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Make it Count | Read The Collegian's five things to do before leaving your college years behind.

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Ticket Punched | K-State women's golf clinches first NCAA regionals berth since 2017.

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Know Your Opponent | K-State baseball seeks bounce-back series hosting Houston after KU sweep.

WEATHER

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THE KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

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APRIL 25, 2025

UPC hosts *Paws for Consent*

KYRA CASE

news editor

Neveya Davis spends her time volunteering at Prairie Paws Animal Shelter and uses the Union Program Council's event, Paws for Consent, as an opportunity to showcase some of the shelter's adoptable dogs.

Students gathered in Bosco Plaza, not only to meet the dogs being led around by volunteers, but

also to learn about the meaning of consent.

"I think my favorite part is just showing everyone the dogs and how cute they are and how they're up for adoption and the fun they can be," Davis, sophomore in advertising and public relations, said. "I feel like everyone should have a dog."

Addison Foley, junior in geography and modern languages, said the dogs on the plaza caught her eye before she decided to walk up to the welfare table and learn about consent.

"It's really fun that they've

actually been bringing dogs for the past two weeks," Foley said. "And then like, I mean,

"I feel like everyone should have a dog."

Nevaya Davis
Prairie Paws
volunteer

consent is like the number one thing. You should always have consent from both parties and everything."

Bradli Nowak, fundraising



Illustrations by Ashly Sites & Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

coordinator for Prairie Paws, said the event had a good turnout, with many students inquiring about the dogs and expressing interest in learning more about the shelter.

"Our main focus is kind of providing stress relief on campus where kids can come and see the dogs and pet away their stress a little bit," Nowak said. "Getting to come here and seeing K-State campus get to interact and see how awesome they are too is a really special part of today."

A Turn for the Better?
New roundabout construction raises travel concerns



Archive Photo by Kaylie McLaughlin
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Motorists must take detours west of U.S. 24 and K-113 junction due to construction.

KYRA CASE
news editor

GAVIN PASTINE
staff writer

Luxe Manhattan Hair and Company has served the community off U.S. 24 for over five years. With the closure of the junction between K-113 and K-13, some customers struggle arriving at appointments on time, unsure of what detours to use in order to make a timely arrival.

Predicted to last till December, construction of a new roundabout on U.S. 24 between the two junctions "will be closed to through traffic," with local access to properties in the closed areas, such as Luxe Manhattan, accessible from the west at the U.S. 24/K-113 junction.

SEE PAGE A2

"TURN"

Students battle seasonal allergies, Lafene aids the fight

MEREDITH MCCALMON

managing editor

With spring in full bloom on Kansas State's campus, many students notice colorful tulips, the chirping of birds and the scent of pear tree blossoms in the wind. However, students with seasonal allergies, like Virginia Hardin, notice a runny nose, increase in sneezing and congested airways.

"Sometimes if it gets too extreme my eyes get really puffy," Hardin, senior in mass communications, said. "If it's really extreme, I can't breathe."

Professor of horticulture Jason Griffin said allergies ramp up this time of year because of flowering trees which deposit high concentrations of pollen in the air.

"Being a lifelong allergy sufferer myself, I can tell when the Chinese elms and the silver maples are flowering even though I'm not looking," Griffin said. "... The eyes start to itch, you get that congestion.

It's small pollen so it's easy to ingest."

Griffin said even if someone isn't allergic to the most common plants in Manhattan, they could react to allergens as far away as Oklahoma while living in Kansas.

"It [pollen] travels a long way," Griffin said. "Think about the trees further south ... that pollen blowing miles on the wind, so it's not just the trees in your backyard that are flowering. It could be pollen that's travelling a long ways."

Michael Campbell, medical director for Lafene Health Center, said it's important for allergy sufferers to find "their season."

"Figure out what [your] trigger is or what time of year to take medicine," Campbell said.

For some, however, "their season" is all year. Griffin said while trees bloom in the spring, other plants wait for their turn to shed pollen.

"There's always something that's in bloom, but as far as a large

concentration of pollen, it really starts to taper off once we get through April, from trees," Griffin said. "Then you got to start worrying about the native prairie grasses that are going to start shedding pollen as well."

However, relief is possible for those with severe symptoms. Campbell said Lafene offers a variety of treatment options for allergy sufferers.

"For people that have tried prescription medicines and still have had bad allergy symptoms, we'll recommend seeing an allergist and doing allergy testing," Campbell said. "... And then the allergist can either do prescribed allergy injections, or there actually are allergy drops as well."

Allergy immunizations contain microdoses of the patient's allergy triggers to help them build up tolerance over time.

