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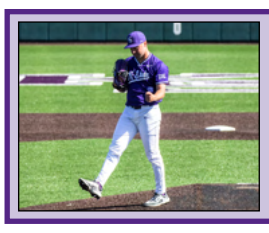

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'We're not the enemy' | A recount of Fake Patty's Day

KYRA CASE
news editor

Riley County Police Department told commissioners they were "breaking up with Fake Patty's Day" in February.

Photo by Lilly Crist | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Police stand guard on Ratone, one of the busiest street on Fake Patty's Day.

Riley County Police Department told commissioners it was "breaking up with Fake Patty's Day" in February. Major Scott Hajek said this meant the police department was breaking up with the notion of people entering Manhattan on Fake Patty's Day thinking they have no responsibility, no accountability and are not required to follow the law.

"I think that message came through," Hajek said.

K-State juniors Pruitt Nowlin and Weston Moody decided to start their day early on March 8 by walking around the streets of Ratone.

"I pay so much money to go to school here, and it's kind of just a reward on the weekend," Nowlin said. "It's kind of getting shut down, but we're going to make the best out of what we can. I'm actually sober for two years now, so I come out here and enjoy hanging out with people and hang out with my friends and watch people make stupid decisions, but it's all part of it."

Moody said while he doesn't usually "partake in drinking activities," he wanted to enjoy his first time going out on Fake Patty's Day.

"We have a good time out here, but we're too scared of the cops to get drunk right now," Moody said.

RCPD took to social media to thank K-State and the community for their efforts in keeping Manhattan safe.

"This weekend, we witnessed something truly special: a collective effort to keep our community safe during the festivities," RCPD wrote in an X post. "To our students, party-goers, and everyone who participated — THANK YOU. While we don't have the final numbers yet, we noticed a marked improvement in behavior compared to previous years. This positive change didn't happen by accident — it happened because of YOU."

Hajek also noticed a more positive response toward the police, citing that he has seen "every iteration of Fake Patty's Day since 2007."

"We're not the enemy, and we're not an occupying force, you know, we're part of the community," Hajek said. "The police are part of the public, and so we try to be friendly with people, we want people to be friendly with us … being safe, following the laws, being in control of what you're ingesting, in other words, not drinking so much that you can't make good decisions, that advice is good every day of the year, but it is especially good on Fake Patty's Day because people do drink more maybe than they tend to on a normal day, and we want people to have a plan and to be safe."

SEE PAGE A2
"FAKE"

Students host 48th annual livestock sale

Photo by Meredith McCalmon
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
On March 7, Legacy Sale workers watch for bids during the auction while students guide bulls in and out of the arena.

COLE BERTELSEN
editor-in-chief

Kansas State's Purebred Beef Unit auctioned off 50 bulls in its yearly Legacy Bull and Female Sale. The event stands out as one of the only livestock sales in the country run entirely by university undergraduate students.

Angus, Hereford and Simmental bulls were auctioned off on March 7 in the 48th annual Legacy Sale. In addition to the breeding, feeding and managing the livestock, the sale gives students hands-on experience in marketing, sales, photography and videography.

Christopher Mullinix, an instructor in the Department of Animal Science, serves as a co-faculty advisor for the purebred beef cattle unit and considers the sale one of the most "truly unique student opportunities that you'll find anywhere in the country."

"To my knowledge, we are now the only university that still hosts a production sale that is run and managed by our students, and so it's unique in the opportunity that it gives these young people to be part of a production sale, some of which come from a family background that had given them some experience in that, others that maybe have no experience in seed, stock, production [and] sales," Mullinix said.

The livestock sales management class taught by Mullinix and Angie Denton is the faculty connection between students who put on the sale and the purebred unit manager, Shane Werk, who handles the day-to-day management of the cow herd.

Emerson Tarr, senior in agriculture communications, started classes at K-State last semester when he also began working with the purebred unit. He said he was involved in the process from day one.

"I was out there, quite literally every day for two months, looking at [the bulls] and checking their health and stuff like that," Tarr said. "So yes, my role has been a lot different than most people that are in the class, but it has been a good experience just seeing both sides of it."

SEE PAGE A2
"LEGACY"

K-State lab loses $50 million after executive order

JAKOB TWIGG
website manager

Kansas State lost $50 million in U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funding for Kansas State's Climate Resilient Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab (CRSIIL) in 2025.

The cancellation is the latest development from Executive Order 14169, Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid, which ordered a blanket pause and review of all U.S. foreign aid.

According to Secretary of State Marco Rubio's X post on Monday, 83% of USAID programs were canceled in this review.

CRSIIL was one of two operating Feed the Future labs run by K-State. The other — the Climate Resilient Cereals Innovation Lab (CRCIL) — was issued a stop-work order in January, but interim lab director Dr. Timothy Dalton has not received a "termination notice."

"I'm operating under a stop work order at the present time, and we're waiting to see what to do next," Dalton said.

K-State has received $125 million in USAID funding in the last 20 years to fund agricultural research.

CRCIL was awarded $22 million in USAID funding in October 2023, with a ceiling of up to $37 million. The K-State-led lab aims to advance the breeding of four major world crops — sorghum, millet, wheat and rice — and includes multiple partners at U.S. universities and internationally.

Dalton said agricultural solutions discovered internationally cause spillover benefits — positive effects of economic activity that benefit people who are not directly involved in the activity — in the United States.

"We're dealing with drought here in Kansas," Dalton said. "Well, guess what? They're dealing with that in Ethiopia, they're dealing with that in Senegal, and Senegal is the greatest natural laboratory there is. It's always hot, it's always dry there, and so they're constantly being hit by all of this pressure from heat and drought … The old saying that people use is that a good year for farmers in Kansas is a bad year for researchers because we don't see the problems, but a bad year for farmers is when they've got a lot of pests, [and] a lot of drought. That's great for researchers because that's what we're looking for in order to develop defense mechanisms for them."

