

A3 - ARTS & CULTURE

Welcome back 'Cats! K-State welcomes students back to campus with an activity-filled week.

**B1 - SPORTS**

'Place of Pride' | Athletic Director Gene Taylor credits culture in K-State's athletic successes.

B2 - SPORTS

Know Your Opponent | No. 11 K-State heads to Lawrence for star-studded Sunflower Showdown.

WEATHER

FRIDAY 52/29	SATURDAY 60/34	SUNDAY 61/30

THE KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

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JAN. 31, 2025

First Week in Office | Trump signs record number of executive orders

President Trump signed 26 executive orders in his first day



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

President Donald Trump signs an executive order in Capital One Arena on Jan. 20, 2025. Trump signed over 30 orders in his first week.

MEREDITH MCCALMON

managing editor

COLE BERTELSEN

editor-in-chief

After being sworn in as the 47th president of the United States on Jan. 20, Donald Trump quickly got to work, signing over 30 executive orders in his first week in office.

Trump has signed more executive orders than any predecessor had at this point in their presidency. The slew of orders covers a wide range of topics the president emphasized during his campaign, including immigration, climate change, abortion, gender identity and much more.

With unprecedented speed, Trump has made many sweeping changes to the federal government, contrasting heavily with the modest count of four executive orders from his first term's starting week.

Here is a list of every executive order signed on Trump's first day back in office:

"Unleashing American Energy"

This order encouraged energy exploration on federal lands and offshore, with the goal to make the U.S. the leading producer of non-fuel minerals. The order directs the government to review energy regulations, reform the permit processes relating to energy infrastructure and modify existing carbon regulations. It will also eliminate laws that regulate gas-powered vehicles while reversing a number of other orders signed by former President Biden.

"Declaring a National Energy Emergency"

This order says energy production has been "inadequate" to meet the country's needs. It gives the executive branch the power to facilitate energy projects, such as devoting land to oil refining, expediting energy production infrastructure and transporting oil in and through the West Coast, Northeast and Alaska.

"Putting America First In International Environmental Agreements"

President Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a treaty that sought to lower the world's global warming to 3.4 degrees.

SEE PAGE A2

"ORDERS"

Running Dry

The effects of Kansas drought on farming



Archive photo by Benjamin Voller
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Cows graze in a field at SAVE Farm in Riley County.

KYRA CASE

news editor

MEREDITH MCCALMON

managing editor

In Riley County, 17,449 people are affected by drought conditions, according to the National Integrated Drought Information System. The Ogallala Aquifer is projected to be 70% depleted in 50 years because of an increase in drought in Kansas since 2020, according to the American Bar Association. These are tangible impacts of Kansas' current drought conditions.

The National Drought Mitigation Center defines drought as "a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time (usually a season or more), resulting in a water shortage."

Andrew Terhune, environmental compliance and regulatory specialist supervisor for the Kansas Division of Water Resources, said the "majority" of Kansas is abnormally dry to moderately dry.

SEE PAGE A3

"DROUGHT"

'I'm so glad you're still open' | A community saving stories

KYRA CASE

news editor

In July of 2023, the Dusty Bookshelf announced there was a possibility the beloved bookstore in Manhattan would close because the cost of rent would increase at the end of its lease.

The lease was set to end in the spring of 2024.

Tracy Emery, a manager at Dusty Bookshelf, said she was shocked by the news of the bookstore's closing.

"I was in my previous place of employment handing out school supplies to students, and one of the people that was working with me said, 'Tracy, you need to sit down,'" Emery said. "... She said, 'Tracy, they just posted to Facebook that Dusty is closing,' and I literally had to sit down. I have tears in my eyes, and I'm thinking, 'No, no, this can't be true.'"

Emery said she has been a "loyal

Dusty fanatic" since 1988.

"While I may not own the store, the special place that Dusty has in my heart is, it's big, it's big," Emery said. "The idea that it could close and then this place would go away was heart-rending ... I've been a Dusty customer, [a] loyal lover of the Dusty Bookshelf for a long time since I went to K-State for undergrad."

Emery said Dusty Bookshelf announced they were staying in late November of 2023 after coming to an agreement with the landlord on rent.

"The fact that I was here was so cool," Emery said. "It's very cool."

Sam Creagor, another manager at Dusty Bookshelf, said saving the bookstore was a community effort.

"There's nothing else like Dusty and so to lose it would have been really hard, and the fact that it gets to stay just continues to be a really big deal in people's lives and provide a good thing for the city," Creager said.



Archive photo by Dylan Connell
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

photo by Kyra Case
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Sam Creagor (left) and **Tracy Emery** (right) are both managers at Dusty Bookshelf. They both were relieved to hear the bookstore would remain open.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Jan. 31 — Roots and Resonance — Manhattan Arts Center

Jan. 31 — Aux Cord Wars — K-State Union Courtyard

Feb. 1 — Giovannie & The Hired Guns — The Hat

Feb. 2 — The Aluminum Show — McCain Auditorium

Feb. 3 — The Jeff Mittle Radio Show — Powercat Sports Grill

Feb. 6 — Mighty Fine Jam Night — Auntie Mae's Parlor

"ORDERS"

CONTINUED FROM A1

In the order, Trump said "these agreements steer American taxpayer dollars to countries that do not require, or merit, financial assistance in the interests of the American people."

"Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Research Potential"

This order encourages the utilization of Alaska's land, specifically for the U.S. to supply natural gas from Alaskan reserves, by removing limitations on drilling, mining and road-building that Biden had placed in the state.