SEE PAGE A2

"ALLERGIES"

Little Apple Vintage Flea finds its forever home



Photo by Grace Parks | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Owners of Little Apple Vintage, Matthew Klassen and Andrew Kemp. Located at 622 N Manhattan Ave in Aggierville, Little Apple Vintage clothing. Inspired by the Little Apple Vintage Flea Market, the storefront opened its doors on April 5, 2025.

LIBBY ZUCK
arts & culture editor

From pop-up shops to flea markets, Little Apple Vintage Flea served its community for years with vintage styles full of charm and history. Now, the clothing market solidifies that service in its forever home, located at 622 N Manhattan Ave. in the heart of Aggierville.

Before its store opening, Vintage Flea partnered with local companies such as Manhattan Brewing Co., The Manhattan Farmers Market and Taste of Memphis Catering to reach the community.

Vintage Flea is a frequent vendor at the downtown farmer's market, promising affordable prices and trendy pieces. After the flea's success, the owners thought it was time to find their own home.

Co-owners Andrew Kemp and Matthew Klassen started out as college students and coincidentally dropped out in the same semester at different colleges. The pair made their way to the Little Apple to make a name for themselves.

SEE PAGE A3

"FLEA"

WEEKLY CALENDAR

25	Meadowlark Market — Meadowlark	26	K-State Gardens 5k — K-State Gardens	26	Kansas Science Festival — Manhattan Public Library
27	Manhattan Weenie Dog Walk — Northeast Community Park	27	Manhattan Bike Swap — Wefald Pavilion	29	Latin Night — Union Hall

"TURN"

CONTINUED FROM A1

That access point, however, will switch this summer to the east, according to the Kansas Department of Transportation.

What's being called a "shoo-fly" detour under construction at the west junction can be

used freely to "carry traffic around the work area," with advised speeds of 15 mph.

Sherri Fabre, a hair stylist at Luxe Manhattan, said she's not optimistic about the construction being complete in December.

"There's not really very clear signage over on the Seth Child side that indicates it's closed until you really get up

there," Fabre said. "I hope it gets done sooner than they say.... I think since they redid the intersection last time, widening the lanes, adding turning lanes, that was great. So I don't know how much a roundabout is going to improve that, but we'll see."

During the closure, KDOT advises motorists to utilize detours on signed

routes such as K-113, K-18 and U.S. 24. Commuters can also use alternate routes that are not marked.

Some Manhattan business owners, like Chris Darrah, are optimistic about the new roundabout construction.

"Here they're going to be slowing down, they're already going to be turning right in front of us," Darrah, owner

of Dara's Fast Lane, said. "So, I think traffic will be tremendous, and we've heard a lot about this intersection, the accidents, the dangers of crossing it. There are a lot of people already saying they are happy it's happening."

KDOT encourages motorists to not only stay alert, but also to follow signage in all work zones.

"ALLERGIES"

CONTINUED FROM A1

"Most people start out at getting those injections once a week," Campbell said. "We don't do the first injection here. We have them see their allergist, do it at the allergist's office for their first injection but then we do all the subsequent injections."

Campbell said patients should note

that allergy injections pose a very low risk of anaphylactic reaction.

"We do training and drills multiple times a year to be able to treat those patients," Campbell said. "We see some of our allergy injection

patients will go into anaphylaxis and we'll treat them with epinephrine and occasionally we'll have to send them to the emergency room if they're not responding here, so that's why it's not something you can just do at home."

Another option for allergy-sufferers are drops which are placed under the tongue daily and administered at home.

"They tend to be more expensive than the injections,"

Campbell said. "Some insurances will pay for them and some won't, and will want people to do the cheaper injections."

Campbell said behavioral changes to your daily routine can also mitigate symptoms.

"A lot of us are allergic to dust mites or pollen that's in the air, so cleaning [can help]," Campbell said. "Vacuuming the carpet more often... wipe down floors if it's hard surfaces. For dust mites, they make special pillows or covers for your pillow. A lot of our time that

we spend is sleeping that you don't really think about, but you're breathing in things that are close to your bedding, so washing your sheets regularly [can help]."

Hardin said she recommends switching up your over-the-counter allergy medicines every so often, as well as "taking care of yourself, generally."

For help treating allergy symptoms, students can visit the Lafene Health Center Allergy Clinic.