A 2007 U.S. Department of Agriculture study showed every $1 spent on agricultural research contributed $10 to the U.S. economy.

Dalton said the USAID program cancellations could leave the U.S. unprepared to solve agricultural problems in the future.

"I worry that we're getting behind the eight ball in terms of the potential problems that we may need to confront," Dalton said. "And let's face it, agriculture research moves slowly. We're not in a controlled laboratory.

SEE PAGE A2
"LAB"

WEEKLY CALENDAR

14	**In Bloom** — Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art	14	**Dessert Board + Movie Night: Hairspray** — Liquid Arts and Winery Estate	15	**Chickapalooza** — The Kelley Homestead
18	**Adult Coloring Night** — Manhattan Brewing Company	18	**Singo** — Tanners Bar and Grill	18	**Meet the Makers** — Flint Hills Discovery Center

"FAKE"

CONTINUED FROM A1

One factor Hajek thought positively impacted the day was the weather.

"So last year it was much warmer," Hajek said. "I think it got up into the mid-70s, and in the morning and at night it was in the 50s, so it was very decent warm weather. This year it was much colder in the morning and much colder at night, and during the day it got up to very comfortable temperature. So that is also a factor that I think helped control things, especially in Aggieville as the night went on."

Hajek said official statistics on the day should be out by Friday.

"I don't have an estimate right now," Hajek said. "I don't have any metrics on how many citations we issued or arrests that were made. They're still compiling those. There just is a lot of paperwork to input before we can have those numbers. So we don't quite have them yet."

Photo by Lilly Crist | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Police monitor the hectic street, Ratone, as people gather and partake in Fake Patty's Day festivities.

"LEGACY"

CONTINUED FROM A1

While buyers may not have seen his face much on sale day, Tarr felt his work gave him the full experience of what is required to put on a sale.

"It's not very often you get to do that … as far as growing the bulls, working the bulls, the heifers and then being able to come out here and see how we're marketing them and talking to customers and seeing how at all aspects of the sale are run, not just behind the chute," Tarr said.

This marked the second year that Gavin George, a junior in animal sciences, worked with the purebred unit. Throughout the semester, he also helped raise the cattle that eventually made it to this year's sale.

"We raise fall and spring bulls every year, and we sell them as yearlings," George said. "And there's kids that are in the bull sale class, and they deal with making the catalog and getting stuff ready for the sale. But we managed a lot of the bulls and all the animals and stuff, and we take care of them, feed them and clip them and get them ready for the sale."

Asa Anderson, junior in animal science, said the Legacy Sale gave students face-to-face experience not only with cattle, but also potential buyers.

Photos by Meredith McCalmon | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Legacy Sale workers **Emerson Tarr**, senior in agriculture, and **Gavin George**, junior in animal sciences, helped raise cattle throughout the semester.

"Our role as students was to truly understand the process and in-and-out of how to run a bull sale — how to communicate with customers, how to understand what they're looking for and find that niche and how we can present the livestock that we're marketing to fit that niche for them," she said.

Anderson said the marketing and networking she did for the sale directly aligns with her career goals.

"The niche that I want to find within agriculture communications that I'm getting my degree in is producer communication — doing exactly what I just did with those guys on Friday, talking to them, figuring out what their needs are, not necessarily to sell a product all the time, but in this case, that's what it was," she said. "So this was a great opportunity for me to truly see how communication can fit into a whole regimen of a sale in and of itself and how that truly can make a customer happy."

Tarr said he didn't come from a cattle background, so the Legacy Sale was a unique experience of diving into the cattle industry and seeing how much the work he did impacted the final sales.

"I think the biggest thing to think about is, I don't really know any other school that does this," he said. "So as far as just getting more experience around the cattle industry, this is a big part of it that I feel like is very overlooked. … It was really cool to see all the work I put in, run through the sale barn and see what they bring. So for me, it's just cool to see that I actually helped out. I can see the work that I put in, not being a cattle kid, and could see the difference I did actually make."

"LAB"

CONTINUED FROM A1

We can plant a crop once a year, twice a year, in some places, and so we're at the mercy of the cropping cycle. If something happens, it's going to take a fair amount of time, five, six years or so, to address that problem when we already have solutions in our back pocket."

Dalton said one such project utilized 50 years of research to eliminate a sugarcane aphid pest outbreak in North America after discovering a solution in South Africa.

"We've got a very clear example of where we were working on that in southern Africa, that specific pest, and about a decade and a half to two decades later, it arrived in the U.S. in the Gulf Coast," Dalton said. "We already knew what worked, what was effective against it, so we were able to implement that [solution] very, very rapidly, and we don't talk about that pest anymore."

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CORRECTIONS

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REVIEW | 151 Coffee: Served with a smile

JUSTIN SHOEMAKER
staff writer

151 Coffee established itself as the newest coffee shop in Manhattan last week. The new franchise of drive-thru cafes focuses on customer service and unbeatable flavors. Founded in 2017, Manhattan is the 10th city to receive a location, but I doubt we are the last. I had never tasted 151 Coffee before the grand opening, nor even heard of it, but the experience assured me I wouldn't forget it anytime soon.

After arriving at 900 N 3rd St., customers are greeted by friendly faces and wide smiles. Following the trend of other customer-first drive-through restaurants like Chick-fil-A, 151 stations employees outside to greet and take orders. The process feels very personal, and I've had great conversations with many of the workers. This also makes your first few visits easier as they are there to assist you with the menu, provide suggestions or even just have a friendly chat. Often, I found that this face-to-face connection brightened my day more than the coffee!