"Ending the Weaponization of the Federal Government"

Under this order, agency heads will investigate previous criminal and civil enforcement conduct that took place under the Biden administration and deemed as possibly being "politically motivated." It also provides recommendations to hold guilty agencies and individuals accountable.

"Restoring Accountability to Policy-Influencing Positions Within the Federal Workforce"

This order removes civil protections from career federal employees and reclassifies them into a new category. President Trump originally signed this order near the end of his first term, and it was reinstated on Jan. 20.

"Holding Former Government Officials Accountable for Election Interference and Improper Disclosure of Sensitive Governmental Information"

This order revoked security clearances for signees of a letter discrediting a defaming report on Hunter Biden in 2020. It also revoked se-

curity clearances for Trump's former security advisor and author John Bolton, who published a memoir in 2020 describing his time under President Trump.

"Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and Restoring Merit to Government Service"

This order is meant to speed up the process of hiring government employees by prioritizing candidates who are "dedicated to the furthering of American ideals, values, and interests."

"Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing"

Agencies are ordered to end all diversity, equity and inclusion programs in the federal government and submit reports of all DEI or "environmental justice" employees — or employees of similar programs — to the Office of Management and Budget.

"Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government"

This orders the federal government to recognize only two sexes — male and female — and states the government must refer to individuals by their sex assigned at birth rather than gender identity. It places limits on federal funds to ensure they aren't used for gender-affirming treatments. The order also says it "shall ensure that males are not detained in women's prisons or housed in women's detention centers."

"Establishing and Implementing the President's 'Department of Government Efficiency'"

This order establishes the DOGE, an official depart-

ment remodeled from the U.S. Digital Service. The Digital Service recruited private talents to update government technology, and the DOGE will function similarly.

"Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness"

This order will rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America and the mountain Denali to "Mount McKinley" after former President William McKinley.

"Restoring Freedom of Speech and Ending Federal Censorship"

This prohibits federal employees from interfering with First Amendment rights and orders the attorney general to correct any case where government agencies didn't adhere to these protections in the last four years.

"America First Policy Directive to the Secretary of State"

This policy orders the secretary of state to guide state departments on how to promote "America First" foreign policies because President Trump aims to put "America and its interests first."

"Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid"

This order immediately stops foreign aid or assistance to U.S. allies for 90 days so the Trump administration can reevaluate current foreign assistance programs and decide whether to reallocate funds.

"Withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization"

Trump withdrew the U.S. from the WHO, citing "the organization's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic that arose out of Wuhan, China, and other global health crises" as well as frustration with the WHO's lack of recent reform.

"Clarifying the Military's Role in Protecting the Territorial Integrity of the United States"

This order creates security at the southern border by commanding the United States Northern Command to seal it and prevent illegal migration and trafficking across the border.

"Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program"

This suspends refugee admissions and applications, effective Jan. 27, to be reconsidered every 90 days. During this freeze, refugees will need to enter the country through a joint decision by the secretary of state and secretary of homeland security.

"Protecting the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship"

This order removes birth-right citizenship from children whose parents aren't U.S. citizens, saying these children aren't covered by the 14th Amendment.

"Securing our Borders"

Federal law enforcement are deployed to the southern border to prevent illegal immigration into the U.S. and crack down on prosecuting those who attempt to cross the border unlawfully.

"Restoring the Death Penalty and Protecting Public Safety"

Trump reversed the Biden administration's order to stop use of the death penalty, allowing the attorney general to pursue this punishment. State prosecutors are also encouraged to pursue the death penalty in relevant cases.

"Protecting the American People Against Invasion"

This order vastly increases the government's efforts to criminalize and deport illegal immigrants in the U.S., placing members of the Department of Homeland Security in every state. It also

calls for construction of detainment facilities for those awaiting deportation.

"Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists"

This requests the secretary of state to recommend whether cartels and other foreign operations should be labeled as foreign terrorist organizations, which would allow Trump to carry out the Alien Enemies Act of 1798. The act grants the president power to deport or detain members of named "enemy nations."

"Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats"

This orders agencies to take stronger precautions when screening immigrants for admittance into the U.S. and promotes the idea of a "unified American identity."

"Application of Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act to TikTok"

This order enacts a 75-day delay on the TikTok ban to protect business partners of the app, and to give the Trump administration more time to come up with a plan that saves TikTok while keeping American information secure.

"Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions"

Trump revoked 48 orders signed by Former President Joe Biden, as well as orders that promoted voter registration and discussed reshaping election maps.

In the order, Trump cites "the injection of 'diversity, equity, and inclusion,'" inflationary practices, "climate extremism" and border insecurity as actions of the past administration.

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CORRECTIONS

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

"DROUGHT"

CONTINUED FROM A1

The U.S. Drought Monitor classifies drought into five categories:

- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought
- D3 - Extreme Drought
- D4 - Exceptional Drought

According to the NIDIS, "The Drought Severity and Coverage Index [DSCI] is an experimental method for converting drought levels from the U.S. Drought Monitor map to a single value for an area. DSCI values are part of the U.S. Drought Monitor data tables. Possible values of the DSCI are from 0 to 500. Zero means that none of the area is abnormally dry or in drought, and 500 means that all of the area is in D4, exceptional drought."

Terhune said drought causes significant strain on farmers, putting stress on agricultural business, whether it's livestock or irrigating crops. Farmers with domestic water sources find themselves running out of water.