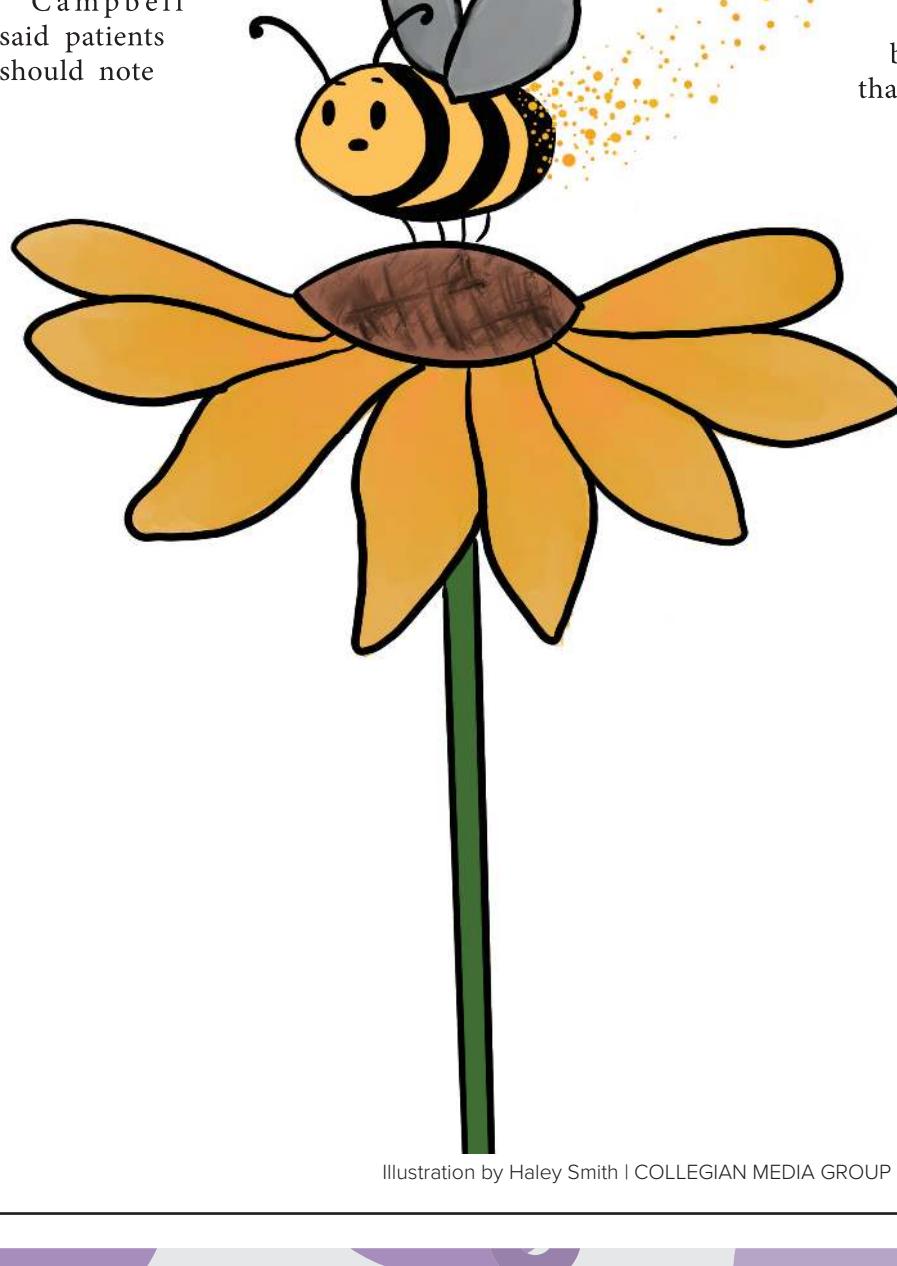


Illustration by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

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The Collegian does not publish open letters, third-party letters or letters that have been sent to other publications or people.

CORRECTIONS

If you see something that should be corrected, call editor-in-chief Cole Bertelsen at 785-822-1482 or email colebertelsen@kstatecollegian.com

Make it Count | Manhattan's to-do list before graduation

THE COLLEGIAN

For graduating seniors, there remains only a few short weeks until Kansas State's campus is left behind, and for many other students, graduation will arrive before they know it. Whether it is a last hurrah or a weekend full of fun before the semester ends, here are five must-dos before your time in Manhattan ends this spring.

Hike the Konza Prairie

Just a short 20-minute drive from Manhattan sits 8,616 acres of land available

for hiking and exploring. An afternoon in the sun with your friends on a designated trail is memorable enough, but hopefully you leave with some tan lines and views to remember.

Bar Crawl

For students above 21, making a lap around Aggierville is a great way to reminisce on your times out on the town. From the Tubby's patio to Johnny Kaw's Yard Bar's 50-cent wells, visiting these bars surrounded by your friends or family creates

one last positive memory.

Campus Walk & Revisit Dorm

K-State's campus is known for its castle-like architecture and flourishing plant life, so a sunset walk around campus is imperative to remember every corner. During this walk, take a lap around your freshman-year dorm. Reflect on your original move-in day, meeting your first roommate and everything in between. Whether you ate at Derby or Kramer, there has to be

a memory lingering among those halls.

Stargazing at Pillsbury Crossing

Located only six miles from Manhattan is an open skyline for stargazing, with grassy areas for a perfect picnic. This picturesque landmark would be great for creative graduation photos or a day trip to remember.

