

# The 'Ville



THE KANSAS STATE  
COLLEGIAN

VOL. 132 | ISSUE 9

WWW.KSTATECOLLEGIAN.COM

FRIDAY, OCT. 23, 2026

Photo and graphic by Evan Gnagy | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

## Letter from the Editors | Welcome to ‘The ‘Ville’

**GRETA KLEIN**  
editor-in-chief

**DECLAN PHIPPS**  
managing editor

Walking through K-State’s campus, it’s easy to get caught up in homework and the stress of college life.

While many events, like attending games at The Bill or Bramlage Coliseum, make up the “college experience,” we commonly find ourselves looking to the heart of Manhattan — Aggieville.

Best known in quick conversations as “The ‘Ville” it’s a place where college students and members of the Manhattan community

directly intersect. From relaxation to shopping, the roads that tie the Wildcat culture together are just a couple blocks from campus.

In our fall 2026 special edition, “The ‘Ville,” you will find the overlap and true connection between college students and those in the community that frequent the area. From Moro

Street to Manhattan Avenue, citizens earn paychecks and replenish their bodies and minds, with a select few calling the famous bar district their home.

Our staff dug deep into the people and experiences that make up the scenes of Aggieville. Writers, photographers, graphic designers and page designers

fixated on the details and stories that make up the central hub for all K-Staters.

We hope the next time you walk under those purple neon letters, you can rest assured that you know just a little more about the heart of the Little Apple and the people who keep it beating.

Welcome to “The ‘Ville.”

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Photo by Amelia Likens | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

**Sarah Cunnick** stands in front of a wall of vinyl records at her store Sisters of Sound, also known as SOS, named as a calling card for the music lovers of Manhattan.

For over 2 decades, the Cunnick sisters have turned their love for music into an Aggieville staple.

**AMELIA LIKENS**  
opinion editor

Among Aggieville’s bars, restaurants and college nightlife sits a shop playing a different kind of music. For nearly 22 years, Sisters of Sound Records has kept Manhattan in tune, one record at a time. “We’re not a restaurant, we’re not a bar, we’re kind of a shop of misfit toys,” Sarah Cunnick, Sisters of Sound co-owner, said. “We’re different than everybody else, but we’re also kind of the same. We’re all selling something.” Sarah and her sister, Leah, grew up in McPherson, Kansas, before they made their way to Manhattan for college. It was the music that kept Sarah here. Starting her record store career at Streetside Records in the ‘90s, the Cunnick sisters recognized Manhattan’s need for a music shop following its closure in the spring

of 2001. So, they sent out an SOS. Leah came up with the name “Sisters of Sound,” a calling card for all of Manhattan’s music lovers. “We knew that with Streetside closing, this town needed a record store so badly,” Cunnick said. “And that’s why SOS.” The store opened in December 2004 to just a small gathering of friends, but little did the sisters know that day would prove Sisters of Sound was exactly what Manhattan needed. “We just invited our friends,” Cunnick said. “Just people that worked in Aggieville, people we had known forever, and I think we sold like 200 records that first day.” Over two decades later, Sisters of Sound remains a staple in the Manhattan community, but the music industry surrounding SOS has changed. From the rise of streaming services to the resurgence of CDs, Cunnick has seen it all, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I remember that the month before COVID, people knew that things were going to be shutting down,” Cunnick said. “It was like a hurricane was coming and everybody’s going to the store and buying water or milk. And the records were the water and the milk.” Same as the records lining the shelf, the music industry is ever-changing, presenting its fair share of ups and downs. Cunnick has learned those challenges are simply part of owning a small business. “That’s kind of the way this business works; you just kind of roll with the punches,” Cunnick said. Alongside those challenges are the joys the music brings. From the tunes themselves to the people that listen to them, Cunnick’s favorite part of working at Sisters of Sound is helping customers build their own record collection. “We have high school students

that come in here, college students and we have a six-year-old who comes in here once a week who digs through everything and he is awesome,” Cunnick said. “He never buys anything newer than 1965.” Cunnick’s own journey with music began with her family, from games of “name that tune” to her brother’s days as a college radio DJ. “Growing up my brothers had records, my sister had records,” Cunnick said. “It was really a part of our lives growing up in the ‘70s and ‘80s. My brother came back from college and was a DJ, and that’s where I learned how to take care of records.” Decades later, Cunnick still finds that same excitement in music. Her favorites include Luscious Jackson, Prince and R&B, but she also loves discovering new music, especially songs not available on streaming services. “Whenever I find something

that isn’t online, there’s no video for it, it’s not streaming anywhere, I’m like, let’s play this,” Cunnick said. “And then you’re like, this is so good we’re gonna go ahead and start playing it in the store on the regular.” While Cunnick embraces change in music, Sisters of Sound remains a constant amongst the ever-changing Aggieville. Despite the challenges small businesses face and the street’s evolution, the sisters continue to keep music and culture alive in the heart of Manhattan. Cunnick hopes Sisters of Sound’s success and passion can inspire others to pursue their own aspirations. “We’re sort of an example that maybe people can go off and do these things themselves,” Cunnick said. “Don’t sell yourself short. Nobody’s gonna toot your own horn; you gotta do it yourself.”

Above the ‘Ville | The view from upstairs

**SLOANE BUCKWALTER**  
staff writer

**JULIETTE FALO**  
staff writer

While thousands of people walk its streets every week, others call the buildings above them home. Tucked above Aggieville’s restaurants, bars and shops like Kites, Nico’s Little Italy, Smoke Zone and Fat Shack, apartments offer Manhattan locals and K-State students a different perspective on the local bar district. For them, the rush of Aggieville isn’t just a place to visit — it’s right outside their windows. Living above the bars means a front-row seat to Manhattan’s nightlife without having to leave home. For Bryant Siemens, junior in athletic training and physical therapy who lives above Kite’s, the experience has been full of entertainment and chaos. “Well, it can be chaotic at times, but, you know, we love it,” Siemens said. “We love to people watch.”

To Siemens, one of the biggest advantages is being within walking distance of the nightlife. Living above the bars means avoiding dangerous situations, like drunk driving. The location still has drawbacks, though, which Siemens said include late-night noise and inconvenient parking. “Parking definitely sucks, having to walk all the way down to the parking garage,” Siemens said. Although the parking situation and high volume at night can be frustrating, Siemens said he and his roommates were expecting worse and can easily tolerate it. Still, living above the bars has given Siemens and his roommates a close-up view of some of Aggieville’s more unpredictable moments, from being flashed without warning to watching people get arrested for DUIs. Despite the occasional chaos, Siemens said he enjoys the experience and would recommend it to people considering a similar living arrangement. In another hotspot location —

just a block away — Jack Francis, junior in Spanish and biology, and Hadyn Thatcher, junior in psychology, both live above Smoke Zone, with their windows and balcony overlooking Varsity Truck. Francis and Thatcher find their location the perfect people-watching vantage point, noting how even from the third floor, people in line at Varsity interact with them. “I feel like that’s the main thing for me ... people-watching down there, especially on a busy night,” Thatcher said. “People always walk by [and say] ‘Have a great night up there.’ ... It’s nice, I like it.” Not only does their apartment offer an eagle-eye view, but it also ingrains them deeper into the Manhattan community. “I transferred to K-State ... this is my first year here,” Thatcher said. “I wanted to find ... more community in my life, and I think this place specifically has helped me.” For Jensen Anderson, who works at Express Employment and lives above Nico’s Little Italy, the appeal is less about the nightlife it-



Photo by Rylie Kaberline | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

The view from an apartment looking out over the Varsity Donuts truck in Aggieville.

self and more about the atmosphere and community surrounding it. “I love my apartment specifically,” Anderson said. “It’s just super nice. I like living in Aggieville because, I mean, just the vibe is really good and it’s a good atmosphere.” Living above the bars has given Anderson a unique vantage point for local events. She said she particularly enjoyed watching the recent Homecoming parade. Although Anderson likes the environment, she acknowledged that the neighborhood can get rowdy at night.