As for the menu itself, 151 sells a wide selection of coffee, tea, energy drinks, smoothies, dirty soda and more, but no food to pair with it. From a business perspective, this is a smart and intentional way to keep costs down, and item quality high. Yet as a consumer and critic, I did find myself wishing for something to go with my caffeine kick. If you are hungry or looking for a snack, 151 Coffee has nothing to offer you. This means customers either have to make an additional stop, or find another coffee shop. This is a major drawback for me, as it led to more than one occasion that I drove past 151 in the morning without making a stop. However, this has not stopped the Manhattan community from paying a visit to the newest coffee hub in town — every time I have driven past, lines are wrapped around the building.

That being said, the drinks I did try were fantastic. My personal favorite was the Snickers Iced Coffee. The flavors were both salty and sweet, mixed to perfection.

Photos by Lilly Crist | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
The drive-thru of 151 Coffee is bustling with customers on a Friday morning. 151 Coffee is a coffee chain that recently opened a location on 900 N 3rd St. Manhattan, KS.

As a college student, cost is at the forefront of my mind during a purchase. A common criticism of modern coffee shops is how expensive drinks are. 151 doesn't do much to combat this trend, but it is a cheaper alternative than other national brands. When compared to other major shops, 151 Coffee comes in roughly 5-10% cheaper than its competition. For example, a Starbucks iced latte costs about 20 cents more than my choice of drink. This shows it isn't trying to compete with other businesses on price, but on the quality of both product and service.

This strategy, in my opinion, pays off well. 151 Coffee consistently offers the best drive-through customer service I've experienced, as well as the quality of product to back it up. While I wish it offered even the simplest of breakfast options, this doesn't detract from the quality and selection of drinks offered. These factors combine to make 151 Coffee easy to recommend for anyone looking for a caffeine kick in their day, served with a smile.

'The Last of Us' | A retrospective on the TV adaptation ahead of season 2

Illustration by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

LEXI STUDEBAKER
staff writer

In 2020, a live-action adaptation of the popular 2013 game "The Last of Us" released on HBO Max. It received mixed reviews during its premiere, mainly criticising some casting choices which weren't 100% accurate to the original game's characters. However, the gaming community took it in stride after discovering how well Pedro Pascal and Bella Ramsey worked together as the main characters, Joel and Ellie. The season is composed of nine one-hour-long episodes, which allow for a week's worth of episodes or a nine-hour-long binge-fest.

As someone who grew up online, I greatly appreciated the attention to detail throughout the show. For example, the flooded hotel scene in the pilot episode is a direct copy of the game's iconic scene. These details made the show feel loved and cherished by its producers; just as the game was. "The Last of Us" community is very detail-oriented when it comes to the story aspects of the game and the show really leans into this, providing more backstory for beloved characters like Bill and Frank, which are never truly provided in the game. These details give those of us who have played the games somewhat of an Easter egg to look out for throughout our watchtimes that those with no experience with "The Last of Us" may not catch.

I would give the live-action adaptation of "The Last of Us" four out of five Cordyceps — if you know, you know — and am quite excited for the second season's premiere in April. I would recommend this show to those who enjoy zombie-esque and end-of-the-world types of media, along with themes of loss, found family, love and guilt. It's the perfect show to escape from this world and immerse yourself into another reality for a few hours — even if it's apocalyptic.

Recipe | Spicy Guacamole Dip

JAKOB TWIGG
website manager

I believe that all parties must provide snacks. A snack can be a collection of cold cuts or a delectable assortment of baked treats. People need sustenance! My go-to is a classic spicy guacamole. A good guacamole has three things: freshness, citrus and salt. Warning: This bowl packs a punch. If your guests find it too hot to handle, the peppers are optional. I typically make a tiny bowl of the hot stuff and a large bowl of traditional guac.

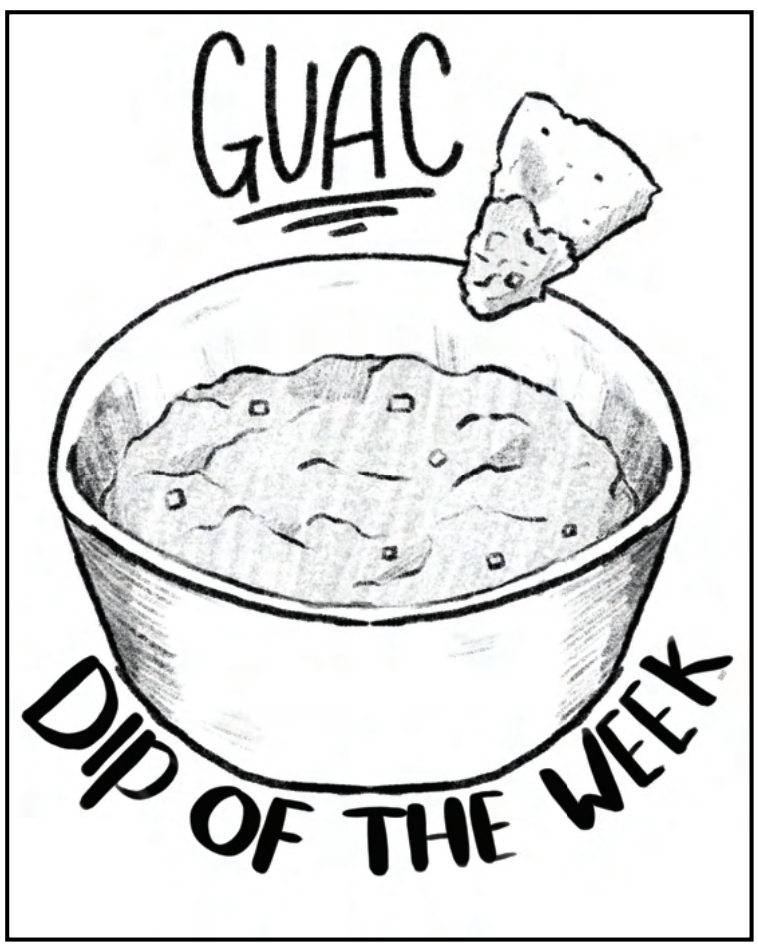
Servings: Six

Ingredients:

