A K-State professor is conducting research on the longterm dangers of radiation exposure to the body.

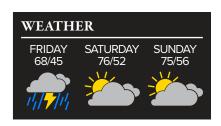
### A4 - ARTS & CULTURE

Manhattan Brewing Company partners with Jackalope Bookstore for a Grown-Up Book Fair with local brews.



#### **B1 - SPORTS** Wyatt Thompson, Voice of the Wildcats, was inducted into the Solomon Gorilla

Hall of Fame on Sept. 5.



### HE KANSAS STATE OLLEGIAN

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 12, 2025

### Top takeaways from President Linton's **2025 State of the University Address**



Photo by Lilly Crist | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

President Linton held a press conference after the State of the University Address where he answered further questions about the plans.

### MEREDITH MCCALMON

editor-in-chief

**JENNA FISCUS** 

State President Richard Linton gave his annual State of the University Address on Friday, Sept. 5. The presentation, held in McCain Auditorium, shared plans for the 2025-2030 Campus Master Plan and discussed university achievements from the previous Campus Master Plan, which ended this year. the balconies on the front of

Here are important takeaways Linton shared about previous initiatives and plans for the next five years at K-State:

### **Anderson Hall overhaul**

Anderson Hall, home to K-State Administration, will undergo renovations to the building's exterior.

"The idea is to be able to make the investments into Anderson Hall, right now on the outside of the building, and bring it back to where it was 100 years ago with

the building, and take away the cars," Linton said in his address. "This is the place where we hope faculty, staff, students and alumni come to congregate, they come to remember these incredible memories that they've had, and are having, at Kansas State University."

The proposed plan would turn Mid-Campus Drive into a pedestrian walkway and includes updates to Anderson Lawn, as well as updates to Bosco Plaza, including a new student pavilion.

"A major focal point will

now be Anderson," Linton said. "It transcends through Bosco Plaza, and we will highlight the opportunity to be able to connect with Ahearn in this beautification and redo of Bosco Plaza."

#### Achievements in student recruitment/retention

"When I came to this university three-and-a-half years ago, there were three major challenges put before me," Linton said.

> SEE PAGE A3 "STATE"

### Volunteers and first responders give back in remembrance of 9/11

**DIANA PIEDRA** 

staff writer

The Flint Hills Volunteer Center distributed 400 pairs of children's shoes on Sept. 7 as part of their 9/11 Day of Remembrance event to help families prepare to send their children back to school, Flint Hills Volunteer Center Executive Director Lori Bishop said.

"There were 2,997 lives lost on September 11, 2001," Bishop said. "In 2002, family members of those killed and injured on 9/11 joined with first responders and others to create 9/11 Day to annually and forever encourage all Americans to remember and pay tribute on the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks through acts of service, including volunteerism, and to keep Americans' promise to 'Never Forget."

Bishop said local first responders fitted the shoes for the children.

"Kids today weren't even born yet when 9/11 happened, so gathering like this gives us the chance to pass on the lessons of unity, resilience and gratitude," attendee Amanda Yenzer said.

According to the Flint Hills Volunteer Center website, attendees were served a picnic by the Riley County Police Department, given a 'Hope Tote' with a new pair of socks for their children and first responders brought along their emergency vehicles and equipment for display.

"The kids especially enjoyed getting to know them [first responders] a little better and having the hands-on experience of exploring the vehicles," Yenzer said. "The demonstrations, like the bomb equipment and the K-9 unit, were such an added bonus."

"This meaningful event brings together local first responders and community volunteers," Bishop said. "The event highlights the power of community service, with first responders personally fitting each child with a new pair of shoes-fostering both hope and confidence as the school year



figure Charlie Kirk assassinated at university event

Conservative



his "You're Being Brainwashed" tour.

MEREDITH MCCALMON editor-in-chief

Charlie Kirk, conservative speaker and founder of Turning Point USA, died Wednesday after being shot in the neck during his event at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. He was 31.

According to a post on X by UVU, "Campus police is investigating, a suspect is in

However, the suspect taken into custody was not the shooter. Police are still searching.

According to posts on UVU's X account, the university closed immediately and canceled classes. It also instructed UVU students to call campus police for an escort off

The shooting happened while Kirk engaged with an audience for 'The American Comeback Tour,' where college students debate Kirk on political and social issues.

Kirk brought the similar 'You're Being Brainwashed Tour' to Kansas State on Sept. 13, 2024. Slated to begin at noon, Kirk did not arrive on campus until 12:29 p.m. He was permitted to use sound-amplifying devices from 12-1 p.m., but he went over time, and his microphone was turned off around 1:20 p.m.

Brody Zwiebel, senior in advertising and public relations, attended Kirk's event at K-State and said he does not "want to give 'thoughts and prayers."

"My immediate thoughts are that while it's a tragedy, there was a loss of life when you spent a lifetime making millions of dollars shilling for government officials and foreign nations that commit global atrocities," Zwiebel said. "I find it hard to have sympathy when something like this happens."

Zwiebel said he does empathize with Kirk's family that will "grow up without a father and husband."

"I also think this will only lead to more vitriolic political discourse over the coming years, and it will become a breaking point for both sides of the aisle," he said.

K-State alumnus Joe Ackerman also attended Kirk's event at K-State.

> SEE PAGE A3 "KIRK"

Photo courtesy of the Flint Hills Volunteer Center

After getting fitted for shoes, a young child gets to explore the firetrucks at the event (top).

In honor of the 9/11 tragedy, first responders assist in giving away shoes to those in need in the Manhattan community (bottom).

WEEKLY CALENDAR 12 Flint Hills Praisefest 13 Symphony on the Plaza — Legally Blonde, The Musical — Blue Earth Plaza Manhattan Arts Center — Cico Park 13 13 16 Theology on Tap -Dog Days of Summer — Park & Play: Movie Night at the Studio Liquid Art and Winery Estate - MHK Play Studio Rockin K's











## K-State reseacher studies long-term effects of radiation exposure in the the workplace

staff writer

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, everyone is exposed to radiation every day, primarily from natural background radiation, which is present in soil and other man-made sources. Dr. Amir Bahadori, the nuclear engineering program director and professor in the department of mechanical and nuclear engineering at Kansas State, said there are some professions that receive exposure every day.

Bahadori specializes in radiation protection, working to "implement methods to ensure that people are adequately protected from the health effects of ionizing radiation."

"I started here at K-State as an undergraduate and worked at the [nuclear] reactor, and through that process I became interested in [this work]," Bahadori said. "Then I did graduate work at the University of Florida, and after that I ended up working at NASA's Johnson Space Center on astronaut radiation protection."

