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Manhattan native unveils Kansas Capitol mural, uplifts women voices.

**A4 - ARTS & CULTURE**

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# THE KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

VOL. 130 | ISSUE 19

WWW.KSTATECOLLEGIAN.COM

FEB. 21, 2025

## Campus remains operational despite extreme cold Tuesday

**MEREDITH MCCALMON**

managing editor

Kansas State's campus held operations as normal Tuesday, despite closures of other Kansas colleges like Washburn University and the University of Kansas, as well as the closure of Manhattan High School for inclement weather. Temperatures dropped as low as -1° F and around three inches of snow fell in Manhattan, according to the National Weather Service.

The university announced Monday via K-State Alert that "The K-State parking garage will be available at no charge through Friday, Feb. 21, to aid crews in clearing parking lots."

Casey Lauer, associate vice president for facilities, said emptier parking lots make it easier for crews to clear snow.

"It opens up our surface lots so that we can get the large equipment in there to clear those out," Lauer said. "... It's really hard to clear parking lots with vehicles in there. The best we can do is simply drive lanes because that



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

An employee for Kansas State Facilities clears the entrance steps to Fairchild Hall on Tuesday afternoon. Employees arrived on campus at 5 a.m. Tuesday morning to begin clearing campus of the winter storm.

equipment is just so large for safety reasons."

Lauer said free parking in the garage is beneficial for students, too.

"I think with temperatures as low as they are it's a good-faith effort on the part of the university to maybe lessen that extent of exposure to the elements," Lauer said.

"By having most of the vehicles, now not on the fourth — the upper floor, but most of the

vehicles covered, with the snowfalls that continued into the day yesterday, for those that chose to park in the garage, it's kind of an added benefit not to have to clear off windshields when you go home at the end of the day."

Lauer said the type of snow that fell may have influenced university officials to keep classes in session.

"I think the differentiator

with yesterday's [Tuesday's] event, we'll call it that, is that snowfalls as a total were pretty light," Lauer said. "This was not a heavy snow, this was not a wet snow. This was a light and fluffy snow. ... The accumulations were really, really low and that also impacted our decision to continue ahead. Total snowfall was under three inches."

SEE PAGE A2  
"COLD"

## K-State experiencing record number of flu cases in over two decades

**KYRA CASE**

news editor

Lafene Health center saw a staggering 77 positive influenza cases last week, with Lafene medical director Michael Campbell saying flu season is in "full swing."

The flu is a respiratory illness which can cause mild to severe illness and sometimes death. This contagious illness is caused by the influenza virus — infecting the throat, nose and at times, the lungs.

Campbell said K-State is seeing one of the "worst influenza years in the last 20 to 25 years."

"Right now we are seeing a lot of respiratory illnesses, especially influenza," Campbell said. "Most of the patients with respiratory symptoms who are feeling pretty sick have influenza, which is different from a cold. ... There's also

seasonal Coronavirus and we're also seeing some Covid-19. Influenza ... is the biggest thing we are seeing right now."

Campbell said students need to look out for symptoms such as high fever, body aches and headaches.

"It honestly feels like a truck ran you over," Campbell said.

Stephanie LaMar, an advanced practice registered nurse at Lafene, said it's important to see a doctor within at least two days of shown symptoms.

"So first, we're seeing lots of students who are not getting the flu vaccine," Lamar said. "There's some nausea and vomiting, but not as much, but pretty high fevers, like 103 [degrees], pretty consistently — at least three to four days ... We can give Tamiflu, which is an antiviral medication, that brings down the overall

viral load, meaning your symptoms may be less severe or you may get better a little bit faster, but it has to be given within the first 48 hours of symptom onset or else it's not really effective."

Salem Ponnureu, sophomore in psychology and social work, said he was showing respiratory illness symptoms since last Wednesday, but didn't test positive for the flu or seasonal Covid.

"I went to [Lafene] last Friday ... and they checked for Covid and flu, and I didn't have either of those," Ponnureu said. "I went back on Monday because they said to come back if it got worse, and still negative for flu and covid, but I did get started on steroids — like a five-day thing of steroids — just to help, and I also got an inhaler."

Those who are experiencing



Photo by Kelsey Chellberg | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Lafene Health Center offers services to students ranging from general healthcare to Counseling and Psychological Services, also known as CAPS.

any symptoms of illness are encouraged to go to Lafene Health Center to receive treatment.

"It's really important to get help as soon as possible and get a test done," LaMar said. "Staying home and making sure you are fever free for at least 24 hours before going back to class or work is really important to stop the spread as well."

"We're working on a plan that involves three or four colleges, the university, and lots of different dominoes and people moving basically to get more space so that we can bring over the faculty offices, the classrooms, and all the students from Justin Hall," McClure said.

The addition of 150 interior design students has increased the total number of students by around 10%. However, due to the space issue, those students have yet to move to Seaton.

"Of course, Justin Hall wants — Health and Human Sciences wants — their space that interior design used to be in so they can grow," McClure said. "We want those students over here so they're part of our building, and they can be closer to our fabrication labs and our printers and all the computer labs and all those things that we've set up for design students. It's just going to take time to renovate the spaces, to move certain people, [and] to clear up the spaces in Seaton so that we can move into them."

SEE PAGE A2  
"SPACE"

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Feb. 21 — Woman's World Conference — K-State Union

Feb. 22 — Flint Hills Home Show 2025 — National Guard Armory

Feb. 25 — Manhattan Seed Swap — K-State Union

Feb. 22 — Kansas Big Dill Festival — A&amp;H Farms

Feb. 22 — Winter Market — Manhattan Brewing Co.



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## "COLD"

**CONTINUED FROM A1**

According to K-State's Office of Risk and Compliance, "If reports from public safety officials indicate that most students, faculty and staff can travel to and from campus safely, classes are likely to remain in session with normal university operations."

