



Racial day of healing  
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## Free menstrual products announced at first ASG meeting

Margaret Mellott  
Editor-in-Chief

In an effort by the Diversity and Inclusion committee, free menstrual products will now be offered in the Memorial Union, William Allen White Library, Cremer, Visser and Beach Music Halls. The committee has been working on bringing this free resource to campus since last semester. Tayler Laudermill, chair of the Diversity and Inclusion committee and junior social sciences education major, said she got the idea while at a conference at the University of Kansas. “I was in the bathroom, and I saw that

they had free menstrual products,” Laudermill said. “I was like ‘That’s a really good idea,’ and so I just emailed KU and figured out how they do it. Then I worked on implementing it here.”

“Equal access really means equal access for everyone.”

TAYLER LAUDERMILL  
JUNIOR SOCIAL  
SCIENCES EDUCATION MAJOR

The initiative was announced by Laudermill at the first Associated Student Government meeting held Jan. 23. Shortly

after the meeting, it was announced on Social Media. Products will be provided in male, female and gender neutral bathrooms on campus. During the pilot period, they will be focused in the high traffic bathrooms. “If you don’t need to use it, then you don’t necessarily have to take part in that, but it is for the safety and the betterment of all students,” Laudermill said. “I believe it’s not harming anyone. Equal access really means equal access for everyone.” Two new staffers were also introduced at the meeting. Jocelyne Centeno, junior

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## Most ESU employees receive raise

Margaret Mellott  
Editor-in-Chief

Most eligible Emporia State employees received a 2.5 percent raise last semester, according to figures released by the university. The raises were largely based on merit, but requirements also included the completion of online diversity training. A total of 636 employees, out of 746 eligible, received the full raise. That’s 85 percent.

The average raise was \$1,314, according to Gwen Larson, director of marketing and media relations. Only five employees of those who got raises didn’t get the full amount. In addition to the diversity training, employees who got raises were required to have a satisfactory or better on their most recent evaluation.

When Michael Smith, chair of the Department of Social Sciences, first heard about the raises, he felt relief. “It’s been quite a while,” Smith said. “Our last merit pay increases were about 10 years ago.”

There are currently 840 full- and part-time employees at the university, not counting student employees or graduate assistants, Larson said. Last year, Gov. Laura Kelly called for a 2.5 percent increase for all state employees. For Kansas Board of Regents institutions, however, decisions about the amounts, and procedures for the awards, were left up to the schools.

“The decision how to administer the raises came after collecting information from ESU Human Resources on best practices,” Larson said. “(We gathered) input from shared governance representatives and advice from the vice-president leadership team. The final system came after much study and discussion determined it was best for Emporia State and its faculty and staff.”

Smith said the training provided some good information on microaggressions. “I had mixed feelings about the training,” Smith said. “There was some useful information in there. For example, I’ve heard a lot about microaggressions, but I’ve never had

see **RAISE** page 2

## Coronavirus not as serious as influenza, campus officials say

Katie Donnelly  
Managing Editor

Emporia State is taking no extra precautions this week following reports of a possible coronavirus case in Lawrence, Kan., university officials said. “The director of Student Wellness receives (Kansas Department of Health and Environment) updates,” said Gwen Larson, director of marketing and media relations, Tuesday afternoon. “She is getting all of their alerts and all of their guidelines.”