“Actually, my car is dented in the front because there was a fight ... in the parking lot,” Anderson said. “We don’t know who did it, though. The police came and tried to figure it out, but they didn’t really figure much out. So things get a little bit rowdy, but other than that, it’s pretty nice.” Aggieville is a place most known for its bars, bookstores and great food. But for the people living just above it, the community looks a little different. Sometimes, all it takes is looking up.

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# The women behind the workout

How movement created its own community in Aggieville at Orange Sky Yoga.

**CADENCE BRIER**  
staff writer

Located in the heart of Aggieville, Orange Sky Yoga is Manhattan’s first fully dedicated yoga, barre and spin studio.

Opening its doors in the early 2010’s, the studio invites all to try a class. Their mission is for everyone who walks through the doors to connect with their body and mind to achieve a sense of strength, balance, peace and overall wellness.

With 16 instructors, every class has its own unique flair, incorporating each instructor’s different style. Studio director Casey Ward has been teaching at Orange Sky since 2019. After attending as a student, another instructor encouraged her to get certified to teach.

Achieving countless certifications, Ward is happy knowing that for one hour a day people can let go of their responsibilities and move.

“Our world is so heavy,” Ward said. “Helping folks balance the ease and effort of this life by creating a fun and mindful space to move is what led me to teaching.”

Ward is passionate about creating a class environment that is uplifting, intense and centering. Although trying something new is scary, she encourages all to give themselves grace and show up.

“The most important thing you can do is listen to your body and take things at your own pace,” Ward said. “If something is new, let it be new. Give yourself grace

to try, then let it go — whatever you bring to the mat that day, if it’s 10% or 100%, you showed up. That’s what matters.”

While the classes and final instruction seem flawless, a lot more goes on behind the scenes. Putting together different sequences, creating modifications and finding a great playlist is just the beginning of prepping for a one-hour class.

After years in the industry, Ward is used to the workflow and confident in her skills, yet moments of uncertainty creep in every once in a while.

“It’s easy to doubt ourselves, to question our workouts, to feel like the weight of the world is on our shoulders,” Ward said. “But if you’ve ever run a race you know what runners high feels like. We get that experience every time we teach.”

Chloe Lamb, senior in management information systems, has been attending Orange Sky classes for 10 months. She feels the workouts are challenging, but instructors make for a great environment to grow.

“The instructors are super welcoming, and everyone is always encouraging one another,” Lamb said. “Hit or Strength 50 with Becky is my favorite. She’s super fun because it’s 6 a.m. and she’s just going crazy. It’s awesome and encouraging.”

The classroom setting helps create the connections, yet the true friendships develop outside the studio.

“It’s a good community,” Lamb said. “It’s nice to see peo-

ple around town that I go to classes with. When I came back from summer break and walked back in, everyone was like, ‘Chloe, you’re back!’ and it was really nice that they acknowledged that I was back and that they missed me.”

Orange Sky’s impact extends far beyond the classroom. Events at the studio and in Aggieville truly help make Orange Sky Yoga feel like its own community.

“Our location lends us the opportunity to be in such a fun place in the heart of Manhattan, and we don’t take that for granted,” Ward said. “We love being here and try to participate in any event the district holds.”

One of Ward’s favorite memories was last fall when they held a community “friendsgiving” at the studio. Decorations, shared food, good company and a gratitude board made for sweet celebrations.

“It was the perfect symbol that this space is so much more than fitness,” Ward said. “Coming together to share in gratitude and community was so sweet.”

Ward doesn’t take the weight of being an instructor lightly. She’s grateful for the space to lead students in movement and give them space to relax.

“When we breathe, our inhales are our proof of life, of growth, and that we have the capacity to be different today than we were yesterday,” Ward said. “Our exhales [are] our proof that we weren’t meant to carry it all.”



Photo courtesy of Orange Sky Yoga



Photo by Amelia Likens | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Little Apple Vintage Shop sits small but proud amidst the hustle and bustle of Aggieville. Owner **Matthew Klassen**, who turned his hobby into a business, opened the shop in 2025.

**AMELIA LIKENS**  
opinion editor

One person’s donation is another’s treasure. For Little Apple Vintage Shop owner Matthew Klassen, the hunt for treasure never ends.

From vintage K-State sweaters to one-of-a-kind T-shirts, Klassen has spent over six years supplying Manhattan with clothes that have stories to tell. After years of running his Little Apple Vintage Flea, a monthly clothing market made up of local vendors, Klassen gave his finds a permanent residence in Aggieville, opening his storefront in 2025.

However, Klassen’s love for secondhand clothing came long before owning his own store.

“Since I was the oldest child, I always had to be the one to go to the thrift shop, and then my clothes were hand-me-downs for my little brother,” Klassen said.

Growing up in Meade, Kan-

sas, he developed a love for pieces that could set his wardrobe apart. Today, Klassen often elevates his comfortable style of Birkenstocks and casual pants with a cool T-shirt.

“I would always try to find a shirt that was a bit more unique, especially when I’d go on trips and travel; I’d bring back a few shirts just to have a different look,” Klassen said.

His interest in unique, secondhand clothing eventually became a business when he came to Manhattan and discovered a local vintage pop-up selling old sports jerseys. Inspired, Klassen decided to give it a try himself.

“I found like 20 vintage items and started putting them on Depop,” Klassen said. “That was the start.”

Klassen quickly caught the reselling bug and started the Little Apple Vintage Flea in February 2020. The flea gained popularity quickly, outgrowing its small pop-ups and prompting Klassen to

search for a larger venue. He then set up shop in an empty gas station, now home to Ziggy’s Pizza, where he hosted his biggest event yet.

“To this day, some of the vendors said that was their best day of sales ever,” Klassen said. “That’s when we knew it would work.”

Since then, Little Apple Vintage Flea found its regular spot downtown at 404 Humboldt Street, where it has resided for the past three years.

The flea market’s success inspired Klassen to open his own storefront in Aggieville. From spending the week hunting vintage finds to washing and repairing countless garments, Klassen handles every part of the business himself.

“I’ve got some routes that I do on certain days of the week to hit a few thrift shops,” Klassen said. “And then I’ve got friends in Kansas City that hold wholesale stuff that they find, or someone in Lawrence that I know has

a bunch of K-State. I’ll save the KU and trade it for that.”

With no employees and an inventory that Klassen sources and maintains himself, Klassen exclusively opens the shop on weekends.

“I think having a small space that’s open for the weekends does have its value,” Klassen said. “It kind of makes it special, like a weekend treat.”

Despite the limited hours, the shop has become part of the Aggieville community. The \$5 rack in the back of the store frequently attracts students, while the recent addition of Green Tea Sushi next door has nearly doubled foot traffic.

Beyond his customers, Klassen has found a sense of belonging among his fellow Aggieville business owners.

“Just going to Rock-A-Belly for lunch on a day I’m not open and seeing other owners or managers of other businesses and sharing stories of what’s going on,” Klas-

sen said. “When I get off work on Sundays, I go to the bar at Tanner’s for a late lunch and they already know my order.”

Klassen has even gotten to know the woman who runs Dusty Bookshelf, who he discovered is also from his hometown, bringing a little bit of home to Manhattan.