Karaoke at Kite's

Kite's Bar & Grill is notorious for its karaoke nights on Wednesday,

Friday and Sunday. Paired with a cheap drink and \$11 espinaca dip, there will be plenty of laughs looking back on this night. A night full of classics and a large group of friends, this activity can even become a regular event for returning students.

These are just a few unforgettable adventures to check off your pre-graduation bucket list. Get together a group of friends, grab a disposable camera and make the most out of your last few weeks in the Little Apple.

"FLEA"

CONTINUED FROM A1

"We mostly just needed a home to not be doing flea markets as much and having a centralized income regularly," Klassen said. "We were

inspired by the flea market and decided to keep the same name. It's been a natural progression, we started working out of our own homes and then we started doing pop-ups and the flea market. As we've grown we just realized we needed a home to work out of."

From custom Jesus t-shirts to vintage Levi's, the shop is tailored to add a pop of color or vintage aesthetic to anyone's everyday style.

"We take inspiration from shops around the country but try and keep things affordable, whether it's K-State apparel or

something trendy," Kemp said. "We want to have a wide range of aesthetics for everyone to enjoy."

The co-owners attempt to reach beyond college students and help townies find something to enjoy. Throughout the history of their business, Kemp and Klassen kept customer connection a priority.

"We have been at the flea

market for three years, with pop-ups downtown and at Bluestem," Kemp said. "... We want to have used clothing accessible for all in Manhattan. Connecting with new people and building beyond our current clients to the community is important to us."



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Photos by Grace Parks | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
The Little Apple Flea's new storefront is located on N. Manhattan Avenue in Aggierville. The business opened a physical location after being active in farmer's markets and other events for several years.

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THINK LOCAL

The Museum of Art + Light offers total immersive experience

EMMA LAZARCYK
marketing/PR manager

Sitting at 316 Pierre St., the Art and Light Museum brings out a side of Manhattan many may not initially think of.

"Manhattan, Kansas is a valuable place and a space of progress and innovation and art," Riley Holland, the Art + Light Museum's marketing, communications and membership manager said. "I just think Manhattan is a great place for art and culture. I think the museum fits in with that really well."

Opening its gallery doors to locals Nov. 8, 2024, the museum was proud to add its own mark in the art world after curating the idea six years ago.

"We are the first museum to blend all of these different things — the fine art, the digital art and the immersive art — from its inception, because the founders knew it would be a meaningful experience," Holland said. "It's the first of its kind and it's in Manhattan, Kansas."

Founding the museum, Tracey and Robert DeBruyn, Ronald Bowman and Stanley Zukowsky came together to do something for the community.

Holland said sharing art in its fullest form was the founders' goal. One of the ways the museum is able to do this is through offering five galleries.

"Obviously, we have the general fine art you would think of — painting, sculptures, sketches, etcetera," Holland said. "We have that displayed as well as digital art. We also have an immersive

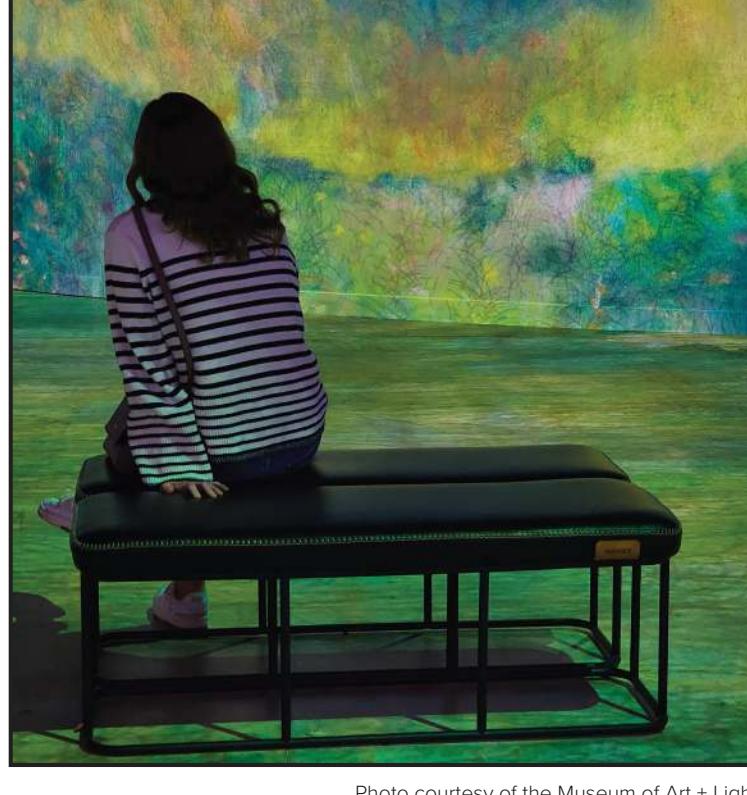


Photo courtesy of the Museum of Art + Light
Visitor viewing Renoir: A Luminous Evolution

experience which is an animated exhibition."