Emmi Lott, junior in architectural engineering, said she felt unsafe commuting to class on Tuesday.

"I took a huge risk getting to school yesterday," Lott said. "I fishtailed all over the road on my way there and got stuck in the parking lot. Many people at my campus job called in because they felt unsafe trying to get to work, and that caused a huge issue because there was no one available to work."

Nick Homburg, professor

at the A.Q. Miller School of Media & Communications, said he canceled some of his Tuesday classes out of concern for student safety.

"I actually live 30 minutes out of town, and I actually got in my car and I actually drove to town, and so I knew the conditions of the road," Homburg said. "I knew how cold it was outside. When I simply stepped out of the door of my house and my door was frozen shut, and I had to kick my way out of my house because it was, you know, wind chill was 21 below zero ... I went 'No, this isn't a good idea.'"

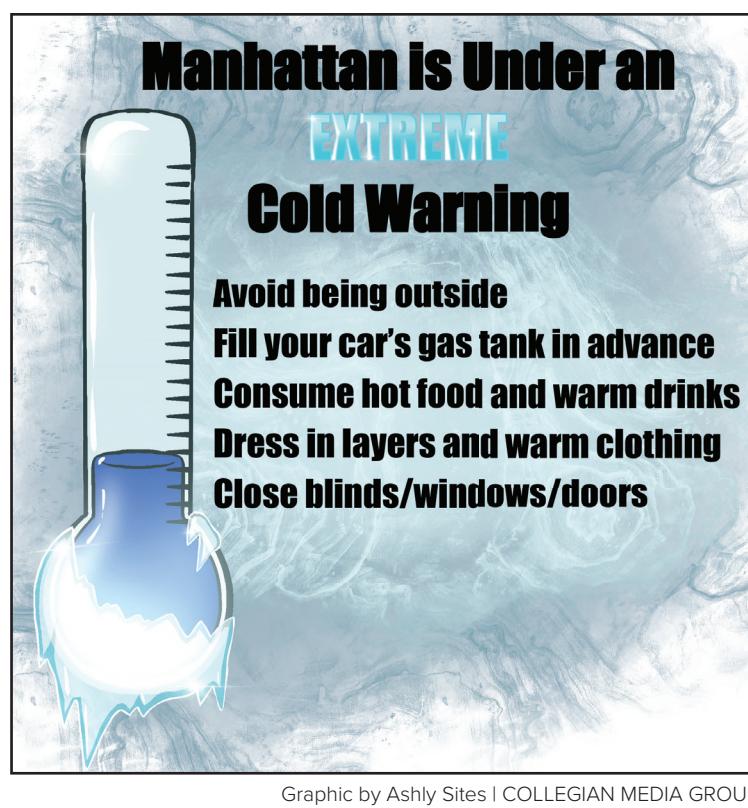
Homburg said even if he had kept classes in session, he thinks most students would've stayed home.

"When I got to campus, campus was pretty much empty," Homburg said. "The parking lot, the parking garage, there was maybe a fifth of the cars that are usually there."

Mainly it was facilities people that had made it. I did not see another faculty member ... But early in the morning I did hold the first class and I had two students show up ... Students are going to find a reason not to come, so for those brave souls that would show up, instead of spending five minutes with them and saying, 'Hey, you know, go home and be safe,' I figured that for their safety and their well-being, that's why I canceled my classes."

Homburg said even though the university remained open, he appreciates faculty's understanding about professors choosing to cancel class.

"The thing that I like about this institution, though, they do leave a lot of stuff up to the professors as far as making those calls," Homburg said. "And, you know, the activities I had planned for the day, I would have had students outside



Graphic by Ashly Sites | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP  
Source: National Weather Service

and I just didn't feel that that was good."

Lauer said the "break-even point" for facilities to clear the snow is around 6 inches.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE ONLINE



## "SPACE"

**CONTINUED FROM A1**

McClure said the renovations around Old Seaton are part of a

campus master plan.

"There is a campus master plan going on right now, which is identifying across campus where new buildings should go, what

buildings maybe should be demolished because they're not worth renovating, what type of outdoor spaces do we want," McClure said. "There's an outside firm that's been

working on that for almost a year, and it's going to give the university a better idea about best practices on how to use our space effectively and what we need to plan to build."

Sophomore interior architecture majors Riley Wehrman and Bridget Lessard said they haven't been notified about the integration of interior design students.

"I think we take priority when it comes to space on the architecture side of it," Wehrman said. "Without the

construction, they'll probably be shoved into other spaces."

Lessard said while she doesn't see a lot of construction, she wishes it were done during different hours of the day.

"We did have one class next to the renovation upstairs, and it was so distracting we couldn't go on with class anymore," Lessard said. "I do like how they are doing construction on our spaces and making them nicer, but they are very distracting and very loud."

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The Kansas State Collegian, a student newspaper at Kansas State University, is published by Collegian Media Group. It is published Fridays during the school year. Periodical postage is paid at Manhattan, KS. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 828 Mid-Campus Drive South, Kedzie 103, Manhattan, KS 66506-7167. First copy free, additional copies 25 cents.

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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.

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# Manhattan native unveils Kansas Capitol mural, uplifts women voices

**LEXI STUDEBAKER**  
staff writer

National Kansas Day was extra special this year, with Phyllis Garibay-Coon's mural "Rebel Women" being unveiled, making her the first woman with art displayed in the Kansas Statehouse.

A local legend in Manhattan, Garibay-Coon is an artist, business owner and 1987 Kansas State alumna with a bachelor's degree in graphic design.

"I had a lot of fine arts classes at K-State even though I was in graphics, but it made me a better designer and got me into painting," Garibay-Coon said.