“I was able to find out way more about my hometown and about Aggieville through her,” Klassen said. “Turns out you know more people than you thought.”

After many years of searching through thrift shop aisles and helping customers add unique items to their wardrobes, Klassen has turned his love for secondhand clothing into a growing business. And with the addition of his own storefront, the search is far from over.

“Part of the hunt is finding stuff you’ve never found, or finding that item that pays the rent,” Klassen said.

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

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## CORRECTIONS

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# Olson's Shoe Service | Centuries of repairs in Manhattan

Aggieville shoe shop passed down through five generations of family ownership despite challenges.

**RICA BLUML**  
staff writer

Family tradition runs deep at Olson's Shoe Service. Since opening its doors in 1889, the business has become a staple in Manhattan.

The shop has a long history that the current owners, Eddie and Dian Olson, have preserved. It was Eddie's great-grandfather, Peter Olson, who opened Olson's Shoe Service in 1889. At that time, the store was located in downtown Manhattan.

Opening a location in Aggieville, Peter's son, Samuel Olson, took over the business during the Great Depression, which made the store more than just a workplace. The family lost their home and moved into the back of the shop. At that time, the store stood in the building that now houses Jimmy John's, while the Olsons' backyard occupied the space where the shop resides today.

Eddie took ownership of the store in 1964; however, he did not originally plan on becoming a small business owner.

"My husband Eddie was in the Air Force when he heard that his father's health had deteriorated and his grandmother asked him to come home when his enlistment was over to take over the



Eddie Olson sits in his store that has been family owned and operated for generations since 1889.

shop," Dian said. "This was not what Eddie had planned for his future, but he and I packed up and moved back home."

While a devotion to helping their family is what drew the Olsons back to Manhattan, their experience with customers is what has kept them in

business for so long.

Some unique challenges accompany running a shoe store. Before online shopping was so prevalent, the Olsons' store was the best place to buy high-quality shoes like Birkenstocks. Now that customers have unlimited options for buying shoes, the

Olsons have found it's best to stick with what they know.

"Probably the biggest challenge for us is that we no longer have a corner on the market on Birkenstock sandals," Dian said. "You can buy them in at least five different stores in town now or online. We try

to keep the trustworthy styles that have brought people in our shop for decades instead of chasing the trends as the other stores do."

Besides selling shoes, Olson's Shoe Service also does repairs. Another challenge the shop faces is the increased use of vinyl and plastic in modern shoes, which are impossible to repair. To combat this issue, Eddie became a certified podiatrist.

"He was able to fill doctors' prescriptions for shoe modifications for people," Dian said. "He would go to shoe and podiatric seminars yearly, and this allowed us to keep up with the trends in footwear, repair materials and foot health."

Now, Eddie and Dian's son Edwin Olson Jr. works on the repair side of the shop as well. Continuing the family legacy allows the Olsons to remain connected to the Manhattan community they have served for decades while sharing their passion with a new generation.

"The college kids running around Aggieville enjoying this particular time in their lives brings us lots of laughs and joy," Dian said. "Being here sure keeps us young at heart! We love watching the community grow up around us."

# Uncorked Inspiration | Studio offers low-pressure space to unleash inner artist



Unfired pottery pieces sit ready to be glazed and decorated at Uncorked Inspiration on Oct. 17.

**EMMA MCATEE**  
arts & culture editor

Aggieville has long been known for entertainment, nightlife and retail shopping, but local creative studio Uncorked Inspiration has successfully blended art with social enjoyment.

Offering everything from walk-in pottery painting for families to weekend paint-and-sip nights for adults, Uncorked Inspiration has established itself as a primary destination where art is accessible to all skill levels.

Neal Wollenberg, co-owner of Uncorked Inspiration with his wife, Andrea Wollenberg, believes their location at 1223 Moro St. in Aggieville has allowed for a sense of community within Manhattan.

"One of the main ways being in Aggieville has shaped Uncorked Inspiration is how many wonderful relationships we've developed with students, faculty, community members and other business owners," Wollenberg said. "I like to think that Uncorked Inspiration fills a space in our community that brings everyone together."

That sense of community didn't happen overnight — it grew from a birthday outing that sparked the idea for the

business in the first place.

"Andrea and I share the same birthday, and I am an artist, so for our birthday in 2014, we went to a paint and sip event at Straight Upp Studio," he said. "We both enjoyed the event so much that I told Andrea, 'Hey, I'm pretty sure I could do that.'"

Giving their business a try, they started with pop-up events around the Manhattan area, sparking a conversation between the two about purchasing Straight Upp Studio.

"After some consideration, Andrea and I took the plunge and in November of 2019, we bought Straight Upp and rebranded it to Uncorked Inspiration, the name we'd been working under since 2015," Wollenberg said.

From early pop-up events to owning their own space, Uncorked Inspiration has grown into a center for creativity with unique offerings and diverse clientele.

"We have so much fun during our events that people forget they're having a bad day, or that they're arguing with someone online, or that the weather isn't behaving how they want," Wollenberg said. "Our events are accessible and fun for everyone. When people do enjoy adult beverages, I think it helps low-

er inhibitions enough that they allow themselves to be creative and open to the idea that they can be an artist."

The welcoming, low-pressure environment extends to an assorted lineup of activities designed to engage the community.

"We offer studio-style ceramics, which our guests can paint with underglaze," Wollenberg said. "We like to think that all of our events help foster the feeling of community, but we also have done private events for various charitable organizations, student groups, businesses and our local schools."

Beyond the art projects, the true heart of the business lies in the connections formed around creativity.

"Aside from seeing the creativity that, in my experience, everyone has inside of them, both Andrea and I enjoy how our creative events bring people from all walks of life together," Wollenberg said. "Sometimes the result has been new and lasting friendships, sometimes romance and even the occasional wedding proposal. Our goal is for anyone who walks through our doors to have a memorable and enjoyable creative experience."

# Aggieville Barbershop | Breaking stereotypical barriers one haircut at a time

**RICA BLUML**  
staff writer

Aggieville Barbershop first opened its doors in 1914. A little over a century later, Julie Leon assumed ownership of the shop. Leon immigrated from Kenya to the United States, originally planning to major in entrepreneurship at K-State.

"I had a background in public relations, working in various hotels back in Kenya before moving to the U.S.," Leon said. "But as the time went by, owning a business integrated with what I was trying to achieve in the end."

So, instead of going to K-State, Leon went to Midwest Barber College. She graduated in October 2017 and joined the barbershop's team a few months later. Her father-in-law worked with Jed Mosher, the salon's previous owner, and introduced the two to each other. During her first four years at the salon, she developed a close relationship with Mosher and Phil Kuehl, who owned the salon before Mosher.

"By good luck, they needed someone because they were both looking to retire, though the transition was a bit of a challenge," Leon said.

Kuehl and Mosher worked together for 30 years, and both had lots of knowledge to pass on to Leon. Kuehl had many prominent

clients, including Bill Snyder, who got his hair cut in the shop for many years. The friendship they formed with each other and their customers set the tone for the salon's environment.

"No woman has ever worked in the barbershop, so I was afraid I might not be welcomed, or people might be a little bit scared," Leon said. "But Jed and Phil had a lot of faith in me."

Kuehl in particular became a mentor figure for Leon when she faced challenges in the barbershop. As the first woman to work in the barbershop, Leon was nervous to eventually assume ownership.

"I just had to show up every day and believe in myself," Leon said. "I had such a wonderful mentor, Phil, who made sure I was comfortable with myself before he retired after being in the shop for almost 50 years."