Set to music with images displayed on the floor, all surrounding as well as interior walls, this immersive experience is multisensory.

"It's just something that is very novel, especially when you look at the immersive experience," Holland said. "There are not a lot of them [immersive exhibitions], especially at our size."

Since the opening of the museum, the immersive exhibition shared with visitors has been Mezmereyz — Renoir: A Luminous Evolution. This exhibition will be changed Sept. 4 to share a new experience.

Describing the space as innovative, inspiring and progressive, Holland said she feels

there is something for everyone.

"I have found that a lot of people enjoy it as a place to take their family, or a place to go on a date night or a place to spend their weekend," Holland said. "I feel like there is something for everyone here and I feel that when people come once, they tend to come again."

The museum creates all of its art in-house, which means the Art + Light Museum showcases art that can only be admired in Manhattan.

Holland said some art pieces can only be understood in person.

"We have partnered with a digital artist that does digital sculptures," Holland said. "He is a software engineer and he makes moving



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Art + Light
Visitor viewing Bloom Unfolded (2024) by Mads Christensen



Photo courtesy of the Museum of Art + Light
Visitor viewing COMPLETION: FRAGMENTS (2024) by Sasha Stiles

light sculptures. It is really difficult because a lot of these are moving pieces, you can't just take a picture for people to understand."

Working to be a safe space for everyone, including students, the museum offers a year-long student membership program which costs \$40.

"I found that [the museum] started out as a space for people I feel

were a little older, because when you hear art museum you are like 'Oh, it's a very prestigious place,' but it is a space — especially for younger people — there are [interactive] elements at the museum and it's supposed to be a little less formal than the traditional art museum," Holland said. "It's meant to be a safe space to really make it your own."

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B1**WOMEN'S GOLF**

NCAA Regionals — May 5-7

NCAA Championship — May 16-21

BASEBALL

vs. Houston — April 25-27 — ESPN+

@ Nebraska — April 29 @ 6 p.m. — B10N+

Sports

Friday, April 25, 2025

TICKET PUNCHED

K-State women's golf clinches first NCAA regionals berth since 2017



Photos courtesy K-State Athletics

K-State women's golf applauds together after hearing its name called during the NCAA Regional selection show on Wednesday at Colbert Hills Golf Course. Head coach **Stew Burke** (far right) has transformed the program in two years at the helm.

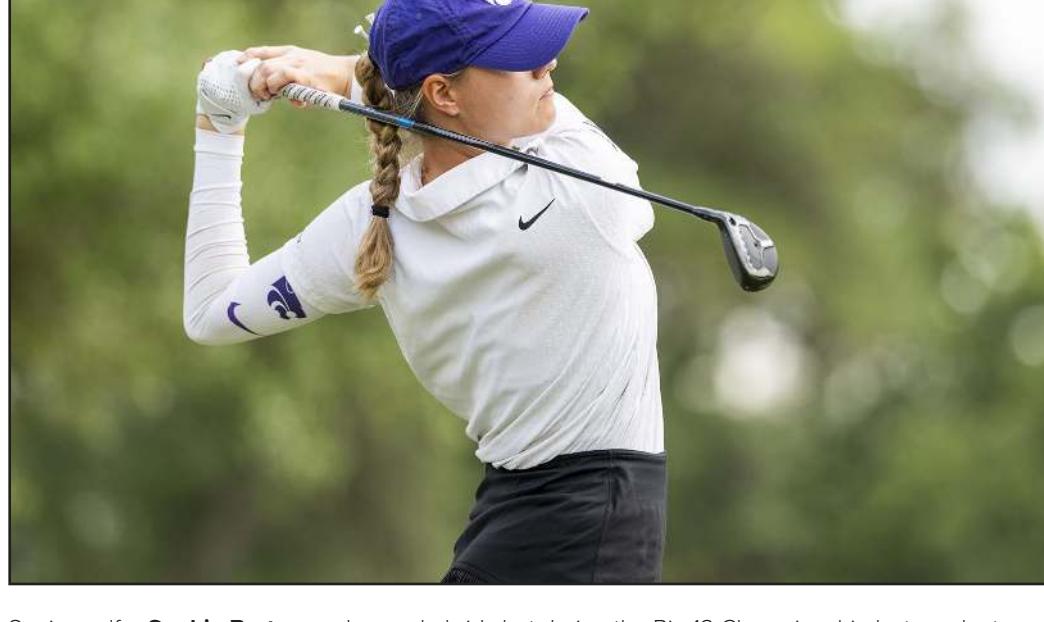
BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

The Kansas State women's golf team waited anxiously to hear its name called for this year's NCAA Tournament, hoping to avoid the heartbreak of narrowly missing out like last season.

