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THE KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

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Ayoka Lee becomes K-State WBB all-time leading scorer

TOBY HAMMES
 sports editor

One game cannot describe the legacy of Kansas State center Ayoka Lee.

Her career was cemented in the rafters after her NCAA Division I women's basketball record of 61 points in a single game. She later became K-State's all-time leading shot blocker and rebounder.

After scoring point No. 2,334 on Tuesday night in career game 122, Lee is alone at the top as K-State's all-time leading scorer.

"It's crazy, I am so grateful," the star said through a smile. "It takes a lot of games, it takes a lot of passes, it takes a lot of everything to get to that point. It's crazy."

The 6-foot-6 center sent goosebumps across a home crowd at Bramlage Coliseum when she notched the record-breaking basket and was awarded with a standing ovation. Simply put, few people are more deserving of the accolades she has earned.

"We often hear phrases like 'a better person than player,'" head coach Jeff Mittie said. "But in her case, my highest compliment would be that she'd have to be an extraordinary person to surpass the kind of player she is, because she's phenomenal at both."

Lee broke the mark held by Wildcat great Kendra Wecker, who held the status for nearly 20 years. Before Wecker, fellow great Nicole Ohlde owned the



Photo by Abby Kennedy | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
 No. 13 K-State rushes to celebrate star center Ayoka Lee's accomplishment of becoming the Wildcats' all-time leading scorer. K-State won 90-43 against Eastern Illinois on Dec. 3.

school scoring record of 2,241 points.

"It's crazy, I have so much respect for them and the trail they blazed," Lee said. "K-State wouldn't have such a rich history without players like that, so it's really cool."

Lee, despite playing across seven seasons with COVID and two injury redshirts, accomplished the feat in six fewer games than Wecker.

"Kendra Wecker, in my book, is the greatest athlete to come through here and so they're both terrific players," Mittie said. "So for her to do it in 122 games, a very similar number as Wecker, is just a tribute to both of them, how great of players they are and both are

K-State legends. And Ayoka still has some ways to go here, but certainly, it was a special night to get it done."

On the assist for the basketball was guard Zyanna Walker, who notched her first career double-double with a game-high 16 points and 10 assists.

"I cannot do it on my own," Lee said. "None of the records I have I can do on my own."

Furthermore, senior guard Serena Sundell, who started alongside Lee for the majority of her career, passed 600 assists in her prized point guard career, slotting second place all-time.

SEE PAGE B4
"LEE"

RCPD said two overnight shootings are linked

KYRA CASE
 news editor

The Riley County Police Department is investigating two overnight shootings reported on Nov. 30 at 7:57 p.m. and Dec. 1 at 5:49 a.m. in Manhattan.

Officers responded to the first shooting in the 2000 block of College Heights, locating a "23-year-old female with a gunshot wound."

The next morning, officers responded to another report of shots fired in the 1800 block of Claflin Road, locating three individuals with gunshot wounds.

All victims were transported to Ascension Via Christi for treatment.

According to RCPD, findings suggest the two incidents are linked, but there is no ongoing threat at this time.

Sierré Sayles, who claimed to be one of the victims, made a statement via a Facebook reply to an RCPD post.

"I got shot last night!" Sayles said. "I do not know who shot me! Stop spreading false info saying shootings are related and blah blah blah. They're not. I do not even know why I was shot. I was the first person injured & currently still at a hospital and I still can't walk."

RCPD encourages anyone with information to reach out to the department by contacting the non-emergency line at 785-537-2112 or through Crime Stoppers at (785) 539-7777.

K-State veterinary staff recognized for work in teaching and research

MEREDITH MCCALMON
 managing editor

Two Kansas State faculty members from the College of Veterinary Medicine received the Iman Outstanding Faculty Award in November, a \$5,000 prize for excellence in teaching or research.

Derek Mosier, department head for diagnostic medicine and pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, said Ron and Rae Iman, in partnership with the K-State Alumni Association, hand out the award yearly to recognize faculty "that go above and beyond in their area of discipline."

Lisa M. Pohlman, professor of clinical pathology, received the award for teaching, and Waithaka Mwangi, professor of diagnostic medicine and pathobiology, received the award for research.

"That's one of my major passions, is teaching the vet students," Pohlman said. "So ... what clinical pathology is, basically it's a lot of looking at bloodwork, urinalysis, you know, it's the data."

Pohlman said she realized she wanted

to pursue education during her residency at Auburn University from 2004-2007.

"When I went into my residency, I really thought that I would just go into diagnostics," Pohlman said. "... I think I realized then how much I enjoyed teaching and watching the metamorphosis of students as they come into the program and grow, and their vocabulary changes and they become doctors, and their confidence grows — just watching all that is really rewarding when you've been part of teaching it."

Mosier nominated Pohlman for the Iman Award.

"She's very student-centered," Mosier said. "She wants to build a learning environment that helps them to do the best that they can. She spends whatever time is necessary to try to help them understand and, again, just creates a great learning environment. She's demanding but fair, and she makes it clear what she expects, and students want to try to reach that because they respect her greatly, and her efforts to help them learn in clinical pathology."

SEE PAGE A3
"VETERINARY"

Kansas Livestock Association swears in new president at Manhattan convention

COLE BERTELSEN
 editor-in-chief

For the first time in its 130 years, the Kansas Livestock Association held its yearly convention in Manhattan. Events were held Nov. 20-22 in Hilton Garden Inn and Manhattan Discovery Center.

KLA President Troy Sander, a Victoria, Kansas native, began his year-long term on the final day of the conference.

A member of KLA for over 25 years, Sander is also a member of the association's board of directors and executive committee. He was chairman of the KLA Cattle Feeders Council in 2020 and served on the KLA Policy & Resolutions Committee. Sander graduated from Fort Hays State in 1991.