"Folks that are using... ponds or shallow wells, or creeks and rivers, if we are in drought conditions, if they're in moderate to extreme or severe drought, then the surface water is probably not going to be available," Terhune said. "They're going to be... using the groundwater."

Nate Bjerke-Harvey, co-owner of Piccalilli Farm alongside his wife Alison, grows an assortment of crops, calling himself a "farmer's market farm." He said the drought in Kansas directly affects his business.

"Well, we irrigate our crops, and we pay for our irrigated water," Bjerke-Harvey

said. "So, the primary implication for us in terms of impact on the vegetable end of our business has just been an increased cost for production with less rainfall."

In the last four years, Kansas drought conditions peaked in November of 2022 with a DSCI of 369. These conditions affect more than the land; Bjerke-Harvey said they affect livestock as well.

"The other piece of it is we operate a pasture-based management system for our poultry and our goats," Bjerke-Harvey said. "So, we manage a flock of about 300 laying hens and we do somewhere around 500 meat birds a year and turkeys and all that stuff. [The] lack of water has just meant less vigorous pasture growth for us. So, our rotation pattern is a lot faster than it had been previously just because we're exhausting pasture. Our animals are exhausting the available nutrients in pasture a lot faster. So, it requires quicker rotation and more intense management."

Katie Goff, geographic information systems coordinator at the Kansas Water Office, said the office created the Kansas Water Plan to mitigate drought effects.

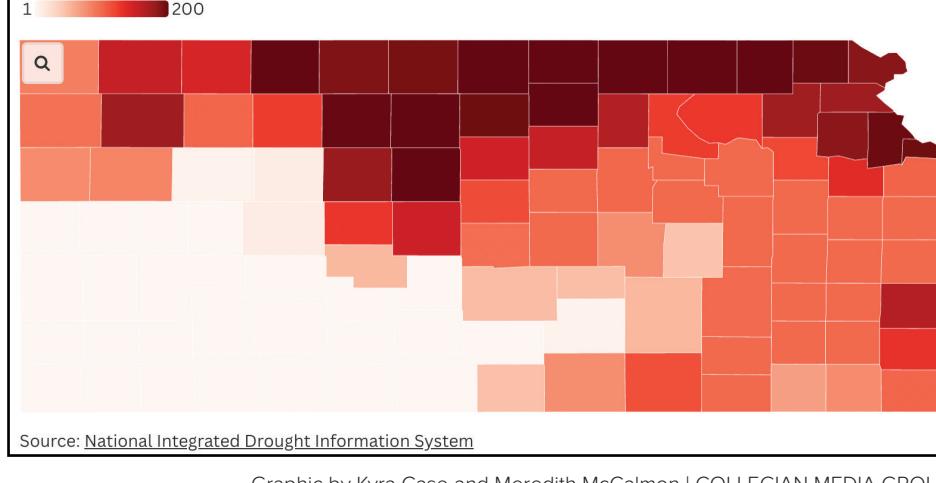
"The Kansas Water Plan is the overarching, comprehensive plan to address current water resources and then planning for future needs," Goff said. "So, we break it down into five guiding principles, so five topics, and each one goes more in-depth of how to plan for those topics into the future."

According to the Kansas Water Plan, the five guiding principles are to "Conserve and Extend the High Plains Aquifer," "Secure, Protect and Restore our Kansas Reservoirs," "Improve the State's Water Quality," "Reduce our Vulnerability to Extreme Events" and "Increase Awareness of Kansas Water Resources."

Bjerke-Harvey said on his farm, they've

Drought Severity and Coverage Index in Kansas

DSCI as of January 21, 2025



Source: National Integrated Drought Information System

Graphic by Kyra Case and Meredith McCalmon | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

adapted to produce high yields of crops even in dry conditions.

"We started with a dense clay loam in terms of soil variety that was in our vegetable production acreage," Bjerke-Harvey said. "But we've been using the same soil for about 10 years and through that intensive fertility management, we've gone from something that was not very fertile and didn't drain very well to something that has pretty great drainage and really high fertility. So the soil is not only a little more resilient to high rain events, it's able to hold the water better. But the flip side of that is during drought situations, it holds the limited irrigated water that we apply to it better."

Terhune said there are some policies enforced by the Department of Agriculture to help Kansas conserve water. Many surface water areas are covered under Minimum Desirable Streamflow.

"So, they're kind of set up with those permits the water-users have to where if there's a water shortage or the water table, in this case, the cricks, rivers or streams

that fall under MDS, fall below a certain flow, then our agency sends out orders to shut those folks off so that they can't pump anymore."

Terhune said it is difficult to employ MDS in western Kansas, where water sources are primarily wells from aquifers.

"They [KS Division of Water Resources] have allowed multi-year allocation tools, because they learned in a drought of 2011-2012 that if they didn't have something that allowed them [farmers] to pump over their authorized quantity, that all the crops would burn up," Terhune said. "... So now folks that are finding themselves in bad spots can utilize a Multi-Year Flex Account, is what it's called, to balance out their authorized quantity over multiple years."

Goff said even though drought primarily affects agriculture, it's an issue all Kansans should consider.

"A lot of our economy is from agriculture," Goff said. "Every little bit in our cities makes a difference."

ARTS & CULTURE

Welcome back 'Cats!

LIBBY ZUCK
arts & culture editor

Kansas State welcomed students back with plenty of opportunities to get involved on campus throughout the week of Jan. 21-24. Students were encouraged to start the semester off on the right note with events filled with prizes and future opportunities sponsored by the Union, including post-grad connections, an activities fair and many opportunities to stay connected.

