundreds, will be used in future spiritual ceremonies, religious offerings to Mother Earth and to construct headwear for Zuni Tribe members. In addition, the feathers will be assembled onto prayer sticks for the members to use during prayer, which they do several times a day, for about 15 minutes at a time, says Chimoni.

It isn’t just turkey feathers they use for these purposes.

Zuni Tribe members use a myriad of feathers – as long as they come from already dead animals that were hunted or feathers that have fallen naturally from molting or other reasons. Among those feathers used are from birds like woodpeckers, bluejays, other songbirds but primarily turkey and eagle feathers. The feathers are used year-round and are always in demand on the reservation.

The Zuni Tribe people believe that they are descendants of the Ancestral Pueblo people, also known as the Anasazi.

“People say they are no longer here – but we are here,” said Chimoni.

SEE ZUNI TRIBE, A4

Aboard for HeritageFest! Exciting events lead up to Andover’s newest Spring tradition

City of Andover

ANDOVER – The City of Andover is gearing up for a brand-new spring celebration, HeritageFest, on Saturday, May 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Heritage (360 S. Heritage Way, off Yorktown and Kellogg). A series of engaging, family-friendly activities will take place in the weeks leading up to the main event, offering residents and visitors a chance to dive into Andover’s rich history.

Pop-Up Museum: Opening Monday, April 28

Location: The Heritage, 360 S. Heritage Way

Get a first look at some of the fascinating items from the

Andover Historical Museum, on display for a limited time at The Heritage. This special pop-up exhibit offers a window into the past, featuring objects, photos, and stories that showcase Andover’s deep roots and small-town charm.

Panel Discussion: A Journey Through Time: Friday, May 16, 5 – 7 p.m.

Location: In the Gallery at the Andover Public Library

“All aboard!” for an evening of storytelling and reflection. Hear first-hand accounts and fascinating memories from long-time Andover residents as they take you on a journey through the town’s past. Featuring panelists: Caroline Hale, Wayne Duggan, Tim

Johanson, Cody Winkleman, and Reed Harrison. Light refreshments provided.

All events are free and open to the public. For full event details and updates, visit andoverks.gov/heritagefest.

About Andover: The City of Andover was established in 1957, after being founded in 1880 and originally called “Cloud City.” Andover is a growing community with a population of over 15,000 that encompasses a land area of about 11 square miles. Andover brings together the best of both worlds, combining a small-town community with proximity to big-city amenities.

KSDE issues letter to U.S. Department of Education assuring compliance with Title VI, Civil Rights Laws

Kansas State Department of Education

TOPEKA — Today, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) issued a letter to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) in response to an April 3rd request from the ED regarding state compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) regulations in schools across the state to continue receiving federal funding.

KSDE’s letter is an assurance to the U.S. Department of Education

that the agency and all Kansas Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are in compliance with all federal antidiscrimination statutes and regulations.

In its role as the State Education Agency (SEA), KSDE submitted documentation that indicates a promise that as the applicant for federal funds, KSDE will comply with all federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352).

Additionally, KSDE annually requires LEAs to sign and submit assurances

that they comply with all federal and state statutes and regulations regarding nondiscrimination, including, but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

“As public stewards of education in Kansas, we take seriously our responsibility to follow the law and maintain the trust of our communities,” said Dr. Randy Watson, Kansas Education Commissioner. “Our agency remains committed to ensuring that federal laws are respected and that all Kansas schools operate within the legal framework.”

Audacy names Dave Wilson new morning show host on 103.7 KEYN in Wichita

Audacy, Inc.

WICHITA – Audacy announces Dave Wilson as morning show host on 103.7 KEYN (KEYN-FM) in Wichita. Wilson will be heard weekdays from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. CT beginning April 28.

“With over three decades of experience in radio, Dave has consistently shown a commitment to enhancing the listeners’



Wilson

experience and connecting with his local community,” said Becky Domyan, Senior Vice President and Market Manager, Audacy Wichita and St. Louis. His passion, energy and dedication make him the perfect voice to start the day for Wichitans, and we’re excited to have him take the reins.”

“I have been extremely grateful to have had the chance to be on this iconic Wichita radio station for the past five years in various dayparts,” said Wilson. “Now, I am so excited to host KEYN mornings full-time and help our listeners start their day.”