SEE PAGE A3
"KLA"



Photo by Cole Bertelsen | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
 KLA President-elect Ty Breeden and President Troy Sander stand together at the end of the conference. Sander graduated from Fort Hays State in 1991.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Dec. 6 — **Lazy Wayne Band** — The Hat
- Dec. 6 — **Spirit of the Holidays Lighted Parade** — Downtown
- Dec. 7 — **Breakfast with Santa** — Flint Hills Discovery Center
- Dec. 8 — **Hyprov: Improv under Hypnosis** — McCain Auditorium
- Dec. 9 — **Hawaiian Bros Grand Opening** — Hawaiian Bros Island Grill
- Dec. 9 — **Holiday Art Market** — Manhattan Arts Center

K-State to launch “Donations for Citations” program in 2025 with Cat’s Cupboard

JAKOB TWIGG
staff writer

Kansas State Parking Services will allow students, faculty and staff to reduce one parking citation per academic year by donating 10 or more non-perishable food items or hygiene products to Cat’s Cupboard, K-State’s food pantry.

The Donations for Citations program will begin Jan. 21 after the Student Governing Association approved the senate resolution on Oct. 24.

Senator Andrew Le authored the resolution and said he initially modeled the program after other regional colleges.

“We looked at other institutions across the country that kind of have some similar programs, donations for citations, food for fines, whatever you call it,” Le said. “Schools like UT Austin have a program like this. Mizzou has a program similar to this, Oklahoma, and so that’s where it started.”

Le said he worked closely with Parking Services director Adrienne Tucker to build the program after a previous resolution failed to pass the senate last year.

“Adrienne Tucker came along as the new [parking services] director, and I met with her to kind of fill her in,” Le said. “From there we redid it again, because me and Miss Tucker both agreed

that this program should be way more robust than it really was.

A KSU Foundation survey found nearly 40% of K-state students will experience food insecurity at some point during their college lives.

Shelly Williams, Morrison family director for Cat’s Cupboard, said the program is “a great collaborative effort aimed at increasing food security.”

“I’m really appreciative of SGA’s support for this, and the parking services support as well,” Williams said. “And the university administration has been really great at helping bring this to fruition.”

Tucker said she dealt with food insecurity in her childhood and wanted to help students save money on citations while also helping out the K-State community.

“From my own personal experience growing up ... It is a cause that is very near and dear to my heart because I’ve been there, and if there’s any way that I can help give back, then I’m all for it,” Tucker said.

Tucker said donation items should be taken to the parking services offices, not Cat’s Cupboard.

“It’s not going to change parking services, per se, but anyone who receives a citation for a non-registered or parked in a wrong location, they’ll be able to



Photo by Kelsey Chellberg | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Cat’s Cupboard provides free food and hygiene products for K-State students. Cat’s Cupboard is located on Denison Avenue.

donate 10 items,” Tucker said. “They’re going to bring them into parking services, and we’ll waive that citation as a one-time courtesy. Right now, we’re going to do one per person per academic year. We’re going to see in May what that looks like and how many citations that we’ve waived, and see if we can’t bump that up to one a semester, it’s all just going to depend on how many people took advantage of the

program.” Le said K-state students can volunteer to transport the donated items to Cat’s Cupboard.

“We need people to be able to take the goods from there to the Cat’s Cupboard, and so it’s just trying to find people who are willing to do that,” Le said. “People need volunteer hours, and so [we are] creating some incentive for senators and other people of SGA, or even just

other people at K-State who want to volunteer, to be able to get them to do that.”

Le said while working with other universities, he learned the University of Kansas wanted to implement a similar program.

“This is a super cool program that we’re going to be able to implement here, and KU is trying to get something similar like this up,” Le said. “If we can get it before them, that’d be great.”

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

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

CORRECTIONS

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

"VETERINARY"

CONTINUED FROM A1

Pohlman said her love for animals also influences her teaching strategy.

"I am really wanting to make sure that we have great care for animals and part of that is teaching our veterinarians, our students. I'm also the president and medical director of the Riley County Humane Society. That's not associated with K-State, but it's all sort-of part-and-parcel of caring for animals."

Mosier said Pohlman's passion reflects in her students' success.

"It makes it important," Mosier said. "When a faculty member goes in and they're excited about

what they teach, I think that helps the students get excited. They realize that it's an important topic, it's worth knowing, and I think it's a bit infectious. Her classrooms are upbeat, positive, very caring environments."

Mosier also nominated Mwangi for the Iman award, who conducts research to find better ways to immunize livestock and humans.

"We focus on several main diseases of interest," Mwangi said. "The primary one that is of interest to us is ... a very big virus. If you take COVID, for example, and compare it to the



Photo courtesy of K-State Alumni Association

Lisa M. Pohlman received the Iman Outstanding Faculty Award for teaching. She is also involved in volunteer work around Manhattan as the president and medical director of the Riley County Humane Society.

virus we're working on, which is called African Swine Fever, [it's] about 10 times much bigger, 10 times, even, more complicated."

Mwangi said African Swine Fever only affects pigs.

"There's several strains, but the most lethal one kills pigs within about five to 12 days," Mwangi said. "The clinical outcomes, to put it in a layman's language, are similar to what Ebola causes in humans. ... It's a tick-transmitted virus that tends to be present in wild hogs, bush pigs, but it doesn't kill all animals. What happens is when bush pigs, or wild hogs, comes in contact with a domestic pig, the virus can be transmitted by contact or even waste from an infected animal."

Mwangi said the virus is endemic in Africa and continues to spread to other continents via human carriers. The main focus of his research is to develop a vaccine that will prevent an outbreak of African Swine Fever in the United States.

"If there is an outbreak in the United States, it will actually have a huge economic impact," Mwangi said. "Number one, United States is the leading pork exporter. ... Even a single incident would jeopardize that market at the global level. ... The pork industry is also a huge customer of various products, including grains and supplements, so the jobs created within the pork industry would also be jeopardized."

Mwangi said he must observe every element of the virus' makeup during his research.

"The struggle here is that given the complexity of the virus, it's not easy to make a vaccine because we don't know



Photo courtesy of K-State Alumni Association

Waitthaka Mwangi received the Iman Outstanding Faculty award for research. Mwangi works in vaccinology, developing immunizations for viruses like African Swine Fever.

even what it takes to really confirm effective protection. So that's where we are at, looking at all the proteins, all the pieces in the virus. I'm asking the question: Which one of those could be protective?"

Mosier said Mwangi's adaptability qualified him for the Iman Award.