A Warm Welcome

Tuesday | 9 a.m.-noon | K-State Union

To start the semester off early and on a positive note, the Union hosted an event with free coffee and an invitation to learn about the week's future activities. This gave students an opportunity to meet some new friends and grab a quick bite before class.

College Connections

Tuesday and Wednesday | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Campus

Various organizations and faculty had their doors open to talk about ways to get involved on campus. During these conversations students had opportunities to ask clarifying questions and receive resources according to their needs, provided by the university. Among the colleges present were the School of Arts and Science and the College of Business. This gave students the opportunity to connect with their professors and learn more ways to get involved on campus.

Basket Bingo

Wednesday | 6-8 p.m. | K-State Union

The Union Program Council department hosted its annual night of Basket Bingo where students can win a variety of prizes and university

themed baskets. Students were offered refreshments and a night of competing against their friends.

Activities Fair

Thursday | 6-8 p.m. | K-State Union

Hundreds of student organizations and clubs gathered in the Union for a table fair. There is an organization on campus for almost anything you can think of — hobbies, service, Greek life, academics and more! Fencing Club, Alpha Kappa Alpha and other organizations all attended this event in hopes of recruiting more members.

Study Squad Expo

Friday | 9 a.m.-noon | Hale Library

During this event students were offered complimentary pastries and coffee provided by Hale Library. Current students were able to connect with multiple campus offices and ask questions regarding student life or academics.

Music and Mocktails

Friday | 7-10 p.m. | K-State Union Courtyard

The Union Program Council department hosted a night full of fun. Attendees were given the opportunity to jam out in a silent disco with three DJs streaming a variety of genres for students to enjoy while sipping on a mocktail. Genres included pop, hip-hop and throwback jams. Throughout the night there were opportunities to enter in giveaways and play games for prizes varying in worth.

Those interested in information about future university-sponsored events can visit the Kansas State University Events page for upcoming events.

From the Archives

TV's original purpose

LIBBY ZUCK
arts & culture editor

is diminishing over time because of excessive viewing.

"Since ideas are presented in front of the screen, children who watch TV excessively cannot stimulate their minds or come up with fresh ideas on their own, thus passively consuming and not actively creating," the article states.

Children who are exposed to violent media and negative ideas through TV programs are more likely to lack focus and be unable to be imaginative. In today's society creativity is celebrated and a key component to some careers. This should be represented in TV programs.

Fresh said TV should "... demand creative participation rather than merely a passive response" in regard to children's interaction with programs. Creating programs with activity filled plots and interactive aspects can boost children's imagination instead of programs designed for passive viewing.

TV is curated to society and all its aspects, but in relation to children these themes should be muted and geared toward celebrating creativity instead of diminishing it from children's minds. Understanding that media is present in everyone's lives, not just those old enough to understand the hidden messages within the programs, is key to remember when allowing a child to have screen time.

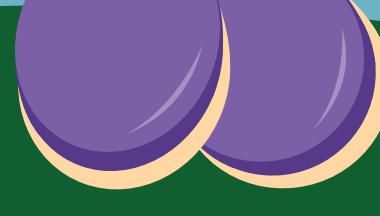
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WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO SPEND GAME DAY?
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Five first steps to start a company while in school

JPMorgan Chase & Co.
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Starting a business is a challenging task that requires a certain optimism, imagination and perseverance. While studying in school and preparing for your career, it's a smart idea to consider preparing for your own business and being your own boss. This idea can also flourish into a part time job that can help pay for college fees, or it could lead to your first full time job post college. Wearing the hat of CEO isn't easy, but it's attainable if you seek help from others who have wisdom on the do's and don'ts. Here are some important and key initial steps to consider:

1. Know the business in and out. Whether you want to sell homemade sauces, offer tutoring services to younger kids or start a dog walking company, you should know your product or service, the market you have and the competitors. Think about the talents you currently have. Are you a painter? If so, you could offer personalized crafts. Are you a musician? If so, you could teach others or play at formal events. Briefly and simply describe what your business consists of, what need or market it serves and who your potential clients are.

2. Create a business plan. A guide or roadmap focused on your business idea, the market and how you plan to reach your objectives, will not only help you open and face the challenges that exist in a business but also maintain it. Additionally, it will allow you to focus on your idea, see the path ahead and communicate it to potential investors. Agile start-ups only need the description of the proposal, what is needed, finances and potential clients.

3. Assess the need for financing and look for it. The business plan you created will help you. Many entrepreneurs initially use their personal credit card to fund a business, but there are actually business credit cards, like Chase's Ink Business Cash Card, that can help meet your needs while earning rewards like cash back on business purchases. In the beginning, you may start off asking for financial support from friends and family, or simply by using the money you've set aside. If you're looking to obtain a business loan, you can work with a bank or through the Small Business Administration. Alternatively, there may be public and foundation subsidies where you can do crowdfunding. You're never too young to start preparing for a bigger and brighter future.