Leon purchased Aggieville Barbershop from Mosher in 2021. During her time as owner, Leon has worked to establish herself as a capable and knowledgeable barber.

"It's a male-dominated business," Leon said. "A lot of women stylists tend to cater to women's haircuts. ... I think the biggest challenge is to make sure my clients know I can cut hair as good as my male counterparts."

Beyond proving herself as a barber, Leon has revamped the shop's



A barber at the Aggieville Barbershop in Manhattan cuts a client's hair on Oct. 20.

logo and paint job while preserving its history through the original black salon chairs and 1950s-era cash register. Every detail, even its walls lined with birds and fish from its clients, reflects Aggieville Barbershop's legacy.

Located in the heart of Ag-

gieville, the barbershop benefits from a steady flow of college students, military personnel and other visitors in town during home football games. Leon said she takes pride in starting conversations with her customers about the barbershop's history.

"I am very proud to be the first woman to own Aggieville Barbershop since its founding in 1914," Leon said. "I am so grateful for the opportunity, and a big thank you to the K-State family for supporting ... we don't take it for granted."



Photos by Max Ashford | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Coffee Pott Co., located on 11th Street in Manhattan, opened in August. The shop provides an alternative to alcohol, selling hemp-derived cannabis products.

# Coffee Pott Co. | A different kind of buzz

Coffee Pott Co. brings customers in Aggieville together outside of the traditional bar scene.

**JULIETTE FALO**  
staff writer

In a district known for its bars and late-night crowds, Coffee Pott Co. offers Aggieville a different kind of gathering place. Located on 11th Street, the business opened in August and combines coffee with hemp-derived cannabis products, providing another option for customers in the area.

Owner Jason Todack said one of the reasons he opened Coffee Pott Co. was to give people alternatives to alcohol,

particularly those that don't enjoy the effects alcohol has on the body.

"People need to have other options than just alcohol," Todack said. "You know, I understand Aggieville was set up for the college crowd to come in there and let loose on a Friday and Saturday night, but a lot of people, like myself, we don't enjoy drinking."

After only being open for a couple of months, the store has already seen customers visiting the store who don't drink alcohol.

"We have college kids that,

no joke, all their friends are drunk and trashed," Todack said. "When they come in, they just want to get like a five milligram drink so they can have a little fun themselves, because they don't drink."

The business also serves regular coffee, giving customers another reason to stop in beyond its hemp-derived products. Todack said some customers stop in for their standard morning coffee, while others choose to add hemp-derived cannabinoids to their drinks. Alongside its coffee, the

business also offers herbal teas and other products through its apothecary section.

For regular customer James Couch, the appeal goes beyond what the business sells.

"I think it brings people together," Couch said.

Couch described Coffee Pott Co. as a friendly place where customers can find products they enjoy and feel comfortable while doing so. He also feels like there is nothing else like it in Manhattan.

"It's always a friendly place," Couch said. "I think everybody

should stop by here at least one time."

As Coffee Pott Co. continues to establish itself in Aggieville, Todack hopes to give people a place to enjoy themselves without feeling that alcohol has to be part of the experience.

"Everybody wants to have fun," Todack said. "And you could be sober and have fun."

The shop has already begun to see more traffic, and Couch believes there will be even more to come.

"I think once this hits off, I think everybody's gonna come here," Couch said.



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Three Brother's Bar attendee takes a shot during a game of pool on Oct. 19. The bar has an 18-plus side along with a 21-plus section to accomodate patrons of all ages.

KATHRYN GREENWOOD  
staff writer

Located at 1218 Moro St, Three Brother's Bar is bringing a new energy to Aggieville's nightlife. Whether customers are looking for somewhere to dance, watch sports, play games or just hang out with friends, Three Brother's offers something for everyone. That variety has helped shape the bar's identity in Manhattan.

Owners Daniel and Haley Milligan said they are thrilled with the positive reaction from customers.

"One of the best parts has been getting to know our customers

and building relationships with students, Greek houses and other community organizations," Haley Milligan said.

The Milligans had prior bar experience at Fat's Bar and feel that work helped them start Three Brother's. Daniel Milligan and his partner had been at Fat's since 2014, and both stepped into full ownership in 2022.

Using the same structure to start, the Milligans looked for different ways to improve upon customer experience.

The bar's name represents its three main indoor spaces: the sports bar, game room and the back room, otherwise known as "The Annex."

The sports bar, Haley Milligan

said, "holds some of the largest TVs in the area." She explained that it was important for them to invest in things that create the best possible experience for patrons.

A distinctive feature of Three Brother's is The Annex, which separates customers 18 and older from those 21 and up. The owners designed the bar around this idea from the beginning.

"The separate spaces allow young adults to still get the bar experience, just in a more controlled environment, and the layout makes it easy for our staff to manage both sides," Haley Milligan said.

The space is also heavily utilized for events, and its versatility allows

it to be a private space for gatherings of various kinds.

"The Annex by definition is an off-campus venue for college students to throw parties," Haley Milligan said.

The owners noted that being an 18-plus bar comes with its challenges, but they have been able to manage and come up with solutions for any obstacles or complications.

Nick Adams, a bouncer at Three Brother's, enjoys working at the bar because each night there are many different social experiences. However, working in a venue that serves customers under 21 requires uncompromising boundaries.

"You have to be able to say no and

stand your ground," Adams said.

Adams is one of several people who contribute to the bar's operation and help establish its place in town. He enjoys the community he has found with his coworkers at Three Brother's.

The Milligans are proud to be a part of Aggieville's local bar scene and other businesses. For the owners, it isn't about competing, but creating the best experience for guests.

"At the end of the day, we just want to be a place where people choose to spend time with friends, celebrate milestones, and make memories," Haley Milligan said.

"If we do that well, everything else tends to take care of itself."

# Noche latina en Manhattan

MARÍA VELAZCO  
staff writer

El entretenimiento y la diversión son subjetivos en las distintas demografías en Manhattan, mas existe una que continuamente ha popularizado su establecimiento en la comunidad Latina.

El antro Tate's on Moro es anfitrión de música en Español, donde se celebra a la diversa población latina de Manhattan. Con espacio para bailar, luces dinámicas y un ambiente diferente, cada sábado se vive la noche latina.

De acuerdo con K-State Quick Facts, los estudiantes hispanos de K-State son el 9.1% de la población estudiantil a

pesar de ser una institución predominantemente blanca. Al contar con organizaciones en el campus que apoyan a los estudiantes, como la Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO), los estudiantes igualmente buscan otras formas de conexión los fines de semana.

Darleen Ferrer-Stricker, estudiante de último año en biología, tiene favoritismo a Tates y ha sido un lugar especial para ella desde su primera salida en Aggieville.

"La primera vez que salí en Aggieville fue con un grupo de amigos hispanos," Ferrer-Stricker dijo. "Esa fue mi primera vez saliendo, mi primera vez bailando en ese ambiente. Creo que por eso

siempre va a tener un espacio especial en mi corazón."

Militares destacados en Fort Riley, dueños de restaurantes mexicanos o universitarios Latinos, ella piensa que Tate's crea comunidad en este establecimiento.

Las salidas los sábados permiten a estudiantes como Ferrer-Stricker acudir a lugares con un ambiente familiar y la oportunidad de relacionarse con personas de su cultura.

"Se que cuando voy siempre voy a ver alguien que reconocer, una cara familiar," Ferrer-Stricker dijo.