Her daughter, Hannah Pease, also graduated from K-State's bakery science program, and they own and operate Little Batch Company and Parkside Station together. Garibay-Coon is also an avid muralist with multiple large-scale works scattered around town — her most well-known being in the Sunset Zoo.

"I enjoy doing large figurative work," Garibay-Coon said. "An eyelash when you're painting a foot by a

foot has a lot more leeway than if you're painting tiny and trying to get super tight details," Garibay-Coon said.

During the League of Women Voters event in Topeka, her newest mural, "Rebel Women," was revealed at noon in the Capitol building to celebrate Kansas turning 164 years old. Kansas Day is celebrated annually on Jan. 29 to commemorate the state's admission into the Union and is used as Kansas' birthday. This year, Garibay-Coon was invited to reveal the Capitol's newest mural and speak about its creation.

"Rebel Women" is composed of 13 women who fought for Kansas women's voting rights. It is an 8-foot high and 19-foot wide oil painting that is now permanently installed in the Kansas Statehouse in Topeka. This mural is not just an homage to Kansas suffragists but was the first woman-made art installation in the Capitol building. For women around the world, this painting is not just a memorium, but a call to action.



Courtesy photo from AAUW Manhattan

Women pose in front of Phyllis Garibay-Coon's "Rebel Women" mural in the Kansas Statehouse on Jan. 29.

"I believe that young women are seeing their rights be less than their mothers' and if you don't do anything about it, nothing will happen," Garibay-Coon said. "Register to vote, even if you don't feel like it'll matter

nationally. Remember, voting locally is very important and matters just as much, if not more, than who the president is. We will not be denied."

Recovering from her long painting extravaganza, Garibay-Coon attends to her

businesses surrounded by family and loved ones.

"I'm resurfacing from being sequestered for nine months in my house painting; it feels like I'm coming back to the surface for this first time," Garibay-Coon said.

## REVIEW | 'Captain America: Brave New World'

**JUSTIN SHOEMAKER**  
staff writer

"Captain America: Brave New World" had two tasks to accomplish: First, it needed to reintroduce us to Sam Wilson — played by Anthony Mackie — and give us a reason to accept him as the new Captain America. Chris Evans left big shoes to fill, and passing the torch successfully could make or

break this character. Second, the movie had to set a new direction for the Marvel Cinematic Universe to follow, much like "Captain America: The First Avenger" did. After years of hit-or-miss releases, Marvel needed this movie to be unique and set the tone moving forward. After watching the film on release day, I am happy to report that it stuck the

landing on both objectives.

The story starts how one would expect, showing off Sam Wilson as the new Captain America. The opening fight scene was beautifully choreographed and did a fantastic job showing the unique fighting style as a mix of both the Falcon and Cap. He's not Steve Rogers — Wilson is his own unique superhero. This scene also introduced the first villain of the movie, and the first departure this film takes from most Marvel movies.

Many MCU films are very formulaic, with an introduction to the villain, an introduction to the characters, a fight scene they lose and finally beating the villain by the end. "Brave New World" takes a much-needed departure from this formula by having not one, but three separate villains in play. All are introduced uniquely, have their own storylines and intertwine together for a much more memorable story. This shifts the movie toward being more of a mysterious political thriller. Most of this idea was

done amazingly, with only certain scenes or moments feeling underdeveloped.

By the second act, most of the important characters are introduced and the audience can start to appreciate the acting talent on display. Harrison Ford plays President Ross, a pivotal character in the story, and has multiple emotional and dramatic moments. This is personally my favorite role of his at this stage of his career, fitting the character perfectly.

Danny Ramirez portrays Joaquin Torres, the new Falcon and sidekick to the Captain. Despite only acting for less than a decade, Ramirez is full of energy and perfect in this role. As a younger, wide-eyed character who's been thrown into the world of superheroes, he works as a stand-in for the audience to relate to. Both of these characters are written and portrayed excellently, as well as the villains of the movie that I don't want to spoil here.

So, does this movie

follow through on its goals?

Absolutely. First, The new Captain America is easily the best part of this film. He never has a bad or dull moment, and I am excited to see more of Anthony Mackie's chops on screen in the future. If you have doubts about a new leader of the Avengers, I implore you to watch this movie. Second, it sets up multiple new villains, heroes and everything in the middle moving forward. For the first time in a while, I am actually looking forward to seeing what becomes of these characters. With a post-credit scene that teases what's to come, the future of Marvel looks a little brighter after this movie.

Overall, this movie gets a solid 4 stars out of 5. For every negative in this movie, there are two positives. For example, the script isn't perfect and can feel rushed at times, but the characters are written masterfully and the fight scenes are dynamic and unique. This film is worth a watch if you're a fan of Marvel, political thrillers or even if you're just trying to watch an all-star acting performance.



Illustration by Kaitlynn Faber | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

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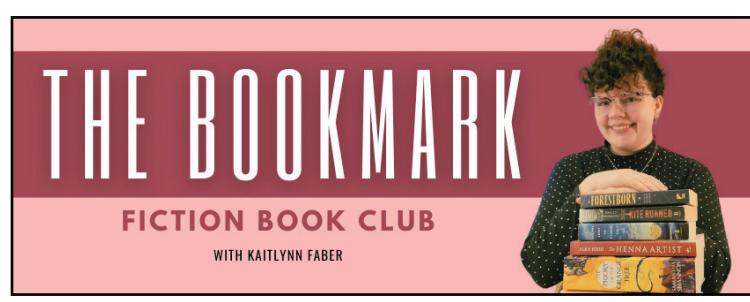
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KAITLYNN FABER  
staff writer

"All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr is a beautifully woven historical fiction about finding the light in the dark, following two children on opposite sides of conflict during World War II.