X-ray techs, flight crews and similar occupations receive more radiation than most people experience in their day-to-day lives, Bahadori said. While there are regulations in place to protect people from the immediate negative effects of radiation exposure, scientists wonder how this exposure will affect people over a lifetime of work. Because of this, Bahadori and other scientists have been working on a large study to understand how chronic exposure to radiation affects

A key aspect of this work is its connection to the Million Person Study, a study conducted by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. Bahadori said the project aims to bridge the gap in understanding the long-term effects on populations exposed to low levels of radiation by studying a group of approximately one million people across the United States who were workers and veterans of the 20th century.

Although this study is a long and ongoing process, scientists have begun to see some results and have published those findings, Bahadori said, one being that radiation exposure may increase the risk of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's, though he said those findings have yet to be completely proven. One goal of the Million Person Study is to understand a "dose-response relationship" in order to develop models to inform health officials of what regulations should be in place regarding radiation exposure.

"One of the main limitations of those types of models is that the data from them is based on the atomic bomb survivors ... most of the exposures that we're concerned with now are occupational in nature," Bahadori said. "They usually experience their radiation exposure over a 20 or 30-year career."

Similarly, Bahadori said while regulations adequate protection, regulators are always looking for ways to improve radiation protection practices. For instance, many European countries track the amount of radiation



Photo courtesy of Kelsie Jones

Dr. Amir Bahadori observes student project work in the nuclear engineering program's lab.

exposure flight crews experience, Bahadori said. The U.S. does not.

Bahadori said scientists want people to be comfortable with things such as nuclear power or medical exams that involve radiation.

"We want to know what people are worried about while, at the same time, hopefully providing some context to the things that

we're doing around these sorts of technologies," he said.

Members of the community are free to come to the reactor center during events such as the University Open House and ask questions.

"We want to have that dialogue to try to put some answers to questions that people may have," he said.

### Residents voice their opinion on recent construction

**DIANA PIEDRA** staff writer

The recent reconstruction

on the roads at Ninth and

the surrounding area to be taken by surprise. Kody Helms observed the parking and general travel paths of nearby

Thurston caused residents in residents were being negatively affected.

> Helms, senior in marketing and professional strategic selling at Kansas State and a

resident in the neighborhood, said that they did not receive a notice or warning of any sort prior to the construction.

"It was a little inconvenient for parking space because our back parking lot is usually full, so to have to move them [vehicles] around from not being in the front anymore was kinda frustrating," he said.

Helms said the city of Manhattan should prioritize their focus and resources more on the "high traffic highways" rather than residential areas. He believes that by doing that, the city will avoid this inconvenience for others in the

Another resident in the area. Reece Keller, master's student in public health, had a different opinion from Helm's regarding the city's attention to road maintenance.

"I think they are all city streets and they all need

to be well kept, and it [the intersection] definitely needed attention," Keller said. "I have noticed there are other roads that also need attention, but I am grateful that they did the construction."

Contrasting disapproval of the absence of notification, Keller said not receiving notice prior to the roadwork wasn't a crucial inconvenience to him.

"Truthfully, I could just go around the block," Keller said.

The City of Manhattan issued a post on Facebook sharing the results of the roadwork, which received comments from residents who had opinions on where the city should be prioritizing its roadwork. The post acknowledged future plans for more construction at Fifth and Fremont, Sixth and Fremont, and on Fifth Street from Fort Riley Boulevard to Yuma Street.



Photo courtesy City of Manhattan Facebook

A front-row look ath the post-construction state of the Ninth and Thurston intersection.

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The Mission of the Collegian Media Group is to use best practices of journalism to cover and document life at Kansas State University from a diverse set of voices to inform and engage the K-State community.

The Collegian welcomes your letters. We reserve the right to edit submitted letters for length and style. A letter intended for publication should be no longer than 600 words and must be relevant to the student body of K-State. It must include the author's first and last name, year in school and major. If you are a graduate of K-State, the letter should include your year(s) of graduation and the city and state where you live.

For a letter to be considered, it must include a phone number where you can be contacted. The number will not be published. Letters can be sent to letters@ kstatecollegian.com or submitted through an online form at kstatecollegian.com.

Letters may be rejected if they contain abusive content, lack timeliness, contain vulgarity, profanity or falsehood, promote personal and commercial announcements, repeat comments of letters printed in other issues or contain attachments.

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

### **CORRECTIONS**

If you see something that should be corrected, email editor-in-chief Meredith McCalmon at meremccalmon@ksu.edu.

### Pick up an extra class ANYTIME this Fall!

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**Session 5** 

(6 weeks)

Oct 20 - Nov 30

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**CONTINUED FROM A1** 

"The first one was student enrollment, student recruitment [and] student retention. How do we find solutions? How do we fix this problem? How do we create a better town-gown relationship?"

K-State has over 21,000 students enrolled as of Sept. 2., which is the highest amount 2014. The current since freshman class has more than students 3,800 first-time enrolled — the largest freshman class since 2018. Linton said the heightened enrollment numbers are "a message of hope."

"With investments through scholarships, an incredible team that's worked on strategy, with better communication, with better technologies, today I'm here to be able to say ... as of yesterday, it was 21,228 students that are enrolled within Kansas

#### **Landmark funding numbers** reached

Funding for Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) reached \$264 million, the highest amount in university history and "likely, the largest increase of all [land-grant universities] in the country," Linton said. This is a 21.55% increase from 2023.

K-State also received a record-breaking \$150.4 million in funding from the state of Kansas [legislature], the highest legislative funding in university history, and fundraised \$296.4 million.

"This year, the Kansas State University Foundation was almost \$100 million over [its] goal, and they've raised, since I've been here, a billion dollars towards the 2030 goal," Linton said.

#### **Pedestrianization efforts**

The Campus Master Plan proposes converting drivable roads on campus, such as MidCampus Drive and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, into pedestrian walkways. It would also add new footpaths throughout campus. The K-State Gardens "will be a focal point of the walkway through campus," Linton said.

"We'll actually use the creek system in order to be able to visualize and have a pathway through the entire campus. ... The idea is to be able to expose and beautify it [campus creek]."

#### **Innovative learning for K-State Salina**

At the Salina campus, K-State will partner with California's Pure Imagination Labs to build the \$41-million K-AIRES facility, a computerspatialized learning center for Salina students. Linton said the facility will be comparable to The Sphere in Las Vegas and renderings "look like a space ship in the middle of the prairie."

to K-State According Salina's website, K-AIRES will realms, allowing students to learn and interact with a hands-on environment using unconventional methods.

"Salina, Kansas will be a destination for a new way to learn in the next couple years," Linton said.

#### **Ag Innovation Initiative**

Linton said the Campus Master Plan will modernize and improve the College of Agriculture, a need that "has been in place for 15 years."

