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K-State Gardens offers tulip extravaganza during university Open House.

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WEATHER

FRIDAY 64/44 SATURDAY 63/46 SUNDAY 56/40



THE KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

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APRIL 18, 2025

'Bottom versus top' | Annual K-State Drag Show rallies community to protect minorities



Photo by Grace Parks | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

K-State Union Program Council hosted the Midwest Princess Drag Show on April 12, 2025, at McCain Auditorium. The annual Drag Show is sponsored by SAGA and UPC.

KAITLYNN FABER

staff writer

"I don't know if you know, but we've had some shit go down in the country since I last saw you a year ago," Monica Moree, drag queen and emcee for Kansas State's 21st Annual Drag Show, said to a packed McCain Auditorium on Saturday. "Now what the f*** are you going to do about it?"

Between the dazzling death drops, powerful

performances and even a standing ovation for the stage worker who did a jump split while picking up cash between sets, the annual show is a stage for empowerment as much as it is a call to action.

Moree's comments during the charity show — which raises money for K-State's LGBTQ students and is matched by Adobe for up to \$10,000 — are in response to recent government policies affecting LGBTQ rights.

According to an article from NPR, federal agencies are deleting references to women, people of color and members of the LGBTQ community from their websites in compliance with President Trump's executive orders removing "diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility policies."

The American Civil Liberties Union is tracking 569 anti-LGBTQ laws in the U.S., with five of those bills being in Kansas.

"We are here to raise

money for queer and trans students fighting for survival in a world that too often tries to erase them," Moree said. "This drag show is more than just a performance, it's an act of care, of defiance and of solidarity."

In the name of defiance and solidarity, the show started off a little differently than it traditionally has this year: with a land acknowledgement.

SEE PAGE A3
"DRAG"

The Driver Era kicks off collegiate tour at K-State



Photo by Grace Parks | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Ross Lynch throws up a Powercat during The Driver Era performance at Bramlage Coliseum on April 11.

LIBBY ZUCK
arts & culture editor

The Union Program Council hosted its annual spring concert for K-State students and members of the Manhattan community on April 11 at Bramlage Coliseum with opener Caroline Kingsbury and performers The Driver Era.

The Driver Era consists of a band of brothers, formerly R5, performing a mix of their music, including their newly released album, "Obsession." Ross Lynch also did a solo performance from "Teen Beach Movie 2" called "On My Own" taking the audience back to their pre-teen days and reminiscing on their childhood crush.

"My roommates and I love live music, so attending this concert was a no-brainer when we saw who was performing," Kaitlyn Bennett, freshman in communications sciences and disorders, said. "I am really excited because this is an activity we can do all together."

SEE PAGE A3
"TOUR"

Miss K-State competition celebrates diverse women across campus

LEXI STUDEBAKER

staff writer

The Delta Upsilon Fraternity hosted its 12th annual Miss K-State contest on April 8. The competition was created by Delta Upsilon alumnus Russel Harp to help celebrate the women of Kansas State and all organizations to which they belong. Nineteen organizations had candidates this year, including all of Greek life as well as On the Spot Improv, Women in Business and Sales Ambassadors. Grant Moffitt, vice president of philanthropy for DU, said Miss K-State reaches out to organizations beyond Greek life.

"I emailed 67 organizations this year," Harp said. "We don't want to discriminate at all, because we want to celebrate every woman and not exclude anybody."

Each woman is nominated

by her organization to compete for the 2025 Miss K-State title and a monetary prize.

"Upon winning, they receive a \$500 scholarship as well as a blank \$200 check that they can send to any nonprofit that they want to," Harp said.

Each contestant participated in three rounds of competition: Wildcat Pride, Talent and Career. The first round showcased each girl's passion for K-State and her organization. Every contestant dressed in K-State pride and ignited the room with excitement as each group cheered on its representative. The talent round quickly followed and showcased various unique skills ranging from singing to juggling. The final round focused on career aspirations and how contestants represent them on stage. They were judged on their creativity and confidence



Photo courtesy of Ashlynn Brady
Member of Sigma Kappa sorority,
Ashlynn Brady, is crowned Miss K-State 2025.

throughout the competition by four female judges from various departments on campus.

After 2 hours of competition, Ashlynn Brady of Sigma Kappa was crowned 2025 Miss K-State.

SEE PAGE A2
"MISS"

Student Showcase | K-State hosts annual Open House

KYRA CASE

news editor

Hundreds flocked to Kansas State's annual Open House on April 12, showcasing several academic exhibits from across the college. According to the university's website, it was a "chance to take the next step in your K-State journey," and learn all there is to know about campus.

Some took this event as an opportunity to teach others about their culture. Thuria Mossa, an Arabic professor at K-State, used the Open House as a teaching tool about stereotypes and preconceptions.

"I wanted to show people, especially — like a lot of people — they don't really have ideas about the Middle East," Mossa said. "Their opinions or their ideas are really through the media. And it's really a stereotype. We don't really get

publicity through the media. I'm here to show where it started, where mankind started or even in the Bible that — it's where humankind started and it's all in the south part of Iraq."

K-State's Open House was first hosted in 1969 and is considered the college's biggest annual event, tracing its roots to other college events such as Home Economics Hospitality Day, Engineers' Open House and Ag Day — which dates back almost 90 years.

Dalton Green, junior in psychology, said he and his department used this as a way of showing what the psychology department stands for.

"When it comes to the psychology department itself, we really value the mental health of all K-State students, whether they're psychology students or not," Green said.