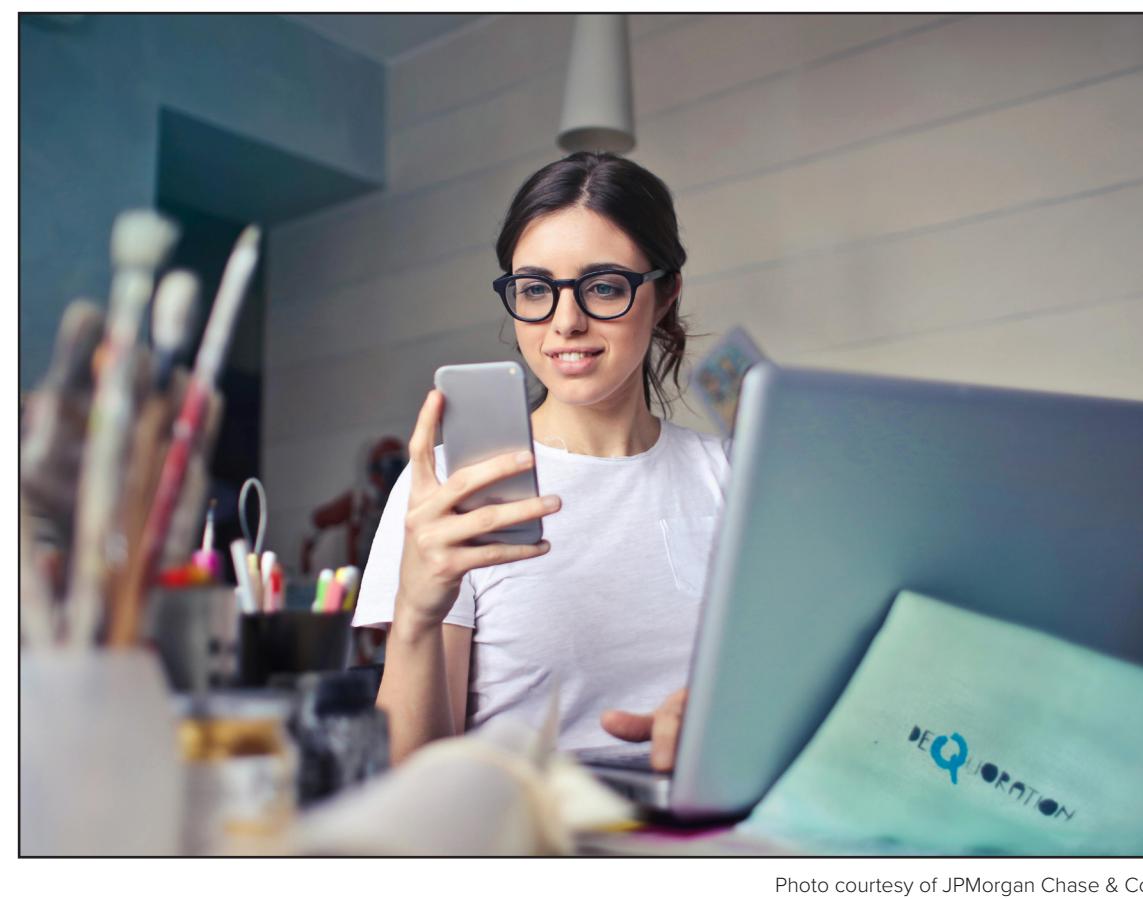


Photo courtesy of JPMorgan Chase & Co.

4. Determine the legal structure and register your company. This affects your tax obligations and legal liability. Some options include sole proprietorship, or Unipersonal Company -- one owner is responsible for the debts; partnership --if there are more than two people; corporation -- to separate personal responsibility from that of the business; LLC --or Limited Liability (the most common). Seek legal assistance to determine what structure is best for you and your business. Consider whether you should have an employer identifier number

among other things to keep tax obligations separate, and this is done through the IRS. Seek help from local organizations that are built to assist entrepreneurs, as well as speaking to other local business owners who you may frequent their business. People are more willing to help when they see you also have a vision and motivation.

For more information and tips on how to start and manage a business, reach out to your local Chase bank where you can learn more about your personal situation and be better

equipped to launch your business.

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vs. Kansas — Feb. 8 @ 1 p.m. — ESPN

Sports

Friday, Jan. 31, 2025

'Place of Pride' | AD Gene Taylor credits culture in K-State's athletic successes

EMMA WILEY
contributing writer

When Kansas State welcomed Gene Taylor in 2017, he wasn't looking to change the department overnight.

He met with every staff member and asked four simple questions from graduate assistants to senior leaders:

"What are we doing well? What are we not doing well? What do we need to keep doing? What do we need to stop doing?" Taylor said.

Many people value collaboration, and it builds a culture that appreciates people as much as game results. For Taylor, finding the right people is the key to success, and it involves more than just building great facilities or balancing budgets.

"Culture is critically important," Taylor said. "When you are looking for coaches, you want to make sure they understand the culture of which they are coming to. K-State has always been a place with pride, even if we don't have the biggest budget. It is that pride and passion that makes us successful."



Archive photo by Olivia Bergmeier | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
K-State head football coach **Chris Klieman** (left) and athletic director **Gene Taylor** (right) hold up a jersey with Klieman's name on it as he was welcomed to Manhattan on Dec. 12, 2018 as the next football coach. Klieman marked the first of many successful hirings for Taylor during his tenure at K-State.

Coaches like women's golf's Stew Burke have felt the strong effect of Taylor's leadership. After working at USC and Tulane, he came back to K-State in 2023 to take on the role of head coach for the women's golf team. Burke could not pass up the chance to lead a program rooted in family and support.

"When the opportunity arose to apply for the head-coaching position, it was honestly my dream job," Burke said. "K-State's family culture is something you don't fully value until

you leave it. That support makes all the difference."

Burke credits Taylor and many K-State athletic administrators for creating a strong environment that helps coaches excel.

"Our support staff truly are here to support our programs and give our athletes a world-class experience," Burke said. "That support allows us to focus not just on wins but on helping our athletes excel in the classroom and the community."

