



A2 - NEWS




The Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce announced its 2025 Business Award recipients to recognize local entrepreneurs.



B2 - SPORTS

The K-State Cross Country team competed at the Platte River Rumble Gold on Sept. 5, with the women taking first and the men taking third.

WEATHER

FRIDAY 91/66	SATURDAY 87/64	SUNDAY 86/60
		

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SNAP SLASHED



Graphic by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Kansas loses \$10.4 million intended for SNAP benefits

DIANA PIEDRA
staff writer

KATEY WEST
staff writer

Funding for Kansas SNAP, a federal food benefits program for low-income households, was reduced by \$10.4 million for the year. The United States Department of Agriculture sent the Kelly Administration a letter requesting that the State of Kansas provide information about SNAP recipients, including names, addresses and dates of birth, by July 30.

The Kelly Administration did not cooperate.

According to a news release issued by Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach, the Kelly Administration received a final warning letter on Aug. 20, stating that if the requested information about SNAP recipients was not sent to the USDA within 30 days, Kansas would lose \$10.4 million in SNAP funding.

The Kansas Department for Children and Families responded in a letter stating it was “unable to comply with the USDA Food and Nutrition Services request at this time.”

The letter, written by Laura Howard, secretary of the KDCF, explained the department’s inability to surrender the requested information of SNAP recipients. KDCF determined that “providing the data requested at this time may open KDCF to significant liability.” Furthermore, the letter specifies that the data request is too large to send in the requested time and will create a monetary and time burden.

The letter said that if the demand is upheld by the courts, KDCF is prepared to respond to a more reasonable request that is for less data or with more notice. Now, the FNS will pull \$10.3 million in SNAP funding every three months until Kansas provides the information on SNAP recipients, according to Attorney General Kobach.

“SNAP funding provides food assistance to the needs of Kansans based on their income,” Kobach said. “Kansas is supposed to receive \$402 million worth of federal funds that go into the SNAP program, and these funds are used to reload people’s Electronic Benefits Transfer cards, which is how SNAP works. In the past, the USDA would request a subset of recipients from the state every year to do an audit, but this time, the Trump Administration, in the interest of getting rid of fraud and abuse, requested all of the applicants from each state.”

However, the governor refused to release the requested information. Kobach said that EBT cards are still functioning as of now, but if the information is not given by December, Kansas could lose another \$10.4 million, and the Kansas SNAP funding used to feed families who use EBT cards will take yet another hit.

Karla Hagemeister,

executive director of the Flint Hills Breadbasket, said for the Manhattan community, this loss of funding comes at a time when the use of social services has increased, evidenced by the influx of people that the food pantry is receiving.

“Only 23% of our guests receive SNAP; 75% don’t get SNAP as it is,” Hagemeister said.

Hagemeister said social services have already been stretched thin in the community, and the loss of food stamps could push some providers beyond what they can give. However, Hagemeister is confident that the community will support the efforts of organizations such as Flint Hills Breadbasket.

“We don’t know how much more it’s going to grow, but we do know it’s growing,” Hagemeister said. “Every agency is experiencing a similar strain, and we are all working cooperatively with each other to create a wide system of support with each other.”

Federal government enters first shutdown since 2018




Photo by Payton Lee
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Fort Riley closed over 15 departments and furloughed employees, affecting operations at the base. Normal operations will resume once funding is restored.

JENNA FISCUS
news editor

At 12:01 on Oct. 1, the government came to a standstill thanks to Congress failing to come to an agreement on enhanced Obamacare subsidies, according to CNN.

The first since 2018, the current federal shutdown is expected to last at least until Friday, Oct. 3, when Senators return. According to CNN, federal workers are expected to receive the majority of the kickback, with imminent layoffs coming down the pipeline.

Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran said on the Senate floor that the Senate is failing the nation “yet again.”

“Every city council or commission, every school board, every local government office in my state passes a budget and then lives within that budget every year,” Moran said. “Every local unit of government at home can figure this out, and the U.S. Senate is failing one more time.”

Moran implored the Senate to pursue a decision.

“A shutdown means uncertainty; a shutdown means dysfunction,” Moran said.

According to the Kansas Reflector, Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly called attention to the devastating consequences if the Senate cannot arrive at a middle ground.

“Republicans have the opportunity to come to the table and negotiate a bipartisan bill in good faith that meets the needs of American people and prevents healthcare costs from skyrocketing because of the changes they made in the ‘one big, ugly bill.’ If they don’t, the consequences for the people we serve will be devastating,” Kelly said.

While the Senate works towards the 60 votes needed to pass the Republican bill to keep funding the government, Shannon Ellis, president of the National Treasury Employees Union, describes to KMBC the 5,000 IRS employees’ reactions to the shutdown with three words: fear, anger and panic.

“Those of us that have been through this before, we are angry at being used as pawns in a political game because that’s all it is,” Ellis said. “These are your friends, your family, your coworkers. They need your help right now.”

BEST OF 2025

MANHATTAN

VOTING STARTS

OCTOBER 13

Chamber of Commerce recognizes best local businesses

MEREDITH MCCALMON
editor-in-chief

Local entrepreneurs celebrated success as the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce awarded the city’s best local businesses at the 2025 Business Award Lunch on Sept. 16.

“We feel very strongly that in order for our community to grow and prosper economically, you have to have a strong and vibrant business community,” Jason Smith, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, said. “Part of that is making sure that the people who are contributing in the community are recognized.”

Award recipients received a plaque to display at their business.

This year marks the sixth annual Business Awards. Community members nominated businesses for several categories and a committee selected finalists and winners.

“Each award has its own criteria,” Smith said.

One of the award categories is the Cornerstone Award, given to Bayer Construction Company.

“The Cornerstone Award is kind of like a lifetime

achievement award, so getting it has been a symbol to us that the Manhattan community perceives us as one of those pillars to the community,” Peter Clark, CEO and vice president of Bayer Construction Company, said. “... It’s a testament to our survival, more than anything else. We have been here for a long time. We have helped shape the direction of the community from how the infrastructure has been built.”