But this year was different. The No. 27-ranked Wildcats were confident they would be in this year after putting in a full, successful season with a lot of hard work.

"We knew we were going to make it, we just didn't know what seed or where we were going to go," junior golfer Noa Van Beek said. "We are very excited, I think we deserve it."

The 'Cats placed in the top half of all but one tournament in which



Senior golfer **Sophie Bert** eyes down a hybrid shot during the Big 12 Championship last week at Houston Oaks Golf Course. Bert was the first Wildcats to win the individual conference title.

they competed as a team. Adding in the individual accomplishments of seniors Carla Bernat and Sophie Bert, this year's K-State team has a very solid resume.

With the 'Cats being selected as the No. 5

seed in the Lexington Regional, they've made it into the NCAA Regional for the first time since 2017 and just the sixth time in program history.

"Everybody has told me about the history, so it's been an awesome feeling

to be part of it," Bert said.

Some other notable teams in K-State's regional include Florida State, USC, TCU and Vanderbilt — the four seeds that were placed in front of the 'Cats.

SEE PAGE B3
"NCAA"

Sophie Bert wins Big 12 title in historic women's golf season

TOBY HAMMES
sports editor

Putt after putt, Kansas State women's golf is making history in Manhattan. The program's first trip to the NCAA regionals in nearly a decade is the latest mark in a historic season.

In just his second year at the helm, Stew Burke transformed K-State women's golf from stalled success at the Big 12 Championship to back-to-back years competing in the top half of the conference.

It started in 2024 as a third-place finish — K-State's best placing ever in a conference tournament — was just short of sending the Wildcats to NCAA Regionals. In 2025, there was no doubt about the

team's status as they clinched the No. 5 seed in the Lexington Regional, making the postseason as a team for the first time since 2017.

One of the keys to making that happen was senior transfer Sophie Bert.

A native of Deurle, Belgium, Bert lined up her final putt on the 18th green at Houston Oaks with history on the line last week. When the ball dropped, so did a weight off K-State's shoulders — the Wildcats had their first-ever individual Big 12 champion.

Bert's 2-under par 211 score cemented her as the only player to finish below par while carding the best three-round total in K-State's Big 12 Championship history.



Photo courtesy of K-State Athletics
Senior golfer **Sophie Bert** flashes the "Go Cats" hand sign while biting her Big 12 Championship medal at Houston Oaks. She was the only individual to finish under par.

"I still pinch myself a little bit," Bert said on her conference title win. "But I try to focus on the next

SEE PAGE B3
"BERT"

K-State BSB snaps 5-game losing skid vs. Wichita State

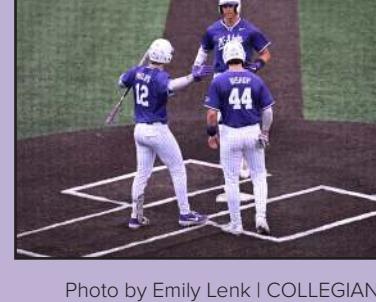


Photo by Emily Lenk | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Shortstop **Maximus Martin** hits the ball as the Wildcats defeated Texas Tech 5-4 on March 30 at Tointon Family Stadium.

TREY THOMAS
staff writer

After losing its previous five games, Kansas State baseball finally got back in the win column, 14-8, against Wichita State Tuesday at Tointon Family Stadium.

The Wildcats (24-17) saw four different players hit a home run, including two each from Shintaro Inoue and Dee Kennedy.

The Shockers (12-28) scored the game's first run, but for the next five innings Wichita State remained scoreless. K-State pitcher Tanner Duke was partly responsible for this, as he had a solid outing on the mound.

Inoue hit a home run in the bottom of the first to get things going for K-State. Then, in the bottom of the second, right fielder AJ Evasco homered the ball to right center.

The home run from Evasco allowed first baseman David Bishop to reel in a run, but Bishop had even bigger plans in the bottom of the fourth, hitting the Wildcats' third home run of the evening.

Third baseman Kennedy wanted in on the home run action too, slamming one over the left centerfield wall. The Wildcats held an 8-1 lead by the end of the fifth inning.

"We got our bats going again, they've been MIA here for a little while," head coach Pete Hughes said. "Happy for our guys for sticking with the game and getting on the other side of it."

Wichita State did not go down easily, though, scoring three runs in the top of the sixth. Unfortunately for the Shockers, Inoue was not finished. The infielder from Japan hit another home run to widen the gap further. An impressive steal and run from Kennedy added fuel to the fire, and the Wildcats led 11-4 at the end of the sixth.