SEE PAGE A2
"HOUSE"

WEEKLY CALENDAR

18	Hoppin in the Hops: Adult Easter Egg Hunt — A&H Farms	18	Drifters Mile — Auntie Mae's Parlor	19	Downtown Spring Open House — Downtown Manhattan
19	Paint the Park — City Park Skate Park	19	Sunflower Dance Festival — Kansas State University Ballroom	19	Base to Books: Military Families and K-State Libraries — Hale Library

K-State Gardens offers tulip extravaganza during university Open House

JAKOB TWIGG
website manager

An extravaganza of color blanketed the walkways of the K-State Gardens, showcasing over 8000 purple and pink tulips in full bloom. Hundreds of community members and Open House visitors enjoyed the windy afternoon on April 12, as professional gardeners educated them on the local and regional flora.

Director of the K-State Gardens, Scott McElwain, said the Open House perfectly coincided with the tulip bloom this year.

"Every year, we are open during K-State Open House, and we'll have volunteers scattered throughout the garden answering questions," McElwain said. "The last few years, we've been doing it in extravaganza, and that's when our tulips are at their peak bloom. It gives us an opportunity to invite people to take photographs of them and the families make con-

tributions to the gardens."

For a \$30 donation, visitors could have their picture taken with the blooming tulips or with the Easter Bunny in a family-oriented egg-extravaganza area.

At the event, K-State's student horticulture club sold bedding plants, such as free marigold and an array of annuals, herbs and rare house plants. Club president Carter Dewey said the proceeds fund the club's annual trip to the National Collegiate Landscape Competition.

"NCLS is normally over spring break, and we'll do something fun at the beginning of the week," Dewey said. "You then have a big career fair that is horticulture-based with a lot of landscape companies, and then you have actual landscape competitions. ... It's a really fun time and a really good learning opportunity."

McElwain said the gardens receive over 80% of their funding from private dona-

tions and annual fundraisers.

"The gardens are free and open to the public, and they are not part of the university's budget," McElwain said. "It's an outdoor living learning laboratory for students, but it's also a community garden that's open to the public to come in and have a relaxing experience. We have so many people that are new to our community that can come in and learn about plants in the region, they're trying to build their landscape in their new home."

Cheryl Young, Friends of the Gardens president, said the K-State Gardens is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2025 with a yearlong series of events, including the upcoming "Run for the Roses" 5K on April 26.

"We have the 5k run and the 1k walk, so if people don't want to run, they can walk," Young said. "We could have in the neighborhood of five to 700 people just running, and then we have a lot of other people

to come and participate and just look around. We'll have face painters, we'll have Willie the Wildcat and we'll have part of the K-State marching band. We have celebrity runners — President Linton, Adam Walker from the alumni association and more."

Young said the Friends of the Gardens want more stu-

dents to know the gardens are always free and open to the public.

"We want the students to feel that they can come here as well ... it's not just for older people, but for the students as well," Young said. "They are welcome to get involved with the gardens, it's just a nice place to come and hang out."

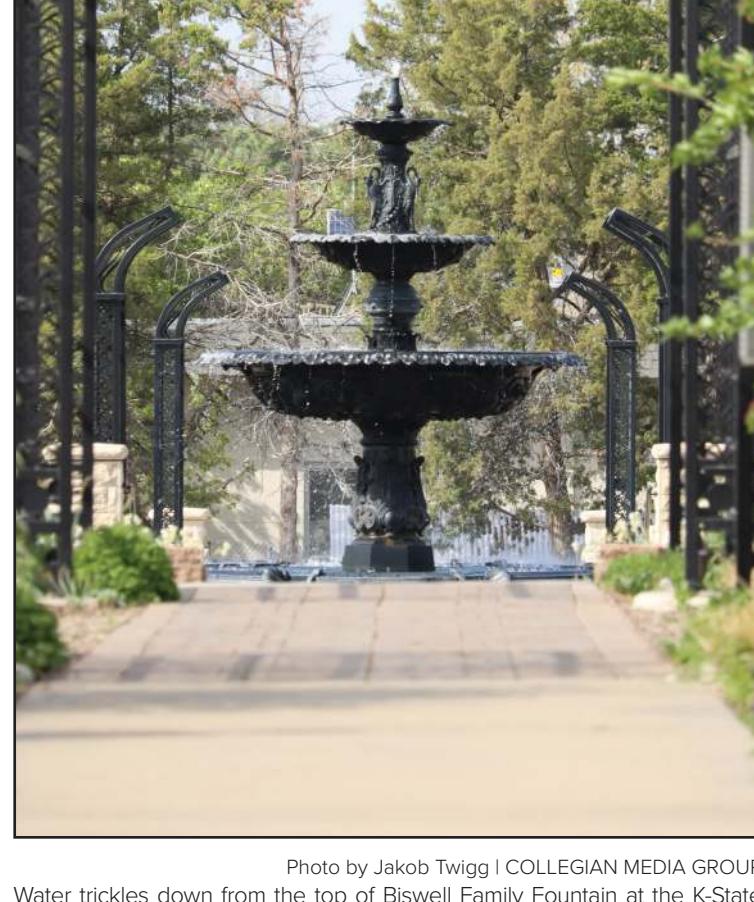


Photo by Jakob Twigg | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Water trickles down from the top of Biswell Family Fountain at the K-State Gardens on Wednesday, April 16. The fountains were donated to the garden from the family of Orville E. Bidwell in 1996.