Wilson began his radio career as the Operations Manager in 1989 at sister station KNSS (KNSS-AM/FM). Over the years, he’s held key roles across several media companies, including News Director, News Reporter and Program Director. This move marks Wilson’s return to morning radio, as he previously co-hosted KTLI’s morning show from 2001 to 2004.

Listeners can tune in to 103.7 KEYN (KEYN-FM) in Wichita on air and nationwide on the Audacy app and website. Fans can also connect with the station via X, Facebook and Instagram.

About Audacy

Audacy, Inc. is a leading scaled, multi-platform audio content and entertainment company that connects with 200 million consumers. Powered by its exclusive, premium audio content that includes unrivaled leadership positions in news and sports radio, Audacy operates one of the country’s two scaled radio broadcasting groups, a rapidly growing direct-to-consumer digital audio platform, multiple audio networks, a major event business and a leading, award-winning podcast studio and network. Learn more at www.audacyinc.com, Facebook, X, LinkedIn and Instagram.

DESK & CO Continued from A1

for professionals who need a space to work that isn’t a full office building. The space will offer six tenants a rental that includes a desk, office chair, lockable filing cabinet and access to a shared printer, conference room that includes a TV, desk with six chairs and whiteboard, Wi-Fi, and a bathroom. The desk spaces will be rented on a

month-to-month agreement per tenant.

The desks are in an open concept front room with no cubicle or privacy walls. The conference room is a secluded room with a door for private meetings, which will also be available to rent out to the public and non-tenants. Tenants will also have the option to have mail delivered to the location for their business and place their business logo on the front window for any visiting clients. There will be 24/7 access to the building available for tenants.

This business concept

has been successful in Wichita with several locations varying in privacy offerings and services. These types of businesses cater to those who work remotely with no home office, freelance workers, traveling professionals or even digital nomads. Careers that are becoming more and more prevalent as technology opens more opportunities for unique work environments and offerings.

Ideally, Syndee says that one person would rent a desk but is willing to rent one desk to two tenants who split the rent and said



Six desks are available to rent inside of Desk & Co. Photo by Nikole Babb.

she’s open to suggestions.

Desk & Co., is slated to open on May 1 with desks ready to rent that day. For further information about

Desk & Co., or information on how to rent a desk, call Scribner Enterprises at 316-285-0682 or email at info@scribnerenterprises.com.



The conference room, which seats six at the table, can be rented out to non tenants and is available to desk tenants. Photo by Nikole Babb.

WATER Continued from A1

highlight of the five-man team that operates the water treatment plant, it isn’t the first time the City of El Dorado has taken home a best tasting water award. As a matter of fact, they were awarded first place in the Kansas American Water

Works Association Water Taste Contest in 2016.

The City of El Dorado’s water source is the El Dorado Reservoir, which was completed in 1981. The reservoir is primarily fed by a drainage basin above the city mostly comprised of rainwater runoff that enters El Dorado Lake. As the water travels through the tall grass prairies of the Flint Hills and drainage basin, the water becomes soft due to low mineral content and has high clarity. To treat

the water, the City’s water treatment department uses a conventional surface water treatment plant.

The water treatment includes taste and odor control with permanganate and activated carbon, conventional flocculation and sedimentation processes and filtration. The team uses Chlorine for disinfection, combined chlorine most of the year with free chlorine used as needed for maintenance of the distribution system. The treatment

plant has operated since 1937 with major updates in 1974 and 1998.

The City’s 12,900 residents enjoy the water in addition to the residents of Cassoday, Douglass, Latham, Potwin, Towanda, Whitewater and six Butler County Rural Water Districts. The plant treats 1.2 billion gallons of water each year, averaging about 3.5 million gallons per day.

The plant is operated 24/7 by five state certified operators.

A sample from El Dorado will be entered for national recognition in the Great American Water Taste Test held in February 2026 during the National Rural Water Association Rally in Washington, D.C.

The Kansas Rural Water Association, a non-profit organization, has more than 775 municipal and rural members and 270 industry/associate members. The best-tasting water contest is open to all municipalities

regardless of membership. The Association provides training and technical assistance to water and wastewater utilities statewide. The KRWA is governed by a seven-member board of directors from offices in Seneca and has a staff of 24 who provide training and technical assistance. To learn more about the Association, see their website at <https://krwa.net>.