"He's very creative, innovative, kind of a visionary researcher," Mosier said. "He anticipates problems and then uses the tools and skills that he has to try to address them."

Mosier said Mwangi's research has positive effects not only on pigs but also on the world as a whole.

"He works on domestic diseases, global transboundary disease, mainly production animals, but he's working on projects for cancer in animals and things like that as well," Mosier said. "So, he applies his skills across a wide variety of topics and is very dedicated to it. He runs high-quality [research], he's very precise and just an excellent researcher."

"KLA"

CONTINUED FROM A1

Ty Breeden, a 2003 Kansas State graduate and Quinter, Kansas native, was selected by KLA members as the president-elect after Sander.

Sander said his main message to KLA members is to "be a part of the solution, not the problem."

"That's my message," he said. "Everybody can stand around and tell you what the problems are, but it takes a unique individual, with some guts, that will try to be part of the solution. And I really think that's where it's at. The other thing is get involved ... you know, what I found out over the last several years, making trips to Washington, DC, making trips to Topeka, these elected officials, state, local, at the national level, they do want to hear from people."

For college students eager to get involved and work in Kansas livestock, Sanders said his advice is to learn from the ground up.

"I had to bust a lot of frozen water tanks before I could ever get to the position where I'm at today," he said. "There are so many people out there that are more than willing in these feed

yards and these ranches, dairies across Kansas, that would love to bring aggressive, hard working young people in and teach them the ropes and show them how things are done. Work through Kansas Livestock Association to set those meetings up. I'll guarantee you there are folks within [KLA] that would love nothing more than to help place people in feed yards, dairies, ranches, farming operations. And so my biggest advice to them is get out there and learn the trade."

Sander said the change in location for the convention from its typical Wichita venue allowed for a very unique experience.

"When we were at the Discovery Center last night, and the K-State band came in and played, if that didn't get your pulse going, then you need to make sure that you're not dead, because that was great," Sanders said. "Willie the Wildcat was there, and it feels so good to be here in the home of a land grant university that does so much for our industry."

Regarding policies, Sander acknowledged potential privacy and monetary concerns relating to electronically tracking cattle, but said it is something they should look closer at and learn more about. He said he had



Photo by Cole Bertelsen | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

(Left to Right) **Nissa Olsen**, **Willie the Wildcat**, **Caity Cline** and **Calley Stubbs** pose at the Discovery Center. The three K-State students served as interns at the KLA conference in November.

personal experience where its use was beneficial.

"We need to learn about how traceability and electronic identification of cattle adds value to our product, and if it does add value I think it's something we need to look at," he said. "Personally, in our organization, we have every 100,000 head of animals electronically [identified], and it was the best decision I ever made. I did it three years ago, and I love it. And so I found a way to add value to our product, and that investment has paid me back three to four times. I think traceability is a big one for us."

On Nov. 20, a total of \$38,500 in scholarships was awarded to 34 students for the 2024-25 school year during the convention, presented by the Kansas Livestock Foundation and its partners. Twenty-five of those students were from K-State, receiving a total of \$27,000.

Eight members of Collegiate Cattlewomen and two from Collegiate Cattlemen served as KLA interns at the convention.

Calley Stubbs, a K-State junior in animal science and industry, said the event was a great opportunity to make connections, and that holding

in Manhattan was meaningful for many attendees.

"People come back because they went to college here, and it brings back good memories, but they're also here for the convention, so it's a good excuse to come back to their college roots," Stubbs said.

Caity Cline, a K-State senior in hospitality management, said she attended the convention in the past and jumped at the chance to apply as an intern.

"I went to the convention last year as a Collegiate Cattlewoman, and that's usually in Wichita," Cline said. "This year they said it was in Manhattan, and that they were opening intern positions. And so as an officer for Cattlewomen's, we kind of got dibs on the application. So a lot of us applied. Few of us got selected."

Cline said a benefit of holding the convention in Manhattan is the opportunity to increase student attendance.

"K-State's already really big with Kansas livestock, just since we're the number one ag school," Cline said. "I know no other colleges attend, especially their students, and they're trying to raise the student ratio. And so I think being in a college town now is really great for that,

because I think all our clubs brought at least 15 people each. There's at least 30 students going each day."

Cline noticed a much higher attendance this year, and said almost 700 people attended the dinner on Nov. 20.

Nissa Olsen, a K-State junior in animal science and industry, said she gained valuable experience from attending the convention.

"It's the connections that you gain from this," she said. "But also, enjoyed sitting in on committee meetings and hearing more in-depth personal issues that people have within the beef industry and coming together as a whole about how to address them through committee meetings. And everyone has their different opinion because they're from different parts of the state, and I really like that as a college student, because I can apply some of the classes I've learned to those issues. Calley and I, ... we talked through the entire meeting because we were discussing the issue and our opinions on it. So it broadened my perspective and made me think more about what I want my future career to look like."



Photo by Cole Bertelsen | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

KLA conference attendees walked through the Discovery Center on Nov. 21, where exhibits displayed information about Kansas agriculture.

COMIC | Doin' it Wright



Illustration by Jacob Bush | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

More than Surviving | Manhattan Veteran finds love, peace and opportunity after war

PAETON MCCARTY
staff writer

While many people may know Dr. Paul Bullock for his optometry work in Manhattan or his loving devotion to his family, not many know much of his life today was shaped by his service in the U.S. military during the Korean War.

For 28 months, Bullock served his country in combat, where he earned a Purple Heart, which honors soldiers who are severely injured or killed while in the line of duty, but the horrors he faced threatened his chances of returning home at all.

His first taste of combat came on patrol, where in the blink of an eye two men only feet in front of him were killed by a machine gun nest.

"We got hit after we were a ways out, there was a lieutenant ... and a radio guy with him right behind him, and all of sudden they just got mowed down by machine gun fire," Bullock said. "They were just riddled ... there was just no way they could be alive or anything, they were just

totally chewed up."

After this horrendous scene Paul fired back on the enemy.