Henry Bayer founded Bayer Construction Company in 1935 as a product of the Civil Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. Clark said it’s been employee-owned since 1993 when then-owner Burke Bayer sold the company, making it an Employee Stock Ownership Plan.

Aside from conducting heavy utility work, infrastructure and commercial building projects, Clark said Bayer Construction Company works to give back to Manhattan.

“We prioritize our charitable gifts throughout the community to people and individuals who are disadvantaged in some way,” Clark said. “Most of the people who work at Bayer Construction are blue-collar people. A lot of them are living

paycheck-to-paycheck and their family situations are less than ideal more often than not, so we want to take those profits that we do make and give them back to the community in ways that will impact the lives of the Bayer families in addition to other people within the community that help to make the environment a positive place.”

Another category the Chamber of Commerce handed out was the Women/Minority Owned Business Award, given to SwitchWicked.

Ash and Dane Meloan founded and co-own the business which offers design services, skateboarding resources, art workshops, studio space, community events and more.

Dane Meloan said winning a Business Award increases SwitchWicked’s visibility.

“That’s the nice thing about the award, is we could have what we do put up in front of everybody so they can see what all we do, because it’s not always transparent since we do so many different things,” he said.



Photo courtesy of Dena Huff
Dane (left) and Ash Meloan (middle) accept their Women/Minority Owned Business of the Year Award, granted by the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce. The Meloans co-own SwitchWicked, a design and skate business offering a variety of services and events to Manhattan customers.

SEE PAGE A3
LOCAL

Manhattan ‘vampire’ threatens local businesses with fentanyl exposure

AMYLEE GIL
staff writer

Reports of a strange man wearing fingerless gloves that are allegedly laced with fentanyl sparked worry among local restaurant and bar staff last week. The self-proclaimed “vampire” allegedly visited The Manhattan Brewing Company, Arrow Cocktail Lounge, Applebee’s and Finn’s Neighborhood Pub.

Co-owner of Manhattan Brewing Company Jake Voegeli said that following an incident at another local establishment, warnings were spread quickly.

“Arrow Cocktail Lounge had an incident with one of their bartenders, they put out the word of how [the suspect] looked, and said that after this

guy came in, their bartender had picked up a glass and within the next 10-20 minutes the employee was vomiting and had to go to the hospital, where it [the reaction] was found to be drug related,” Voegeli said.

Arrow sent out a warning to other downtown businesses, who then spread the word across Manhattan.

A screenshot from a So Long Saloon staff group chat has been widely shared among local businesses and social media, warning employees and Manhattan residents to be cautious while working or going out. The message includes two surveillance photos, originally shared by staff at Finn’s, showing what appears to be a white male in his 20s to 30s wearing black

fingerless gloves. Eyewitnesses have also shared that he has a tattoo of a spider on his neck.

Finn’s bartender Anthony Bussen said he saw the suspect numerous times before hearing of the accusations against him.

“I have personally served him, I believe, three different times ... I thought he was a very strange individual, then I had heard that he had possibly been putting things in people’s drinks,” Bussen said. “Since then, we have obviously just told him not to come back.”

The suspect paid a visit to Manhattan Brewing Company after Arrow Cocktail Lounge’s message was sent out, which allowed staff at the Brewing Company to act quickly.

“When the guy came into our business, our bartender let

us know, and we told them to call the cops immediately and tell him [the suspicious man] to leave,” Voegeli said. “We told the bartender not to touch anything that this guy touched and to clean up everything as fast as he could ... because we know that with fentanyl, all you have to do is touch it and it can be absorbed into your skin. Luckily, there was no one else in the brewery at the time, so we didn’t have to worry about that. He is officially banned from our place, Arrow and a few other businesses downtown.”

Despite the paranoia caused by this ominous man, Riley County Police Department Public Information Officer Joshua Kindler said there has been no solid evidence to support the accusations made.

“We’re aware of who he is, and currently there is no evidence to support these claims,” Kindler said. “This thing spread like wildfire, this rumor or whatnot, but we did make contact and he’s aware of the claims that were made against him.”

Rumor or not, this incident still serves as a reminder to be careful while in public spaces and has highlighted the importance of local bars and restaurants taking precautionary measures, freshman Kynzie Esarey said.

SEE PAGE A3
VAMPIRE

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LOCAL
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Ash Meloan shared their experience owning a business in Manhattan as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

“As a queer person, it seems like it would be challenging in a small-ish Kansas town, but we have a lot of support from other business owners,” they said. “... We are very connected with a lot of business owners who are very accepting and supportive of us, so I feel like we don’t feel the effects of that as much as we would otherwise.”

New Boston Creative group, a full-service integrative communications/marketing firm, took home Small Business of the Year.

As a small business, Shawn Dryden, one of the company’s principals, said New Boston Creative connects with clients on a personal level, making it unique compared to other advertising groups.

“One of the things that we

pride ourselves on is the direct communication they get with us,” Dryden said. “We don’t have tiers of project managers. Usually, clients get to work directly with a web designer or a graphic designer or a video production person, so there’s less people in the way of the client.”

Dryden said the Business Awards allow local entrepreneurs to connect with each other as well. Washington Dance Studio was a nominee for Small Business of the Year alongside New Boston Creative and Platinum & Company.

“Kristin [Brighton], one of the other principals [of New Boston Creative], used to dance at Washington [Dance Studio], so she knows them,” Dryden said. “The current owner of Washington danced with Kristin as kids. There’s a lot of history there and it was really fun for Kristin to get back in touch with them.”

To view the full list of 2025 Business Awards nominees and recipients, visit the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce website.



The Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce has hosted the annual Business Awards since 2020. Local businesses are considered for awards in various categories, like Small Business of the Year. Photos courtesy of Dena Huff

**Bayer Construction Company
Cornerstone Award**

**Addair Law
Business of the Year Award**

**New Boston Creative Group
Small Business of the Year Award**

**Switch Wicked
Women/Minority Owned Business Award**

**Flint Hills Ventures
Entrepreneurial Spirt Award**

**Museum of Art + Light
Tourism/Hospitatlity Award**

2025 Business Awards

Graphic by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

VAMPIRE
CONTINUED FROM A2

“This really proves how important it is to stay aware of your surroundings, especially as a college girl,” Esarey said.