"These projects infrastructure improvements include the Bilbrey Family Events Center located across from the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, which is slated to open in October of 2025," Linton said. "Soon after, there will be four additional research facilities that will be opened in May of 2026 across Kimball Avenue from the Bill Snyder Family Stadium at the Agronomy Research and

Innovation Center."

Over the last several years, the state of Kansas has provided over \$75 million towards this project, which K-State has met with \$135 million for a total \$210 million dollars of funding for the project.

"My goal continues to be that when we walk into these new buildings, K-State will have no debt on these facilities," Linton said.

The signature element of this advancement is the completion of the Global Center for Grain and Food Innovation, Linton said.

"It's all about private-public partnerships with industry," Linton said. "It's about interdisciplinary work. It's about bringing animal science, food science, dairy science and agronomy together so that we have collisions of faculty and interdisciplinary teams solving the challenges," Linton said.

To view the 2025 State of Our University Address in full, visit the K-State Office of the







Photos by Lilly Crist | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

President Richard Linton unveils the new plan to renovate Anderson Hall in the coming years to evoke the old look of the historic building (top).

Attendees were able to view more of the plans for campus after the State of the University Address (left).

President Richard Linton held answers further questions after his State of the University Address presentation about the future plans for K-State campuses (right).

### **CONTINUED FROM A1**

He called the assasination

"devastating" and said Kirk was a "hero" for the conservative movement.

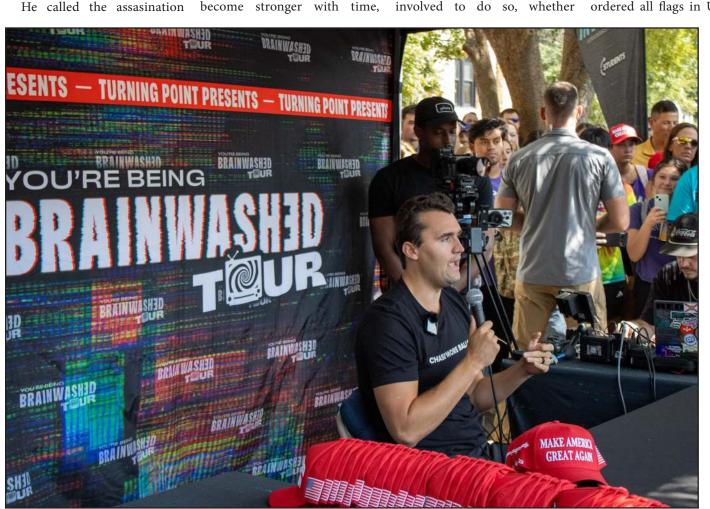
"Charlie's message will only become stronger with time,

bringing people closer to the conservative movement," Ackerman said. "I urge those who feel they should get

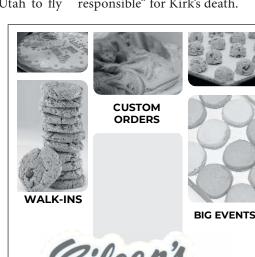
locally or nationally in some capacity. We will dearly miss this great mind."

Utah Governor Spencer Cox ordered all flags in Utah to fly

at half-mast, writing in an X post that Utah law enforcement is working with the FBI to "bring justice to the individual responsible" for Kirk's death.



Archive photo by Cole Bertelsen | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP





830 Common Place Manhattan, KS **FRESH DAILY** 



# Good times are brewing at the upcoming Grown-Up Book Fair

**EMMA MCATEE** 

staff writer

Manhattan Brewing Company and Jackalope Bookstore, a pop-up store, are coming back, hosting their second Grown-Up Book Fair on Saturday, Sept. 20. Located on Poyntz Ave., MBC is an event open to all ages.

According to mhkbeer.com, Manhattan Brewing Company boasts 19 years of experience in the craft beer industry, focusing on creating a family-friendly atmosphere. A more niche company located in Augusta is the Jackalope Bookstore, which hosts pop-up events.

Cora Johnson, who works for the bookstore, said she is thrilled to be a part of this event for its second year. The first event, also hosted with Manhattan Brewing Company in April 2024, was called "Independent Bookstore Day." This event was a huge success and, to Johnson, "a dream come true."

"Jake Voegeli is one of the three owners of Manhattan Brewing Company and is the sales & marketing director," Johnson said. "He was incredible to work with. I don't think the Grown-Up Book Fair was even over before he and I were having conversations about hosting a follow-up event in the fall."

Voegeli, a member of the sales and marketing team for Manhattan Brewing Company, said he had this idea in mind since the beginning.

"We have wanted to do this since we opened and we met the owners of Jackalope who were super excited to do this with us," Voegeli said. "It reminds us of the Scholastic Book Fairs we had as kids."

Throughout this event, there were many successes for both businesses. Johnson found joy in seeing the community so engaged in their past events.

"In the first two hours of the sale, more than 100 community

members left with books," Johnson said. "Just like that, nearly half of our inventory was gone, and we had three hours of the sale remaining. At one point, I stood at the checkout table for nearly an hour straight, chatting with customers while ringing up their selections."

The companies both had different goals for this event. Johnson felt her favorite aspect was helping new readers find a new book to dive into, whereas Voegeli loved new people trying the company's craft beers and opening up their business to a broader audience.

"It was so neat to see people walk away with something they were excited to read," Johnson said. "When I finally got time to walk away from the checkout table, I realized that many of our customers had stayed in the Manhattan Brewing Company loft space and were visiting with friends and family and enjoying good beer. ... I had this cliche moment where I thought, 'This is it.' I wanted to create an event for adults to rediscover the kind of enthusiasm for reading we had as kids, and it felt like I'd really been able to bring that to Manhattan."

As a pop-up bookstore, they have a limited inventory; the most difficult part of these events is picking what books to put out for the community. Johnson spends a lot of time researching best-selling authors and notes what is viral on "BookTok" during the time of the event.

"I want to make sure that I have a really strong selection available that can appeal to readers of any background," she said. "For this event, I'm highlighting some spooky reads for peak autumn reading vibes, books written by Hispanic and Latino authors in honor of Hispanic Heritage month [Sept. 15-Oct. 15], and featuring a selection of frequently banned or challenged

GROWN-UP **BOOK FAIR** Jackalope Bookstore Manhattan
BREWING CO. Craving a new read for the fall season and a pint (or two) to go with it? Our grown-up book fair has great books & great beers!

Graphic courtesy of Manhattan Brewing Company

books in honor of Banned Books Week [Oct. 5-11]."