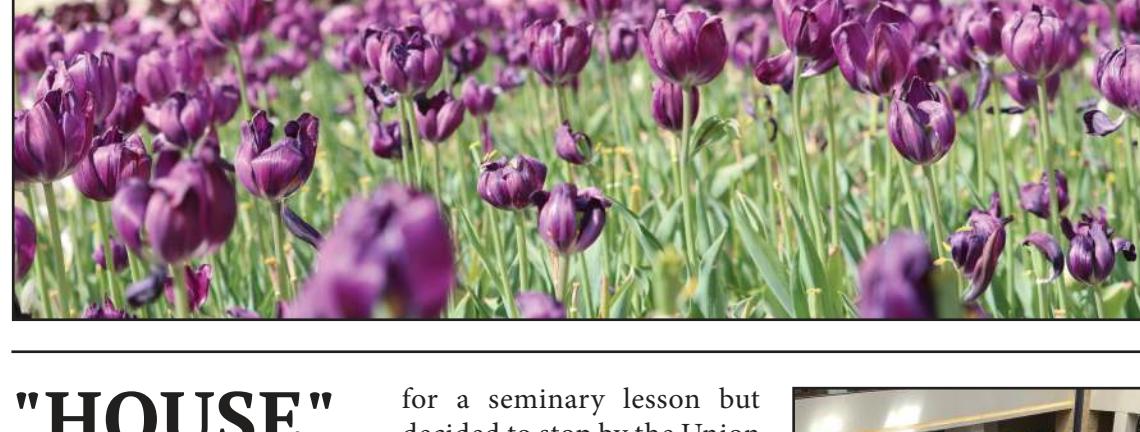


Photo by Jakob Twigg | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Flowering purple tulips line the path at the K-State Gardens. In Kansas, tulips bloom from late March to early May.

"HOUSE"

CONTINUED FROM A1

"Which is why we have those resources like CAPs at Lafene or the various hotlines that students call in the middle of a crisis. So it's a very big priority of our department here and a message we really like to spread to anybody that we can."

Out-of-town visitor Linda Couri said she was going to go to speak at St. Isidore's

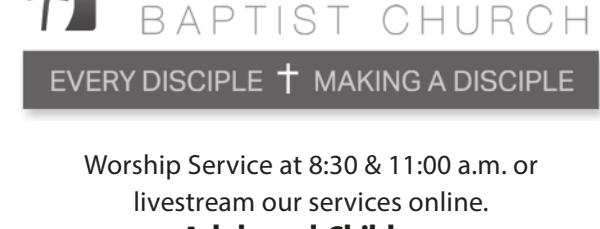
for a seminary lesson but decided to stop by the Union — the Open House's central hub — with her son.

"He was looking for Kansas pajama bottoms, which you don't have," Couri said. "That's what we're doing in the Union, just kind of wandering around. It's the Midwest, so everyone tends to be really happy and friendly and really kind. It's just been really welcoming here. ... It's nice to see all the schools displayed, so I like to show my son all of the different options he has."



Photo by Kyra Case | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

K-State hosted a campus-wide open house on April 12. The event included displays of various colleges and organizations in the Union Courtyard in addition to other buildings on campus.



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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 colebertelsen@kstate.edu

"TOUR"

CONTINUED FROM A1

The concert lasted for over an hour, with the pop band performing a variety of genres and entertaining

the crowd. The Driver Era was wowing the audience through throwing guitar picks and insane guitar riffs. The proceeds from the concert go toward the K-State Campus Entertainment Fund and student funding through SGA and the UPC.

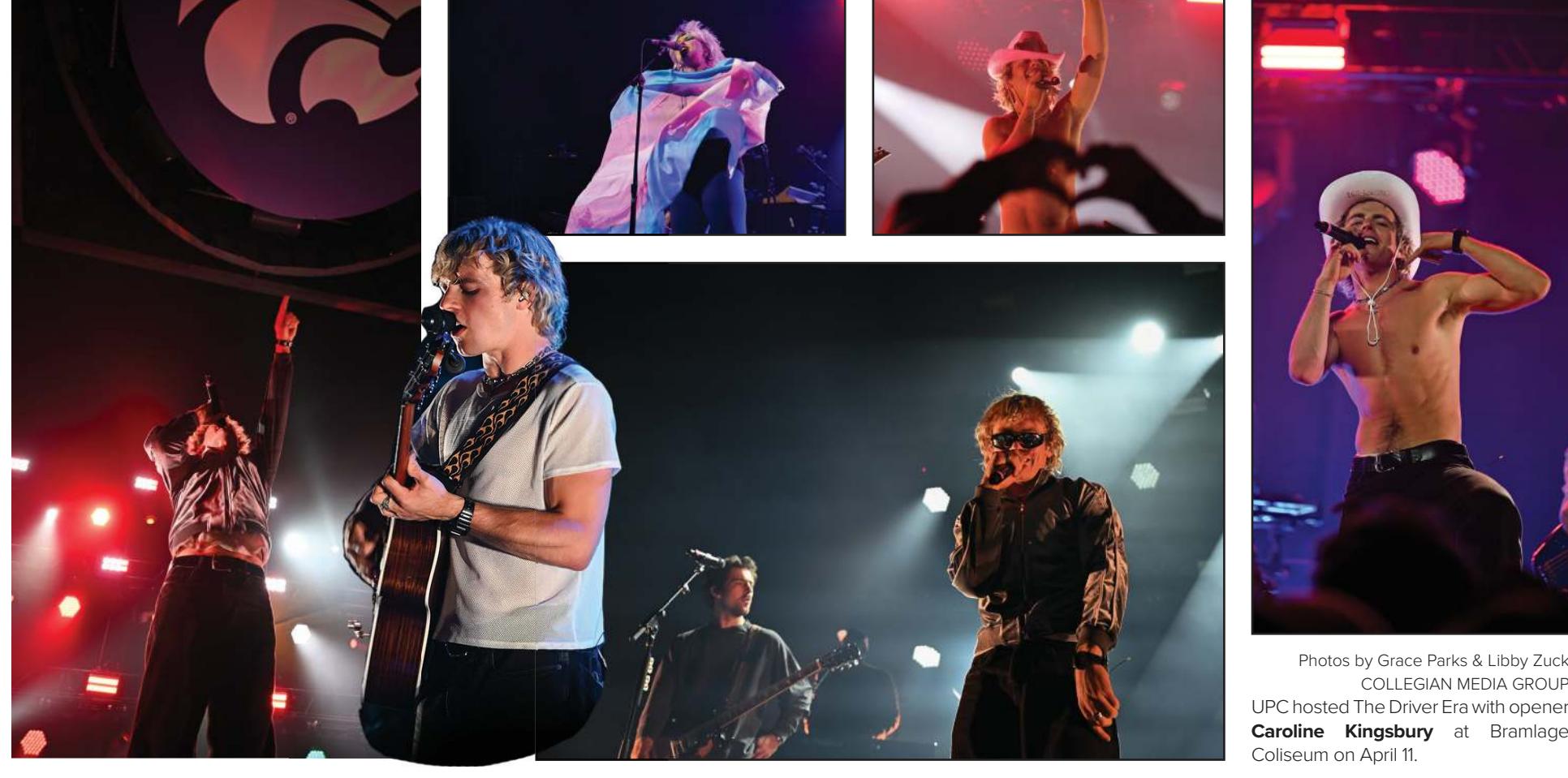
"I have been obsessed with The Driver Era for years," Tatum Tindall, freshman in news and sports media, said. "This is my fifth concert of theirs; I am a die-hard fan. I have seen Ross Lynch throughout his entire career from Austin & Ally, to Teen