"I spotted the machine gun down there in the valley, sort of, little ravine ... you had ... bullet clips of five bullets in a clip, you know, in your gun, and I emptied that on them, and there was two guys there, and it looked like I got them," Bullock said. "But I reached down for my next clip of ammo ... reached for that next one on the ground and a bullet had gone through one of those clips right underneath me, so ... I can hardly talk about it."

Even now, Bullock is shocked and grateful to have survived.

Outpost Kelly was a disturbing encounter for Bullock. With carbine in hand, he led troops as they fought North Korean soldiers almost nightly.

"This outpost had barbed wire all around and it was just loaded with dead people who tried to get into this," Bullock said. "Somebody had to watch all night, so my guys, some of them, we

just took turns at night, ... and [enemy forces would] come up through and try to get through that barbed wire and you just mowed them down. That's all you could do."

Korea showed Bullock what humans are capable of when pushed to the brink by their government, and through his time in the forces, constant combat gave him a taste of true inhumanity.

One of his most brutal injuries wasn't physical, but mental, when he was called to the front line and informed that his friend, sent to the artillery, had his arm severed.

"I got there ... and he'd gotten his whole arm shot off and he wouldn't let them take him to the ambulance or anything until he saw me," Bullock said. "They flew him to Hawaii, but all he could say is 'My wife won't have me.' ... Of course I had to convince him she would."

Devastating, dangerous and destructive, his direct encounters with war left Bullock with lasting traumas — but that isn't the end of his story.

For Bullock, the thought of college had been out of the question given his family status, but his time with the Army changed that narrative.

"When I got back, I started working in an optical lab in Topeka, Kansas," Bullock said. "I did my pre-courses at Washburn University. I did it all in one semester. I wouldn't have had the money to go to college, and that was something we were rewarded ... near the end of my period that I was supposed to get there ... I found out that the president of the United States said that all Korean War veterans would get a free college education."

This new adventure changed the course of his life, giving him the chance to succeed in ways his family before him couldn't.

"No one in my family had gone to college," Bullock said. "I just thought I'd go to work someplace ... My mother died early on, and my dad married another person, and that was not the best situation. And so, they didn't care

what happened to me, you know? So, I was on my own."

Though Bullock didn't come home to find support through compassionate love from his family, he did find that reciprocated devotion from the love of his life, Marilyn.

"We were high school sweethearts," Bullock said. "She came to K-State while I was in Korea. She was a year or so behind me in school. Her name is Marilyn ... The most wonderful wife. She hung in there all the time I was in the military and so forth."

To this day the two are inseparable, and refer to the other as their "world."

Coming home from war was far from easy, but Bullock found peace in the love and educational opportunities that supported him when he did.

When asked about the long-term impact Bullock's service had on his life, he was overwhelmed with emotion and gratitude, giving testimony to the longevity of his life and the love he returned home to as he replied: "To be here today. To be alive."

Voices United | Student a capella group to perform on one-year anniversary

AMELIA LIKENS
staff writer

Celebrating a year of harmony both in music and friendship, Resonate, the entirely student-led a capella group, is hard at work, prepping and fine-tuning for its biggest concert yet: Volume II.

The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the University Christian Church, exactly one year after Resonate's founding.

Sydney Elmore, senior in mass communications, said

there is a lot to look forward to with Volume II.

"It's going to be even bigger and better than ever — songs by Taylor Swift, Sabrina Carpenter, Lizzy McAlpine, Finneas and more," Elmore said. "We're taking it up a notch on the production level, which is super exciting since everything we do is done completely by us. We've put so much work into every little detail to make something we're really proud of and I can't wait for people to see it."

To the group's 17 members, Resonate's power lies

beyond its music, dedication and twice-a-week practices, and instead in the friendship the group built pursuing an art they love.

"I came to K-State in search of playing music again," Carly Hicks, senior in management and pre-law, said. "I found Resonate and, as cheesy as it may be, some of the best friends I've ever made. Even in the midst of crazy stressful college life, coming into rehearsal and getting to do what I love with the people I love makes my day, no

matter how I'm feeling."

Resonate performs mainly around the Manhattan area. Previous performance locations include Wareham Hall, University Christian Church and Texas Roadhouse. For this concert, they rehearsed throughout the semester in Seaton Hall.

"We have been preparing for this concert since August and are super excited to see our hard work pay off," Anna Bajich, junior in mathematics and secondary education, said.

K-State students can attend for free with a student ID. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the concert kicking off at 7:30 p.m. Concessions and merchandise will also be available for purchase.

"We are so in awe of the support we've received from the K-State student body and the Manhattan community," Hicks said. "We are so incredibly grateful for the opportunities that have been given to us — we can't wait to show you all what we've been working on."



Photo courtesy of Resonate

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The holidays are a time to celebrate with loved ones, not falling victim to scams that can steal your cheer. Falling for a scam can lead to losing money and putting your account and personal information at risk, which can be both time consuming and costly.

Here are some common seasonal scams and tips to help protect yourself:

- Missed packages or problems with delivery:** Expecting a package? Be cautious of phishing messages through email or text impersonating delivery services like UPS or FedEx with links to view “missed deliveries.” These links may lead to fake sign-in pages or malware-infected sites. Do not respond to messages requesting personal or financial information, including money or cryptocurrency. Be wary of unexpected packages and avoid scanning QR codes, as they may be attempts to steal your information.
- Online deals that are too good to be true:** When shopping on-

line or on social media, buy only from trusted websites and vendors. If purchasing on a platform or marketplace, stay on the platform to complete transactions and communicate with sellers, as protections often only apply when you use the platform. Use payment methods that offer buyer protection, and never send money to strangers or use Zelle for purchases, especially when you can't confirm the goods exist.

- Phony charities preying on your generosity:** The Holidays is also a season of giving. Before you donate money, double-check contact and payment information for your charity of choice and watch for text, email or phone call solicitations. Like any other unsolicited message, don't click on links or open attachments that may contain malware or attempt to steal your information.

Tips to Avoid Scams:

Don't send money to unknown individuals or for goods or services that you can't confirm exist.