- 3 avocados
- 1/2 yellow onion
- 1 medium roma tomato
- 2 cloves garlic
- 3 tbsp fresh-squeezed lime juice
- 2 habanero peppers
- 3 jalapeño peppers
- 1/2 tsp sea salt to taste
- 1/2 tsp fresh ground black pepper to taste
- 1/2 tsp paprika to taste
- 1/3 cup fresh cilantro

Directions:

1. Cut the avocados in half. Remove the seed and scrape the flesh into a large bowl. Mash them with a fork or another kitchen tool.
2. Squeeze the fresh lime juice into the bowl. Mix thoroughly.
3. Finely dice yellow onion and add to the bowl.
4. Deseed the jalapeños (you can add the seeds for an extra kick!). Finely dice the peppers and add to the bowl.
5. Deseed the habaneros (you can add the seeds for an extra kick!). Finely dice the peppers and add to the bowl.
6. Cut your roma tomato in half and remove the seeds. Finely dice and add to the bowl.
7. Mince the garlic cloves and add to the bowl.
8. Add the salt, paprika and black pepper to the bowl.
9. Mix until the guacamole is smooth and serve with tortilla chips.



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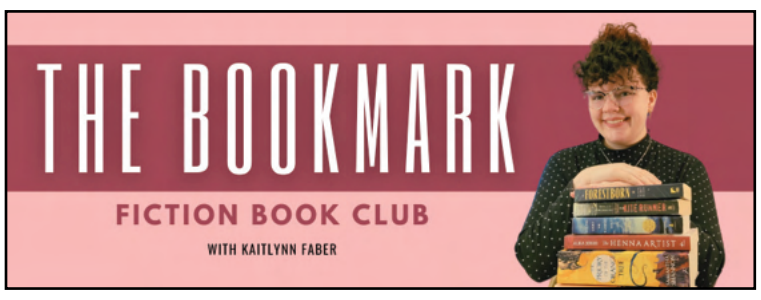

Book Review | "The Poppy War" by R. F. Kuang

KAITLYNN FABER
staff writer

War, vengeance, power and magic: R.F. Kuang's "The Poppy War" dives deeply into how ruthless humans can be.

It follows Rin, a war orphan from the rural south of Nikan, who is about to be pawned into a marriage to further her foster parents' opium trade. In an act of defiance, she studies to take an exam to enter the most elite military school in the country, sacrificing much along her search to power. However, passing the exam was only the beginning — as war looms on the war college's doorstep, Rin learns firsthand that opium isn't the only addictive power at play.

For the first part of the book, Rin struggles to fit in among the elite at the college. The examination process was designed to keep peasants out of their classrooms, and defying that puts a target on her back. She finds that many of her classmates, and even some professors, are revolted by her admission, and put up more barriers to keep her from attaining success.

Rin's motives to find power are initially understandable. She faces racism, sexism and classism both on and off campus, but her initial desire for the strength to make it through her classes quickly evolves into something much deeper. When she discovers she is a conduit for a widely unknown, lethal power, the lines which separate what is right and what gives her control quickly blur, along with what she's willing to sacrifice to attain it.

While at times hard to read, I thought Rin's thirst for power was very well written, and played a larger thematic role in the plot as well. I did find her a frustrating character, especially as her motives became more and more questionable, but that doesn't mean she was poorly written.

While unsuspecting at first, "The Poppy War" is one of the heavier fantasy/gridmark books I've read. Most of the conflict in the novel was based on the Second Sino-Japanese War — the country of Nikan relating to China during that time. Especially in later chapters, the book vividly demonstrates the horrors of war, often based on real atrocities. I won't go into detail to avoid spoiling anything, but I would not recommend this book to anyone uncomfortable reading violent depictions of brutality and sexual violence.

I would also not recommend staying up late to read this book past midnight either, and especially not googling the real war crimes that inspired scenes from the book right before bed. This is a good fantasy book, but it is definitely not a good bedtime story.

On the subject of disclaimers, opium usage comes up a lot in the book, and I would not recommend this to anyone who might struggle reading about excessive drug usage.

All that being said, the violence and addiction wasn't there just for gore, it served a larger purpose in the story. The allusions between power and drugs, and more importantly who provides that high, were brilliantly written, and shed a lot of light on the darker side of human behavior. The violence was a nod to history, but also illustrated how easily our biases against one another can be manipulated and how dangerous that can quickly become in a highly nationalistic environment.

Overall, I would recommend this book, disclaimers noted, to anyone looking for a fantasy book based on military history. On a scale of five stars, I would give this book 4 stars. I'm taking half a star away because at times the worldbuilding felt underdeveloped, to the point where it felt like an alternate-history more than a fantasy. That's not to say this book wasn't good, just that it wasn't the greatest creatively. Another half star is lost because I feel like Rin frequently gets away with things without consequence, and it progressively gets drastically worse as the book goes on.

Graphics by Kaitlynn Faber | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

6 ways to save on Spring Break

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Spring break is a popular time to travel while in college. Most students get at least a week off from their studies, giving them time to explore new destinations, relax and have fun.

While a spring break trip can create memories that last a lifetime, it also can be a significant expense for many college students. Attempting to pay for spring break experiences can push some students to take on debt, while other students might realize they can't afford a trip at all.

Spring break trips aren't necessarily on every student's bucket list, but if you're planning on one, consider these six options to help you plan a memorable – and affordable -- spring break adventure.

1) Make a budget and stick to it

Creating a budget can help you save before your trip and keep you on track when you arrive. Even if a trip isn't in your plans this year, you can start saving for future travel. Set up a spring break savings account and put money aside from summer jobs and internships, holiday gifts or birthday presents. Ask family members if they can contribute airline miles, hotel points and gift cards to help cut down costs. If your schedule allows, take on a part-time job or pick up additional hours at your current job to bring in extra income.