Culture's importance reaches beyond just

individual teams. Whether it be hires for volleyball, football or basketball, all are aligned with the departments' values.

"Every coach we've brought in understands the importance of our fan base and the pride that comes with being part of K-State," Taylor said. "They've been able to build their own cultures within their teams, but always with respect to what K-State represents."

SEE PAGE B3
"TAYLOR"

Wildcats in the NFL | Felix Anudike-Uzomah back in the Super Bowl, regular season recap

TREY THOMAS

staff writer

As the NFL season comes to a close at the 2025 Super Bowl, here's a look at some of the most notable Wildcats in the NFL this year.

Felix Anudike-Uzomah, DE, Kansas City Chiefs

The former Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year, Anudike-Uzomah has been in the NFL for two seasons, and now two Super Bowls, after being a first-round selection by the Kansas City Chiefs in 2023.

The second-year defensive end will look to earn his second championship ring in his young career. He had one tackle among his six defensive snaps as he helped the Chiefs earn a 32-29 victory over Buffalo in the AFC Championship.

Standing with a 17-2 record, the Chiefs attempt to make history as the first NFL team to win three championships in a row. Facing a fierce Philadelphia offense, Kansas City will need everything from its defense, including Anudike-Uzomah, to secure the historic win.

In last year's Super Bowl win, Anudike-Uzomah collected a four-yard tackle for loss. This regular season, he finished with 2.5 sacks, 27 combined tackles (16 solo/11 assists), a forced fumble and fumble recovery.

Ben Sinnott, TE, Washington Commanders

On the note of success coming early, the second-round rookie Sinnott and the Washington Commanders were one game away from a Super Bowl berth, falling to the Eagles in the NFC Championship last Sunday.



Archive photo by Macey Franko | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Defensive end **Felix Anudike-Uzomah** makes confetti angels on the field after winning the Big 12 Championship. K-State beat TCU 31-28 in overtime to win at AT&T Stadium on Dec. 3, 2022. Anudike-Uzomah was named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year and was a first-round draft pick as a junior, joining his hometown Kansas City Chiefs.

Sinnott made a big play in the NFC championship game, as the Commanders called upon Sinnott to catch a 23-yard pass on a fake punt — his first-career postseason reception — to earn a crucial first down.

Unfortunately for Sinnott and his teammates, Philadelphia had an offensive onslaught, winning the game 55-23 to secure a spot in the championship game. The Commanders finished their regular season with a 12-5 record.

Sinnott finished his rookie campaign with 28 yards off five catches, including a touchdown. Sinnott was second on the depth chart behind former pro-bowl tight end Zach Ertz, who shined this year despite being past his prime at 34 years old. With his rookie season in the books and Ertz's future with the

team still in the air, Sinnott could take a jump as an NFL sophomore.

Josh Hayes, CB, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Hayes, a sixth-round selection in last year's draft, made large strides compared to his first season in Tampa Bay. Hayes finished the season with 35 combined tackles (22 solo/13 assists) and a forced fumble.

Tampa Bay won its division and finished with a 10-7 record. Hayes recorded a game-high 11 tackles in his third start of the year and was in for 65 defensive snaps and 12 special teams plays in Week 17 when Tampa Bay clinched the NFC South title with a win over New Orleans.

SEE PAGE B3
"NFL"

K-State VB star Carter signs pro contract in France



Archive photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Outside hitter **Aliyah Carter** prepares for a serve at Morgan Family Arena during the 2024 season. Carter finished her K-State career first in the rally-scoring era with an average of 3.92 kills per set.

THE COLLEGIAN
staff report

Sensational super senior Aliyah Carter saw the curtains close on her captivating college career last semester, but the outside hitter's volleyball journey is far from over.

France's Terville-Florange Olympic Club announced the signing of the Kansas State star on Jan. 7. TFOC competes for the Confédération Européenne de Volleyball Challenge Cup, a professional European league.

Terville is a community in the Grand Est, Grand East in English, which is an administrative region in northeastern France, bordering Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany.

Before she signed to play in Europe, Carter sat down with K-State Athletics' D. Scott Fritch and detailed her time at K-State and the future of her career.

"I'd love to stay in the States. If that's not what I'm called to do, I'm going overseas," she said. "I'm playing more volleyball. I have enough left in me. I'm not done yet. I know I can get better at volleyball. Wherever I go, hopefully, I'll be playing some more, and hopefully my body keeps up with me. I'm excited for it."

In her debut with TFOC, Carter led the team to a reverse sweep with her 15 kills, 41% attack percentage and one block. To little surprise to followers of Carter's career, the team is 3-1 since her addition.

Carter first made a splash during her rookie season in Manhattan, earning 2020 Big 12 Freshman of the Year honors. From then on out, the trophy case overflowed as she became one of the most decorated players in the nation over the last five years — and arguably the greatest volleyball player in K-State history.

She finished her career as a four-time Division I All-Region First Team by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, becoming the first student-athlete in K-State history to earn all-region recognition four times in a career.

Carter set a program-record 12 conference weekly awards and was first in the rally-scoring era with an average of 3.92 kills per set. Overall, Carter finished second all-time in total kills (1,839), total points (2,040.5) and in career matches with 20 or more kills (26).