Be cautious of friendly

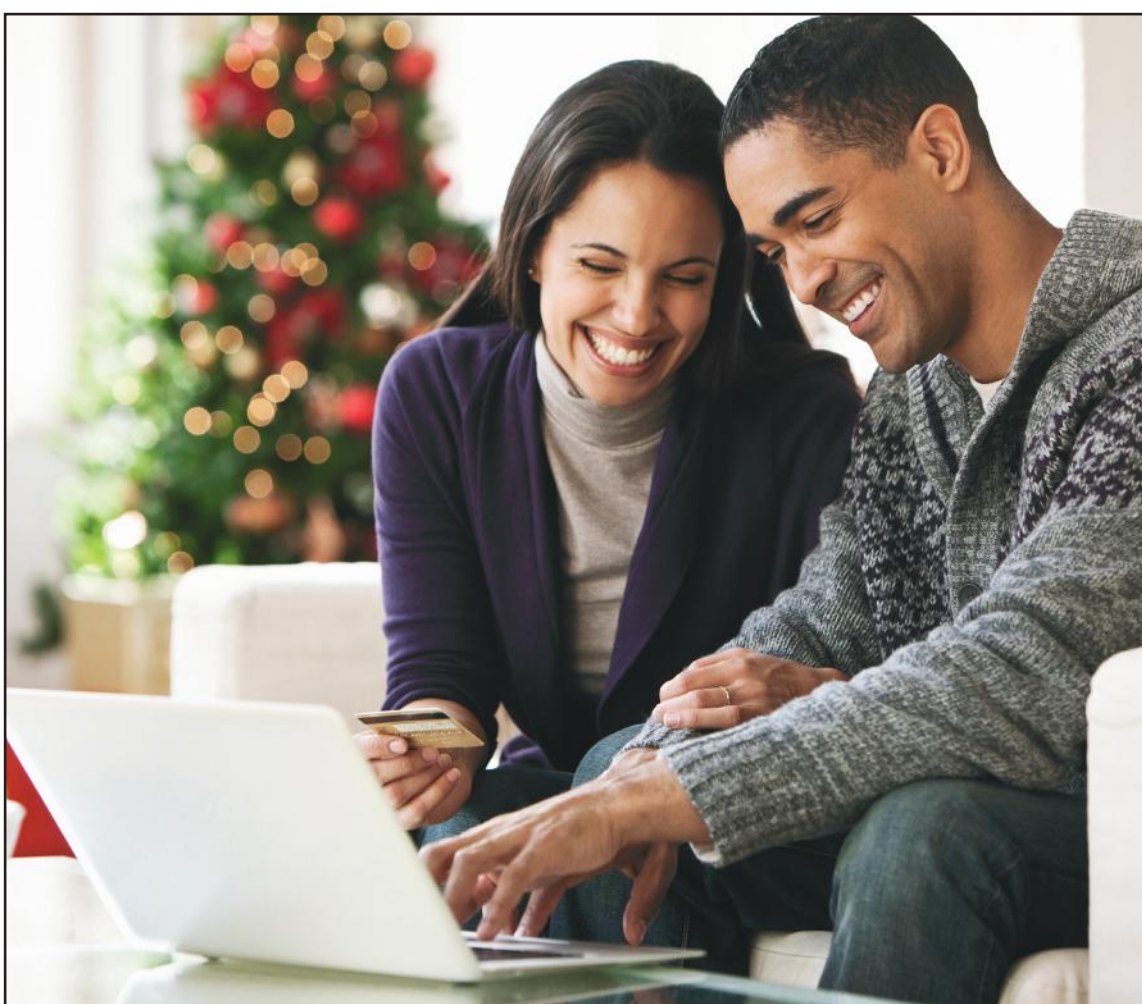


Photo courtesy of JPMorganChase

messages from strangers on social apps. Scammers might try to build trust before asking for money.

If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. Watch out for deep discounts or low prices that may be scams.

If you shop on social media marketplaces, never pay using Zelle—it is the same as cash and you may not get back if there is an issue.

For more information about ways to help protect yourself from scams, visit

chase.com/scamspotting—it's a free resource that offers information in English and Spanish.

###

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@ Middle Tennessee — Dec. 14 @
5 p.m.

vs. New Mexico State — Dec. 18 @
6:30 p.m. — ESPN+

Sports

Friday, Dec. 6, 2024

B1

Former K-State All-American lineman, coach Dana Dimel passes away at 62

TOBY HAMMES
sports editor

Former Kansas State star offensive lineman and longtime coach Dana Dimel passed away Tuesday at the age of 62, his family announced. He is survived by his wife, Julie, and children, Winston and Josey.

Dimel served three stints with Hall of Fame coach Bill Snyder across 20 years at K-State which followed an All-America playing career as an offensive tackle for the Wildcats from 1984-86.

He began his coaching career as a graduate assistant in Manhattan in 1987-88 leading into eight seasons (1989-96) as an assistant coach. He returned to K-State for one season in 2005 and then returned to K-State for the third time and spent nine seasons (2009-17) as the program's offensive coordinator and running backs/tight ends coach.

"Obviously, we are very saddened by the passing of Dana," Snyder said in a statement. "He was a special friend and coaching companion. I admired his passion for helping his players and fellow coaches. He



Archive photo by Parker Robb | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Former K-State co-OC **Dana Dimel** talks to the media ahead of the Liberty Bowl on Dec. 30, 2015 in Memphis, Tennessee. Dimel passed away in his sleep at 62 on Dec. 3, 2024.

was a big part of the development of the Kansas State football program, and along with his wife Julie, very meaningful in the Manhattan community."

Overall Dimel was a part of 12 bowl teams during 19 seasons in Manhattan. The Wildcats posted an 11-win season (2012) with a Big 12 Championship, two 10-win campaigns (1995 and 2011) and five nine-win seasons (1993, 1994, 1996, 2014, and 2016) during that span, and finished in the top-25 of the BCS and

CFP rankings on three occasions — 2011 (No. 8 BCS), 2012 (No. 5 BCS), and 2014 (No. 11 CFP).

Dimel spent the 2024 season on former Wildcat assistant Bret Bielema's staff at Illinois.

"Today is a difficult day for college football and our Illini family," Bielema said in a statement from Illinois. "Dana was an exceptional person, husband, father, friend, and football coach. He affected the lives of countless coaches, players, and staff members for more than three decades in

college football.... He will be dearly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and family."