“I also think most bars should supply Narcan for situations like this too.”

Voegeli shares his recommendation to business owners, employees and local residents to be aware of those around them and speak up to

protect one another.

“Keep an eye on anything suspicious; if someone is going around touching things that aren’t theirs ... let whoever’s drink it is know not to touch it,” Voegeli said. “We have some naloxone spray and we keep

those behind the bar now in case we see any symptoms that [naloxone] could potentially help, and maybe even save a life. I think other businesses should do the same thing.”

Bussen said Narcan kits were also handed out to businesses

to have on hand. “Just have stuff to be precautionary and always be on the lookout for stuff like this because this is no joke,” Voegeli said. “This is how we become an unsafe community.”

'All Humans Welcome, No Strings Attached'

EMMA MCATEE
staff writer

Kansas State's Ecumenical Campus Ministry sets the table each Friday from noon to 1:30 p.m. for the Real Food Lunch, where students get a free vegan lunch and connect with other community members. This food is prepared by students, for students and served up fresh at 904 Sunset Ave.

Campbell McNorton, senior in social transformation studies and global food systems leadership, serves as the coordinator for Real Food Lunch at ECM. Beyond the atmosphere of communal gathering, the

Real Food Lunch is defined by a decade-long commitment to their vision.

"Real Food Lunch began over 10 years ago by two students who loved to cook and saw a need in the community," McNorton said. "The goal was, and still is, to help feed students and community members alike with 'real' vegan food. Since then, it has been a great community-building experience as folks from all walks of life get to gather together over a home-cooked meal."

ECM is gradually expanding the number of people they host every Friday; currently, they

host up to 10 people per week. McNorton plans and prepares all of the meals.

"We aim to prepare the meal with locally-sourced ingredients; the last couple of weeks were made with tomatoes and butternut squash that were donated by a community member," she said. "We serve a wide variety of vegan dishes. Some favorites include ratatouille, coconut chickpea curry, mac and cheese, warm grain bowls and chili. The meals are a sit-down event, but we also offer to-go options."

This commitment to high-quality service, combined

with the use of local ingredients and a diverse vegan menu, is only half of the experience. The care taken in the kitchen is mirrored in how the meal is served, transforming the simple act of eating into an intentional community event.

"The event and meal itself is an incredibly welcoming space. We foster this space with a no-strings-attached service, where you can simply come in and eat," McNorton said. "ECM is also known to have a wide variety of hot tea to enjoy and holds a fun, light, musical atmosphere."

The relaxed and inviting at-

mosphere is only one part of the equation. More of the experience lies in the conversation that takes place once attendees are seated.

"During the meals, we talk about experiences from the week, various highs and lows we experienced and upcoming events," McNorton said. "All conversation is welcome. ECM hopes to provide a space where safe connections can be made."

ECM is always seeking more volunteers to help with Real Food Lunch.

If interested in volunteering for a meal, contact McNorton at campbellmcnorton@gmail.



Campbell McNorton is the Real Food Lunch coordinator. She loves growing her cooking skills and being able to share them with the community. It has been happening at ECM for over 10 years. The meal consisted of quinoa with sweet potatoes, roasted zucchini and squash, salad and roasted chickpeas.

Photo by Grace Parks
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Dress for success: The business casual edit

AMELIA LIKENS
staff writer

Now that the career fair is over and you've hopefully got interviews lined up, it's the perfect time to start shopping for those upcoming days in the office. Today, we are discussing outfit inspiration for your new professional wardrobe.

Business casual doesn't just mean following a strict dress code and wearing dull gray outfits. It can actually be stylish, colorful and a fun way to romanticize your long days at the office. To start, let's talk about some basics.

Of course, you are going to need some tops. Recently, I have been loving a boat neck top; it subtly elevates a basic piece. I love the "Annie Sleeveless Boat-Neck Top" from Weekday. Another style that will look great in the office is peplum tops. The "Peplum Top With Seam Detail" from Mango is a perfect peplum top.

Button-downs are another great pick for business casual outfits. You can thrift any button-down, roll up the sleeves, tuck the hem into your bottoms, and bam, a basic top has a new life!

The "Haven Long Sleeve Shirt" from Cotton On would look great styled this way and paired with white wide-leg pants. Short-sleeve button-downs, like the "Kimchi Blue Rachel Short Sleeve Cardigan" from Urban Outfitters, are super chic and great for summer days at the office.

Basic black and white pieces will become staples in your professional wardrobe, but you can also incorporate fun colors and prints, too. While polka dots may be a current trend, in my opinion, they are timeless. A polka dot piece is perfect to wear to the office because it is fun yet not so bold that it's distracting. The "Ki-

ena Top" from Billy J is a perfect polka dot top. I also love the "Brenne Midi Skirt" from Peppermayo for a polka dot bottom.

Maxi and midi skirts are one of the best ways to make your office wear more feminine, yet appropriate. One of my favorite trends right now is a drop waist. Drop



waists elevate any dress or skirt. The "Drop Waist Maxi Skirt" from ASOS and the "Pleat Accent Linen Blend Maxi Skirt" from Treasure & Bond are both examples of drop-waist skirts that are business casual.

Wearing a dress is one of the easiest ways to put together an outfit. While it gives the appearance of being dressed up and fancy, your look took very little effort. One of my favorite dress styles right now is the "Tobie Shirt Dress by Exquise" from Anthropologie. This dress is an eye-catching take on a classic dress shirt.

A pair of basic black slacks is the most important business casual staple. They go with any top, making it easy to put outfits together, especially when you are running late. Wide-leg pants are very flattering, and a solid option is the "High Waisted Pocket Work Flare Pants" from Halara,

wrap-top cardigan, such as the "Whoa So Soft Ballet Wrap Sweater Top" from American Eagle, are great business casual sweaters.

Lastly, let's talk about shoes! To be comfortable in the office, a pair of kitten heels or ballet flats is the most practical choice. My personal favorite pair of kitten heels,

them, using some of these icons as inspiration. Kendra Scott, the CEO of the jewelry brand by the same name, has great office wear looks. She wears a lot of bright colors and flowy tops, proving that business casual does not have to be boring and can be feminine.