Desde el 2019, Tate's trae la Noche Latina a la comunidad, uniendo a personas de distintas edades y oficios a través de la música



Asistentes de Noche Latina en Tate's on Moro bailando a la música en Oct. 17. Desde El 2019, el evento semanal a presentado música Latina como el reggaetón, salsa, merengue, norteñas y más.

ca de reggaetón, salsa, merengue, norteñas y más.

A pesar de los despliegues en diferentes bases militares, de los años de universidad o de las etapas de la vida, lugares como Tates ha brindado entretenimiento

to duradero a la población de Manhattan a través de la música en Español.

"Es una buena manera de conectar con mi cultura y escuchar música que me gusta," Ferrer-Stricker said.

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Candidates discuss education, economic opportunity at town hall

State Board of Education and treasurer candidates explain the importance of down-ballot races.

ALEX LANTERMAN  
staff writer

While congressional and gubernatorial races often dominate the headlines, candidates for two lesser-known statewide offices emphasized their positions can have a significant daily impact on Kansans, from public education funding to student debt.

Democratic Kansas State Board of Education District 1 candidate Jennifer Lloyd and Democratic Kansas state treasurer candidate Juan Luengo spoke at the “informal town hall” Tuesday evening at the Manhattan Public Library. In-

divisible MHK, a pro-democracy grassroots progressive organization founded in Manhattan, organized the event. It was the final event in their 2026 midterm town hall series, which included Jennifer Day, Lauren Reinhold and a panel of

local candidates. Organizers invited Lloyd’s opponent, Republican Amy Cawvey, and Luengo’s opponents, Libertarian Eric Lund and Republican Steven C. Johnson, but they declined to participate. **SEE HALL ON B2 »**



Jesse Perez Mendez, provost and executive vice president of K-State, addresses staff about employee concerns in an effort for K-State to become an employer of choice in Regnier Forum on Oct. 20.

Faculty highlights concerns at first open forum

Transparency and valuing faculty members’ input were at the core of attendees’ interests at first forum.

AMYLEE GIL  
news editor

With faculty members from across the university in attendance, the first open forum of the year was centered around K-State becoming an employer of choice and featured feedback from staff. The forum took place Tuesday in the Regnier Forum and began with a presentation of university-wide efforts and initiatives meant to promote staff well-being and success. After the presentation, Provost Jesse Perez Mendez opened the forum to a Q&A with participants. The majority of the questions came from anonymous online submissions before or during the meeting. The first questions concerned budgetary and structural issues within the College of Arts and Sciences. The first question asked what safeguards are in place for staff whom the university will potentially lay off and if there are spots available to them on campus. Mendez explained that there is a steering committee in place made up of faculty, staff and department heads to assess what

actions to take in addressing these issues, while keeping university workload policy in mind. Another Arts and Sciences-related question asked why departments within the college were allowed to operate while “in the red for so many years and now, all of a sudden, are expected to pass up funds all at once to bring everyone back into the black financially.” Mendez explained that the issues Arts and Sciences is facing have been arising since 2008 with no thorough adjustments made to address them. “Instead of dealing with this cosmetically, we’re gonna have to really dig deep and actually look at actual structures overall,” Mendez said. “And once again, this is a difficult conversation to have within that college. ... Let’s address the shortcomings here, and let’s never come back to this chapter in the college’s history.” A primary concern from some faculty members surrounded faculty involvement in major decisions which will affect them and their workload. “There’s been a tremendous amount of change occurring at this

university without explanation or input from faculty and staff,” an anonymous faculty member said. “We are feeling overwhelmed, bewildered and dispirited. Concerns are often dismissed when communicated, receiving the response ‘change is hard,’ rather than listening and attempting to find a better approach. “The lack of clear, non-patronizing communication is an issue.” Mendez said he is committed to being present and having more conversations to answer questions from faculty experiencing the effects of changes happening throughout the university. Another anonymous question stated that for the past 11 years, faculty have decreasingly been represented as professionals and more than just state employees. “We have an obligation to our disciplines, to create new knowledge, that we create our bodies of knowledge, through that additional or new research, that we decide what our students need to take in their classes, so that they can become degree holders in our disciplines ... we have lost the thread that faculty are not just employees,

and I would like to get it back,” an unnamed faculty member said. Mendez responded, asking faculty to get in contact with him or their faculty senator if they feel administration is not responsive to faculty issues. Margaret Mohr-Schroeder, vice provost for academic innovation, identified Academic Affairs and Innovation positions which can assist in faculty matters. Christer Aakeröy, head of the Department of Chemistry, asked where job security ranks in importance to the provost and the administration. “Next year some people would presumably, most likely not be reappointed again,” Aakeröy said. “I think it’s difficult to overlook the consequences that’s gonna happen on their families and careers. So, it seems like that’s being just forgotten already.” Mendez said he wants to maintain an environment where campus services and continued employment make everyone feel supported. He then applied this goal to the College of Arts and Sciences renewal process. **SEE FORUM ON B2 »**

Potential El Niño to affect Kansas agriculture

DELANEY WRIGHT  
staff writer

A “Super El Niño” is predicted to circulate through Kansas from November 2026 to March 2027 and is expected to have a positive impact on Kansas agriculture. El Niño is a climate pattern that occurs when sea surface temperatures are warmer than average in the Niño 3.4 region, influencing atmospheric circulation, weather events and environmental and agricultural impacts. Matthew C. Sittel, assistant state climatologist in the Department of Agronomy, said an El Niño is “five consecutive three-month periods during which sea surface temperatures (SSTs) average at least 0.5 degrees Celsius above normal within the Niño 3.4 region.” “The key to El Niño ... is that it is not all over the ocean,” Sittel said. “It is a very specific portion of the Pacific Ocean where it takes place ... the equatorial Pacific.” Niño 3.4 overlaps parts of Niño 3 and 4 regions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, which is a standard location for monitoring El Niño and La Niña. Sittel said that an El Niño event occurring this winter is not yet declared but is predicted. “The reason that it is officially not an El Niño yet is that we haven’t strung together five consecutive three-month periods yet,” Sittel said. He said researchers have distinguished severity levels between past El Niño events by looking at which ones are the strongest. “If we go back and look at the top 10 strongest El Niño events that have happened for Kansas ... seven out of 10 of those events, the average temperature throughout the state was warmer than normal,” he said. In examining the top 10 strongest El Niño events in Kansas, Sittel said in seven of those 10 events, there was more precipitation than average across Kansas. While there are some predictions about the severity of this possible El Niño event, he said there is always general unpredictability when it comes to weather. “The problem is seven out of 10 is not 100%; it is only 70% of the El Niño events, so there is **SEE NIÑO ON B2 »**