Being an independent bookstore, Voegeli said Jackalope is enthusiastic and willing to try new things. Due to the turnout last year, they plan to increase the inventory for this upcoming event.

of our inventory was gone in the first two hours of our first event," Johnson said. "This time, I want to make sure that even more customers have the chance to browse a wide selection throughout the duration of the book fair."

Voegeli said he was surprised "As I mentioned, roughly half by how "many book lovers love craft beer."

Before the event on Sept. 19 and during the event on Sept. 20, Manhattan Brewing Company's Oktoberfest will happen simultaneously from noon to 10 p.m.

### Student Homecoming Committee prepares for its 110th Homecoming anniversary

**LIBBY ZUCK** managing editor

With Homecoming week in less than a month, students and faculty are preparing for the packed week of events and celebration of the university. The Student Homecoming Committee, composed of 25 Kansas State students, led by Tamie Redding, associate director of student programs, prepared for the historic week for months leading up to the event.

"Each spring we get together and have three goals that the committee has: Selecting the grand marshals, the philanthropy and the theme has to be decided before school is out in the spring," Redding said. "What we try to usually do is knock out the grand marshals and philanthropy first so it can give us a little bit of purpose

with our theme." The theme is selected unanimously by the Student Homecoming Committee after weeks of deliberation, narrowing the selection while cross-referencing with a list of previous themes. The committee discussed themes with students involved in different organizations across campus.

"When you think about a theme, you need to think about everybody," Redding said.

This year's theme, K-State of Mind, can be interpreted in several ways, Redding said.

"So with K-State of Mind, what does that mean? That means you could go to the 'Ville, that means you could be studying all night in Hale Library, that means the alumni come into town, there's just so many ways you can look at it," Redding said. "You can take it [the theme] from the education



Photo courtesy of K-State Alumni Association K-State cheerleaders perform at the 1974 Homecoming game. The vintage emblem can be seen on the field beneath them.

perspective, or you can take it from the tailgating perspective, or the student section, or the game itself. It's the state of mind of whatever you want it to be."

According to the K-State Alumni Association website, the Student Homecoming Committee is in charge of helping "plan and execute Homecoming events, [working] alongside passionate K-Staters who want to carry on K-State's greatest traditions, [voting] on the Homecoming theme and [promoting] Homecoming on campus."

This year, Homecoming will start on Oct. 5 and end with the

announcement of K-State ambassadors at the home football game on Oct. 11, with events every day in-between. Highlights include the University Homecoming Philanthropy 5K, Children's Carnival and the Homecoming Parade..

Student organizations

can participate and compete against other organizations to raise awareness and receive up to \$300 for their organization. To participate in the events, groups must register by midnight on Sept. 22. For registration and more information, visit k-state.com/Homecoming.

### Case's Corner | A brief Case of conspiracy

**KYRA CASE** 

copy chief

Over Labor Day weekend, a rumor about President Trump's passing took over social media platform X. Using #trumpdead and #whereistrump, users conspired with one another, speculating about the president's passing.

One X user wrote on Aug. 30, "JUST IN: Senior US official says, President Trump is fine. Meanwhile, Trump's all public events scheduled for this weekend have been canceled by the White House 'trump is dead' 'Death of trum[p]' Rumors are mere rumors???"

Others began to share evidence and repost speculations shared by others, causing hashtags regarding the president's apparent death to trend on the platform.

However, it was all a conspiracy theory.

With the rise of social media, news from across the world travels fast — eye-catching words and phrases incentivizing never-ending doomscrolling, and allowing certain topics to be picked up and promoted by algorithms regardless of their veracity. President Trump, an eye-catching name for those in and out of the United States, is often a controversial topic, making him fantastic algorithm fodder.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a conspiracy theory is "a theory that explains an event or set of circumstances as the result of a secret plot by usually powerful conspirators."

The conspiracy about Trump's death was widely spread and (somewhat) accepted due to the fact many didn't see the president for several days.

"Okay I'm hearing that every video and every picture surfacing right now are old and we still haven't seen him TODAY. I'm

gonna need to see him hold up today's newspaper or something. #donaldtrump #whereistrump," an X user posted on Aug. 30.

There, of course, were many "trolls" who hopped on the hashtag, posting inflammatory content meant as bait for views. Between the bots, trolls and

true believers of the conspiracy, it can become impossible to differentiate between the accounts. Before speculations on his death began, there was already talk about the president's supposed declining health.

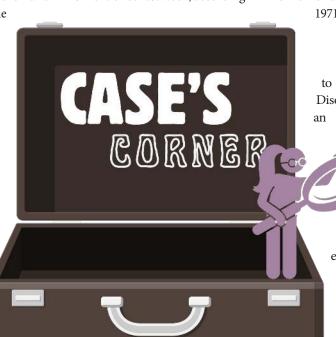
One user made a post on Aug. 25, titled, "Good morning and Happy Monday to everyone who agrees Americans deserve to know of what kind health severe issues the White House is hiding by spackling trump's hand with makeup, and his dragging right leg. If he's

The theory that the White House is hiding the true state of the president's health, along with the brief time period where Trump wasn't seen, allowed the spark of conspiracy to flood social media, causing some to celebrate and others to panic.

severely ill, he should resign."

As fast as the conspiracy took hold, however, it was also swiftly debunked. Users took to X on Aug. 30, sharing posts of Trump golfing, seemingly in good health.

"Sorry Libs. Donald Trump is not dead. It's curious you all never wondered when Biden disappeared for weeks. Nah, where is trump? He's golfing. lol," wrote a user. The quick acceptance and disregard of conspiracy theories, along with the hundreds (if not thousands) of troll and bot accounts, across social media call into question the reliability of social media and how one may use (or not use) media discernment. As mentioned last week, according



Graphic by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

to the Pew Research Center, 18% of adults surveyed prefer to get their news from social media. There has been a shift in human favorability towards expedient news vs. reliable news.

There, of course, are benefits to fast news. Social media, while not always reliable, is a good way for journalists to gather tips on newsworthy topics. It also allows everyday citizens to have a greater voice and opinion on certain topics. It holds journalists accountable for their words, which was the topic of precise language, the first week's topic in this series. If a journalist isn't precise, words can be misconstrued and shifted into

something the journalist didn't anticipate, including propaganda and conspiracy.

Many conspiracies have taken form recently, some more facetious than others. One such conspiracy is "Birds Aren't Real," a movement that claims the government killed "over 12 billion birds between 1959 and

1971" and replaced them with surveillance drones.

According
to "Information
Disorder: Toward
an interdisciplinary
framework for
research

a n d policy making," conspiracy theories effective because they are based on powerful narratives. T h e y unconsciously tap into deepseated fears."