Dimel, a Columbus, Ohio, native, compiled the most wins of any active offensive coordinator in college football from 2011-17 (61) and was a part of eight straight bowl appearances. Overall, in his 32 seasons as a head or assistant coach, Dimel mentored 37 players who went on to play in the NFL.

SEE PAGE B3
"DIMEL"

K-State soccer announces new HC Corbin



Photo courtesy of K-State Athletics

K-State welcomes new soccer coach **Colleen Corbin** on Dec. 2. Corbin becomes the second head coach in program history.

THE COLLEGIAN
staff report

Kansas State soccer has signed the second head coach in program history with Colleen Corbin, director of athletics Gene Taylor announced on Monday.

"I am honored and thrilled to have the privilege of being named the next head coach of the Kansas State women's soccer team," Corbin said in K-State's announcement. "I want to personally thank Gene Taylor, [deputy AD] Jill Shields and [associate AD] Matt Thomason for their commitment and intention throughout the hiring process, as well as their trust in me and their belief in the K-State soccer program. It is evident that there are resources in place to help K-State women's soccer be successful, as well as an incredibly supportive community who is excited about our team and the opportunity for continued growth and success."

Corbin was the 2022 Mountain West Conference Coach of the Year at Wyoming before spending the 2024 season as the associate head coach at Saint Louis.

"We are thrilled to welcome Colleen to K-State as the new leader of our soccer program," Taylor said. "She has a proven track record of building and leading a championship program as evidenced by her time at Wyoming, and her most recent tenure at Saint Louis allowed her the opportunity to grow even more as a coach and put her stamp on an already established and high-level program. We look forward to welcoming Colleen and her husband, Nick, to Manhattan."

Corbin takes the reins of the K-State program following her lone season at Saint Louis. With the Billikens, Corbin helped the program to a 15-2-6 overall record, including a 7-0-3 record in the Atlantic 10 Conference and the regular season and conference tournament titles.

With an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament, the Billikens reached the second round of the tournament following a 1-0 win over Kansas, who made a head coaching change prior to last season and won the 2024 Big 12 tournament.

"K-State made a tremendous decision in hiring Colleen," Saint Louis head coach Katie Shields said. "I am grateful for the time we spent together here at SLU. She is an elite recruiter that brings passion and intensity to helping student-athletes fulfill their potential. Her diversity of experience and expertise will be a tremendous asset to the K-State program and I look forward to watching her build something special in Manhattan."

SEE PAGE B3
"CORBIN"

Mind the Gap | Legacy lives on for Gap Goat

TOBY HAMMES
sports editor

Football forces flaunt turnover chains and baseball dugouts don home runs masks. But in Manhattan, Kansas State women's basketball sports a stuffed goat dripped out in gold glamour.

With his gold chain, an occasional No. 7 pendant and purple jersey, Gap Goat exploded in popularity alongside the women's basketball scene in the Little Apple.

Gap Goat is hoisted by team managers after every gap — three consecutive defensive stops — K-State completes. The No. 13-ranked Wildcats use him as motivation and celebration of defensive success. If the team reaches seven gaps, Gap Goat earns his pendant and the team's chance to win is 95%.

"We got a bunch [of gaps] tonight, right?" Mittie joked after then-No. 9 K-State's 111-46 trouncing of Milwaukee. "It's been fun for the players, fun for the fans, fun for our managers."

Former All-Big 12 guard Gabby Gregory led the charge in Gap Goat's initiation with the Wildcats. The plush pal became a beloved figure by teammates, fans and neutral observers alike as the Wildcats earned a No. 2 ranking at their highest and an eventual top-four seed, hosting the NCAA Tournament's opening round last year.

Even with Gregory's graduation from college athletics last season, Gap Goat's legacy continued to garner defensive success. With an opponent scoring average of 53.2 points ranks top 25 in the nation.

"It's a fun way to celebrate what we're emphasizing," Mittie said. "We have drills in practice where we're emphasizing it ... I'm all for anything that can motivate us to play better defense, even if it's just a stuffed goat," Mitte said.



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

Gap Goat has become the iconic symbol for the Wildcats' strong defense over the past two years. The Wildcats forced 18 turnovers in their 111-46 blowout victory over Milwaukee.

While the K-State managers play a key role in watching Gap Goat's on gamedays, senior guard Serena Sundell said she took primary custody of the fuzzy friend.

"Yeah, it's me," Sundell said after consulting with teammate guards Taryn Sides and Jaelyn Glenn. "I do a lot of it, but I think our whole team does a good job of having fun with it."

Gregory may not call Manhattan home anymore, but that doesn't mean she's taken a complete step back as Gap Goat's guardian.

In addition to occasional practice drop-ins, Gregory made a dramatic return to Manhattan at football's Harley Day, hoisting Gap Goat from the back of a motorcycle in front of a sold-out Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

"I don't know what to call her — she's a good mother, stepmom, godmother, I don't know," Sundell said.

Gap Goat has seen the scenic spectacle of many Big 12 cities, but perhaps his greatest trip came during this year's Thanksgiving break as K-State braved

the Ball Dawgs Classic in Las Vegas.

"To my knowledge, the goat's never been to Vegas," Mittie joked before the trip. "I worry about anybody going to Vegas for the first time."

While Sides said Gap Goat's agenda in Vegas was "top secret," photos surfaced on social media of his sin city sightseeing.

The Wildcats jumped out to a red-hot start to the 2024-25 season, with their only loss coming to No. 13 Duke at the Ball Dawgs Classic.

K-State's average margin of victory sits at a blazing 32.7 mark with help from its goat-inspired defense. As conference play approaches, Gap Goat's lasting legacy will be key to keeping the momentum rolling.

"As silly as it is, it is helpful," Sundell said. "And it's a lot of fun to get seven gaps, we all really believe in what it means and the statistics ... We trust in coach Mittie and that philosophy. It's been fun to see that hard work pan out so far."