Beach Movie and R5, I have always been a fan."

The opportunity to see live music was not missed by K-State students, with hundreds of Wildcats camping outside Bramlage for a chance to see the band perform. Students rushed to

the barricades when the doors opened for just a glimpse of a shirtless Ross Lynch.

"I think this is such an awesome way to raise money for K-State and the Manhattan community, and I will never forget this experience," Tindall said.



Photos by Grace Parks & Libby Zuck
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
UPC hosted The Driver Era with opener
Caroline Kingsbury at Bramlage
Coliseum on April 11.

"DRAG"

CONTINUED FROM A1

"We haven't done these not because it wasn't important or it didn't need to be done, but because I felt like the act was performative in the way that

it was delivered ... they don't actually admit that we did anything," Moree said. "We have the government taking away things from us that we have just always come to believe were solid and secure. And so instead of reading a land acknowledgement, I've decided ... to read a

treaty acknowledgement. I want to acknowledge the land beneath us, not just as a stage, but as a place with a long history of relationship, resilience, and struggle."

Moree acknowledged the Kaw nation, Kanza people, Osage, Pawnee and other indigenous nations that lived in

the area long before Kansas was on a map, and highlighted how treaties "were not just broken, they were weaponized."

"Today, the Kanza Nation has no land in the state that bears their name, and many treaty obligations remain unfulfilled and untreated," Moree said. "Treaties are not history,

they are living agreements that demand justice, and tonight as we gather in joy and resistance, we carry this forward. ... Let this night be of abundance, of shared responsibility, and of lifting one another up, because justice is not given, it is fought for."

[VIEW FULL ARTICLE ONLINE](#)

"MISS"

CONTINUED FROM A1

She said her DU coach, Thomas Patton, supported her throughout the competition.

"It was really fun!" Brady said. "He basically said

yes to everything, and we committed to the bit. We did everything, and he was a great confidence booster along the way — super encouraging."

Brady's favorite part of the competition was her Wildcat Pride round, where she dressed as Bill Synder — wig cap and all.

"It was really funny, and then

just getting to speak from my heart about why Sigma Kappa has been an important part of my college experience," Brady said.

She is an active member of the K-State community and recommends girls considering competing to start getting involved in their community. She is a Cat's Cupboard

ambassador, as well as a Girls on the Run coach, which has allowed her to volunteer, reach out and connect with the community.

"Don't be afraid to go out and try new things, new experiences and be a leader in the community," Brady said. "That's what gave me the

confidence — the volunteering and meeting new people. It became a foundation to be able to represent on stage as well."

Brady will continue volunteering her time at Cat's Cupboard throughout her time in Miss K-State role, alongside studying to finish her degree in May 2026.

Four accounts to open after college

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Graduation signals new beginnings. After you collect your diploma, you might be moving to a different location, entering a graduate program or starting a new job. Even if you haven't finalized your post-graduation plans yet, you're closing a major life chapter.

During this next stage of your journey, it's also time for a fresh financial start. Your student accounts might not be the right fit anymore for your new financial needs, wants and wishes, and you might want to start adding investments to the mix.

If you're ready to graduate to new financial responsibilities, here are four types of accounts to consider.

Checking account

You might have opened your first checking account in college and used a student-focused account with low or no fees, and other benefits for those new to banking. Depending on your bank, your student account could convert automatically to a basic checking account once you graduate or reach a certain age.

If you've never had a checking account or want to switch to a non-student account, look for features that would appeal to many younger adults, like ATM reimbursements or low fees for non-network transactions.

Accounts without monthly fees can be helpful if you're worried about maintaining a minimum balance or having a regular direct deposit to avoid fees — common scenarios if you don't have a full-time job yet or have gig jobs that

don't offer a regular paycheck.

Savings account

It's never too early to build good budgeting habits, and putting money in a savings account on a regular basis is the simplest way to start. As with your checking account, look for a savings account with low or no fees to keep costs down — you don't want to hamper your savings goals by losing your money to monthly fees.

A savings account connected to your checking account can make it easier to save as well, as you can set up transfers to move your money automatically at regular intervals. You can also look for high-yield savings accounts, money market accounts or CDs, which will offer higher interest rates than a basic savings account. In the case of a CD, keep in mind that there may be penalties for withdrawing money before a specific date.

Credit card

Many students take advantage of the numerous credit card offers that abound on college campuses to get their first card. If you've made your monthly payments on time and used your card responsibly, your credit limit might have risen and you might not need to get an additional card after graduation.

If you are in the market for a new card, look for ones with benefits like cash back, airline miles or points for your routine purchases. You might qualify for cards with a lower interest rate as well if you have a good credit history.

Even if you're ready for a new credit card, don't be so quick to close your student card. The length of time you've had an account open plays a significant role in your credit score, and you want those years to count.

Retirement accounts

It can be difficult to think about planning for your 60s when you're in your early 20s, but this is likely a good time to begin saving for your future.