While conspiracies like birds being government spies are often not taken seriously, other

are often not taken seriously, other conspiracies, such as "PizzaGate," however, had much more dire consequences.

If there is one place

If there is one place conspiracies seem to thrive, it's around politics. According to "Media Manipulation and Disinformation Online," during the 2016 election cycle, "conspiracy theories spread throughout 4chan and extremist circles of Twitter and Facebook, claiming that Hillary Clinton was deeply involved in a child sex ring and satanic rituals."

Many websites were created, mimicking mainstream news outlets to create a sense of credibility. These sites continued to create similar stories about Clinton, spreading the link on social media and garnering hundreds of thousands of interactions.

After WikiLeaks published hacked emails from Clinton and 4chan users "combed" through them, users found an interaction between campaign chair John Podesta and the owner of a Washington, D.C., pizza restaurant called Comet Ping Pong, discussing the semantics of a fundraiser set to take place there.

That was all the "evidence" the conspiracy theorists needed. These theorists believed Comet Ping Pong was the headquarters of Clinton's child sex ring, later being dubbed "PizzaGate."

This conspiracy led to a massive fallout. The employees at the pizza restaurant received mass harassment. One man even decided he was going to be a hero. After arming himself with an assault rifle, he entered Comet Ping Pong on Dec. 4 to "investigate" the restaurant. Shots were fired, but fortunately, no one was hurt.

Mainstream media, of course, found this event newsworthy, leading to a problem that likely can't be solved. By covering this bizarre event, the mainstream media gave the conspiracy more coverage — more traction. These days, it seems as though viral stories are often considered newsworthy, but is that truly the case?

Many news outlets are criticized if they don't cover a trending topic, claiming the media is "silencing" their voices. On the other side of the coin, if the media covers every viral topic, it can lead to a decrease in local journalism and reliable news. Social media is not a reliable source, but a tool. If journalists give credence to every topic, articles will have less impact.





### **NEWSLETTER**

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### "What, like it's hard?": Manhattan Arts Center takes on "Legally Blonde: The Musical"

**AMELIA LIKENS** 

Elle Woods trades Harvard Law for the Manhattan Arts Center as "Legally Blonde: The Musical" runs Sept. 12-21. Jayna Ukrazhenko portrays Vivian Kensington, who begins as Elle Wood's competitive, snobby classmate who eventually turns into an ally.

"This is a Broadway caliber play, and it's taken a lot of time, energy and commitment from this cast to put this on," said Ukrazhenko.

The cast of "Legally Blonde: The Musical" has been hard at work for the past two months, rehearsals starting Sunday, July 20, to create a "super fun and high energy" show, Ukrazhenko said. Many of these cast members are students at Kansas State.

Anthony Belin, junior in vocal performance, said balancing schoolwork and a musical production is a large undertaking, but as long as his lines are learned, it is smooth sailing. Belin said his character Emmett Forrest, the main love interest, is "a dork."

"Emmett is very shy, but he's also super relatable," Belin said. "He just wants to do good in the world, and he notices that there isn't good in the world, but that if you can make a difference for somebody, then that's what really matters."

Belin's favorite song of the show is "There! Right There!" — which also happens to be one of Aidan Heusman's, senior in biological anthropology, favorite songs of the show.

Heusman played Warner Huntington III, the primary male

"He is a pompous jerk," Heusman said. "He is so entitled; he has had that silver spoon life since he was born."

Heusman has been involved in musical theatre since elementary school.

"My parents sent me to theatre camps just to get rid of me," he said. "It's so funny, it's [the musical] got a good mix of everything, theatrics, music, dance. It really has everything you can ask for. I think it still holds up to this day and also has

a really good message."

Layla Hood, a graduate student studying park management conservation, said people should see the production "if they just want to have a really fun night, laugh really hard, listen to some really talented performers and just have a good time." She plays Harvard Law student Enid

"I love her one-liners," Hood said. "She doesn't say a lot, but when she does, it's really funny and clever."

The Musical

Director Chaz Coberly has worked in theatre for 20 years. He describes the backstage energy of "Legally Blonde: The Musical" to be "accepting" and "kind."

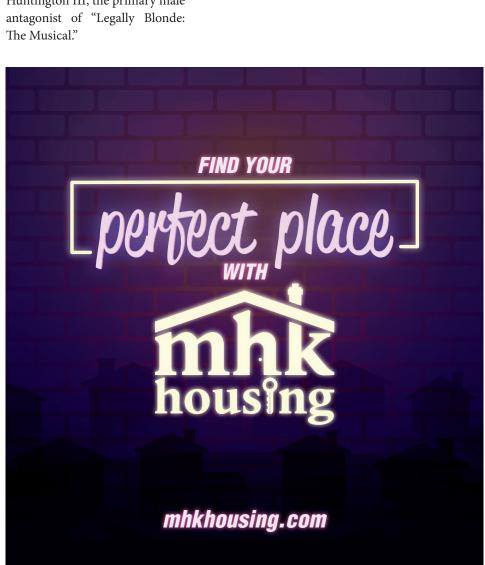
"Because they are so kind to each other, they're fearless, which is critical when you're going to put yourself on stage and do something," Coberly said. "I've never seen people just go for it like these folks have."

He explained that audiences should come see the show because of its entertainment value, catchy

music and meaningful messages about women's empowerment.

"Our space is a little bit strange, and I just want to show people that we can jam huge, awesome, fun musicals in our space," Coberly added.

The Manhattan Arts Center is located at 1520 Poyntz Ave. To buy tickets for "Legally Blonde: The Musical," visit manhattanarts. org. So bend and snap those tickets up, ladies and gentleman, because this is a show that you will not want to miss!











**SOCCER** 

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vs. TCU — Sept. 25 @ 6:30 p.m. **GOLF** 

M Golf @ Wohali GC-Sept. 15-16

W Golf @ Belmar GC-Sept. 20-22

**VOLLEYBALL** 

@ Northern Colorado — Sept. 12 @ 9 p.m.

@ North Carolina — Sept. 19 @ 6 p.m. — ESPN+

# Sports Friday, Sept. 12, 2025

### From Solomon to the spotlight



Photo by Grace Parks | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP After 23 seasons being the Voice of the Wildcats, Wyatt Thompson is inducted into the Soloman High School Gorilla Hall of Fame on Friday, Sept. 5.

### **GRETA KLEIN**

sports editor

tanding on the synthetic red rubber track, the white stadium lights glimmer onto the football field behind him. Wyatt Thompson received loud applause from family, friends and the community of Solomon, Kansas.

'Thank you, thank you, thank you," Thompson said with a smile on his face and a plaque in his hands.