‘You can act’ | Fourth ‘No Kings’ rally emphasizes civic engagement

COLIN JARCHOW  
staff writer

Roughly 150 people attended the “No Kings: Vote Early” rally in Manhattan. While still protesting the actions of the Trump administration, the fourth in the series of ‘No Kings’ rallies placed a greater emphasis on action through voting. Indivisible MHK, a pro-democracy grassroots progressive organization, hosted the rally on Oct. 17 at City Park. Protesters lined up on the north side of Poyntz Avenue, displaying handmade signs and flags expressing displeasure with the political status quo and a hope for change. Philip Nel, Indivisible MHK board member and K-State university distinguished professor, said the best result of the protest would be fostering a sense of hope from a local to national level. “I think the biggest outcome is solidarity and the knowledge that you are not alone, that you are not the only one noticing that things aren’t going as they should in democracy,” Nel said. “I think that’s the biggest thing because when you realize that you are not alone,

you have hope, and when you have hope, you can act.” Nel also said the event would see one major difference when compared to the previous “No Kings” rallies: a highlight on voting. “In terms of the No Kings protests in general, I think this is a much lower-key event,” Nel said. “We’re really focused on getting out the vote, encouraging people to go canvassing, do phone banking; our local NAACP is organizing rides to the polls because we’re encouraging people to vote in person. ... It has the same name, but not quite the same vibe.” Nel also gave reassurance to those who may have doubts about voting, saying their votes and their voice do count. “There are those that say, ‘My vote doesn’t count, my vote doesn’t matter, I can’t do anything,’ it’s not true,” Nel said. “You can. And it may not seem like much, but numbers matter, and numbers really matter in a midterm because fewer people show up. If you show up, your vote matters even more.” Diana Caldwell, a Manhattan resident, said she is dissatisfied with the Trump administration,

specifically its actions related to immigration enforcement. “[Trump] has taken over our abilities to act in democratic ways not only in this country but abroad,” Caldwell said. “He feels that, as the top person in this country, he has the right to bring about his desires rather than the desires of the people. He’s taking [immigration policy] to the point where we are mimicking the Nazis during World War II.” Lori Goetsch, a retiree living in Manhattan, said her experience with activism in the past motivates her activism in the present. “I’m in my 70s, and when I was in my 20s, I marched for the Equal Rights Amendment, and I marched for abortion rights for women,” Goetsch said. “And all those things have taken a step backward in this administration. And that really concerns me; the treatment of women, women’s health, and women’s employment is a big issue for me.” Kathy Sargent, a Manhattan resident, said that it is vital for people to vote and voice their opinions. “My sign says, ‘Vote, it’s our only way out,’ and our goal today is to get people to go vote early so that more people get to the polls ahead



Protesters hold strongly worded signs about political candidates at a “No Kings” protest outside Manhattan City Hall ahead of the upcoming elections.

of time,” Sargent said. “We think that voting is super important, no matter what politics you’re with. I feel like our country is in a bad place. I’d like to see it improve, and speaking my voice is about the only way I can think to do it.” Monty Enright, a Manhattan resident, said he wants to see political tensions cool in our society through better cooperation. “I’m hoping we’ll be able to push people to get out and vote,” Enright said. “Obviously, I want them to vote one direction, but

we’re just hoping to push democracy. ... I think where democracy works better is when there’s a split between red and blue, and I’m hopeful we can move to a more peaceful existence.” Though the deadline to register to vote has passed, early voting has begun. Advance voting is on select dates on the second floor of the Riley County Office building at 110 Courthouse Plaza. Regular voting locations are listed on the Riley County website, and absentee ballots are also available.

HALL

« CONTINUED FROM B1

Philip Nel, an Indivisible MHK board member and K-State university distinguished professor, said the forum’s purpose was to draw attention to races that often receive less attention than campaigns for governor, Congress or Senate.

“State races really matter,” Nel said. “The big races get all the attention. They get all the press, they get all the coverage. And those are important. But the job of the state treasurer, being on the Board of Education, is equally as important.”

Jennifer Lloyd, a longtime teacher and elementary school librarian, said her decision to run for State Board of Education stemmed from concern over the recent view of teachers in public discourse.

“I felt like teachers kept being attacked,” Lloyd said. “I felt like somebody had to stand up and say, ‘This is not what’s happening.’ We have to start treating teachers like the professionals that they are.”

The number one issue facing public education is lack of support for special education programs, a concern Lloyd hears from citizens across the state. Currently, insufficient funding forces districts to divert vital resources from other areas,

something Lloyd hopes to change.

Lloyd also said Kansas schools should do more to prepare students for life after graduation, whether they’re attending college, entering a trade school or going into the workforce.

“We don’t teach [children] how to interview; we don’t teach them how to balance a checkbook, how to write a resume,” Lloyd said. “Some of the things that we used to do, we stopped doing, and that’s a problem.”

For K-State and any other students considering careers in public education, Lloyd offered a simple message.

“We need educators,” she said. “We need good educators, people that are willing to work with kids. And we need to work with KNEA [the Kansas National Education Association] to help with salaries.”

Luengo, meanwhile, centered much of his message on financial literacy, workforce development and reducing the impact of student debt.

“I want to be able to leave a legacy where kids, younger generations, come out of college with as little debt as possible,” he said.

Juan Luengo is CEO of Engage Insurance Group, a risk-management firm in Overland Park, and the first Latino to run for a Kansas state office, an opportunity he said will hopefully open

doors for other minorities.

Luengo said that although many Kansans may not be familiar with the full scope of the State Treasurer’s office, the position plays a critical role in managing state finances, supporting savings programs and helping communities with funding opportunities. One of his platforms is encouraging more financial education for younger children.

“I do feel that has to be integrated into the curriculum; middle school all the way through college,” he said. “A lot of those lessons are being learned in people’s 20s and 30s, and that’s just simply too late.”

Luengo also said retaining young professionals after they graduate remains a challenge for Kansas and said that expanding economic opportunities is one solution to keep those recent graduates in the state.

“We need to bring that talent to Kansas, and keep it here,” he said. “It’s a huge problem that our state has.”

Beyond the two candidates’ policy positions, organizers once again stressed the importance of civic engagement and participation in state and local elections, a recurring theme this cycle.

“All of the things in your life that you take for granted, some-



Photo by Rylie Kaberline | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Jennifer Lloyd answers questions during the Indivisible MHK town hall at the Manhattan Public Library on Oct. 20.

body is doing behind the scenes,” Nel said. “These jobs are important and worth our attention.”

Early voting in Riley County, as well as mail-in ballot submission, continues until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3. Additionally, those looking to vote on Election Day can do so at several places in Manhattan and the surrounding communities.

Nel encouraged young voters to remain engaged beyond just Election Day, noting that lower turnout in midterm and non-presidential elections can give college voters an even greater voice.

“If young voters show up to the polls en masse, you can elect a whole different set of people,” he said.

As the town hall series concluded, organizers said they hoped the Tuesday town hall and similar events helped residents better understand the offices that affect daily lives across the state, and encouraged greater participation in all parts of the democratic process.

“There is not an unimportant office just because it only has local power,” Nel said. “Every single race is important, every one affects you in some way and you should vote in all of them.”

FORUM

« CONTINUED FROM B1

“The process we’re going by with the Arts and Sciences renewal process, we’re trying to look at every

possible lever we possibly can before we have to look at personnel reduction ... if you could just be a little patient with us and continue to engage in your conversations going on in your college [the College of Arts and Sciences] that would be

very helpful,” Mendez said.

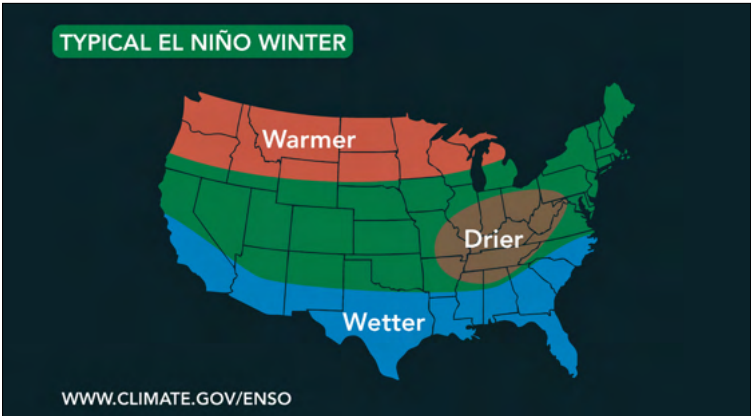
In regard to K-State’s shared governance, participants voiced concerns that employee expertise is not being accurately reflected university-wide and brought attention to worries surrounding

the removal of unclassified professional staff from representation in shared governance.