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

Big 12 / Big East Challenge | K-State travels to NYC to face St. John's

BY THE NUMBERS	
K-STATE	
OPP. PPG	67 pts.
3-POINT %	38.2%
TOTAL STEALS	72 steals
T/O's	103 turnovers
ST. JOHN'S	
OPP. PPG	66.6 pts.
3-POINT %	33.7%
TOTAL STEALS	72 steals
T/O's	104 turnovers

GAME 9: *Brunch Basketball in New York City*

BRAYDEN MESEKE
staff writer

K-State (6-2)

Kansas State is coming off its best offense showing of the year in a blowout 120-73 win over Arkansas-Pine Bluff. While it was against an inferior opponent, K-State shot well and will need to do so again to defeat St. John's.

Guard Dug McDaniel, despite coming off the bench, has been consistent in his play by creating shots for others and hitting shots of his own. McDaniel averages 11 points

per game with his team-best six assists per game. His play against the good Red Storm guards will be key.

Wing Coleman Hawkins, who is off to a slow start scoring this year, contributes in other ways to help the team. With St. John's being potentially the best team the Wildcats have faced and being on the road, Hawkins may be asked to score the ball more in addition to veteran leadership to remain poised.

St. John's (6-2)

St. John's, a ranked team to begin the year, welcomes K-State for the Big 12/Big East Challenge. St. John's has two losses, one to No. 15 Baylor on a game-winning shot in overtime and another close three-point loss to Georgia. St. John's is loaded with good guard play on offense and defense.

Junior guard RJ Lewis Jr. is St. John's leading scorer, averaging 17.6 points per game,

and displays his two-way ability with 1.6 steals per game. Lewis is a 6-foot-7-inch guard, which causes mismatch problems, especially for the small guards at K-State.

Senior guard Kadary Richmond was the top transfer portal prospect according to 247Sports, but much like Hawkins for K-State, Richmond is off to a slow start with his new team. The talented Richmond is still dangerous if he gets hot on Saturday.



Photo by Haylee Haslett | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP

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"DIMEL"

CONTINUED FROM B1

Dimel, a Columbus, Ohio, native, compiled the most wins of any active offensive coordinator in college football from 2011-17 (61) and was a part of eight straight bowl appearances. Overall, in his 32 seasons as a head or assistant coach, Dimel mentored 37 players who went on to play in the NFL.

In addition to his time at K-State, Dimel had successful head coaching stops at Wyoming (1997-1999), Houston (2000-2002) and UTEP (2018-2023).

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Dimel family during this difficult time" K-State head coach Chris Klieman said. "Dana not only had a big impact on K-State Football but more importantly the lives of the players, coaches and staff he interacted with daily — some of which are still in our program today."

Dimel's legacy on the field are best remembered by his innovative offensive playcalling, notably stacking the offensive box with his "clown car" formation — a trend that made it to the NFL with the Philadelphia Eagles tush push.

Dimel's son, Winston, was a standout athlete at Manhattan High School before becoming a three-time All-Big 12 performer who was a valuable fullback in addition to being a weapon out of the backfield.

He transferred to UTEP with his dad for his senior season. Professionally, Winston Dimel was signed to the Seahawks practice squad in 2019 before bouncing across smaller pro leagues.

Dana Dimel passed in his sleep on Tuesday night.



Archive photo by Rodney Dimick | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Co-OC **Dana Dimel** reveals his thoughts about K-State's offense during the offensive press conference on Dec. 31, 2014 at San Antonio, ahead of the Alamo Bowl. Dimel oversaw an abundance of offensive success during his time in Manhattan.

His loss is felt across the country.

"The day started with a phone call bringing the sad news of Dana Dimel's passing. I just want to say that when Dana was here, he was a good friend," K-State women's basketball coach Jeff Mittie said. "... It was heartbreaking. Dana was too young, and it's a loss that came far too soon. My prayers go out to his family. Dana was a man with a great passion for young

people, coaching and the community in Manhattan."

Mittie added he knew Dimel during his time at Houston as Mittie was coaching in Conference USA at the time, in addition to family connections.

"We had mutual friends and he coached with my brother-in-law, Brad Seib, when Brad was here," Mittie said. "Over the years, even when I wasn't at Kansas State, Dana was someone we often talked about"

"CORBIN"

CONTINUED FROM B1



Archive photo by Avery Johnson | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Forward **Sophie Harlan** waves at the crowd on Oct. 1, 2023 at Buser Family Park. Harlan looks to be a key senior next season.

Prior to her time in St. Louis, Corbin guided Wyoming to a Mountain West Conference regular-season co-championship, earning the league's Coach of the Year in 2022. During her first season in Laramie in 2021, she led the Cowgirls to eight victories, equaling the most wins by a first-year head coach in program history.

Corbin takes over for former head coach Mike Dibbini, the program's inaugural leader who resigned to focus on health after the 2024 season.

Corbin becomes the second active female head coach at K-State, joining head cross country coach Kate Bucknam.

Prior to her stint at Wyoming, Corbin served as associate head coach at James Madison (2018-20) and was an assistant coach at Arizona State (2016) and Cal State Northridge (2014-15). She helped James Madison win the 2018 Colonial Athletic Association regular-season title, coaching the Dukes' goalkeepers to the top of the league in shutouts (7).

"I am excited for Colleen & Nick along with the players at Kansas State," James Madison head

coach Joshua Walters Sr. said. "Colleen is a very passionate and caring coach that seeks to develop the culture of the program along with the competitiveness on the field. She will pour herself into this project and impact everyone around her."

Corbin played collegiately at Oregon State, where she was a two-time NSCAA All-American honors as a goalkeeper and set school career and single-season records for goals against average and shutouts. She helped lead the Beavers to three NCAA Tournament appearances including a round of 16 in 2009.

"What I also love for the players is that Colleen has done everything as a player they dream about doing at the collegiate and professional level," Walters said. "As a coach she is a winner and knows how to win championships. This is a fantastic hire for K-State."

Corbin agreed to a 5-year contract, which was approved by the K-State Athletics, Inc., Board of Directors and President Richard Linton. K-State embarks on the program's 10th season and the first of the Corbin era next fall.

Wildcats in the Pros | Nowell dominates with G-League career-high

TREY THOMAS
staff writer

Markquis Nowell, PG, Rio Grande Valley Vipers

Nowell, former Wildcat guard and March Madness legend, put on an impressive showing over the Oklahoma City Blue in the G-League.