Thompson, the senior director of sportscasting and Voice of the Wildcats at Kansas State, was inducted into the USD 393 Solomon Gorilla Hall of Fame on Friday, Sept. 5. Returning to his hometown Thompson recognized for his distinguished career in broadcast journalism. His passion for sports and storytelling has made him a role model for Solomon High School students and athletes.

The Solomon Gorilla Hall of Fame, which is only in its fourth year, has particular procedures, such as a committee that application reviews each submitted by any member of the Solomon community.

"[The committee] gets together, and we go through those nomination sheets," Solomon Board of Education, vice president and Hall of Fame board member Brad Homman said. "We discuss each one in detail, and then we score them. We've got a rubric we use to score each one, and then we make a final selection based on that or discussions on that scoring criteria."

There are four classification requirements for the Gorilla Hall of Fame: student, team, staff member and service.

"I will tell you that he scored one of the highest scores on the rubric that we've ever had of the nominee," Homman said. "So, that speaks highly of him."

Thompson was active in FFA and livestock judging before he graduated from SHS in 1974.

"He was a very pleasant young man who would greet me at the door when he walked in each day," former SHS science teacher Lawrence Strouts said. "He was a very pleasant person. I do not recall him ever causing any problems in the class at all.

He was just a nice guy, just a underneath me." good old farm kid."

While that "good old farm kid" grew up in a small community and high school, that didn't stop him from achieving his goals.

"He was telling stories of how he and some of his classmates would practice play-by-play," superintendent of SHS Justin Coup said. "Just

want to dream of, he dreamed

of being a broadcaster. They

would practice that, even when

they're in high school. I think

that's just one of the things —

that he may not have had a

broadcasting class at Solomon

High School, but he had a great

support group, great classmates

that supported him along his

journey and he's very close with

been discouraged by living

in such a small town, but

Thompson thrived in his

and

'[During] my time here, it

kind of gave me a foundation

to get started," Thompson said.

"I did so many things, playing

athletics, which I always loved,

but the ag stuff, all of that kind

of stuff, I thought was my first

love — until I started getting

into the broadcasting thing. But

it all kind of meshed together.

There are so many people

here [in Solomon] who helped

me kind of get a foundation

created

Some people would have

some of those classmates."

opportunities for himself.

community

Despite Solomon being an hour away from Manhattan, Thompson expresses how many people in Solomon care about K-State and his journey to be the Voice of the Wildcats.

"I think that is, in part, why I'm here," Thompson said. "With what I've had the opportunity to do there [in Manhattan], in terms of the as kids dream of whatever they longevity of the work — people

> "You don't start this and think, you want to be in the Hall of Fame"

**Wyatt Thompson** Voice of the Wildcats

here love K-State. They love Kansas, too, but there are so

many K-Staters here with the ag and all of that. It just makes me proud."

Although SHS was a crucial beginning to his career, Thompson continued livestock judging out of high school at Colby Community College, but was drawn to sports broadcasting.

Thompson started his broadcasting career in 1976 as a sportscaster for various high schools, colleges and universities in Kansas, spending time at stations in Hays and Goodland. Early on in Thompson's career, he was recognized with the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Play-by-Play Award in 1982 and the Oscar Stauffer Sportscaster of the Year Award in 1989.

"Wyatt has a high degree of integrity," Homman said. "[He] is a very personable individual, which I think probably has been one of the really highly-standing reasons for his success."

Moving out of Kansas, Thompson went to Colorado State, where he spent five years as the play-by-play commentator for the Rams' men's basketball and football teams. He was a successful broadcaster who won the 2000 Colorado Broadcasting Association award for best

play-by-play. Along with his work at CSU, he was a sports reporter for Clear Channel Denver, the host of the Denver Broncos' "Countdown to Kickoff" on KOA Radio and the host of the "Zone Sports Insiders" program on 760 The Zone in Denver.

Thompson made a difficult decision and decided to come back to Kansas because of his fondness for the Wildcats and for his family.

"A lot of things [brought me back], but the love of the 'Cats first and foremost," Thompson said. "At that time, when I left Colorado to come back, truthfully, my dad wasn't in very good health at that point."

It was a selfless choice that he would later be pleased he made.

"I wanted to be a Big 12 play-by-play announcer, don't get me wrong," Thompson said, "It was a decision that was good for my career and good for my family, and I have no regrets in that."

Beginning at K-State in 2002, Thompson has been the Voice of the Wildcats for 23 years. He hosts the Jerome Tang and Chris Klieman coaches' radio and television programs.

> SEE PAGE B3 "FROM"



Photo by Grace Parks | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

From left to right: Wyatt Thompson; Linda Klucas; James Atkisson; Delos and Judy Willis.



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

A lone Kansas State student sits alone in the stands as he contemplates the 21-24 loss to the Army Black Knights on Sept. 6, 2025 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

GRETA KLEIN sports editor

As red, white and blue drifted down from the sky, the crowd of Wildcats grew that same blue with the dissatisfaction of the game. The Kansas State Wildcats would find themselves defeated by the Army Black Knights in a 24-21 battle.

The Wildcats hosted a Fort Riley Day, which included a flyover and skydivers before kickoff. With three skydivers landing in Bill Snyder Family Stadium, fans were full of excitement and vitality. When the last skydiver was coming down to land on the field, with him came the rippling Stars and Stripes.

The first half of the game was a head-to-head match, with K-State leading at halftime 13-7.

"We didn't finish drives," Klieman said. "That's why it was 13-7 at half and not 21 because you can't settle for field goals."

Returning from halftime, the roles started to switch with Army taking the momentum.

"Our biggest issue was we wore down in the second half," K-State head coach Chris Klieman said. "The issue is, we're dead. The issue isn't what the mistakes were, they did it great."

In the third quarter, K-State continued to maintain its lead before Army would take over.

Bryce Noernberg, a redshirt freshman, caught the ball at the 1-yard line after Anderson Britton launched a 64-yard kickoff. Noernberg ran between blocks and across the field to go for a 99-yard kickoff return and score. Quarterback Avery Johnson would finish with a two-point completion to Jaron Tibbs, giving the 'Cats a final 21-14 advantage. Not discouraged, the Black

Knights kept pushing on, drive after drive, until the game clock was on their side and the win became visible.

Army had 46 total plays during

Army had 46 total plays during the second half, with the Wildcats only having 13 total plays. This meant lots of time the defensive accumulated on the field while the offense was sitting on the sideline for nearly an hour.

"I don't know if I've ever been in a game where they ran it so much," senior defensive tackle Damian Ilalio said. "At the end of the day, I think they just ran it better than we could defend it, obviously. So it's tough, for sure, but I don't want to use that as an excuse. We just didn't first play well enough."