If your job offers an employer-sponsored retirement plan, consider enrolling and contributing money from each paycheck.

Your employer might match up to a certain percentage of your contribution, giving you money to put toward retirement. Even if you change jobs, you can likely rollover the money you've saved into another retirement

account with your new employer or into a retirement account you open on your own separate from your employer.

The bottom line

As you plan for life after college, think about what's important for your financial future so you can spend, save and live according to your values, and have the right accounts to help achieve your short and long-term financial goals.

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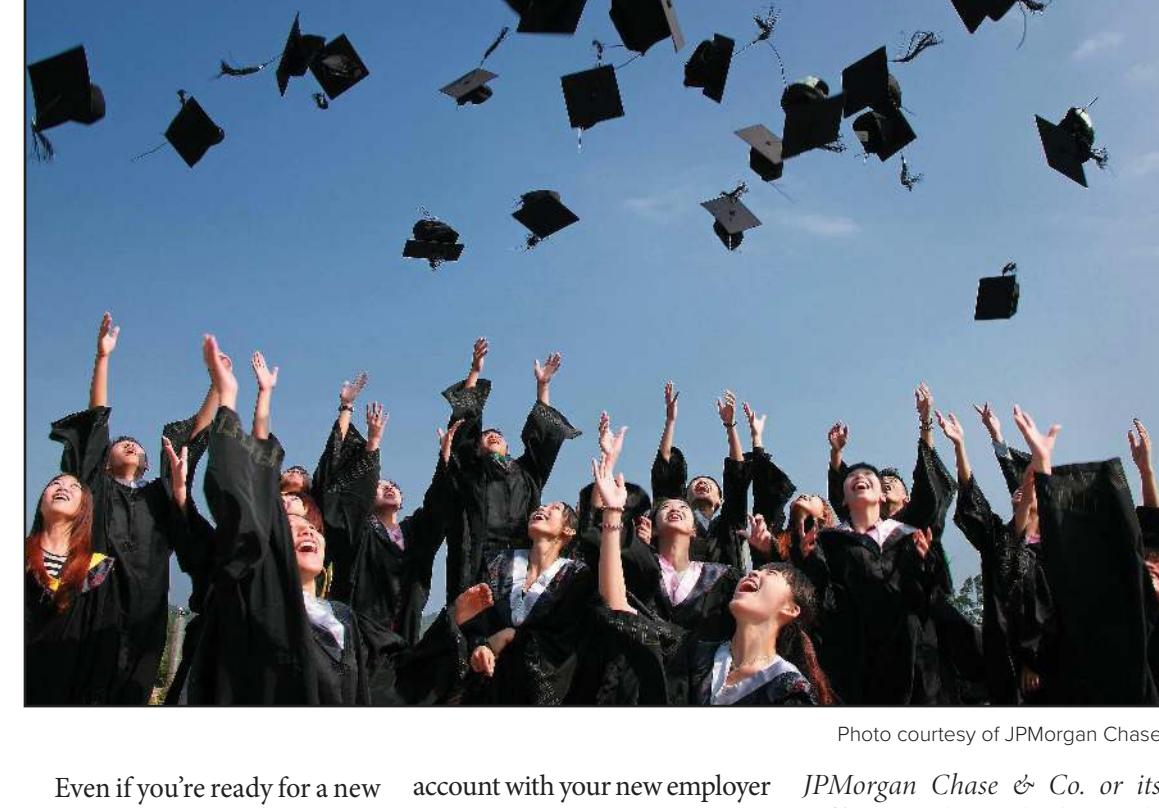


Photo courtesy of JPMorgan Chase

THINK LOCAL

Printing the past for the present

EMMA LAZARCYK
marketing/PR manager

Sharing the rich history of Indian art and printmaking with students, the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum hosts Printing Beyond Borders: Contemporary Indian Prints at Kansas State University.

Brought to the museum by printmaker and former head of Kansas State art department Charles Stroh, his findings are displayed to immersively portray his travels throughout India in the 1980s.

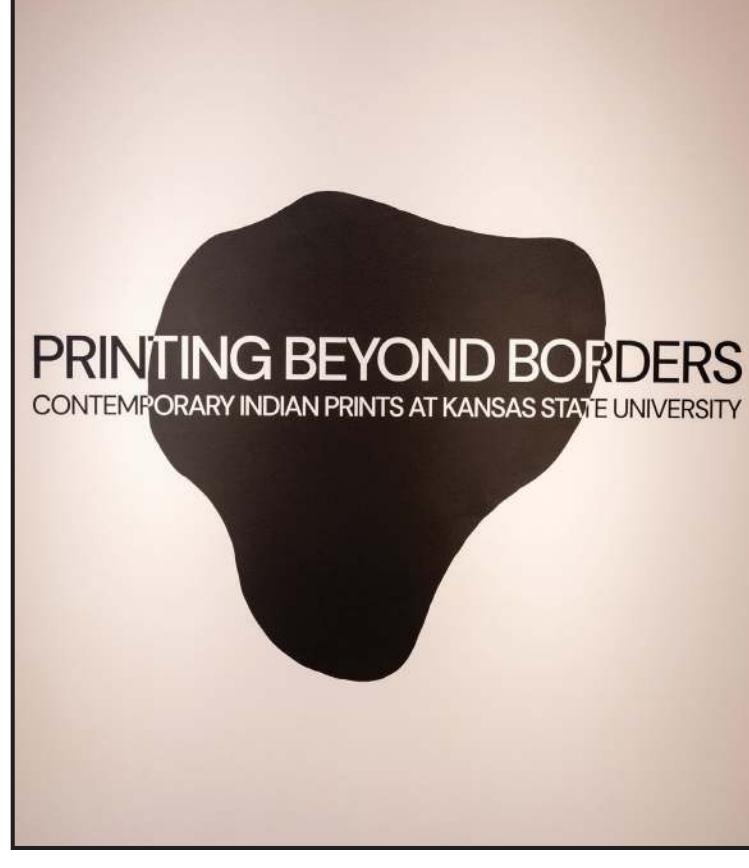
"His interviews with them [Indian artists], as well as his residencies at prestigious Indian art schools, established a vibrant cultural network encompassing the Midwest and India," museum director Kent Michael Smith said. "This exhibition highlights the contributions he made to place Kansas within the global art world."