Additionally, faculty members said they are concerned that the utilization of outside consultants in a time of significant shifts for the

university disregards colleges’ and departments’ institutional culture.

In response, Mendez said he believes it is helpful to have outside consultants facilitate conversations and interviews to avoid potential biases.



Graphic by Evan Gnagy | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

NIÑO

« CONTINUED FROM B1

“Super El Niño” is not an official term, but a media-created superlative commonly used to describe a significant El Niño. Maycee Thouvenel, sophomore in agriculture communications, said that though the term “super El Niño” can come off as a negative term to the public, there are benefits.

“This could actually be positive for farmers and ranchers in some ways,” Thouvenel said.

Mason Springer, junior in agricultural economics, said that if El Niño were to bring an excessive amount of precipitation and snowfall, it would greatly benefit farmers due to improved soil moisture, overall benefiting Kansas farmers.

“It would be really optimal growing and planting conditions for farmers, and [I] can see really

good crops come out of it,” he said.

Farmers in Kansas have already planted their wheat for the year, and the anticipated higher-than-normal precipitation could benefit cattle pastures.

“If we have that above-average precipitation over the winter, that is more snow that melts back into the soil and the grass starts to green back up and grow again so ranchers can go back and put their cattle back on grass quicker than usual,” Sittel said.

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Photo by Paige Mueller | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

**Will Lingenfelser**, senior in integrative physiology, serves the ball during a sand volleyball game at the Chester E. Peters Recreation Center on Oct. 15. St. Isidore’s students meet weekly to spend time in friendly competition and get away from busy college life.

# When the lights go out, the game is over, for the week at least

What started as a way to hang out has turned into a weekly tradition filled with volleyball, new friends and plenty of laughs.

**PAIGE MUELLER**  
sports editor

Around 10 p.m. on Thursday nights, the sand volleyball courts at the Chester E. Peters Recreation Center start filling up. Friends circle up to select teams, volleyballs start flying and the games continue for the next two hours. The only thing that can officially call it a night is midnight, when the lights go out.

The group, connected through St. Isidore’s Catholic Student Center, usually draws around 25 students each week. Some come for the volleyball, others for the people, but everyone has a place in the sand — regardless of skill level or how well their team plays.

For Joshua Juenemann, junior in physical education and health, the weekly gathering has come a long way since he first played during a college visit in 2023. A friend brought him along when he was a high school senior, and he had such a good time that he kept coming back after enrolling at K-State.

After his freshman year, though, participation started to

fade as fewer people knew about the games. Juenemann decided to help bring the tradition back by creating a GroupMe for St. Isidore’s sand volleyball.

The effort paid off. On Aug. 27, the group reached a high of about 80 people. Now, a typical Thursday still brings around 25 students to the courts, no matter if it’s 70 or 50 degrees outside — even pouring rain can’t keep spirits down.

“It was awesome to see how much the group had grown!” Juenemann said.

But the growth isn’t just about getting more people to play. It’s about giving them a reason to return.

Will Lingenfelser, senior in integrative physiology, started playing last year after an upperclassman invited him to the GroupMe. He was excited to play volleyball but nervous during his first few visits because he didn’t know anyone.

Those nerves didn’t last long. “From the start, I was shocked by how welcoming the community was,” Lingenfelser said. “I was amazed by how many people truly cared to get to know me and how support-

ive everyone constantly was.”

Lingenfelser now takes pride in welcoming new players into the group. He said some of his favorite nights are when more than 40 people come together through their shared faith and desire to support one another.

That welcoming atmosphere also keeps sophomore Jessica Kempf coming back. Kempf, majoring in marketing, first heard about sand volleyball during St. Isidore’s 2025 welcome week, when an announcement after 9:09 p.m. Mass introduced her to a new way to spend Thursday nights.

For Kempf, it’s a chance to play a sport with friends while meeting people she might not otherwise have known. One of her favorite memories was playing with a group she’d never met. They lost almost every game, but that hardly mattered.

“We played for hours, and even though it was super late, it was a blast,” Kempf said.

Kempf sees casual activities like sand volleyball as a chance to build community outside the classroom and away from the usual college routine.

“I think these activities like sand volleyball are super beneficial for the community because they provide other options for college students on Thursday nights rather than going out to Aggieville,” Kempf said.

Joseph Charles, freshman in nutrition and health, learned about the games when Rev. J. Trevor Buster mentioned them during his homily at Mass. He said the people make him want to return every week.

The group has even given itself a name, courtesy of Charles, the Holy Sanders.

“We are the holy sanders looking to get a little sandy,” Charles said.

Not every court memory involves a big play or a close game. One of Charles’ favorites was making a turtle out of the sand and naming it Shelly. It’s the kind of moment that captures what the group is about — spending time together, laughing and not taking the game too seriously.

For Juenemann, the volleyball itself has never been the main attraction.

“Sure, I’m not the greatest at

volleyball, but it’s such a blast because of the people who come and make it fun,” Juene-mann said.

That attitude is part of the invitation. Players don’t need high school experience or polished skills to join. Juenemann said new people show up almost every time, and he encourages anyone interested to give it a shot.

“And if you think you aren’t good at volleyball, that’s okay too,” Juenemann said. “There’s no way you’ll be worse than me!”

For Lingenfelser, the group has become one of the things he’ll remember most about college. He’s grateful for the community he found and hopes it continues giving other students a place to belong.

“I’m truly blessed to be part of this community, and I hope this group continues so many more people can find a place where they feel they belong,” Lingenfelser said.

Whether they’re meeting new friends, losing nearly every game or building sand turtles, the Holy Sanders keep coming back. Volleyball might bring them to the courts, but the people keep them coming back.

# K-State men’s golf climbs to 3rd-place finish at The Clerico

**BRADY HOWARD**  
staff writer

K-State men’s golf finished at The Clerico on a high note Tuesday, Oct. 20, shooting an even-par 280 in the final round to climb four spots and tie for third at Cedar Ridge Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Wildcats concluded with a three-round total of 865, 25-over-par, tying South Alabama. K-State finished one stroke behind New Mexico, which took second place at 864. Host Oral Roberts won the tournament at 854.

After tying for seventh following Monday’s play, K-State posted its best round when it mattered most. The Wildcats’ 280 was the second-best team round of the event and helped them finish among the top three

in the 13-team field.

“I’m proud of how we competed today,” head coach Grant Robbins said. “We really emphasized the process before the round, and I thought we did a much better job of being committed on each shot and letting go of outcomes.”

Sophomore Oliver Toyer led the Wildcats, tying for 10th at 4-over-par 214. He shot a 1-under-par 69 in the final round and scored an eagle on the par-5 14th hole.

Ville Virkkala also finished strong for K-State. The sophomore shot an even-par 70 on Tuesday to finish at 7-over-par 217, tying for 17th place. Jules De Brauwere, who competed individually, finished with the same total and also tied for 17th.

Junior Fionn Dobbin finished tied for 24th at 9-over-par 219 after shooting an even-par 70 in

the final round. His performance helped K-State finish strong after two challenging opening rounds.

Erik Sabelström Holmberg and Octavio Laurent both finished at 10-over-par 220, tying for 28th place. Sabelström Holmberg carded a 1-over-par 71 in the final round, while Laurent shot a 3-over-par 73.

Freshman Oscar Stendahl, who also competed individually, tied for 21st at 8-over-par 218. Stendahl shot a 4-over-par 74 in the final round.

Robbins said the Wildcats improved their focus from the previous day, when missed opportunities kept them from moving further up the leaderboard.