While on the sidelines, senior offensive lineman Sam Hecht understood the hardship of being unable to assist his team.

"It was definitely difficult," Hecht said. "We were just watching the game getting real tight and wish we could make a difference. Just stick together. Learn from this."

By the end of the game, Army held possession of the ball for 40 minutes and 44 seconds, over twice as long as K-State, while the Wildcats had it for 19 minutes and 16 seconds.

Johnson went 15-of-25 passes over 172 yards with one touchdown and one interception. With 1:35 remaining in the game, a pass deflected off running back Joe Jackson and into the hands of Collin Matteson near midfield, allowing his first pick of the season.

"I felt really good back there in the pocket," Johnson said. "Offensive line did a great job protecting and receivers did a good job getting open. I did a good job on some throws tonight, but wasn't enough to win the game, just kind of figure out what I'm getting better at."

The Wildcats will reflect, learn, but not dwell on the loss as they look ahead to Arizona at 8 p.m. on Sept. 12.

"It's still going to be a playerled program," Klieman said. "Our coaches will step up. I've got to step up. Once again, it's easy to lead when things are going well. It's easy to lead as the linebackers and the D-line. It's hard to lead and everybody wants to hide. I promise you, I ain't hiding."





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### "FROM"

**CONTINUED FROM B1** 

He also gets involved in many Catbacker Club, alumni and athletic department events, providing keynote speeches.

He is a six-time Kansas Sportscaster of the Year. With his experience, Thompson has received many awards, including the Hod Hummiston Award in 2011. His most recent award was in 2022, when he was inducted into the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

"I'm honored by this, I'm humbled by it," Thompson said. "You don't start this and think, you want to be in the Hall of Fame. So that just kind of happens, or at least that's the way I see it."

No matter where Thompson is or what he's doing, he always takes the time to chat.

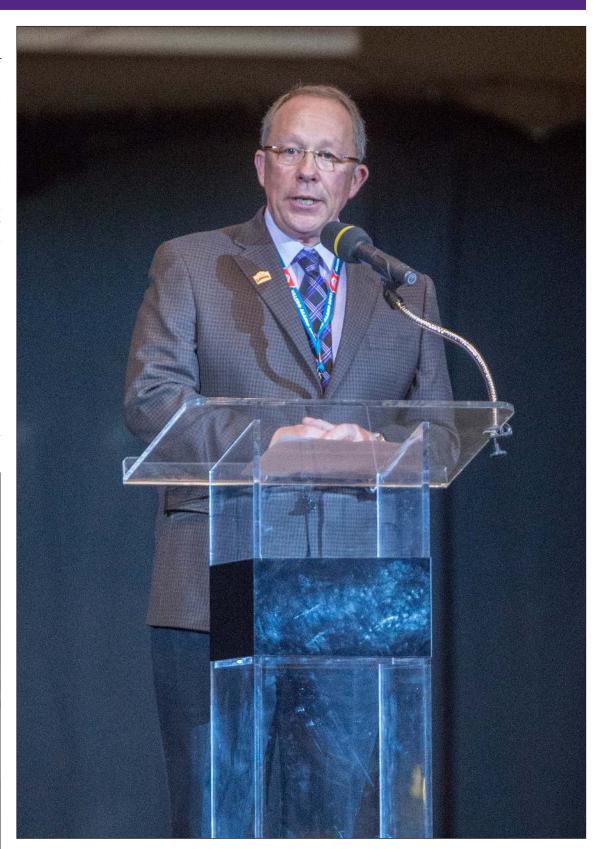
"One of my best recollections of I'll ever have that."

Wyatt was when I was at a K-State football game a couple of years ago," Strouts said. "I was in one of the boxes over on the east side, and I asked the host there if it might be possible for me to see Wyatt in action as he was broadcasting the game. The host took me around over to the west side, and we went through doors that said, 'Do not enter, 'No admittance,' 'Keep out,' and so forth. Wyatt was sitting at his desk, and he looked up very quickly and he said, 'Hi, Mr. Strouts, how's the farm going?' And he turned right back to broadcasting. He was absolutely on top of it."

Considering his 23 years of broadcasting with K-State, Thompson still finds his passion when he is behind the microphone during every game.

"If you don't like it enough to be excited about what you're going to do, it's probably time to walk away," Thompson said. "And I don't think





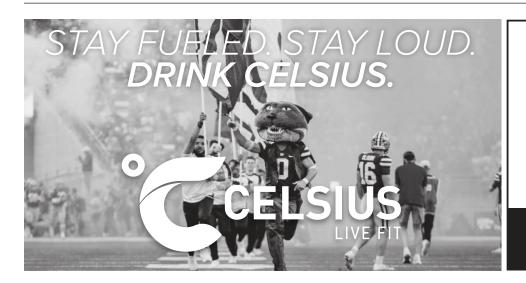
Archive photos by George Walker | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP Wyatt Thompson, the Voice of the Wildcats, talks to the crowd during the K-State Alumni Center Pep Rally at Freeman Coliseum on Jan. 1, 2015. Thompson has been named Kansas sportscaster of the year six times (top).

Wyatt Thompson speaks during the pep rally at the BBVA Compass Stadium in Houston, Texas on Dec. 27, 2016 (left).



Archive photo by Parker Robb | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Senior guard Brian Rohleder (middle) chats with Voice of the Wildcats Wyatt Thompson (left) and sideline radio reporter Matt Wolters (right) following his senior day game against TCU as his fan club, wearing T-shirts spelling his name, shouts toward him March 2, 2016, in Bramlage Coliseum. Thompson has been the Voice of the Wildcats for 23 years.



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# Wildcats in the NFL | Best performances from opening week of the NFL season



Archive photo by Meg Shearer | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Offensive lineman Dalton Risner holds the family block, prepared to bolt out before the start of the K-State football game against the Cowboys Bill Snyder Family Stadium on Oct. 13, 2018. The Wildcats defeated the Cowboys 31-12.

### **TREY THOMAS**

staff writer

### DJ Giddens, RB, **Indianapolis Colts**

The Indianapolis Colts dismantled the Dolphins from the get-go, eventually winning the game 33-8. Because of this, rookie than most expected.

Giddens finished his NFL debut with 41 rushing yards on 12 attempts, laying a promising foundation to earn a bigger role as the year goes on.

#### Jacob Parrish, CB, **Tampa Bay Buccaneers**

Another former Wildcat made an impact in his debut game — Jacob Parrish. Parrish finished with five total tackles, three of which were solo DJ Giddens saw the field more tackles. His tackles tied for the most on the team.

> Parrish's highlight play came on a crucial third-down play, as he brought down Atlanta

Falcons receiver Drake London for a two-yard loss. Tampa Bay won the game 23-20.