It's fiction, but it's deeply moving and poetically complex. Especially today, where we are living through a rise of political extremism, censored media and cultural division, it's a necessary narrative about seeing beyond what's put directly in front of us, even if it's hard to see.

The story follows two main characters. The first is Marie-Larue LeBlanc, a blind teenager who fled Paris with her father to the ocean city of Saint-Malo, leaving everything familiar behind. Despite going

blind and being forced to navigate war and Nazi-occupied France, Marie-Larue remains curious and resilient, using the persistence through fear she attained after going blind to compel herself forward in the dark.

Marie-Larue wasn't the only thing her father saved from Paris bombings; he also carried what could be the most precious stone known to man: the Sea of Fire. The jewel was supposedly blessed in keeping the owner alive, but cursing everything around them — and a prominent figure within the Nazi party is on the hunt for it.

The second main character is Werner Pfennig, a young German boy who was orphaned alongside his sister, Jutta, in an impoverished coal-mining town. Werner's character is especially complex, providing insight into

# Book Review | 'All the Light We Cannot See'



how the Nazi regime gained traction in the ruins of an impoverished Germany.

As a child, Werner is exposed to stores filled with Imperial German Stormtrooper toys, songs promoting Germany above all else and broadcasts of plays portraying German vigilantes as heroes against foreign businesses seeking to murder local children.

However, Werner has a gift that exposes him and Jutta to a different perspective on their world: Werner is a prodigy with radio technology. He fixes one at the orphanage that plays broadcasts from France, which are very different from the radically nationalistic, government-mandated radios the rest of town provides.

Jutta urges Werner to see the Nazi war effort for what it is, but Werner is conflicted by his fear. If

he were to stay in his hometown, he would be forced to work in the same coal mines where his father died and subjected to the same, hellish fate.

Finding light despite the darkness is a major theme, hence the title, and we see that resurface through the story and characters. For Marie-Larue, the world around her is a light beyond her sight. Her life is full of loss and suffering, but she gets through it by clinging onto the things that she loves, like reading and music and her curiosity for the natural world.

Werner's light is the radio, which broadcasts a world for him and Jutta beyond the government-controlled vision they are limited to. However, it's a blessing as much as it's a curse, much like the Sea of Fire gemstone.

The prose is lyrical, with sound

being a vibrant voice for much of the storytelling, especially as both Marie-Larue and Werner navigate their lives by it. The buzzing of the planes, radio, rumors and curses give life to words beyond the page and are another great instance of feeling more than what's physically in front of us.

Overall, I'd give this book a 4.5 out of 5 stars, only losing points because at times the jumps in time are a bit difficult to follow.

"All the Light We Cannot See" invites us to rage against the darkness even when we cannot see the light, even when we cannot change our past and do not know how to move forward. It's a mirrored tale of suffering, but one that asks us to look at those around us and see what makes us similar, when the world wants to divide and manipulate us based on how we are different.

**STARTING NEXT WEEK | UPCOMING BOOKS I'M READING AND REVIEWING**

MAR 7	MAR 14	MAR 21
<b>THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF ADDIE LARUE</b> V.E. SCHWAB	<b>THE DOOR OF NO RETURN</b> KWAME ALEXANDER	<b>THE POPPY WAR</b> R.F. KUANG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curse of Invisibility and Immortality</li> <li>A Story across Time, Art and Countries</li> <li>Search for Freedom</li> <li>Romance</li> <li>Struggle to find Connection</li> <li>Faustian Bargain (Deal with the Devil)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follows 11-year-old in Upper Kuwarta, West Africa in 1860</li> <li>Search for Freedom</li> <li>Tragedy, Adventure and Betrayal</li> <li>Romance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historical Military Fantasy</li> <li>First in a Trilogy</li> <li>War, Vengeance, Power and Magic</li> <li>A Story About Moral Goods and How Ruthless Humans Are Capable of Being</li> <li>Inspired by 20th Century China</li> </ul>

Graphics by Kaitlynn Faber and Ashly Sites | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

# Investing for beginners

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If you're considering investing to help reach your financial goals, consider starting as early as possible.

That's 'Investing 101,' and for good reason -- the earlier you begin, the more time your money has to potentially grow. Early investing gives you more years to contribute to your investments and allows you to potentially benefit from compound interest, the interest you earn on interest. The amount of time you are invested in the market is one of the most important factors in growing your wealth. The sooner you can get started, the better.

For some people, college can be a good time to kick off their investing journey. You might not have much to invest after paying for tuition, room and board and basic needs, but you don't need a lot of money to get started. You can start small and work toward building your contribution amount over time.

Consider these tips to help you get started on your investment journey as a college student.

Understand the difference between saving and investing. Saving cash can help keep you covered in the short term while investing can help you reach your long-term goals. Before you get started investing, it's important to have a cash emergency fund of 3-6 months of expenses for unexpected emergencies.

Have a plan. Everyone's

financial situation is different. It's important to identify your personal financial goals and create a plan to outline how you'd like to work towards them. For example, you may be saving for a big trip in the next year. You might also aspire to buy a home in the next 15 years. Having a plan can help you work towards these various goals at the same time. There are free digital tools, like J.P. Morgan Wealth Plan, that allow you to set multiple goals, create a plan for them and track your progress along the way.

Remember the importance of diversification. Your investment options depend on your personal timeline and tolerance for risk. That said, it's important that your portfolio is diversified, or made up of a variety of different investments.

You don't want to put all of your eggs in one basket. Diversification can help even out your portfolio's returns during periods of volatility.

Riding out the market. It's important to remember that volatility is completely normal. Market swings can be painful, but they are a natural part of investing. It's important to take a long-term view when it comes to investing and stay focused on your strategy. Don't let your emotions derail your plan.