Smith said the exhibition highlights the traditions of 20th century Indian printmakers and their connections to art globally.

"It honors the role that academic curiosity and personal relationships — such as those formed by Charles Stroh — can play in building international bridges through art," Smith said.

This exhibit, among others, supports the educational and outreach goals of the university.

"Through exhibitions,



research, and programs, the museum creates connections between regional art and broader global perspectives," Smith said. "Many [K-State] professors incorporate museum visits into their curriculum to enhance student engagement through direct interaction with original works of art and unique artist perspectives."

Along with college levels, tours are offered to individuals of all ages and can be geared toward specific areas of study.

Wrapping up its exhibition time, this immersive exhibit will leave the art museum May 31.

Those interested can visit the Kistler Beach Museum of

Art today to be transformed to 20th century India, and visit <https://beach.k-state.edu/explore/exhibitions/printing-beyond-borders.html> to learn about other current exhibitions that may interest you.

"Museums are places for curiosity, personal reflection, and new perspectives," Smith said. "Whether you're drawn to the beauty of the work, the story behind it, or the questions it raises, your experience is valid. Art museums aren't about having the 'right' interpretation — they're about making connections, and those connections are different for everyone."



Photos courtesy of the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum

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Sports

Friday, April 18, 2025

K-State's Sundell drafted to WNBA's Storm, Poindexter signs with Phoenix

THE COLLEGIAN
staff report

Kansas State baseball has sat atop the Big 12 rankings for the past two weeks and is in the middle of its best stretch of the season.

Kansas State guard Serena Sundell was selected with the 26th overall selection and the first pick of the third round of the 2025 WNBA Draft by the Seattle Storm on Monday night, followed by senior Temira Poindexter signing as an undrafted free agent.

Sundell became the ninth player in school history to be selected during the WNBA Draft, 12th player overall to become a part of the league and the first since Breanna Lewis in the 2018 season.

"I'm just excited and full of gratitude," Sundell told ESPN reporter Holly Rowe. "I'm excited to be on this big stage and for the opportunity that's about to come."

Seattle finished fifth in the WNBA in 2024 with a regular season record of 25-15 and lost in the first round of the 2024 WNBA playoffs. Sundell will play in the same city as her brother, Jalen, who is an offensive lineman with the Seattle Seahawks.



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Guard **Serena Sundell** (4) returns to K-State's side of the court during a timeout in the first quarter against Baylor on Feb. 25 at Bramlage Coliseum. The Wildcats fell to the Bears, 79-62. Sundell finished her K-State career as the program's all-time assist leader.

"My parents are thrilled," Sundell said. "I'm thrilled. It'll be perfect."

Sundell, an AP All-America honorable mention selection, led the nation with a career-high and school record for total assists and was the nation's leader in assists per game at 7.28.

The product of Maryville, Missouri, was second on the team in scoring average with 14.1 points per game. Sundell was the only player in the nation this season and the

BASEBALL

@ Kansas — April 18-20 —
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vs. Wichita St. — April 22
@ 6 p.m. — ESPN+

senior, McGriff became one of the top sixth men in the country, averaging 11.6 points and four rebounds per game off the bench, helping take the Seahawks to the NCAA Tournament.

Here is a look at a few guys K-State is also interested in for next year and some other players that would likely be good fits in a Wildcat uniform.

Marcus Millender, 5-foot-11 PG, sophomore, UTSA

Millender, a point guard from UTSA, gained a lot of attention from universities in the portal — one being K-State. Millender could be the replacement for Dug McDaniel, who entered his name in the transfer portal this week.

A 2025 All-Big 12 First Team, she registered a career-high eight double-doubles this season.

She was the first Big 12 player since the 2022-23 season and the fifth player in program history to register a triple-double with 26 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds against USC Upstate on Dec. 5, 2024.

In her career, Sundell holds the school records for career starts (139) and games played (139). She holds the school record and ranks fourth in Big 12 history for career assists with 811 and is second in program history for career assists per game (5.83 apg). She ranks sixth on the K-State career scoring list with 1,771 points. She ranks tied for seventh in school history for career blocks (104).

SEE PAGE B3
"WNBA"

K-State BSB drops a pair midweek at Northeastern

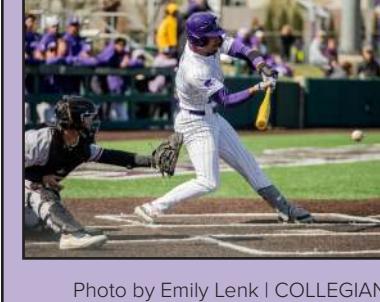


Photo by Emily Lenk | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

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

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Kansas State baseball hit the road to face Northeastern in a two-game series, falling 11-4 and 5-3 on Tuesday and Wednesday.

A pair of losses to Northeastern (27-9), who will most likely be an NCAA tournament team, won't take a large toll on K-State's RPI. However, it's still two games the Wildcats would have liked to win.

"I thought we pitched well enough to win today, but unfortunately, we didn't play well enough to win," head coach Pete Hughes said to K-State Athletics on Wednesday. "We created opportunities but didn't take advantage of them. We also created opportunities for the other team to score. That was the difference in the game."

In Game 1, it looked like a powerful lineup was back for K-State, scoring three runs in the first inning on home runs from Seth Dardar and Keegan O'Connor. However, after the first, the Wildcats only scored one more run while Northeastern took advantage of some costly 'Cats errors.