#### Cooper Beebe, C, **Dallas Cowboys**

With the first game of his second year in the books, Cooper Beebe showed solid growth. Beebe finished his night with zero sacks allowed and looked comfortable on the offensive line.

blocking Run inconsistent last season, but

Beebe and company provided constant run lanes against a tough Philadelphia Eagles defense. Although the Cowboys came up short, Beebe looks ready to take a big step forward as the year progresses.

### Dalton Risner, LG, Cincinnati Bengals

Although his role wasn't as big as others, Dalton Risner did well with the 24 total snaps he participated in. Risner allowed just one pressure as his veteran

presence seemed to help the Bengals' offensive line.

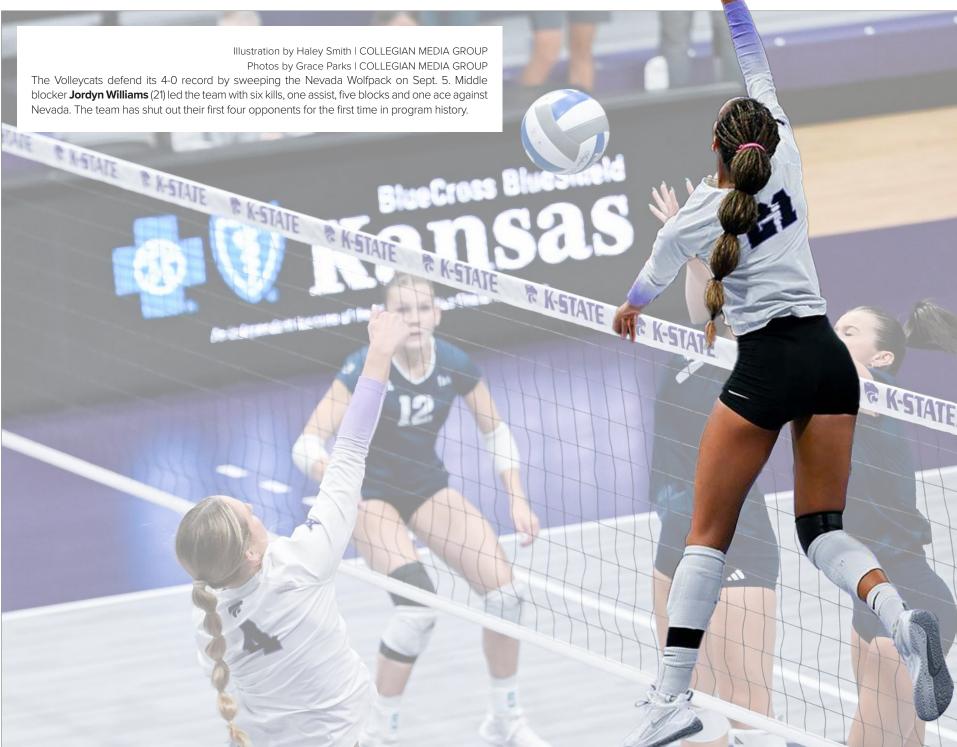
#### D.J. Reed, CB, **Detroit Lions**

In his debut with the Detroit Lions, D.J. Reed played every defensive snap. In those snaps, he recorded five total tackles, four of which were solo tackles. The Lions' defense could not create much traction, and neither could the offense. As a result, the Lions lost to the Green Bay Packers 27-13.



### WILDCATS **STAY SWEEPIN'**





**BRAYDEN MESEKE** 

#### Kansas State 1-2

Kansas State was upset by Army last week in a game where the Wildcats had the ball for just over three minutes in the entire second half. While Arizona has a much different style of offense, the K-State defense will need to be up to the challenge if it wants to stop the high-flying Arizona Wildcats.

Sophomore defensive backs Donovan McIntosh and Zashon Rich have started each game at corner for the Wildcats. Last week, they saw limited action against the triple option offense of Army, but it will be important this week against a pass-first team in Arizona. Both corners have good length

Arizona has put up 40 points

of offense in its first two games while not allowing a touch-

down as well. Last year, Arizona

year, followed by a shaky sopho-

more season. Fifita looks to have regained that freshman form of himself, but added poise and

Arizona 2-0

KNOW YOUR

and speed, which should help them make plays on the ball.

Wide Receiver Jayce Brown is in his third year with the Wildcats, and so far has been off to a good start. Brown had fewer receptions and yards than normal due to the lack of offense last week, but he should get plenty of chances this week. With fellow wide receiver Jerand Bradley down due to injury, Brown may get moved to multiple spots to try and help out the offense.

confidence, making him a tough stop for the K-State defense.

Wide Receiver Javin Whatley appears to be Fifita's go-to-guy



### WHO TO **WATCH**

### K-STATE

CB Donovan McIntosh CB Zashon Rich WR Jayce Brown



### **Arizona**

QB Noah Fifita WR Javin Whatley



struggled in its first year under and so far has delivered with head coach Brent Brennan, but 208 yards and two touchdowns.

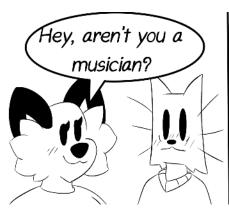
this year the team looks to have Arizona lost superstar receiver turned a corner for the bet-Tetairoa McMillian to the NFL ter. They will look to continue draft last season, making plentheir dominant performance as ty of reps and targets available. So far this season, Whatley has K-State comes to town on Friday. Quarterback Noah Fifita has made the most of them and will look to continue that in played well this year, throwing for 534 yards and six touchhis toughest test of the season. downs in his two games. Fifita had an outstanding freshman

Photo by Grace Parks, graphics by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

BY THE NUMBERS	K-STATE		ARIZONA	
	<b>Sacks</b> 7	<b>3D%</b> 34%	<b>Sacks</b> 7	<b>3D%</b> 38%
	<b>PASS YDS/G</b> 254	AVG. KICKOFF RETURN YDS 34	<b>PASS YDS/G</b> 267	AVG. KICKOFF RETURN YDS



### **COMIC | Doin' it Wright**





Comic by Jacob Bush | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

### **COMIC | Barely Grown**











Comic by Grace Gibson | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

**GRACE GIBSON** staff artist

I've been drawing for around 11 years and have experience making comics and editorial images from when I was in high school. I love drawing figures and learning new things to implement in my illustrations. Right now, I'm in APDesign working towards a masters in interior architecture, so I'm learning a lot about how to draw buildings and backgrounds.

For 'Barely Grown', I want to illustrate a skit-style comic that explores the daily experiences of a college student. I'm used to doing dramatic storytelling, so

I'm excited to explore a comedy comic series with you!

### **SUDOKU**