Carolyn Besette-Kennedy was a fashion publicist and a fashion icon. Most of her street wear looks happen to be perfect business casual inspiration. Her style was conservative yet daring. She sported many maxi skirts, button-downs, loafers and oversized black leather bags. She always had a perfectly tailored pair of denim jeans, which are ideal for casual Fridays!

Danielle Pheloung, a now full-time fashion influencer, previously worked in finance. Her outfit, inspired by her days at the office, is chic yet very achievable. She wore lots of layered outfits, sheer black tights, button-downs and high heels.

Lastly, Andy Sachs, the protagonist of "The Devil Wears Prada," wears some of the most iconic business casual outfits ... post makeover. From structured pea coats and long layered necklaces to bold hats and tweed pieces, her wardrobe is full of professional fashion inspiration. But let's not forget the infamous lumpy cerulean sweater that started it all.

For more ideas, take a look at my Pinterest board! Now that you have a vision for your professional wardrobe, remember to dress business professional for your interviews. Choose something classy that makes you feel confident. Good luck, and may you nail all your interviews and your outfits!

Graphic by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

but you can find a pair of these pretty much anywhere — I got mine from TJ Maxx. However, while a basic black pair of pants is a reliable classic, a fun-colored pair of pants can brighten up your outfit and your day.

Another staple that will help you fight off the office chill is a cardigan or sweater. While any cardigan or sweater that you already have will work perfectly fine, a signature color or patterned sweater won't just keep you warm; it can also help you stand out. The "Old Burlington Knit Cardigan" from Princess Polly or a trendy

which aren't only comfortable but a chic addition to my outfit, are the "Cherish Red Patent" heels from Steve Madden.

A classic pink or black ballet flat will never go out of style and will match pretty much any business casual look. But to jazz it up a bit, a pair of fun and colorful flats can add interest to your outfit. The "Tasmin Flats" from Target are so adorable and have really caught my eye recently. Target also has a dupe for the very popular Flabelus flats.

Now that we have covered staple items, let's talk about styling

SCAN FOR
PINTEREST
BOARD WITH
OUTFIT INSPO



Case's Corner | A brief Case of government responsibility

KYRA CASE
copy chief

For the first time since 2018, the federal government entered a shutdown after Congress missed the deadline for passing a funding bill. While there was Republican support for a short-term bill that would last until Nov. 21, AP reported the Democrats blocked the measure, saying it didn't "address their concerns on health care."

This shutdown will be extremely harmful not only to the public but also to federal employees and active duty service members, who will work without pay during this time. NPR reported that, along with the hundreds of thousands of federal employees who will either work without pay or be furloughed, "services like Social Security benefits and passport applications will continue," but could start to see delays.

What Causes a Shutdown?

A government shutdown happens when Congress is unable to pass appropriations "that keep the federal agencies running into the next fiscal year," U.S. Representative of Sacramento County Ami Bera wrote.

No agreement was reached before midnight, resulting in a shutdown at 12:01 a.m. ET on Oct. 1. Bera wrote that while some essential services are not discontinued during the shutdown, others are "currently disrupted or delayed."

Impact on Colleges and the Public

Of all the employees for the Education Department, 95% of those who don't work on federal student aid "will be furloughed without pay in the first week" of the government shutdown, along with the "thousands of others throughout the federal government," Katherine Knott wrote for Inside Higher Ed.

According to the Department of Education's draft plan, if the shutdown lasts longer than a week, it will bring back approximately 330 employees — leaving 87% of the department furloughed.

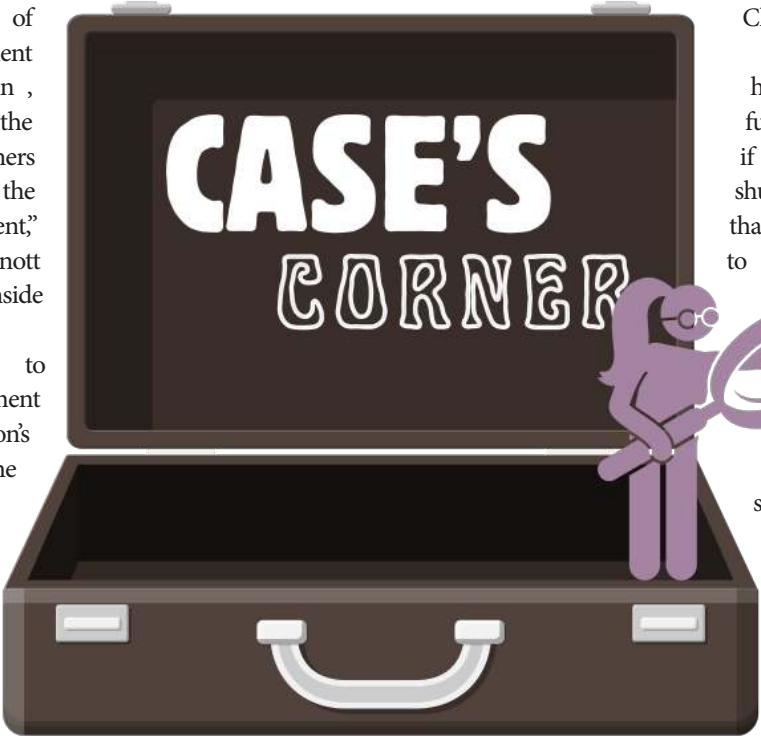
"Student aid dollars will continue to flow through programs including the Pell Grant, student loan payments will be due and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid will remain open," Knott wrote. "However, the department is planning to cease grant-making activities and pause civil rights investigations."

The longer the shutdown goes, the more "disruptive" it will be. Agencies outside the Education Department must prepare shutdown plans, which could impact their staff and

potentially redirect resources from public services.

But how is someone close to home affected?

Areas around Riley County are feeling the impact. Fort Riley closed 15+ departments



Graphic by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

and furloughed employees following the shutdown, the Kansas Reflector reported.

Fort Riley wrote in a Facebook post that during the shutdown, emails and phone calls affecting civilian staff won't be answered, many social media channels will be unmonitored and some services will be temporarily unavailable. Normal operations, however, will resume once federal funding is restored.