"I always judge a good team by the way they play five runs up or five runs down," Hughes said. "We've got to learn to finish people off, finish games and not look at the scoreboard."

The Shockers plated three more runs in the seventh and one in the eighth, but the Wildcats continued hitting the ball with consistency. After Kennedy hit his second home run of the night in the bottom of the eighth, fans in Tointon had a good feeling the game was going to end in K-State's favor, and it did.

The Wildcats' home stand continues with Houston coming to town for K-State's Alumni Weekend, starting at 6 p.m. Friday.

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

K-State baseball seeks bounce-back series hosting Houston after KU sweep

BY THE NUMBERS

K-STATE

AVG.

.277

11th in Big 12

STOLEN BASES

55

6th in Big 12

SAVES

5

13th in Big 12

HOUSTON

AVG.

.256

14th in Big 12

STOLEN BASES

73

4th in Big 12

SAVES

10

6th in Big 12

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

K-State (24-17, 10-8)

Kansas State got a much-needed midweek win against Wichita State after losing all five games last week against Northeastern and Kansas. Last week, the Wildcats scored early but flattened out late in each game, so more consistent offense in all nine innings will be key this week.

Shintaro Inoue had two home runs on Tuesday against Wichita State as his sweet swing from

the left side appears to be back. Inoue is a great contact hitter who can use all parts of the field to get on base, and at his best has plenty of power to hit one out of the ballpark.

Right-handed pitcher Blake Dean has electric stuff out of the back end of the bullpen for the Wildcats. Dean is typically a one-inning reliever, but can pitch multiple innings if needed. He was named to the All-Big 12 freshman team last season.

Houston (22-18, 6-11)

Houston notched a weekend series split (1-1) against Oklahoma State and gained some momentum after a weekday win over Lamar. With only 12 teams making the Big 12 Tournament and Houston standing in 11th place, the Cougars will be motivated to win and make the short trip to Arlington.

Houston outfielder Tre Broussard is a problem for opposing teams when he gets on base. Broussard

is hitting .295 with four home runs, but his real threat is his stealing ability. Broussard has stolen 28 bases while only being caught twice; his ability to get in scoring position is big for Houston.

Antoine Jean leads the way for Houston as a left-handed bullpen arm. Jean made 15 appearances out of the pen but pitched in 44 innings. Impressively, in his 44 innings, Jean has struck out 80 batters — nearly two every inning.

WHO TO WATCH:

K-STATE: 2B Shintaro Inoue, RHP Blake Dean

HOUSTON: OF Tre Broussard, LHP Antoine Jean

SERIES PREDICTION:

2-1 WILDCATS

SHINTARO INOUUE



Photo by Haylee Haslett | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

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"NCAA"

CONTINUED FROM B1

Head coach Stew Burke, before becoming head coach at K-State ahead of last season, spent a few years as an associate head coach at USC, so he is well aware of the rich tradition USC carries.

"I've never as a head coach competed against Southern Cal — it's a good chance to see how we stack up against them," Burke said. "I know how good of a program they are."

Last week, K-State competed in the Big 12 Championship, where it placed fifth as a team. On the last day, the Wildcats started in 11th but great performances from Big 12 Champion Bert and runner-up Bernat to catapult them toward the top.

K-State's finish in the Big 12 Tournament gives the team momentum moving into this high-stakes competition. Now that K-State is in the regional as a team, the goal still isn't completed.

Burke and the rest of the team have expectations of competing in the NCAA Championship, the round which follows regionals. The top five teams in each regional advance to the tournament, played



Archive photo by Avery Johnson | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

The women's golf team practices with head coach **Stew Burke** watching over at Colbert Hills on Sept. 5, 2023 during the team's first season under Burke.

May 16-21 at Omni La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, California.

"We want to look past this regional; our focus can't be just making it to the regional," Burke said. "It is a step

in the right direction, but we need to put on a good show in Lexington and, after three rounds, see if we are in the top five."

Last season, most people thought

"BERT"

CONTINUED FROM B1

A transfer from East Tennessee State, Bert was a perfect pairing with the Wildcats, posting the team's second-highest scoring average with six top-10 finishes, including a tie for second at the Westbrook Invitational in February.

K-State senior Carla Bernat, the Augusta National Women's Amateur champion, has garnered the attention of national media, and rightfully so, as she shined again with a tie for second place in Houston, giving

K-State two players in the top 10 of a conference championship for the first time.

But Bernat, who Burke emphasizes is a "team-player," will be one of the first to tell you the Wildcats are not a one-woman band — Bert's takeover of the Big 12 Championship only made that clearer.

"We're a hardworking, blue-collar team — a team that everyone can root for," Burke said after his team's selection on the GOLF Channel. "We're going to do our best with grit and effort."