SEE PAGE B3
"CARTER"

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

No. 11 K-State heads to Lawrence for star-studded Sunflower Showdown

BY THE NUMBERS

K-STATE

3-POINT %
39%
1st in Big 12

OPP. 3-POINT %
22%
1st in Big 12

T/O's / GAME
12.5 T/O's
2nd in Big 12

KANSAS

3-POINT %
32%
9th in Big 12

OPP. 3-POINT %
37%
13th in Big 12

T/O's / GAME
13.6 T/O's
4th in Big 12

132nd rivalry meeting:

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

No. 11 K-State (19-2, 7-1)

Kansas State women's basketball is coming off its game against Iowa State, which was not complete at the time of writing.

Before the matchup with the Cyclones, K-State stumbled offensively at Colorado, suffering its first Big 12 loss. K-State's star scorers will have to lead the team back on track without Ayoka Lee.

Senior guard Serena

Sundell has continued her career-long consistent play, and taken leaps even further. Sundell, the nation's leader in total assists and assists per game, will look to control the pace of play.

Senior forward Temira Poindexter got off to a sharp-shooting start in Big 12 play, recording 45% from three-point land in those games. With Lee still injured, Poindexter may be asked to create and score even more.

Kansas (13-6, 3-6)

Kansas is off to a slow start in Big 12 play this season but has a chance for a big upset win over its rival. The Jayhawks have plenty of talent and can beat anyone on any given night, which gives them a chance to stay in the race to play in March.

The Jayhawks are led by sophomore guard S'Mya Nichols, who averages 20.3 points per game in Big 12 play. Nichols was an All-Big 12 first-team performer last

year as a freshman and took another step forward this year. The All-American candidate will be at the top of the Wildcats' scouting report.

Next to Nichols is guard Elle Evans for KU, who averages 15 points per game in conference play. At Colorado, Evans scored 28 points and hit seven triples in the contest. Evans is a 6-foot-3 guard, which will help the Jayhawks match up against K-State's length.

WHO TO WATCH:

K-STATE: G Serena Sundell, F Temira Poindexter

KANSAS: G S'Mya Nichols, G Elle Evans

PREDICTION:

68-60 K-STATE



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

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"TAYLOR"

CONTINUED FROM B1

Building a strong program comes with challenges. K-State Athletics faced COVID-19, and coaches and staff had to adapt. In the college sports landscape, the rise of many NIL deals and multiple revenue-sharing arrangements are introducing new challenges, and these developments are changing the way players, schools and fans interact with the sport.

"The change in college athletics has been tremendous," Taylor admitted. "But we've learned to adjust and find a way to stay competitive while doing things the right way."

Burke believes these challenges strengthen the department. Recruit-

ing top talent and navigating the college landscape relies on a constant foundation of family and support.

"It's about finding people who fit into the family culture we've built here," Burke said. "When you have that, success follows."

Taylor arrived in Manhattan in 2017 after serving as North Dakota State's AD from 2001-2014, followed by a three-year stint as Iowa's deputy AD. Since then, the athletics department has seen great success, highlighted by top-tier hiring by Taylor.

First, upon his hire, Taylor was given the daunting task of a replacement hire for the legendary Bill Snyder. He landed on head football coach Chris Klieman, who has led the Wildcats to join Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, Notre Dame, Ohio State and Oregon as the only teams in the nation to win at least

nine games in each of the last three seasons.

Taylor hired head baseball coach Pete Hughes in 2018. Hughes' squad defeated top-seed Arkansas in the Fayetteville Regional last season, earning the Wildcats' first Super Regional berth since 2013.

At Bramlage, Taylor hired head men's basketball coach Jerome Tang who earned the 2023 Naismith Coach of the Year award after an Elite Eight berth in his first season.

Jason Mansfield, head volleyball coach, took the program to new heights in his first season leading the Cats. In a program record, K-State took down five Top 25 opponents, including a sweep of the eventual national champion Texas Longhorns.

In his first year, Burke saw the Wildcats earn three individual ti-

titles for the first time since 2017-18, including two from junior Carla Bernat. During this fall season, the Wildcats earned three top-two placements, marking the most for an entire season since 2014-15.

K-State's most recent hires, track and field and cross country director Travis Geopfert and soccer's Colleen Corbin will look to follow suit with early successes.

On top of hiring, K-State Athletics built new facilities and built trust, pride and collaboration under Taylor's leadership. As the Wildcats continue to compete on bigger stages, it's clear that culture and staff support aren't just ideals at K-State; they're the keys to its success.

"Someday I'll look back and hopefully smile," Taylor said. "Maybe I had a little bit of an impact on K-State Athletics."

"CARTER"

CONTINUED FROM B1

This season, against Iowa State, Carter became the seventh player in school history to tally 30 or more kills in a match, following her 32-kill performance. She finished the match with a career-high 36 points — the fourth-most all-time in K-State history. Her 87 attacks against the Cyclones set a five-set match program record in the rally-scoring era. She was one of only four Big 12 student-athletes this season to achieve

a 30-kill match.

Carter knows her No. 2 jersey will go down in Little Apple history.

"I've been telling [head coach Jason Mansfield], 'If somebody wants to come in here and wear the No. 2, make sure they earn it first,'" she said. "I don't want my jersey to be sitting on the bench. When somebody wears the No. 2 or they think of what I did on the court, I just want people to think, 'She's a killer. She kills the ball, she gets up high, she puts it down. She had a great energy.' I've been telling Jason, 'Make sure no freshman comes in and tries to wear No. 2. I want this jersey to

be passed onto someone great.'

Likewise, she'll always hold a special place in her heart for Manhattan and the K-State community.