2) Book travel quickly

Spring break is a popular time for many to get away, so travel costs could be at a premium.

Book your transportation and lodging as early as possible to avoid higher fares and fees.

3) Go off the beaten path

Popular spring break hangouts in Florida, the Caribbean and Mexico are often more expensive during spring break season (generally March and April). Consider visiting lesser-known locales or cities that aren't typical spring break destinations – they're less likely to have spring break price hikes.

4) Find hidden savings possibilities

Examine every item on your itinerary for potential savings. If you plan to fly, pack light to avoid baggage fees. See if student discounts are available on travel, hotels, activities and restaurants, and don't forget to bring your student ID to verify your status. Pack food and snacks to cut down on dining costs and cook meals if you have access to a kitchen. Look for lodging with free breakfast as well.

5) Become a tourist in your own town

Maybe you want to avoid the stress of longer-distance travel, but don't want to stay home the entire break either. Try making the most of your hometown, a nearby town or your college town if you're staying on campus. Visit local attractions, like that art museum you drive by every day, and see if you can get a student discount. If you want to get away for a day or two, drive to a nearby town, state or national park, or tourist area you've been meaning to explore.

Photo courtesy of JPMorganChase

6) Stay in school

Many schools offer organized study or volunteer programs abroad or service-learning opportunities near campus during spring break. Scholarships are often available to cover some or even all program costs. College credit could be available as well, helping you catch up, get ahead or stay on track toward your degree goals.

Final thoughts

Whether you're saving for your dream trip or considering alternative spring break plans, you can create your ideal spring break experience without breaking the bank. Planning for spring break can help you understand how much you need to save or spend for your big adventure. Stick to an agenda that works for your financial situation so you'll make enjoyable memories while being smart with your money. For more financial health tips, visit chase.com/personal/financial-goals/students

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Blazing bat earns BSB's Maximus Martin national Player of the Week, Big 12 honors

Photo by Haylee Haslett | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Shortstop **Maximus Martin** celebrates one of five home runs on the weekend as the Wildcats swept William & Mary with a 20-6 win in seven innings on March 9 at Tointon Family Stadium. Martin went 8-for-12 during the series with 12 RBI and a 2.714 OPS.

THE COLLEGIAN
staff report

Kansas State baseball junior Maximus Martin was selected as the Golden Spikes Award Player of the Week by USA Baseball on Monday, becoming the first player in school history to earn the weekly award.

In addition to the national honor, Martin was voted the Big 12 Co-Newcomer of the Week, a week removed from being named the conference's Player of the Week. Martin continued to earn weekly honors on Tuesday, being named the Brooks Wallace Award Player of the Week by the College Baseball Foundation.

The Brooks Wallace award, which honors the nation's most outstanding shortstop, is the first in Martin's respective career while he is the first-ever K-State player to earn the weekly honor.

The Brooks Wallace Award is presented annually to honor the nation's top shortstop as a tribute to Brooks Wallace, a former Texas Tech Red Raiders from 1977-80 who passed away at age 27 after a courageous battle with leukemia. Prior to 2009, the award recognized the national player of the year.

Martin's honors follow a blazing weekend at the plate, rising to the second-best slugging percentage (1.143) and third-best batting average (.524) in Division I.

The product of Edgewater Park, N.J, turned in a scorching 2.714 OPS, launching five home runs and tallying 12 RBI in the Wildcats three-game weekend series sweep of William & Mary. Entering Tuesday's contest at Creighton, Martin led the Big 12 with a season 1.735 OPS.

"He's on a stretch that I have very rarely seen in my career," head coach Pete Hughes said after the series finale.

Martin became the first player since 2018 to drive in eight RBI in a single game, while achieving the first multi-homer game this season for K-State with his first-inning grand slam and three-run homer in the second on Saturday.

"It's definitely exciting because this is only my first series at home here," Martin told K-State Athletics. "I'd never really gotten to play at home where there's a bunch of fans and a bunch of people supporting you. I take my at-bats knowing there's a whole lot of people there supporting you. That makes it a lot more special. I promise you, every time I hit a home run here, I'll throw up the Powercat sign to the fans. It's special."

SEE PAGE B3
"MARTIN"

K-State men earn pair of '25 commits

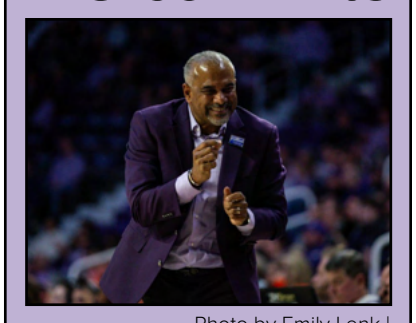

Photo by Emily Lenk | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Head coach **Jerome Tang** smiles while the Wildcats defeat Oklahoma State 85-57 on Jan. 29 at Bramlage Coliseum.

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Class of 2025 prospects Ashton Magee and Exavier "Zay" Wilson have committed to Kansas State men's basketball after both took visits to Manhattan this past weekend.

The first one to commit was forward Ashton Magee, when he announced his decision on Wednesday. Magee is 6-foot-7 with incredible athleticism that he shows on tape with multiple highlight dunks.

A native of Ellisville, Mississippi, Magee currently attends 5A South Jones High School. The Wildcats first offered Magee back on January 28 and have built a strong connection with him, leading Magee to commit over his in-state offers.

"They cherish their players," Magee told 247sports. "And other than that, the biggest thing is how well they are engaged with their players, how they take players very seriously. And it's not just all about basketball, it is bigger than basketball."

SEE PAGE B3
"COMMITS"

Rookie-led rowing team battles harsh conditions at spring season start

Photo courtesy of K-State Athletics

K-State rowers work on their craft. The Wildcats opened the spring season on March 8 in the Central Oklahoma Invitational.