"We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time," Fort Riley wrote.

According to NerdWallet, "Delivery won't be interrupted for benefits like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) — once known as 'food stamps' — as well as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)."

The programs have "contingency funds," however, if the government shutdown lasts longer than 30 days, similar to the last shutdown in 2018 that lasted 35 days, there can be significant strain on the Department of Agriculture. If federal contingency funds run out, WIC would shut down entirely after a few days, Anna Helhoski wrote. SNAP delivery, on the other hand, "could last longer."

What is Compromise?

According to an NPR poll titled, "If there is a government shutdown at some point this year, which party do you think would be more to blame?" 27% believed Democrats would be responsible, 38% believed Republicans would be responsible and 4% believed neither would be responsible.

The Senate hosts 53 Republicans, 45 Democrats and

two Independents — both of whom caucus with the Democrats. Currently, it is the Democrats who are blocking the passage of the Republican measure, marking the third time in two weeks that the House-passed resolution has failed on the Senate floor. The measure required 60 votes to pass. It failed to advance 55-45.

Consequently, more than 340 million Americans are impacted by poor decision-making and a lack of resolution from 100 politicians.

Both sides of the aisle are defending their stances. According to the House Committee of Appropriations, the Democrats' counterproposal includes "\$1.5 trillion in new spending for just a month of keeping government funding extended" and is "holding the nation hostage."

According to the New York Post, "Democratic congressional leadership refused to support the GOP measure unless provisions extending pandemic-era health care insurance subsidies and reinstating billions of dollars in funding for foreign aid and other programs cut by Trump were included."

Each side takes strong stances on why they reject or accept the measure, but the lives of thousands of federal employees across the U.S. and millions in the public are affected. The government is meant to promote general welfare amongst the public.

As a country, we are more divided than ever, and if our government can't come together and propose a compromise soon, the divide and blame will become increasingly widespread.

Human vs. AI | Wildcat Film Appreciation Society begins the second half of its film series with 'Ex Machina'

VICTORIA LARSON
staff writer

"Ex Machina," directed by Alex Garland, transports viewers to a serene yet eerie technologically-advanced mansion, surrounded by nature and isolated from society, where the lines between humanity and artificial intelligence blur. The film follows Caleb Smith, a young programmer selected to participate in a week-long innovative Turing Test created by his strange CEO, Nathan.

Nathan's Turing Test is distinct from the traditional version. In Nathan's version, a human knows they are speaking to an AI, and for the test to be passed, the human must assert that the AI undoubtedly possesses human consciousness.

The test involves Ava, an advanced AI with a humanlike appearance, whom Caleb questions

to determine whether she possesses true consciousness. Through their interactions, "Ex Machina" explores the nature of humanity, the rapid advancement of technology, and the ethical dilemmas surrounding artificial life.

Power and manipulation are also important themes, as Caleb, Ava and Nathan partake in a subtle but escalating struggle for control. As Caleb spends more time inside the isolated mansion, he begins to uncover unsettling truths about Nathan's behavior and the darker intentions behind the technology he has created.

One of the film's most compelling elements is its visual storytelling. The dynamic cinematography contrasts the beauty of nature with advanced technological innovations, highlighting the parallels between human experiences and robotic existence. We also

see this in the use of reflection and the glass walls that separate Caleb and Ava during their sessions. These glass walls illustrate the increasingly thin line between humans and artificial intelligence.

Watching this with the Wildcat Film Appreciation Society sparked meaningful discussions about the rapid progress of artificial intelligence. We agreed that many decisions regarding AI development often feel distant from the public, frequently driven by powerful figures such as CEOs or government officials.

I rate this film 4 out of 5 stars for its stunning visuals and thought-provoking themes. While the pacing was slower than I prefer, the impactful themes and surprising ending made it a worthwhile experience.



Illustration by Haley Smith | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP



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THINK LOCAL

Think Local | The Museum of Art + Light

MEKAILA RICKERT
marketing / PR manager

The Museum of Art + Light is the latest trendsetter of downtown Manhattan, setting the new standard for a modern and culture fueled community. MOAL's doors opened last November, featuring digital galleries and immersive exhibitions to inspire visitors. I got the chance to sit down with Erin Dragotto, the MOAL's executive director, to talk about their mission, what inspires their exhibits and her current favorites in the

museum. She opened up about how their mission aligns with their exhibition planning, the team's process being organic and inspired rather than strict. "We're not super formulaic," said Dragotto. "We don't have a super clean roadmap in terms of how an exhibition gets up on our walls, but I think that's the secret sauce." Dragotto elaborated on the behind the scenes and how the museum's mission brought the MOAL to life. "The question on the table was, 'Well, how many people will ever see the Sistine

Chapel?'" she said. "That's when the wheels started turning about immersive technologies and what they can do." Dragotto showed me each of the exhibitions they are currently featuring including the immersive experience "The Erosion of Time" from artists Des Lucr  ce and Dean Mitchell. Mitchell is also featured in their fine arts gallery, including pieces such as "Release Me" and "Gravity" that speak on his childhood in poverty and the humanity that exists within it. Lucr  ce's works can additionally be found within

the museum's digital gallery, expanding on the theme within his immersive experience. Alongside their innovative galleries, the MOAL works within the community offering various events including yoga, concerts for local choirs and activities Manhattan's Yuma Street Cultural Center. Yoga, Art + Light Seasonal Series: Sundown on the Terrace is Thursday, Oct. 9 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy yoga on their third floor balcony with guest instructor Jessica Baxter Peterson and sip on a post-workout tea during a private

viewing of their fine arts gallery. Creative Play and Cocktails: Make a "Kaw-llage" is Friday, Oct. 17 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. At this 21+ event you will get in touch with the community making a landscape collage while listening to Dr. G's Jazz Quartet in Mitchell's immersive gallery. Planning your next visit? They offer discounts on student tickets and yearly memberships that pay for themselves by your second visit. You can purchase your tickets either in person or online with prices starting at \$15.