"I just really want to emphasize the community here has made me feel so welcome and loved. I wouldn't change it for the world. I never would say I ever wanted to transfer or stop playing volleyball. Everyone in Manhattan has always been so welcoming and loving toward me. I mean, I wouldn't change it for the world. I love Manhattan ... I'm going to keep playing, and I'm going to keep doing it for K-State."

K-State finished her super senior

season 10-17 with an 8-10 mark in Big 12 play. While the ending didn't go according to plan for the Wildcats, she still left it all out there.

"I'm going to miss the competitor she was and every point wanting to win," Mansfield said. "The effort is always there, and she's one of the best competitors I've ever been around. She's really tried this whole season to take her game to the next level ... When you're in your fifth year and in the middle of the season when it gets tough, she's been focused and competitive. That's all you can ask for."

"NFL"

CONTINUED FROM B1

In Hayes' two years with the Buccaneers, Tampa Bay made the playoffs, both of which followed a Big 12 Championship in 2022.

This year, the wild-card round was where the Bucs met their demise, losing to the Commanders 23-20. Hayes had four combined tackles in his last game of the season.

D.J. Reed, CB, New York Jets

The Jets did not meet expectations of the 2024-25 season, finishing 5-12 and missing the playoffs. Although the season had struggles, Reed was one of the bright spots on the team. The upcoming free agent finished with 64 combined tackles (52 solo/12 assists), four tackles for loss and one sack.

Reed is one of the top free agents in this upcoming offseason. The high-graded corner could be in a

new uniform for next season.

Tyler Lockett, WR, Seattle Seahawks

Lockett also missed the playoffs as the Seahawks barely lost their division and the wild-card round with a 10-7 record. The veteran receiver finished with 600 receiving yards off 49 receptions and two touchdowns, failing to clear 1,000 receiving yards for the first time in four years.

Lockett will enter his 11th year in the NFL next year, and he and his wife Lauren are expecting their first child during the offseason. The former All-Pro is past his prime, as he turns 34 this year, having one more year left on his contract with the Seahawks.

Cooper Beebe, C, Dallas Cowboys

Beebe, a third-round rookie, was the Cowboys' starting center all season and collected 1,059 offensive snaps. As a team, the Cowboys had an underwhelming year, missing the playoffs with a 7-10 record. Injuries seemed to plague Dallas, especially its offensive linemen.

Thankfully, Beebe managed to stay healthy and finished a productive rookie season with just three penalties and three sacks allowed. Beebe and the Cowboys will look for a bounce-back season under new head coach Brian Schottenheimer, who was the team's offensive coordinator.

Cornelius Lucas, OL, Washington Commanders

Lucas, a 10th-year pro, finished the regular season by playing in 14 games with seven starts, seeing time on 48% of the Commanders' offensive snaps. Lucas and Sinnott fell just shy of a Super Bowl berth.

Dalton Risner, OL, Minnesota Vikings

In his sixth NFL season and second with the Vikings, Risner played 77% of offensive snaps and earned eight starts during the regular season despite missing the first seven games of the season.

JuJu Brents, CB, Indianapolis Colts

Brents, a 2023 second-round pick, has seen several injuries during his career. He opened the season oozing with potential as he finished Week 1 with seven combined tackles (3 solo) against Houston.

In that game Brents suffered a knee injury, sidelining him for a majority of the season. He came back to play in the season finale — a 26-23 home win over Jacksonville — but was in for only six defensive snaps and one special teams play before leaving due to injury.

Brents finished the season with seven tackles, which all came in the first game of the year. The Colts concluded the season with an 8-9 record. Brents will have to showcase his skill in the next coming season once he's healthy again.

Deuce Vaughn, RB, Dallas Cowboys

Vaughn, a sixth-round selection last year, finished the year on a high note as he rushed six times for 37 yards during Dallas' 23-19 home loss to Washington.

It was Vaughn's seventh game played this season, finishing with 70 yards on 17 carries for the 7-10 Cowboys.

Skylar Thompson, QB, Pittsburgh Steelers

Thompson, who signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers on Jan. 14, finished the season by going 21-of-33 through the air for 187 yards and rushed once for four yards during his three games played, with one start for the Miami Dolphins before his release.

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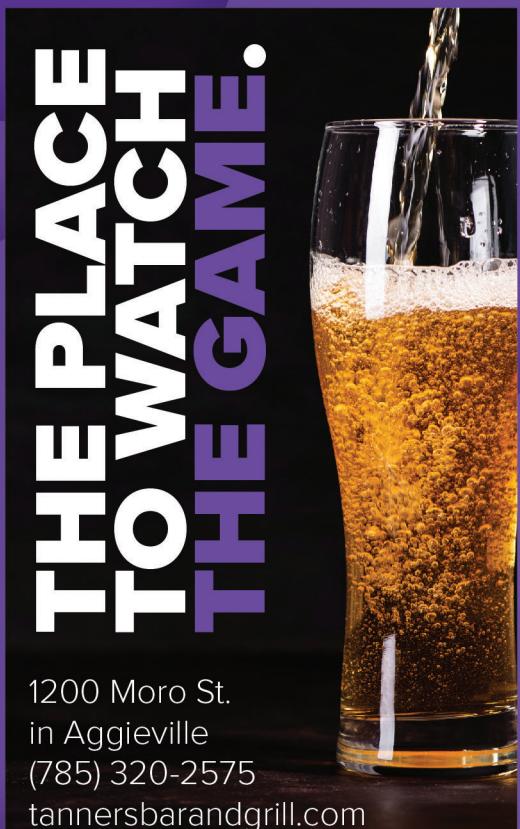
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