KYRA CASE
news editor

The Kansas State women's rowing team began its season March 8, with many of its members rowing competitively for the first time.

Head coach Patrick Sweeney said the team consists mostly of rookies. With the unpredictable and unfavorable weather, the team worked hard on land to prepare to row on Tuttle Creek Lake.

"Well, we get frozen off come November through now — March — is normally what happens," Sweeney said. "That's why we can get them very strong in land with on-land training. The other one is normally in the spring, it's windy. And that's the second thing. Great piece of water when it's not blowing because it's a large expanse of water. But the trouble is being in the open."

Symone Simmons, a senior rowing for her fourth year, said she was excited about the chance to be a D1 athlete. She said part of why she joined the team was the recruiter's encouragement.

"They were just kind of, were like, 'You're tall, athletic, we think you can do this,'" Simmons said. "And so I kind of just took a chance, and here I am. So it's worked out, and I'm very grateful."

Assistant coach Kennedy Felice said the position was an opportunity to pay it forward after rowing had such a positive impact on her college experience.

"This is a special place; there's a lot of special people here, and being able to be part of that, and just continuing to build it up and push it forward was something that sounded really exciting, and something that I wanted to say yes to," Felice said. "With the way that we recruit, all of our athletes come in with not a ton of experience. We do have some athletes that have rowed before, but primarily, they're out-of-sport athletes. So seeing what they've been able to accomplish over the last few months, especially since we started up in August, has been something that they should be proud of."

SEE PAGE B3
"ROWING"

Wildcats in the Pros | Lockett, Reed move in NFL free agency

TREY THOMAS
staff writer

With the NFL's new league season starting on Wednesday, several Wildcats in the NFL will experience change this fall, highlighted by 10-year veteran Tyler Lockett being released by the Seattle Seahawks.

Tyler Lockett, WR, Free Agent

Archive photo by Parker Robb | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Wide receiver **Tyler Lockett** evades Auburn defender **Joshua Holsey** after making a catch during the Wildcats' 20-14 loss to Auburn on Aug. 18, 2014 in Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

After spending a decorated decade with the Seahawks, the third-round pick in 2015 was released last week. The 32-year-old came off his least productive season since 2017, and Seattle saves $17 million by parting ways.

"I really enjoyed being in Seattle, I met so many great people and captured so many great memories," Lockett said in a social media post. "The 12s [fans] really make this place meaningful! Although my time on the Seahawks may have run its course, I'm thankful for everything! God gets all the glory forever!"

Lockett quickly shined in Seattle as a kick returner, making the Pro Bowl and being named first-team All-Pro as a rookie. In 2018, he made noise as a receiving threat, hauling in 965 yards and 10 touchdowns. He cleared 1,000 yards for four consecutive seasons after. His 45 touchdowns since 2018 ranked fourth among NFL receivers.

Lockett accomplished a lot in Seattle, but now he must move on to a new franchise.

One team that is a solid landing spot for Lockett is the Las Vegas Raiders. If Lockett were to come to Vegas, he'd be reunited with his former head coach, Pete Carroll. Lockett would also be reunited with quarterback Geno Smith, who he caught passes from last season in Seattle.

The Houston Texans aren't a bad spot for Lockett either. The Texans could potentially lose wide receiver Stefon Diggs in free agency and fellow wide receiver Tank Dell will miss time next season because of a knee injury. Lockett could be a solid and temporary WR2 option for Houston if given the chance.

SEE PAGE B3
"PROS"

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

K-State baseball opens Big 12 play against new conference foe Utah

BY THE NUMBERS

K-STATE	
ERA	5.34
	12th in Big 12
AVG.	.300
	t8th in Big 12
TOTAL HRs	27
	2nd in Big 12

UTAH	
ERA	4.27
	8th in Big 12
AVG.	.300
	t8th in Big 12
TOTAL HRs	5
	14th in Big 12

WHO TO WATCH:

K-STATE: SS Maximus Martin, LHP Lincoln Sheffield
UTAH: SS Core Jackson, RHP Colter McAnelly

SERIES PREDICTION:

2-1 WILDCATS

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

K-State (9-7)

Kansas State baseball followed its home-opening sweep of William & Mary with a two-game road trip in Nebraska, losing to Creighton and Omaha. The Wildcats have crushed the ball out of the ballpark this season, hitting 20 home runs. The 'Cats recorded big wins over ranked teams and look to carry the momentum into Big 12 play.

No one is hotter at the plate across all of college baseball than shortstop Maximus Martin. He's the reigning Golden Spikes Player of the Week, an award given to the best college baseball player each week. On the season, Martin is hitting .524 with seven home runs and 23 RBIs.

Left-handed pitcher Lincoln Sheffield was the Sunday starter in all of his starts this year and is extremely efficient in the role. Sheffield has a 2-1 record with a 2.95 ERA across 18.1 innings. When Sheffield gets the nod this weekend, he will look to give the 'Cats a solid outing.

Utah (11-5)

Utah is off to a solid start this season. The Utes have a skilled pitching staff that held opposing teams to three runs or less in nine of their sixteen games so far. They will hold the tough challenge of slowing down a blazing hot Wildcat offense.

The Utes' best hitter is also their shortstop, Core Jackson. Jackson hits .433 on the season with six doubles, a triple and two home runs. Jackson also shows good speed when he gets on base, grabbing six stolen bases on the young season.

Leading the way for Utah's pitching staff is right-hander Colter McAnelly. McAnelly has a 2.13 ERA in four starts and posts a 1-1 record. McAnelly, Utah's Friday starter, has a complete game this season. He is a strikeout pitcher, with 26 strikeouts in just 25.1 innings.