Choose how to invest. You can work with a financial advisor, invest on your own or do a combination of both. A financial advisor can help you build a custom-tailored plan for your unique goals



and provide guidance along the way. Self-Directed Investing tools allow you to manage your investments and build your portfolio.

## Start investing in your future

You don't need a large sum of money to be an investor. What's important is getting started and staying consistent over time. Making regular contributions to your investments can help you stay on track. Digital tools can make it easier to invest regularly, letting you set up repeating or periodic transfers to your investment account to take the guess work out of when to invest. It's also important to do your research and be an informed

investor.

It's never too early to get started investing, even if you're in college. Visit chase.com/personal/investments for more information or contact your local Chase branch to speak with an advisor who can help.

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**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

vs. KU — Feb. 22 @ 4 p.m. — ESPN+

**B1** vs. Baylor — Feb. 24 @ 6 p.m. — ESPN2**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

vs. Ariz. St. — Feb. 23 @ 3 p.m. — ESPN+

@ UCF — Feb. 26 @ 6 p.m. — ESPN+

**BASEBALL**

@ Amegy Bank College Baseball Series — Feb. 21-23 @ Arlington, Texas — FloSports

# Sports

Friday, Feb. 21, 2025

## K-State celebrates National Girls and Women in Sports Day with youth clinic

**MEREDITH MCCALMON**  
managing editor

**K**ansas State Athletics hosted a pregame clinic from 1-3 p.m. Saturday in the Ice Basketball Training Facility to honor National Girls and Women in Sports Day, which is celebrated throughout February.

The event was open to girls first through eighth grade, and K-State athletes were to help them gain sports experience and have fun.

K-State guard Mikayla Parks said the girls got to play different games to improve their basketball skills.

"Every year we host a clinic for kids," Parks said. "I think this year we have 300 kids, so we have a really good turnout. Today we just put them through some of their favorite things to do like knockout, basketball and then just other stuff around the football field. They come out and we hang out with them and enjoy time. It's a good thing for women's sports ... and then they get to join us later at our game."

K-State alumna Emily Wilson said this is the third year her two daughters attended the clinic.

"They really enjoy it, so

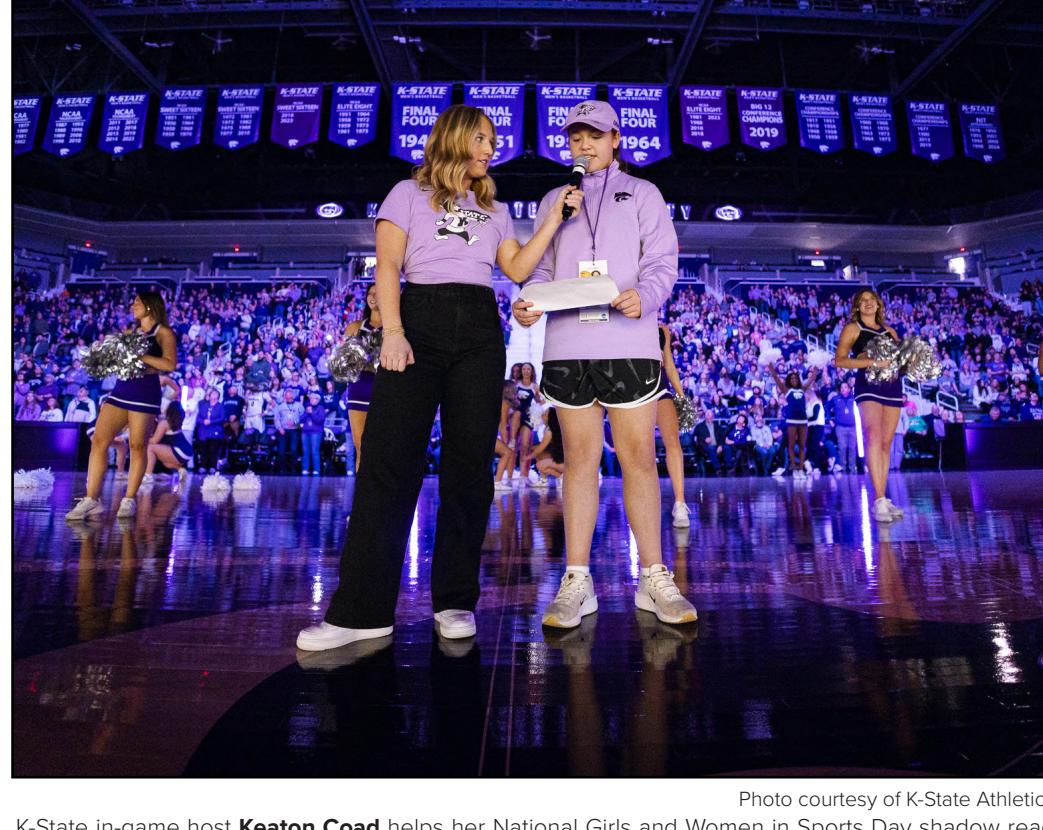


Photo courtesy of K-State Athletics

K-State in-game host Keaton Coad helps her National Girls and Women in Sports Day shadow read the pregame player introductions before K-State women's basketball's matchup with UFC on Saturday.

K-State held a pregame clinic in the Ice Basketball Training Facility, in addition to in-game festivities.

we love coming back for it every year," Wilson said. "... I think that they just love coming to K-State and getting to work with the coaches and see the players, of course see Willie."

Wilson said the clinic teaches her daughters valuable skills they apply to several areas of life.

"They can learn those basic skills that will help them not only if they go on to play at a competitive level, but just as they're experiencing different sports, playing with their friends and later on with their families," Wilson said. "It's good exposure to learning the basics and trying

out different sports that they might like to pursue."