Playing for the Houston Rockets affiliate, the Rio Grande Valley Vipers, Nowell finished with a career-high of 26 points and 10 assists. The former All-American was a threat defensively as well, totaling 5 steals in the 128-124 win.

The Vipers needed this from Nowell, as they were battling from behind early to begin the game. Luckily for Rio Grande, Nowell came ready to play.

D.J. Reed, CB, New York Jets vs. Tyler Lockett, WR, Seattle Seahawks

Switching gears to the gridiron, two former Wildcats lined up against each other last week as Reed faced Lockett.

The pair, who overlapped one season in Manhattan in 2014, saw a direct matchup as Reed was penalized for holding while covering Lockett. Reed finished his night with four solo and three assist tackles. Lockett finished with three receptions for 16 yards.

Josh Hayes, CB, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Hayes, a second-year pro, finished with one solo tackle against the Carolina Panthers.

The division rival Buccaneers and Panthers game bled into overtime, where Tampa Bay ultimately ran away with the win in a nail-biting thriller.

Ben Sinnott, TE, Washington Commanders

Sinnott, a second-round rookie, had one catch for three yards as the Commanders steamrolled the Tennessee Titans in Week 13 for a 42-19 win. The reception marked the young tight end's first catch since week nine.

Cooper Beebe, C, Dallas Cowboys

With the Cowboys' offensive line battling injuries and a backup quarterback being thrust into the fray, it can be difficult for a rookie center like Beebe to adapt. Thankfully for the Beebe and the Cowboys, the past two weeks have been solid for the O-Line.

Quarterback Cooper Rush has only been sacked once in the past two weeks. In Week 13 against the New York Giants, zero pressures were allowed with Beebe at center.



Archive photo by Elizabeth Sandstrom | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Senior guard **Markquis Nowell** defends the ball in the game against Texas. K-State lost the matchup 69-66. Nowell went on to break the NCAA record for assists in a March Madness game as the Wildcats went to the Elite Eight.



Archive photo by Macey Franko | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Without looking, senior guard **Markquis Nowell** blindly passes the ball to a teammate through Longhorn defenders. Nowell signed with the Toronto Raptors' G-League affiliate after college before joining the Houston Rocket's G-League squad this year.

AYOKA LEE BECOMES ALL-TIME LEADING SCORER

"LEE"

CONTINUED FROM A1

Furthermore, senior guard Serena Sundell, who started alongside Lee for the majority of her career, passed 600 assists in her prized point guard career, slotting second place all-time.

"It's so fun playing on the court with Yokie," Sundell said. "She makes my job so easy. Sometimes it feels like I'm just throwing up a prayer, but her hands are so good, her touch on the ball, it's very rare. It's just the way she goes about it, with so much joy, and she's so humble, and she works hard."

Similar to Mittie, Sundell is quick to add that Lee's basketball prowess is only a fraction of what makes her so special.

"If you talked to her on the street, basketball probably wouldn't even come up unless you brought it up," Sundell said. "She has so many other things going for her. For her to achieve this record is just incredible."

Sundell adds Lee isn't just humble with a mic in front of her. Behind

closed doors in the locker room, Lee remains a mild-mannered star whose focus is collective success.

"That was her very honest answer," Sundell said. "She doesn't want to come back to break the all-time scoring record, but she's going to do that. She said, 'I want to win a Big 12 championship.' She just wants to win, that's the best part about her. She just wants to compete, she wants to win."

While the latest line to Lee's lengthy legacy is one of the many highs of her career, there's no denying there were a handful of lows. Between two season-ending injuries and a COVID year, Lee's time in Manhattan has reached seven years.

"Coaching her has been a joy, but it hasn't always been easy," Mittie said. "When you have an athlete go through so much, like injuries and COVID. The emotional and physical toll that comes with persevering through those challenges, it's hard, not just for the athlete but also for the coach."

Mittie recalls the countless number of difficult conversations with Lee over the years, which make her triumphs ever so rewarding.



Photo by Abby Kennedy | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Center **Ayoka Lee** is greeted by fellow center **Imani Lester** on the sidelines after Lee recorded her record-breaking basket. Lee has battled injuries and COVID during her seven-year career.

"We've had tough moments together, after surgeries, during rehab and in those moments of uncertainty," Mittie said. "Watching an ath-

lete go through that is never easy. It hasn't been a fairy tale without adversity. This has been a story of resilience and overcoming obstacles."



Photo by Payton Lee | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Guard **Serena Sundell** floats a jump shot against Eastern Illinois. While Lee became the Wildcats all-time leading scorer, Sundell reached 600 assists — many of which have gone to Lee.



Photo by Abby Kennedy | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Center **Ayoka Lee** goes up for a jump shot against an Eastern Illinois defender. Lee's 15 points clinched the all-time scoring record for K-State women's basketball.



Photo by Abby Kennedy | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Guard **Zyanna Walker** pulls up for a jumper on Dec. 3 against Eastern Illinois. The redshirt sophomore put together her first career double-double, including assisting **Ayoka Lee's** record-breaking field goal.



Photo by Abby Kennedy | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Gap Goat is lifted by **K-State women's basketball managers** (masters_of_management on Instagram) during the Wildcats win over Eastern Illinois. The K-State defense allowed 43 points.



Photo by Abby Kennedy | COLLEGIAN MEDIA GROUP
Center **Kennedy Taylor** hypes up the Wildcats on the floor from the sidelines. The transfer center has become a spark plug off the bench for K-State, spelling starting center **Ayoka Lee** at times.

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<p>BEST LATE-NIGHT FOOD 1st Place Varsity Truck Runners-Up Pizza Shuttle Guero Loco</p>	<p>BEST ASIAN FOOD 1st Place UMI Runners-Up Green Tea Sushi Baan Thai</p>	<p>BEST WELLNESS 1st Place Happy Hippie Runners-Up MasonWells Little Apple Pilaties</p>	<p>BEST DATE NIGHT 1st Place Nico's Runners-Up UMI Bourbon & Baker</p>



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