Photo by Haylee Haslett | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

FRI-SUN @ TOINTON
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Page by Toby Hammes | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

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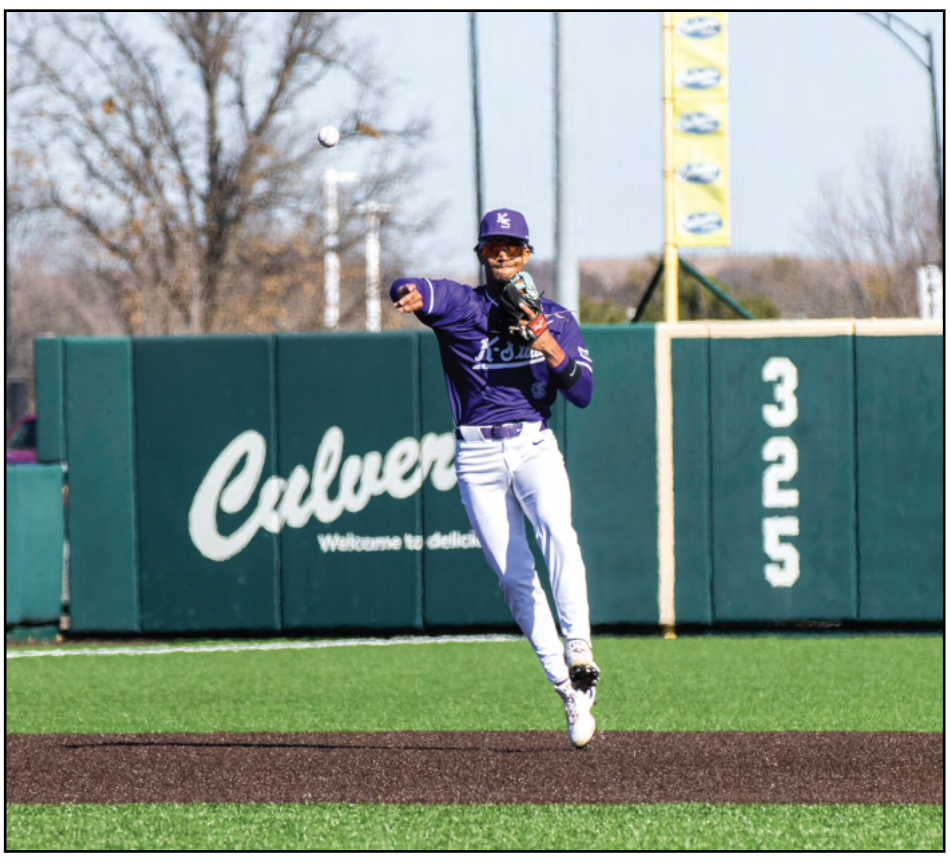


Photos by Haylee Haslett | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Junior shortstop **Maximus Martin** throws the ball to first base during warmups in between innings (left) and prepares for a pitch (right). Behind Martin's award-winning performances on the diamond, the Wildcats defeated William and Mary 20-6 in seven innings on March 9 at Tointon Family Stadium and completed a weekend sweep.

"MARTIN"

CONTINUED FROM B1

In the series finale, Martin homered in his fourth consecutive game with another two-homer game, which marked the third straight game with a home run in the first inning. He finished 5-for-5 on the day, falling short of a triple of completing the cycle.

"I'm blessed to be alive and blessed to still be playing baseball," Martin said. "I try not to get too big of a head with everything and try to take it pitch by pitch and see what happens. I'm trying to just stay level-headed and appreciate playing."

A transfer from Georgia State and Rutgers, Martin has filled the shoes of the Wildcats' former first-round shortstop Kaelen Culpepper who was taken 21st overall by the Minnesota Twins in the 2024 MLB Draft.

"He's super-talented," Hughes said. "There's more in there. There's more to his game that can get to the level we're wanting right now, which could be a five-tool guy. We're all learning and all growing, and he's doing that at an accelerated rate just getting big hits. He could also be a dynamic base runner. We haven't seen that yet. He's super-talented defensively. He needs to clean up some things and play at a standard I think he can play at. It's definitely there."

K-State hit the road for a couple of midweek matchups at Creighton and Omaha on Tuesday and Wednesday, losing both. The 'Cats will open Big 12 play at Tointon Family Stadium on Friday with a three-game series against Utah (11-5).

"COMMITS"

CONTINUED FROM B1

Magee, in addition to his next-level athleticism, can step out and knock down the perimeter jump shot and has a smooth midrange game to go with it. According to 247sports, he is ranked as the No. 3 player in Mississippi and No. 67 small forward in the country.

The second commitment K-State received was from point guard Exavier Wilson — a team-first player who is willing to do whatever it takes to win on both sides of the floor.

"I am an unselfish player who can get a bucket whenever the opportunity is there," Wilson said to 247sports. "I love to play defense and I will bring a lot of energy to the team."

Wilson is a 6-foot-1 point guard from Columbia, Missouri, and plays his high school basketball at Father Tolton.

Wilson's recruitment with K-State was quick as the point guard received his initial offer from the 'Cats last week before committing to the Wildcats. This past weekend, Wilson joined fellow commit Magee for a visit and proved to feel an instant connection with the Little Apple.

Wilson ranks as the No. 10 player in Missouri and the No. 32 point guard overall in the nation, according to 247sports. Wilson held multiple other Division 1 offers but chose the Wildcats as home for the next few years.

Wilson and Magee mark the first two high school commitments for the Wildcats' incoming class of newcomers. On Jan. 24, K-State signed Memphis transfer Tyreek Smith, who will seek a waiver to play his final season of eligibility at K-State in 2025-26.

"ROWING"

CONTINUED FROM B1

Sweeney said the rowing team's goal isn't to be the best, but to become a competitive team.

"We're not necessarily trying to set the world on fire and be world champions," Sweeney said. "What we want to do is be very competitive with the best programs in the country. If we beat them, it's a plus; if we don't, it's like, we want to be close."