Parks said she got her start in basketball because she had people there to show her the ropes.

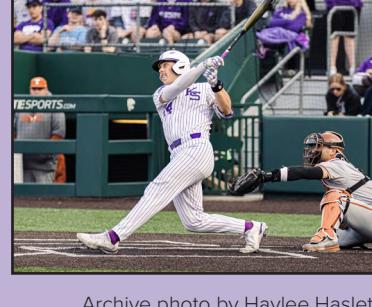
"I got started off in basketball by my parents," Parks said. "My dad played and my stepmom played, and my mom's just kind of there, but she loved the game of basketball ... My parents would sit me down as they played pickup basketball at the YMCA and I fell in love with the game then."

Jennifer Billings, a parent of one attendee, said K-State athletes can be

a driving force for young girls interested in sports.

"It's important for the athletes to know that they are role models," Billings said. "We've run into a couple volleyball players in the parking lot at football games and they've always stopped and taken time to autograph things, and say 'Hi' and take pictures. I think sometimes, maybe they don't understand how valuable they are to the youth and how amazing it is for the girls to see that there is options and opportunities for them after high school."

## K-State BSB opens 2025 season 1-4 in Carolinas

Archive photo by Haylee Haslett  
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

First baseman David Bishop swings for the pitch and hits a home run. The Wildcats defeated Texas 14-6 on March 28, 2024 at Tointon Family Stadium.

**BRAYDEN MESEKE**

staff writer

Kansas State baseball showed a lot of heart Tuesday, nearly pulling off a massive upset of No. 6 North Carolina in a back-and-forth 12-9 loss, nearly salvaging a sour 1-4 start to the season.

"That was a really good fight by our guys," seventh-year head coach Pete Hughes said to K-State Athletics. "We were really close. We are by no means satisfied, but tonight showed me that I have players who thrive in the heat of battle. That's something to build on."

The Wildcats out-hit the Tar Heels, 11-9, led by a four-hit night from Kennedy. A sophomore transfer from Texas, Kennedy went 4-for-5 with two runs batted in and two runs scored, while drawing a pair of walks.

As a team, K-State hit .400 (8-for-20) with runners on base and was 6-for-11 (.545) with runners in scoring position. The Wildcats held a 3-1 advantage in extra-base hits over their first Top 25 opponent of the season.

"We could have been more efficient in controlling the aspects of the game within our control," Hughes said. "However, there were an exceptional number of uncontrollable factors that were far too prevalent and impacted the game. For perspective, it was the first time in my 28 years as a head coach that I have put a game under protest."

K-State protested the game in the bottom of the first inning, citing indecisive pitch clock decisions made by the umpires.

On the mound for the Wildcats was freshman Donte Lewis, the Wildcats' prized two-way prospect. For the Tar Heels, Folger Boaz made the start.

The Wildcats got up early, scratching across two runs in the first inning. However, North Carolina answered back quickly as they were able to score four unearned runs off of two errors. After one, it was 4-2 UNC.

After a few scoreless innings, K-State shortstop Maximus Martin crushed a home run to get the deficit back down to just one in the fourth.

The Wildcats' pitching staff of Blake Dean and Ty Ruhl, in relief of Lewis, did a great job of keeping the UNC offense quiet early. Because of that, in the top of the sixth inning, the Wildcats scratched across two runs and grabbed the lead of 5-4.

The Tar Heels tied it in the bottom of the sixth, but K-State answered and took the lead back in the seventh. Dee Kennedy hit a lead-off double and came around and eventually scored the go-ahead run. Kennedy went 4-5 with two doubles and two runs scored.

SEE PAGE B3  
"BSB"

## K-State FB moves Wells to OC amid staff changes

**THE COLLEGIAN**  
staff report

After Kansas State football's standout offensive line coach and offensive coordinator, Conor Riley, was hired by the Dallas Cowboys as its new offensive line coach, a chain reaction of changes hit the Wildcats' offense staff.

**Matt Wells, offensive coordinator**

Wells completed his first season at K-State as the program's Co-OC, quarterbacks coach and associate head coach in 2022, and now transitions into the primary OC role for the Wildcats while keeping his previous titles.

"It is such an honor to coach here at K-State, and I am thankful to coach Klieman for this opportunity," Wells said in a press release. "I have grown to love this school and our players throughout this past year. I am excited for this upcoming season and looking forward to building upon this offense with our players and staff."

Wells hit the ground running in his first season on staff, tutoring Avery Johnson to a school-record 25 touchdown passes, while his sophomore signal caller ranked fifth in school history in passing yards (2,712) and completions (217). Additionally, Johnson was one of only five players in the nation and one of three from Power 4 schools to record at least 2,700 passing yards and 600 rushing yards.

"We are fortunate to have someone experienced on staff in Matt, who I have known for 12-plus years and will seamlessly transition into the offensive coordinator role," head coach Chris Klieman said. "He worked closely with Conor last season and had a big part in our offensive production. His resume speaks for itself, and his relationship with and development of Avery Johnson and our other quarterbacks will help our offense continue to grow."

Wells came to Manhattan after spending the previous two seasons at Oklahoma as an advisor to the head coach/offensive analyst. Before that, he served as the head coach at his alma mater, Utah State, from 2013-2018 and at Texas Tech from 2019-2021.

Another of Wells' success stories tutoring quarterbacks was Jordan Love at Utah State, who is now the starting quarterback for the Green Bay Packers.

In addition to coaching quarterbacks during his 27-year coaching career, he also spent time tutoring wide receivers and tight ends. In total, Wells has contributed to 14 bowl teams and two conference championships.