VIEW FULL ARTICLE ONLINE

PORTAL WATCH | K-State MBB roster changes

WHO'S IN?

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Over the last few days, Kansas State lost a handful of players to the transfer portal, making the upcoming weeks vital to filling out next year's roster.

K-State won't return anyone from last year's main starting lineup, so finding players in the portal that can play at a high level is key for head coach Jerome Tang and staff.

Tang added Monmouth transfer Abdi Bashir Jr., a 6-foot-7 shooting guard who averaged 20.1 points, 2.6 rebounds and 2.2 assists across 33 minutes per game as a sophomore last week.

This week, K-State added Khamari McGriff, a 6-foot-9 forward who spent all four years of college at UNC Wilmington. A rising redshirt



Photo by Emily Lenk | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Guard **Dug McDaniel** interacts with head coach **Jerome Tang** in the regular-season finale on March 8 at Bramlage Coliseum. McDaniel entered the portal on April 11.

WHO'S OUT?

TOBY HAMMES
sports editor**BRAYDEN MESEKE**
staff writer

Kansas State point guard Dug McDaniel reportedly entered the portal on Monday, marking the Wildcats' biggest loss to the portal this season.

McDaniel, a former Michigan transfer, averaged 11.4 points and 4.9 assists per game for the 'Cats and played his best basketball toward the end of the season. While it was a down season for K-State, his strong finish had many fans hopeful for next season.

With the departure of McDaniel, K-State is down to four returning players on the roster next season, not including Tyreek Smith and Max Jones, who still need waivers

to play next year. Returning players include C.J. Jones, Mobi Ikegwuruka, David Castillo and Taj Manning.

If Jones doesn't receive his waiver, with the departure of McDaniel, K-State will lose its entire starting line-up from last season. The Wildcats will have to look to the transfer portal for some more talent to fill out their roster for next year.

Big men Baye Fall and Ugonna Onyenoso also made their entrance into the transfer portal on Monday.

After two years with Kentucky, Onyenoso played in 24 games with two starts for K-State. The 7-foot center played in 11.1 minutes per game, tallying 2.8 points, 2.4 rebounds and 0.9 blocks.

SEE PAGE B3
"WHO'S OUT?"



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Head coach **Jerome Tang** works with center **Ugonna Onyenoso** (34) against Houston on Jan. 11. He will transfer after his lone season in Manhattan.

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Wildcats and Jayhawks meet in highly anticipated Sunflower Showdown

BY THE NUMBERS

K-STATE

ERA

5.49

11th in Big 12

ERRORS

48

9th in Big 12

TOTAL HRs

63

2nd in Big 12

KU

ERA

4.89

4th in Big 12

ERRORS

34

1st in Big 12

TOTAL HRs

78

1st in Big 12

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

K-State (23-14, 10-5)

Kansas State got a much-needed series win over UCF last weekend to get back on the right track. However, the Wildcats dropped two midweek games this week against Northeastern before traveling to face their rival, Kansas.

Seth Dardar is back in the lineup for the 'Cats after a minor injury made him miss the series against Oklahoma State. Dardar was a run pro-

ducer for the 'Cats this year with 25 RBI. He also has seven home runs and could add to that in KU's hitter-friendly park.

Left-handed pitcher Jacob Frost had a rough outing last time out against UCF, but should be more motivated to pitch well this weekend. Frost has been the Friday starter for K-State all year and typically takes the role with a consistent presence at the front of the Wildcats' starting rotation.

KU (28-10, 9-6)

Kansas comes off a tough weekend series against TCU where the Jayhawks got swept. KU got back on track midweek against Wichita State as KU scored 18 runs in its win. KU's offense will try to stay hot against the pitching staff of the Wildcats.

KU is led by first baseman Brady Ballinger — one of the best hitters in baseball this year. Ballinger has 12 home runs and slashes .387 at the plate, making him a dangerous threat. He

is a left-handed hitter, and with K-State usually starting three left-handed pitchers, his offensive performance could get slowed down.

Kansas pitcher Dominic Voegele was the preseason Big 12 Pitcher of the Year. Voegele hasn't had the season he may have wanted, tallying a 6.19 ERA so far. Voegele is susceptible to the long ball, giving up 10 home runs on the season, something the Wildcats will look to take advantage of in Lawrence.

WHO TO WATCH:

K-STATE: 1B Seth Dardar, LHP Jacob Frost
KANSAS: 1B Brady Ballinger, RHP Dominic Voegele

SERIES PREDICTION:

2-1 WILDCATS

SETH DARDAR



Photo by Adeline Stuhlsatz | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

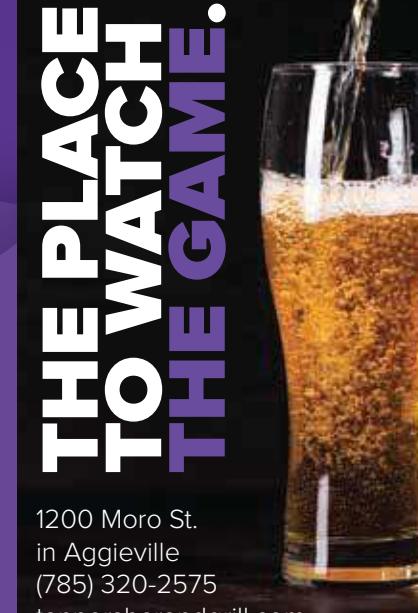
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"WNBA"

CONTINUED FROM B1

She was the first player in school history and the 14th in NCAA Division I women's basketball history with 1,700 or more career points and 800 or more career assists.

After going undrafted, senior Poindexter signed a free agent contract with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury, becoming the fourth player in program

history to sign a free agent WNBA deal.

"They called me and said, 'We want you really bad,'" Poindexter said to K-State Athletics. "My agent told me they had been keeping up with me since my Tulsa days. It made me feel really good that they had a lot of interest in me. It gives me a little confidence."