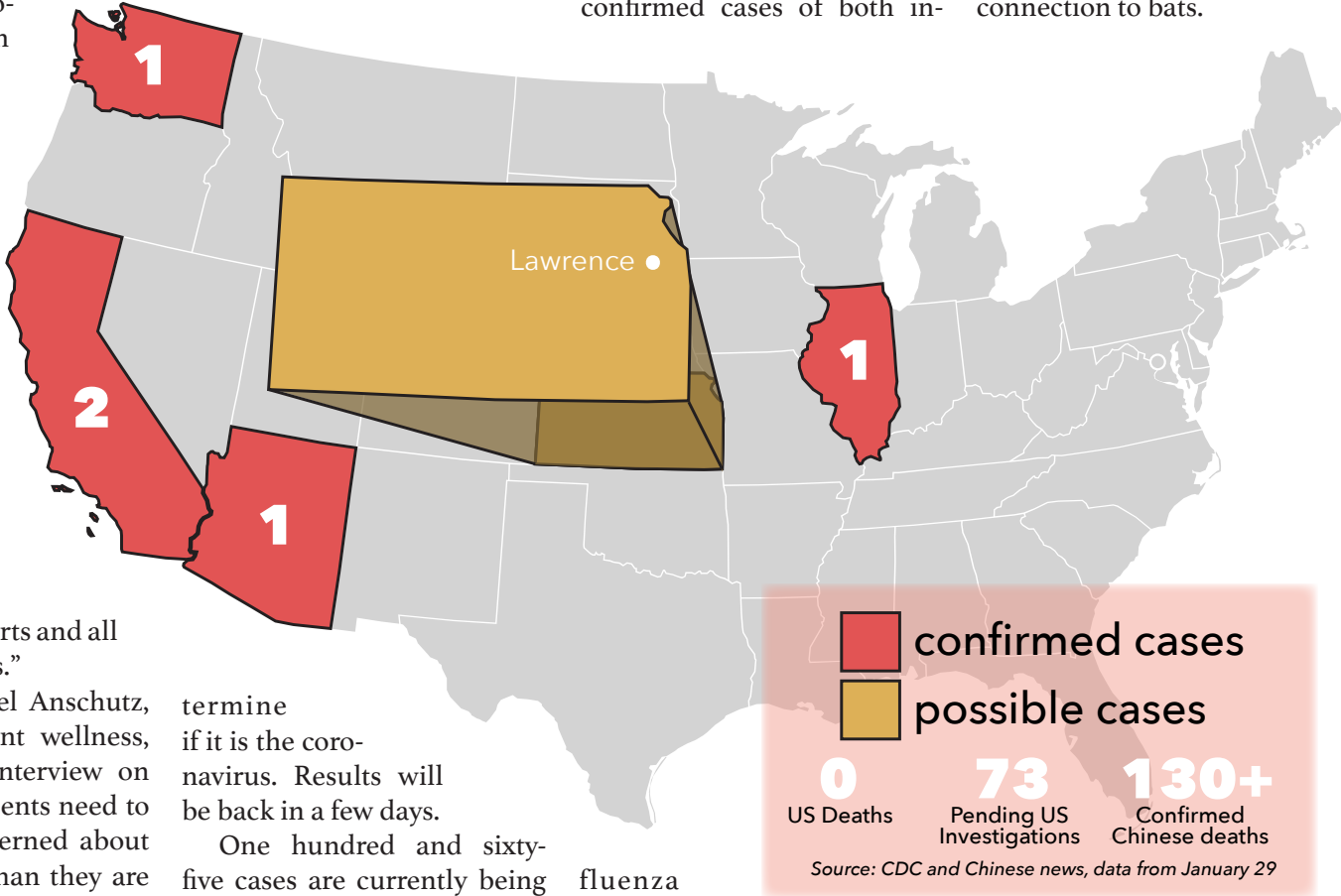
Mary McDaniel Anschutz, director of student wellness, said during an interview on Monday that students need to be no more concerned about the coronavirus than they are the flu. Similar precautions should be taken, she said. “We are way past any incubation time, so we have nothing to be concerned about with our students that are on campus,” McDaniel Anschutz said prior to the news of the Lawrence investigation. “Let’s make that clear.” The KDHE and Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department are investigating the possibility of the coronavirus in Lawrence, according to a press release Tuesday from the department. The investigation is the result of a patient in Lawrence who sought medical attention at a local hospital after having respiratory issues.