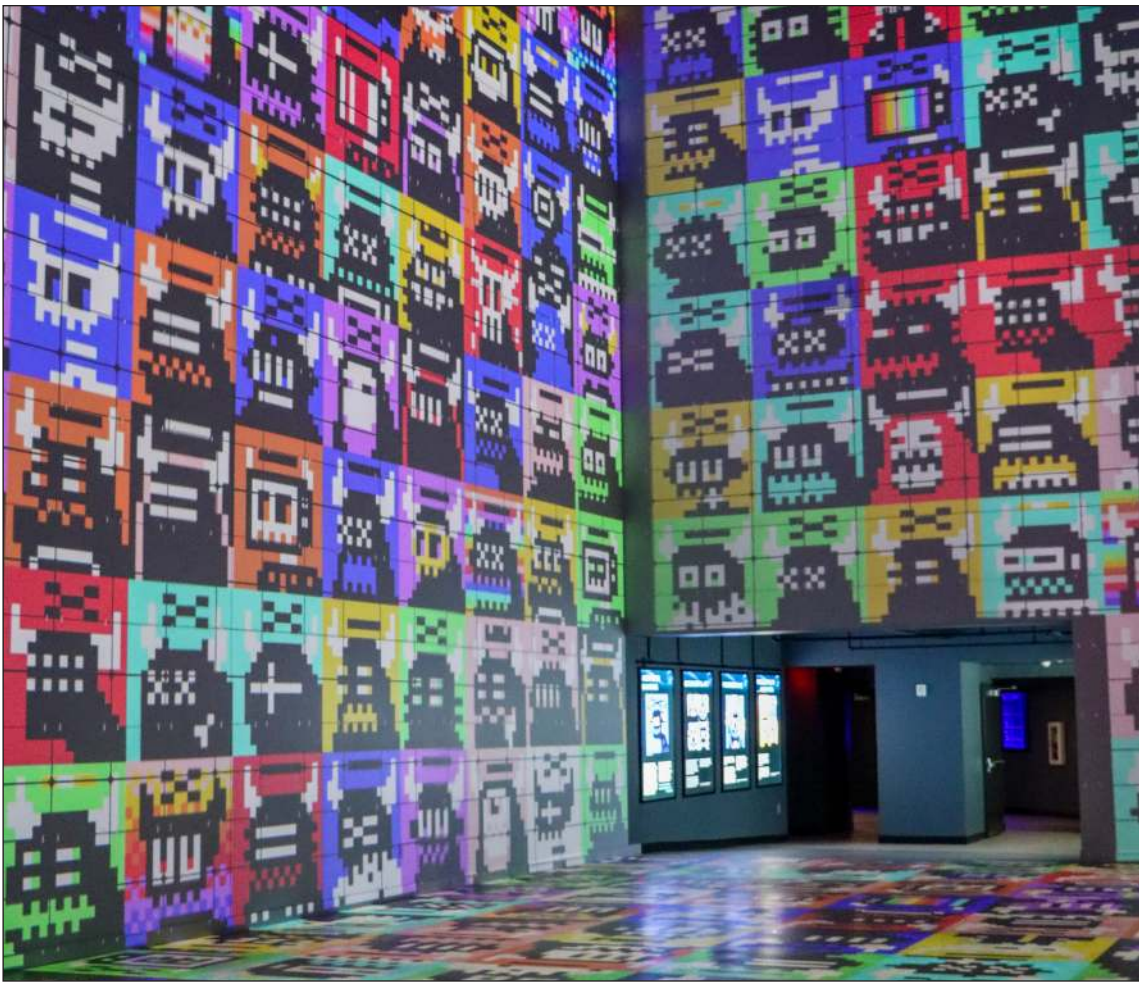


Photo by Mekaila Rickert | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
"The Erosion of Time" by Dean Mitchell and Des Lucr  ce, the museum's featured artists. Lucr  ce's part of the exhibition featured his animated and immersive art featuring what he calls "mons."



Photo by Mekaila Rickert | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
The Museum of Art + Light takes the lead with their modern building, housing fine art, digital, and immersive exhibitions built to inspire.

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Photos courtesy of K-State Athletics

Chogsomjav wins Milwaukee Classic Title; Wildcats conclude the Husker Invitational

TREY THOMAS
staff writer

Kansas State freshman Martaa Chogsomjav made a statement in her collegiate debut, capturing the singles championship at the Milwaukee Tennis Classic

on Sunday. Chogsomjav won six matches in four days to secure the title, finishing with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Minnesota’s Aiva Schmitz in the final. She dominated early in the tournament with straight set wins, including a 6-0, 6-1 decision in the

quarterfinals. “Incredible effort by Martaa to win this prestigious event in her first-ever competition as a Wildcat,” K-State head coach Jordan Smith said. “Winning six singles matches in four days is tough.” Partnering with junior

Margeret Jaraczewski, Chogsomjav also earned a doubles win over Purdue’s Sophya Devas and Ece Gencer 6-3. The duo went 2-2 overall. Four Wildcats competed at the Husker Invitational in Nebraska. There were doubles wins from sophomore Zhanel

Rustemova and freshman Diana Smolinska, who defeated Wichita State 6-4. Smolinska added a singles victory as well, beating Illinois’ Rosie Seccia 6-4, 6-1. K-State’s next challenge comes on Oct. 3 at the Cyclone Invitational in Ames, Iowa.

K-State Cross Country races ahead to next meet

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Kansas State cross country is heading to its second cross country meet of the season in South Bend, Indiana, this Friday, Oct. 3.

The race will feature teams such as Notre Dame, Iowa, Boise State and University of Kansas, among many others, who should make it a competitive race.

K-State's first race of the season ended with the women finishing in first place at the Platte River Rumble. This was the K-State women's first win since October of 2023.

The Wildcats claimed three of the top five finishers in the race, which helped them secure the victory. Their top four racers all claimed personal records as well, which is a good sight to see for the rest of the season.

Cecilia Fisher led the way for the Wildcats, finishing second in the race with a time of 17:21.52.

Coming right behind her in third was Grace Meyer with a time of 17:29.40 and rounding out the top five was Christine Jerono with a time of 17:31.45.