In her lone season in Manhattan, Poindexter garnered All-Big 12 Third Team honors. She registered 451 points (12.5 ppg) on a career-high 45.5% from the field.

The product of Sapulpa, Oklahoma

shot a career-high 40% from three-point range and while making a career-high 92 three-pointers (92-of-230). She also notched a career-high 43 steals. Her 92 three-pointers ranked third in a senior season in program history and fifth in program history for any single season.

In K-State's second round NCAA Tournament win at Kentucky, Poindexter carded a season-best 24 points on 8-of-15 shooting from long range, six rebounds and six blocked shots. She set the school record for 3-point field goals made in an NCAA Tournament game.

Poindexter completed her collegiate career with 2,011 points on 43.1% shooting, including 33.6 percent (273-of-813) from 3-point range. She also pulled in 583 rebounds (4.5 rpg), dished out 260 assists (2.0 apg), blocked 184 shots (1.4 bpg) and pocketed 133 steals (1.0 spg).

K-State concluded the 2024-25 season ranked 13th in the AP Poll, establishing new single season records for points (2,842), assists (763) and blocks (206).

"WHO'S OUT"

CONTINUED FROM B1

Fall, a 6-foot-11 center, didn't see much playing time during his freshman campaign with Arkansas, averaging 0.8 points and 1.3 rebounds per game. The storyline

for his sophomore season in Manhattan wasn't much different, seeing action in four games with a 2.5 points and 1.5 rebounds average.

Lastly, on Thursday, one of two high school signees, Ashton Magee announced he is reopening his commitment. The 6-foot-7 forward was going to make his college debut in Manhattan next winter.

According to 247sports, he is ranked as the No. 3 player in Mississippi and No. 67 small forward in the country.

Fall and Onyenoso departing left K-State with no centers currently rostered. Beginning in 2025, Division I men's basketball teams will be capped at 15 scholarship spots, an increase of two from previous years.

All together, K-State's scholarship count is fluid as Max Jones and Tyreek Smith are looking for waivers to play next season. With the big men exiting, K-State has seven individuals, not including Jones or Smith, from 2024-25 currently expected to be in Manhattan.

"WHO'S IN?"

CONTINUED FROM B1

Last year at UTSA, he averaged 14.9 points and 3.3 assists. Millender shot 43.8% from the 3-point line, and would bring help with ball handling and shooting for the 'Cats.

Ante Brzovic, 6-foot-10 F, senior, Charleston

Brzovic is another player K-State contacted in the portal this year. He was a senior last year at Charleston, but applied for a waiver to continue his college career because he started at a Division II school, much like K-State's Max Jones and Tyreek Smith.

Brzovic averaged 18.4 points per game last season and has good height, potentially playing at the four or five for K-State with his athletic ability. Last year at Charleston, he shot a respectable 32% from the 3-point line, making him a tough matchup.

Jestin Porter, 6-foot-1 G, senior, MTSU

Another guard K-State looked at in the portal, Porter has plenty of experience after playing two years at a junior college and three at Middle Tennessee State.

Porter averaged 15 points per game last year and would be another guy who could put the ball in the hole for Tang and the Wildcats.

Jacob Dar, 6-foot-7 F, senior, Rice

Dar has great length and high potential with a lot of Power Four schools interested in him. Dar would be a nice wing piece that could play defense both inside and on the perimeter.

Last season at Rice, Dar averaged just 7.5 points per game but has high major athleticism, and should he transfer to a Power Four team, his game would translate nicely.

Chase Forte, 6-foot-4 G, senior, South Dakota

Forte is an impact player who would immediately compete for the

best scorer title at K-State. He has great height at 6-foot-4, and as impactful as he is on offense, he is no slouch on defense either.

Forte averaged 17.8 points per game last season for South Dakota. He also recorded 4.4 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 1.9 steals per game. The 'Cats should love his two-way ability.

Jalen Shelley, 6-foot-8 F, freshman, USC

Shelley is a former top-100 recruit of the 2024 class who could be a solid fit at K-State. While it is unclear if the Wildcats are interested in him, taking a shot on a player with untapped potential and athleticism may be worth a look.

At USC, he played sparingly, which may be the reason he ended up in the portal. Shelley is versatile and would be a good fit at any place he ends up.

Papa Kante, 6-foot-10 C, freshman, Pittsburgh

Kante is one of the few remain-

ing centers in the portal who hasn't found a new home yet. The Wildcats will need some bigs because of the departure of Ugonna Onyenoso and Baye Fall to the portal.

Kante is broad-shouldered and brings a 7-foot-4 wingspan with great rim protection. While he gained a lot of attention out of the portal, if K-State were interested in him, it could sell him on lots of playing time due to the need for a big.

Mathieu Grujicic, 6-foot-5 G, Freshman, FC Barcelona

Grujicic isn't a transfer player but instead an overseas player in whom K-State shows interest in bringing onto the squad. He played lots of high-level basketball overseas and would bring needed experience to K-State.

Grujicic is a good shooter and quickly climbed up the international ranks as one of the top young promising players. The Wildcats staff may be interested in a few international players because of the amount of open spots left on their roster.

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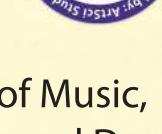
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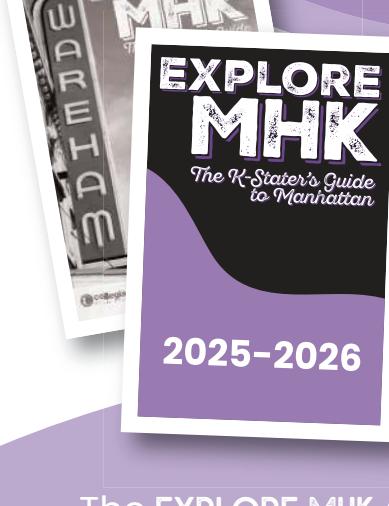


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