“There were a lot of shots we gave away yesterday, but I’m pleased with the way they came out this morning and just played



Photo courtesy of K-State Athletics

golf without worrying about the score,” Robbins said.

Oral Roberts claimed the team title with a 54-hole total of 854, finishing 10 strokes ahead of New Mexico. The Golden Eagles also had the tournament’s top individual, Ben Gratzl, who finished at

6-under-par 204 after shooting a 6-under-par 64 in the final round.

K-State wraps up its fall schedule at the Steelwood Intercollegiate from Oct. 31-Nov. 1 in Loxley, Alabama. South Alabama will host the tournament at Steelwood Country Club.



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# KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

## K-State takes the Big 12 fight to the Arizona desert after 37 years

PAIGE MUELLER  
sports editor

### K-State (4-2, 1-2 Big 12)

K-State looks to carry its momentum from the Dillons Sunflower Showdown into its first game of a two-game road swing when it travels to Arizona State on Saturday, Oct. 24.

The Wildcats are coming off a 35-24 win over Kansas on Oct. 17, piling up 568 total yards, including 359 on the ground. Joe Jackson rushed for 159 yards, while quarterback Avery Johnson added 132 rushing yards and 209 passing yards.

K-State ranks sixth nationally in rushing, averaging 239.8 yards per game, and Johnson is a huge part of that success. However, Johnson's status changed to questionable on Wednesday night's injury report, creating

uncertainty under center. Senior Jacob Knuth could step in if needed. He has played 17 snaps this season, completed all three of his career pass attempts for 25 yards, and rushed for 83 yards and a touchdown. Freshman Dillon Duff offers another option, but his availability remains unclear.

Defensively, the Wildcats rank third nationally in passing yards allowed at 136.3 per game. Head coach Collin Klein said the team must clean up communication mistakes before facing the Sun Devils.

Saturday also marks K-State's first trip to Tempe since Sept. 9, 1989, when the Wildcats lost 31-0 to Arizona State.

### Arizona State (3-3, 1-2 Big 12)

Arizona State looks to rebound from a lopsided loss and get back on track when it hosts K-State on Saturday. The Sun Devils fell 53-25 to No. 8 Texas Tech on Oct. 17, struggling to slow the Red Raiders' offense.

Quarterback remains a key question for head coach Kenny Dillingham. Cutter Boley started against Texas Tech but threw two interceptions in the first half, including a pick-six, before Mikey Keene took over after halftime. Keene threw for 256 yards and two touchdowns in relief, leaving the Sun Devils' quarterback situation as a storyline heading into Saturday.

Through the air, Reed Harris has been Arizona State's top target, re-

cording 41 receptions for 653 yards and eight touchdowns. The senior receiver, alongside Omarion Miller, who averaged 14.5 yards per catch on Saturday, gives the Sun Devils a big-play option as they look to keep pace with K-State's offense.

Dillingham praised Klein's ability to build deception into the Wildcats' offense with misdirection and a mobile quarterback.

"Klein's one of the best architects of the quarterback run, and this deceptive run game," Dillingham said at his weekly press conference on Monday, Oct. 19. "It's a great challenge for us, and we have to be sound. That's going to be the game. Are we sound, and can we tackle when we get in those positions?"



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| KSU   |                | ASU   |
|-------|----------------|-------|
| 35.5  | PPG            | 31.3  |
| 224.8 | Passing YPG    | 276.7 |
| 239.8 | Rushing YPG    | 143.7 |
| 0     | Turnover Ratio | 0     |

Graphic by Lilly Crist, photo by Erica Merz | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

## The midterm report card shows that I still know ball.

NATE LOWEN  
staff writer

Where were we? Oh, that's right! Since I last wrote to you all, K-State has continued its winning streak against the Kansas Jayhawks — winning 35-24 on Oct. 17 — and earned its 18th consecutive victory in the Dillons Sunflower Showdown.

I know what you all may be asking: What even is a Jayhawk?

Well, I actually have no idea. What I do know is that it may be time to revisit some of my former opinions and prove why I was right. After all, everyone needs a reminder that I know what I am talking about.

### This defense will win championships

I made this argument knowing K-State has an excellent offense when Avery Johnson can put his hair in a messy bun and complete a pass.

This defense, however, continues to show why it may be the most important piece of the Wildcats' success. It could also prove essential to a second-half push up in the Big 12 standings.

K-State ranks seventh in the 16-team conference in points allowed per game. The Wildcats also rank third in the Big 12 and 18th nationally among Power Four teams in average yards allowed per game.

The defense has done an excellent job limiting points, but its biggest accomplishment might be its work against opposing quarterbacks. Through their first six games, the Wildcats have allowed the fewest passing yards in the nation.

That kind of defensive production can keep a team competitive even when the offense struggles to find its rhythm.

### There's a new steak in town

Rewinding the clock back a few articles, Gabe Powers is still the potatoes. This dude understands his assignment, and with Logan Bartley, the Wildcats have a security blanket they can rely on. Their consistency gives fans a reason to exhale and trust that these players will do their jobs.

On the other side of the plate, Wendell Gregory may not be the steak dinner we were all expecting. In my expert opinion, he's the bread that starts the meal.

Gregory is the perfect appetizer for this defense. His consistent pressure and ability to force Isaiah Marshall out of the pocket and on the move were gorgeous to watch Saturday. Gregory has not lost his medium-rare ribeye status, but the title now belongs to Nick McClellan.

McClellan recorded two tackles for loss and a pass deflection, establishing his presence on the

defensive side of the ball.

The true freshman could be a diamond in the rough for a K-State secondary that needs young players to step up. McClellan needed an opportunity to prove himself on game day, and his performance against Kansas offered a glimpse of what he could become.

If he builds on that performance, McClellan could emerge as a major contributor in the Wildcats' defensive backfield. It is too early to predict his place on the depth chart by season's end, let alone his NFL future, but the potential is there.

### Injury problem? Linkon is still the cure

K-State's sophomore tight end Linkon Cure got the opportunity many K-State fans had been waiting for after the coaching staff ruled Garrett Oakley out for the Sunflower Showdown following a game-time decision.

Cure finished with 16 receiving yards on two catches and three targets, but a costly fumble dampened his performance Saturday. The issue wasn't that Cure failed to catch the ball. It was that the play-calling did not seem to feature him enough.

With how the offense is set up, Johnson has relied heavily on play-action throughout his career, and that approach makes sense for a run-heavy offense.



Graphic by Evan Gnagy | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

However, it may be time for the Wildcats to direct more passing opportunities to their former five-star tight end.

Cure's limited production raises a question about opportunity. With a banged-up group of wide receivers and tight ends, could giving him more targets help ease the burden on the rest of the receiving corps?

Now that he has a top of the depth chart role, Cure could become a more prominent option in the passing game. More opportunities would let him prove it, especially if K-State needs another reliable target in the middle of the field.

### The Verdict

With head coach Collin Klein saying Oakley's return is "probably unlikely, but we'll see" while describing the situation as "day to day," K-State may need Cure to

take on a larger role at tight end.

Cure and McClellan are two young players who have opportunities to make their marks as the season progresses. Their recent performances and increased opportunities could make them important pieces of the Wildcats' second-half push.

Expect these two to bring extra juice against Arizona State, who have allowed the third-most yards per game in the Big 12.

The Wildcats need their defense to keep setting the tone, and they need young playmakers to turn opportunities into production. If McClellan continues to develop and Cure becomes a bigger part of the passing game, K-State could have the pieces to make a stronger push in the conference standings.

And if the defense keeps playing at this level, I might have to remind you all one more time — I told you so.

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