**Brian Lepak, offensive line coach**

During his college coaching career, including six years at K-State, Riley was widely respected as one of the top offensive line coaches in the country by peers and players

Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP  
K-State associate head coach and offensive coordinator Matt Wells calls out to the offense late in the fourth quarter against Cincinnati during the 2024 season. Wells was promoted to sole OC after the departure of coach Conor Riley to the Dallas Cowboys.

alike. He leaves large shoes to fill for Lepak in tutoring the Wildcats' offensive front.

After serving the last three seasons as K-State's tight ends coach, Lepak will move into the role.

"I am grateful that coach Klieman and coach Wells have the faith in me to take this next step in my career," he said. "I am excited to get back to coaching the offensive line and building on the many things I learned from coach Riley."

Lepak found quick success during his first three years as a full-time coach for the Wildcats, tutoring Ben Sinnott to All-Big 12 First Team accolades in both 2022 and 2023, while the Wildcats had two tight ends pick up All-Big 12

honors in 2024 with Garrett Oakley (second team) and Will Swanson (honorable mention). It was the first time since 1997 that the Wildcats had a pair of All-Big 12 tight ends in the same season.

Under Lepak's guidance, the K-State tight end unit combined for a nation-leading 13 touchdown receptions in 2024.

Lepak spent the previous three seasons as a graduate assistant at Oklahoma, assisting with an offensive line which helped pave the way for two Heisman trophy winners, three consecutive Big 12 Championships and College Football Playoff appearances.

SEE PAGE B3  
"STAFF"

# KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

K-State women's basketball looks for Sunflower Showdown sweep

## BY THE NUMBERS

### K-STATE

#### 3-POINT %

39.6%

1st in Big 12

#### TOTAL BLOCKS

154 blks

2nd in Big 12

#### T/O's / GAME

12.8 T/O's

2nd in Big 12

### KANSAS

#### 3-POINT %

35.2%

5th in Big 12

#### TOTAL BLOCKS

66 blks

15th in Big 12

#### T/O's / GAME

14.5 T/O's

6th in Big 12

BRAYDEN MESEKE

staff writer

#### K-State (24-4, 12-3)

Kansas State comes off a difficult defeat to West Virginia on the road — a game in which the Wildcats had 21 turnovers. K-State has played well off losses this season and must again on Saturday. In their earlier matchup in Lawrence, the 'Cats won by 27 points and knocked down 15 threes.

Guard Taryn Sides, the reigning Big 12 Player of the Week, had major shooting performance-

es against Cincinnati (17 points) and UCF (21 points). Sides, a sophomore, hit four threes at KU. The sharpshooter spaces the floor for K-State as a deep threat and is a very underrated passer.

Center Ayoka Lee is expected to return for the Wildcats in her final Sunflower Showdown. When Lee is healthy she is a force on the inside, both on offense and defense. Having Lee back will help K-State get its identity back.

#### Kansas (15-11, 5-10)

Kansas has faltered in Big 12 play, losing four of its last five games. The Jayhawks could still beat anyone with their talent, led by guard S'Mya Nichols. Lately, Kansas has also received good production from role players.

Guard Brittany Harshaw scored 26 points against Iowa State last Saturday. Harshaw started in the contest after primarily coming off the bench this

season. Last time against the Wildcats, Harshaw had just three points, but now gains a bigger role.

Guard Sania Copeland is shooting 33% from three this season. Last time against the Wildcats, Copeland went 3-3 from 3-point land. With K-State's ability to knock down a lot of triples, Copeland may have to answer with an efficient shooting night to keep pace with the Wildcats.

# AYOKA LEE



Photo by Haylee Haslett | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

**4 P.M. SAT., FEB. 22**

**WATCH LIVE ON ESPN+**

Page by Toby Hammes | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

#### WHO TO WATCH:

K-STATE: G Taryn Sides, C Ayoka Lee

KANSAS: G Brittany Harshaw, G Sania Copeland

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**"BSB"**

CONTINUED FROM B1

However, again the lead didn't last as North Carolina got hits off Wildcat pitcher James Guyette, and it put up five to lead 10-6.

K-State answered with three in the top of the eighth to make it once again a one-run game, but North Carolina scored two more in the bottom of the inning to make it 12-9, providing insurance for the Tar Heels.

The 'Cats head to Arlington to compete in a tough three-day tournament against No. 5 Arkansas (4-0), Michigan (4-0) and No. 22 TCU (4-0). K-State will begin with Arkansas at 7 p.m. Friday.

**Battle At The Beach****Game 4**

In the finale of a four-game tournament, Battle at the Beach, the Wildcats took on host school Coastal Carolina on Monday and were defeated 9-2.

The Wildcats only mustered six hits on the day

against a solid Coastal pitching staff. K-State started Lincoln Sheffield, making his season debut with the Wildcats.

The first four innings were a pitching duel, with Coastal scratching across two runs in the second, making it a 2-0 game. In the fifth, the Wildcats had two runners on, but a failed double steal, followed by a ground out, allowed the Chanticleers to get out of the inning.

Coastal plated a run in the bottom of the fifth, but Sheffield struck out the side for the Wildcats, which ended his afternoon. The five innings by Sheffield was the longest outing of the season by a Wildcat pitcher so far.

"I thought Lincoln Sheffield pitched well and competed," Hughes said. "He didn't beat himself, and that's all we ask of our guys. Anytime you don't walk anyone, you give yourself a chance."

K-State got its first run of the game in the sixth inning to make it a 3-1 game. K-State redshirt freshman Micah Dean earned his first collegiate base hit in the frame.

Coastal quickly answered big

with six runs over the next two innings to make it a 9-1 game. K-State got a run back in the eighth, but that was all.

Coastal Carolina quickly answered big with six runs over the next two innings to make it a 9-1 game. K-State got a run back in the eighth, but that was all.