"It's a huge boost of confidence for our team," Fisher said. "It's so fun to leave the first meet with a win, and it is also tangible evidence that we have the potential to do some big things this year as a team."

The men's cross country team did well for themselves as they finished in third in the Platte River Rumble, finishing behind Iowa Western Community College and Northwest Missouri State.

The men's team had two top 10 finishers and was led by Jackson Esquibel with a time of 18:07.45, which was a personal record for him and good for ninth place in the race. Coming behind Esquibel in 10th place was Brock Olsen with a time of 18:11.60.

"Jackson did a great job of setting the tone and getting up front early," K-State head coach



Photo courtesy of K-State Athletics | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Kate Buckman said. "Brock had a heck of a day in his debut race and did a great job of staying close to Jackson."

With both the men and women

off to a good start this season, it sets up to be a successful season. Both teams will face a significant test at the Joe Piane Invitational, where they last competed in 2019.

The women will race in the blue division, which starts at 8:50 a.m., and the men will race in the gold division, which starts at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 3.



Photo by Grace Parks | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Avery Johnson calls the play for the Wildcats against the UCF Knights. Johnson reaches 1,000 career rushing yards during the Sept. 27th game.

K-State gets first Big 12 win of the season

GRETA KLEIN
sports editor

The morning sun shone brightly as it rose, illuminating the stands and field of Bill Snyder Family Stadium. That wasn't the only thing that was illuminating in today's matchup between the Kansas State Wildcats and the UCF Knights.

As the Wildcats came off a bye week and a loss against Arizona the week before, the team was ready to return home and take care of some unfinished business. K-State revealed its true teamwork and camaraderie in a 34-20 win over the Knights.

"I think we showed that adversity hit this year," senior safety Gunner Maldonado said. "When things don't go our way, we can come back and answer because we had a defense that had a couple plays that shouldn't happen, but we can bounce back from it."

Shining bright through athleticism and leadership were quarterback Avery Johnson and running back Dylan Edwards.

"We're a different team when Dylan Edwards plays," K-State head coach Chris Klieman said. "Dylan makes some things right if it's not right. And he was obviously the spark we needed. Truth be told, we needed that spark."

Edwards had 166 rushing yards, along with one touchdown on the day. With 1:50 left in the third quarter, he ran swiftly, making a 75-yard touchdown and extending the Wildcats' lead 31-10.

Johnson also managed to get his footing beneath him, recording both rushing and passing yards. Johnson ran for 75 yards on 12 carries and threw 18-of-25 for 168 yards with two touchdowns.

"Avery's a really special athlete," Klieman said. "Sometimes we gotta say, roll and go just like Dylan. "When those two are running, we can be a much better team."

The running game was effective, especially during the first half; K-State overtook UCF, 158 to 31 in rushing yards.

"We ran the ball pretty well," tight end Will Swanson said. "I think that our preparation

during the bye week in the last week of practice by running the ball, getting us in a rhythm and everything, helped out."

Other spotlight individuals include Jaron Tibbs, who had eight receptions for 72 yards and Garrett Oakley, with two catches for 36 yards.

After not knowing the identity of his team after the Arizona game, Klieman was pumped about their performance and energy against the Knights.

"Our guys played with a ton of emotion and energy today," Klieman said. "I hope people in the stands, and I hope people watched and noticed that, the one thing that's a non-negotiable for me is, you're going to celebrate good plays."

Despite the Wildcats' energetic demeanor during pregame, their start was less desirable than hoped.

During the first drive, Linkon Cure's pass intended for tight end Will Anciaux was intercepted by UCF, ending the Wildcats possession.

K-State truly made its start in the second quarter. Kicker Luis Rodriguez put the 'Cats on the board first with a 38-yard field goal.

With 7:27 left in the second, Maldonado intercepted a pass at the UCF 38-yard line, intended for the Knights Jacurri Brown.

"I think a turnover is always an energy boost," Maldonado said. "I think, me being a guy that's coming back, I think maybe a little added on us."

With 4:42 left before halftime, Dylan Edwards rushed the ball for a 4-yard touchdown, but the play was canceled out by a 10-yard holding penalty against the Wildcats.

Then Johnson ran the ball 13 yards, which was ruled out of bounds after the play. The decision was reversed following an official review and the Wildcats found possession of the ball at the UCF 1-yard line. Joe Jackson finished the play with a 1-yard touchdown after Johnson's rush. The Wildcats led 10-0.

Under three minutes in the second quarter, UCF quarterback Jacurri Brown's pass deep to DJ Black is complete for an 82-yard touchdown. The point after touchdown is good by kicker Noe Ruelas.

The Knights trail 10-7.

Right before halftime, Anciaux receives a 3-yard passing touchdown from Johnson, putting the Wildcats up 17-7 for halftime.

"We were flowing, we were rolling, and Coach (Matt) Wells made some really good calls there," Johnson said. "I knew where I wanted to go with the ball. When everybody plays together as one, we're really hard to stop."

In the middle of the third quarter, Johnson makes a passing touchdown to Garrett Oakley with an extra point conversion cleared by Luis Rodriguez to extend the Wildcats' lead 24-7. After a UCF fumble, K-State's cornerback Justice Clemons recovered the ball. So far this season, this was UCF's first failed attempt on fourth down.

Trying to keep up with the Wildcats, UCF made a 53-yard field goal, trailing 24-10.

Only 1:50 remaining in the third, Edwards made a 75-yard run while also scoring the longest touchdown of his career. Then UCF responded with a 54-yard rushing touchdown by Jaden Nixon, closing the score to 31-17.

The Knights attempted a score in the middle of the fourth quarter but were unsuccessful due to penalties. Instead, Ruelas cleared a 40-yard field goal to bring the score closer to the Wildcat 31-20.

K-State would complete its scoring burst with a 34-20 victory, after a 48-yard field goal by Luis Rodriguez and an interception by safety Qua Moss.

"First of all, it feels good to get a win," Swanson said. "Second of all, the energy that we had as a team on the sidelines- I think that's what separates us from how we've been playing in the past, and it's, without a doubt, our energy."