Within the span of a week, Bert was doused in a water bottle bath after the Big 12 win and then sat

alongside her teammates to celebrate the team's NCAA ticket punch on Wednesday.

"It's really cool — being new on the team as well — it's an awesome feeling," Bert said on the team's accomplishment. "I feel like I've known [my teammates] for a long time, it's crazy that I've only known them for a year."

Junior Noa van Beek, the only Wildcat from before the Burke era, said the team's infectious attitude inspires performances down the roster.

"[Bernat and Bert's] individual performances definitely help for the team as well, because we see that

the Wildcats had a chance in the tournament, but were ultimately left out, devastating players, coaches and fans.

"It was really disappointing, but I think it was a big motivation to not just make it to regional — we want to get way further than that," Van Beek said.

Even though the Wildcats didn't make regionals as a team last year, individually, Augusta National Women's Amateur champion Bernat was invited to play in the regionals, where she advanced to the NCAA Championship as the low individual not on an advancing team.

This year, she gets to compete again, but with her team, looking to bring experience and calmness to the group. Currently, Bernat is competing in the 2025 Chevron Championship, so she enjoyed the tournament selection moment from afar.

"I think [Bernat] is more excited than I am that the team is coming along with her," Burke said. "She is a team player, to be able to think about your teammates in your finest moment, speaks volumes for her."

The 54-hole Lexington Regional will take place May 5-7 as the Wildcats team try to etch their names further into the history books.

it's possible," van Beek said. "We get more self-belief because they deserve it, and I think we deserve it as a team."

While Bernat and Bert both graduate this spring, the foundation was laid early in the Burke era, and there's undoubtedly an upward climb for the Wildcats.

"When Gene Taylor had the faith to hire me, I sat there and told him, 'We're gonna put your golf program not just back on the regional map, but nationally,'" Burke said. "Through the team play and Carla's and Sophie's achievements, people know who we are."



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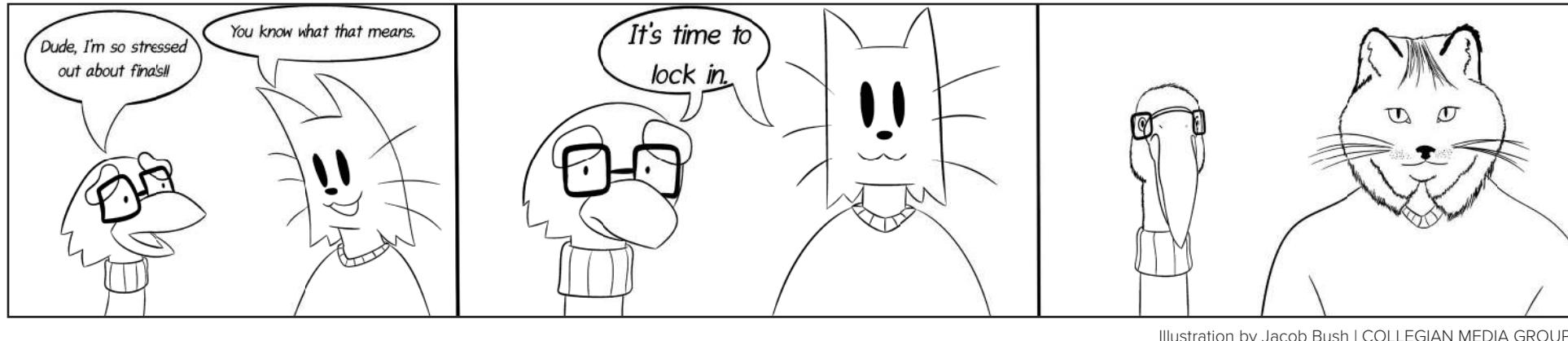
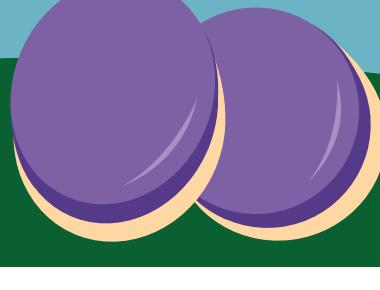


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Friday, April 25 | 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Wildcat Chamber | Student Union

Join us in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month for a special free screening of the critically acclaimed film Promising Young Woman. After the movie, stay for an insightful discussion about the film's themes and their connection to sexual assault awareness and prevention. Enjoy free popcorn and drinks during the event as we come together to foster understanding and support within our community.

May Day Flowers

Friday, May 2 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM | Student Union | Courtyard

Join UPC to celebrate May Day with origami and felt flower making and May Basket making!
Snacks and drinks provided! Free while supplies last!



Donut Stress About Finals

Friday, May 9 | 1:00 - 3:00 PM | Student Union | Courtyard

Stop by the Courtyard for a donut and self-care de-stressor during Dead Week!
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