K-State opened the spring season March 8 with five first place finishes during the UCO Invitational on the Oklahoma River. The Wildcats claimed the most first place finishes across eight races against hosting Central Oklahoma and Tulsa.

K-State will race again on Friday and Saturday in the Hornet Invitational hosted by Sacramento State in Sacramento, California.

"PROS"

CONTINUED FROM B1

D.J. Reed, CB, Detroit Lions

After proving to be one of the league's best cornerbacks on the New York Jets this last season, Reed will move on to another chapter in his career. Reed signed a three-year contract worth $48 million that includes $32 million guaranteed.

This will be a big change for Reed, as he goes from a team that was far from the playoffs to a legitimate contender. Last season with the Jets, the 2018 fifth-round pick had 11 pass deflections, 64 combined tackles and four tackles for loss.

Cornelius Lucas, OT, Cleveland Browns

After spending five years with the Commanders, Lucas signed a 2-year contract worth 10 million to play for the Cleveland Browns. Lucas started seven games for the Commanders, playing both right and left tackle.

In Cleveland, Lucas may be able to earn a permanent starting role or could continue as a solid rotational piece for the Browns' offensive line.

Nae'Qwan Tomlin, F, Cleveland Cavaliers

After Tomlin earned a 10-day contract with the Cavaliers and made his NBA debut, the former Wildcat forward signed a two-way contract with the team.

Two-ways allow teams to roster two extra players who can play for the NBA team and its G-League affiliate. Tomlin did not disappoint in his return to the G-League, tallying a 33-point outing against the Maine Celtics last weekend.

Tomlin shot the ball well, going 14-16 from field goal range. He finished the night with 11 rebounds, giving him a double-double. This was Tomlin's 11th double-double of the season. The Charge beat the Celtics 127-123 in an overtime thriller.

Dean Wade, F, Cleveland Cavaliers

Wade shot a perfect three for three from the perimeter in the 112-100 win over the Milwaukee Bucks. The Kansas State legend had nine points, all from beyond the arc, with three rebounds and one assist.

One of the most consistent role players in the NBA, Wade recorded a game-high +23 point differential in the win, meaning the Cavaliers outscored the Bucks by 23 when Wade was on the floor.

The Cavaliers are playing phenomenal basketball, as the team is on a 15-game winning streak and is the current No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference.

COMIC | Doin' it Wright

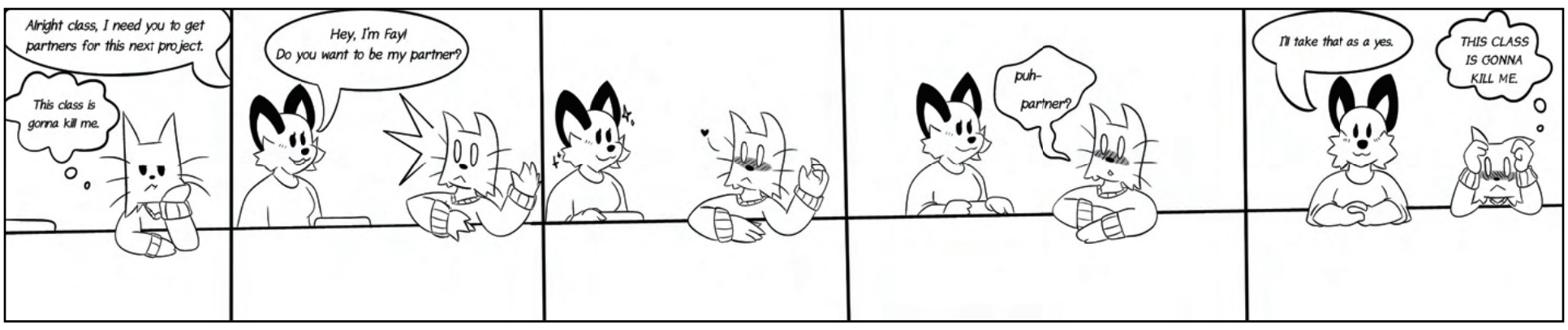
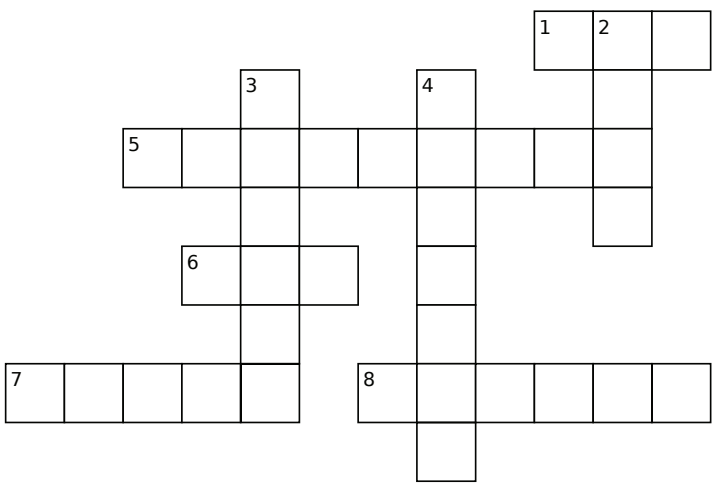


Illustration by Jacob Bush | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. K-State basketball has ___ committs from high schoolers in the Class of 2025.
5. This left-handed pitcher is reliable for K-State baseball.
6. In 2020, a live-action adaptation of the popular 2013 game "The Last of Us" was released on HBO___.
7. Major Scott Hajek says the police are not the _____ when it comes to Fake Patty's Day.
8. "My personal favorite was the Snickers Iced _____."

DOWN

2. This former Wildcat is a strong role player in the NBA.
3.This year K-State held its 48th annual _____ Sale.
4. K-State lost $50 _____ in USAID funding.

SUDOKU

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			9		4	1		

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