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Defender **Reece Walrod** pushes against Colorado defensive player in an attempt to get the ball during the Sept. 11 game against Colorado College. The Wildcats completed a 3-1 win over the Tigers. Photo by Kaitlyn Cook | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

K-State falls late against top-ranked TCU

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

In the 83rd minute, Texas Christian midfielder Sydney Becerra shot from 20 yards out and snuck the ball just over the outstretched reach of goalkeeper Maddie Sibbing and just under the crossbar for the game-winning goal.

The game winner for TCU was their fifth game-winning

goal, which was scored in the final 11 minutes of the match. TCU, ranked 10th in the nation, has great late-game composure and that helped them once again against Kansas State.

K-State, in their history, has never beat or tied with the Horned Frogs and while they didn't accomplish either this past weekend, they played competitively with the reigning Big 12 champs.

"It's a belief and a willingness

and a competitiveness," K-State head coach Colleen Corbin said. "Just the resilience to want to be in games with top-10 programs, and truly believing that you belong and that you can get a result, that was the difference."

In the first half of the match, TCU dominated time of possession and were able to get some quality scoring chances, which were halted by the K-State defense.

However, in the second half,

it was K-State that controlled the ball and if it weren't for the late goal by TCU, K-State would have outplayed TCU in the second half of the game.

"We play with intensity and we play with a want to keep the ball," junior defender Reece Walrod said. "I think that we really took that message at halftime and came out in the second half wanting to play our type of soccer."

The scoreless first half by the

Wildcats defense marked the 15th shutout half of the season so far and continued their streak of not allowing a first-half goal.

Goalkeeper Maddie Sibbing had some incredible saves in the first half as she continued to lock down the 'Cats goal along with the back defenders for K-State.

"They have a huge amount of trust in one another," Corbin said. "Also Maddie [Sibbing], I think their communication is incredibly high. We couldn't be more pleased with their performances and just their willingness to continue to grow, and especially in the possession phase of the game, like when we have the ball and we're building and they're kind of setting the tempo."

With tough games against Colorado and now TCU out of the way, the Wildcats have a chance to start rattling off some wins. While a tie against Colorado and a loss against TCU only nets one total point in the standings, the 'Cats have the confidence moving forward that they can compete in every matchup.

Their next matchup comes on Sunday in Orlando, Florida as the Wildcats face off against the Central Florida Knights.

Photo by Kaitlyn Cook
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Sophomore goalkeeper **Maddie Sibbing** kicks the ball downfield after the ball went out of bounds behind the goal. TCU defeated the Wildcats 0-1 at Buser Family Park on Sept. 25th



Wildcats in the NFL | Recapping the best performances from former K-State players in the pros during Week 4

TREY THOMAS
staff writer

Jacob Parrish, CB, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Jacob Parrish has been consistent in his rookie year so far. In the matchup against the Philadelphia Eagles, the first-year corner had three total tackles as well as a tackle for loss. The rookie had poise, allowing zero yards on two screen plays.

The Buccaneers had to swallow a tough 31-25 loss versus the Eagles, but should be excited about what Parrish has been able to do in his first year thus far.

D.J. Reed, CB, Detroit Lions

Sadly, Reed would exit the game early, as he suffered what looked to be a hamstring injury in the fourth quarter. He had to be carted off the field and is expected to miss four weeks.

Cornelius Lucas, RT, Cleveland Browns

It was a rough outing for Lucas in his 67 snaps against the Lions. He allowed two sacks and nine pressures, as well as drawing a penalty. Lucas faced off against one of the league's best pass rushers, Aidan Hutchinson, 17 times in the matchup.

There are questions in the air regarding how this will affect his role on the team moving forward, and only time will tell.

Archive photo by Sabrina Cline
COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Junior punt returner **D.J. Reed** runs the ball back from a kickoff during the Cactus Bowl at Chase Field on Dec. 26, 2017.



KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

K-State looks to slow down Baylor offense

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

Kansas State 2-3

If you like points, this Saturday's game may be for you. The Kansas State offense found a groove last Saturday against the University of Central Florida, having multiple explosive plays. Baylor has one of the best offenses in the Big 12 and across the nation. Here is a look at the stars on each team's offense that will have a chance to stand out this week.

Running back Dylan Edwards completely changed the Wildcats' offense, coming back from injury. His explosiveness in the run game was something that K-State had lacked all season. The threat

from Edwards opened up running lanes for quarterback Avery Johnson, which was a sigh of relief for K-State fans. Look for Edwards to have a big game against a shaky Baylor defense.

Wide receiver Jaron Tibbs seemed to have a good connection with Johnson last week, as Tibbs had a season high of eight catches. Wide receiver Jayce Brown left with a presumed injury, and the status of receiver Jerand Bradley remains up in the air. If those receivers can't go, Tibbs will be the main focus of the Wildcats' throwing game again and will need to step up to the challenge.

Baylor 3-2

Baylor is off to a solid start this season, particularly on the offensive side of the football. If they play up-tempo and with playmakers all over the field, they can make it a long day for opposing defenses. For Baylor to be a dominant team, it will need to find more consistency on defense under head coach Dave Aranda.

Quarterback Sawyer Robertson has been one of the best quarterbacks in the nation, carrying his momentum from the end of last year. Robertson leads the nation in both passing yards and passing touchdowns, showcasing

his dominance. With Robertson at quarterback, Baylor will continue to score lots of points and remain one of the most prolific offenses in the country.

Running back Bryson Washington was phenomenal as a true freshman last year and has continued that into this year as well. Although Baylor likes throwing the ball, Washington's skill level shouldn't be underestimated. Washington can be difficult to tackle because of their dominance, especially when the defense is worn out from sprinting all over the field to protect the fast-paced offense.

WEEK 6
Prediction:
38-31 Baylor




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WHO TO WATCH

K-STATE

RB Dylan Edwards
WR Jaron Tibbs



BAYLOR

QB Sawyer Robertson
RB Bryson Washington




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



Photo by Mindy Wells | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Jaron Tibbs takes in the moment as he steps onto the field to compete against UCF on Sept. 27.



Photo by Mindy Wells | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Dylan Edwards celebrates with a dance after a big rushing touchdown during the game against UCF.

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