**Game 3**

The Wildcats' lone win on the road trip was on Sunday as they took down Saint Joseph's 12-7 with an offensive explosion.

After a scoreless first, the Wildcats scored four runs in the top of the second inning highlighted by a two-run homer by first baseman David Bishop. K-State added another run in the third to make it 5-0.

Shutting down the Hawks was K-State pitcher Michael Quevedo, as he went 4 1/3 innings and allowed just one run.

"It begins with a great start, and we had that with Michael Quevedo tonight," Hughes said. "He put us in a spot to help us build a lead along."

After K-State scored two more in the fourth, the Hawks finally got on the board and made it

a 7-1 game. However, K-State wasn't done, as outfielder Nick English hit a two-run homer in the sixth and stretched the lead out even further to make it 9-1.

St. Joseph's refused to go away and answered with four in the bottom of the sixth and made it a little closer. In the seventh, it scored another and trailed now by just three, 9-6. Both teams scored a run in the eighth making it 10-7, but K-State in the ninth added two runs for insurance to get the 12-7 win.

James Guyette was credited with the save as he worked a dominant two innings, striking out four of the six batters he faced. Seth Dardar for the Wildcats had a big day at the plate as well as he went 4-6 and had three doubles in the game.

"We had big hits from David Bishop, Nick English and Seth Dardar," Hughes said. "We had a lot of people contribute to tonight's win, which speaks to the depth of our program and our bench."

**Game 2**

The Wildcats faced Coastal Carolina for the first time on this

road trip as they fell 8-3.

K-State pitcher JJ Slack carded his first career start as a Wildcat. K-State pitchers hit eight batters and the defense made four errors giving a good team like Coastal Carolina extra chances with runners on base.

The Wildcats got off to a good start as they scored two runs in the top of the first inning, but the Chanticleers answered with three runs in the bottom of the first to take a 3-2 lead.

Coastal went on to score another run in the second inning and three more in the fourth to blow the game open at 7-2. The Wildcats had a chance to get back into the game with the bases loaded in the fifth inning, but back-to-back strikeouts by the Coastal relief pitcher ended the threat.

Both teams added a run in the late innings of the game but that was all as the Chanticleers took the win 8-3.

**Game 1**

K-State's first game of the season came against Washington in a 9-2 defeat to the Huskies.

**"STAFF"**

CONTINUED FROM B1

In 2018, the offensive line was honored with the Joe Moore Award for the nation's most outstanding offensive line unit.

**Drew Liddle, assistant offensive line coach**

Liddle, a former K-State football player and staff member, returned to Manhattan for his second coaching tenure for the 2024 season as an offensive analyst, and will now serve as the assistant offensive line coach.

"It was also important to have two coaches work in the trench-

es with our guys, and elevating Drew to assist Brian provides us stability and allows for a smooth transition," Klieman said.

Liddle worked the previous two seasons as the tight ends/fullbacks coach at UTEP, while he was the offensive line coach at Abilene Christian during the 2021 season.

While at ACU, Liddle served on the same staff as K-State's current Director of Roster Management Clint Brown and Director of Scouting Dimitri Donald. Under Liddle's guidance, the ACU offensive line ranked No. 19 nationally in fewest sacks allowed.

A veteran of 26 games throughout his four-year

K-State career, Liddle was an offensive graduate assistant at K-State for the 2015 and 2016 seasons before working as an offensive quality control coach and assistant director of recruiting for the 2017 through 2020 seasons.

**Luke Wells, tight end coach**

Luke Wells, brother of Matt Wells and a veteran offensive coach, worked for three prior Big 12 programs and was hired to work with the Wildcat tight ends.

"Luke brings an extensive amount of coaching experience and recruiting energy to our tight end room,

which of course has been a big piece to our recent offensive success," Klieman said. "I have known Luke for quite a while and even visited with him during previous position openings, and we are thrilled to have him and his family in our program."

Luke Wells, who both played and coached for the Sooners, most recently coached in college at Tulsa in 2022, and also spent time coaching receivers and tight ends at Iowa State and Texas Tech.

"I am grateful for the opportunity from coach Klieman to help this staff and be a part of the winning culture

at K-State," he said. "I can't wait to get to work with our talented group of tight ends."

Five of K-State's nation-leading tight end touchdowns came from Oakley, which tied for the second-most in school history by a tight end and third by any sophomore. Oakley enters his junior campaign of 2025 with seven career receiving touchdowns to rank third in school history among tight ends.

"[Luke Wells] is getting a group that is extremely coachable and gave Kansas State their very best the last three seasons," Lepak said. "I cannot thank those guys enough for all they have done for me."



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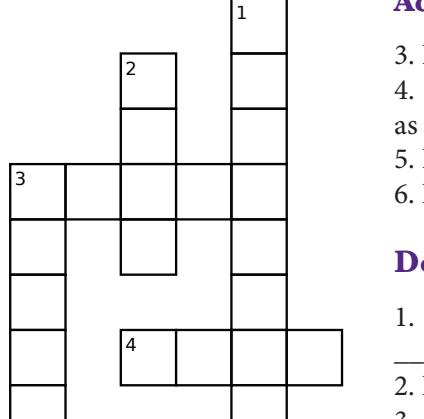
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## COMIC | Doin' it Wright



Illustration by Jacob Bush | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

## CROSSWORD

**Across:**

3. K-State baseball battled a tournament at the \_\_\_\_\_.  
4. K-State remained \_\_\_\_ after temperatures dropped as low as -1 degrees.  
5. K-State is experiencing \_\_\_\_ season.  
6. K-State football's new offensive coordinator.

**Down:**

1. Interior design was integrated into the College of \_\_\_\_\_.  
2. K-State Athletics' in-game host.  
3. A new column for the Arts & Culture section is called The \_\_\_\_\_.

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