“The patient is not severely ill and is currently in isolation at a hospital as a precaution,” the press release said. The Center for Disease Control is currently running tests to de-

termine if it is the coronavirus. Results will be back in a few days. One hundred and sixty-five cases are currently being reviewed in the U.S., and five cases have been confirmed as of yesterday, according to the CDC.

the CDC. To put it into perspective, 8,200 people have died in the past year from the flu, according to the ABC News website. Campus has had several confirmed cases of both in-

The coronavirus is believed to be the result of human exposure to infected animals in a seafood market in Wuhan, similar to the swine flu’s connection to pigs and ebola’s connection to bats.



fluenza A and B, McDaniel Anschutz said in the email sent to campus yesterday. “Please remember that we remain in the middle of influenza season, itself a respiratory virus with very similar symptoms as the novel coronavirus,” McDaniel Anschutz said. “The CDC says that flu activity most often peaks in the United States between December and February. It is not unusual to see people wear disposable masks as a precaution during flu season. We have, in fact, seen confirmed cases of both Influenza A and B on our campus and in the Emporia area.”

## Through a rose colored lens

Katie Donnelly  
Managing Editor

In her lilac bedroom with light shining through the large window, Nicole practices adjusting lighting for the first time. She was her own first model, spending hours developing different characters by styling her cherry colored hair and painting on makeup. She had found her passion: photography. Today, Nicole Gomric, is a senior photography major at Emporia State. Nicole has changed since then. Today, she is a survivor of sexual assault. “She’s very compassionate and empathetic towards people,” said Karen Gomric, Nicole’s mom. “I didn’t realize she had been in a situ-

ation where she had not been treated right...I was upset. Not at her, but just that she had to go through something like that.” Two and a half years ago, Nicole began what would become her senior project. It all started with a photography assignment on identity. She chose to focus her project on how sexual assault impacts one’s selfhood, calling it “The Person I am Because of You.” “It started off as a personal thing for me,” Nicole said. “I wanted to be able to talk about my rape and my

assault. Prior to (the assignment), I hadn’t talked to anyone about it. What I’ve found for a lot of individuals is that’s the case.” The goal of Nicole’s project is to give a platform for those who have been sexually assaulted to tell their story and help inspire other victims to share theirs. “I think in a lot of ways, not only for her creating this body of work and being a survivor herself, but also giving voice to other survivors, is really courageous,” said Morgan

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A piece of Nicole Gomric’s investigative series: “The Person I am Because of You. The photo depicts a physical representation of how the survivor’s rape made them feel. Some of these models are standing in for people who did not feel comfortable modeling but did want their stories heard. “I struggle to control my emotions and not allow my rape to define how I interact with the world.” | Photo Courtesy of Nicole Gomric





# President Garrett announces new committee to assess budget shortfalls

**Margaret Mellott**

Editor-in-Chief

A new committee will be formed to address the budget shortfall announced by President Allison Garrett on Jan. 13. The potential shortfall for this fiscal year is between \$500,000 and \$1.3 million.

"A university-wide representative group will meet to determine a process to facilitate the approaches and action plans to solve for both our short-and long-term needs: Identify \$500,000 - \$1.3 million in cost savings for (fiscal year) 2020, and create a sustainable budget model for FY 2021 and beyond," Garrett said in an email sent out to faculty and staff on Jan. 13.

The amount of savings needed for the remainder of the fiscal year will be determined after the student headcount is taken on the 20th day of classes. The shortfall repre-

sents about 3% of the current operating budget.

"The short term (plan) is that we have to make some decisions about this year's budget prior to June 30th," said Diana Kuhlmann, vice president of administration and finance. "The short term remedies will take place over the next five months. The longer term (we're) not really sure what that looks like. That'll be the next phase that we talk about."

This shortfall is due to several factors including decreased state funds, limited resources and changing student populations according to Garrett. Despite a 1.3 percent increase in undergraduate students between Fall 2018 and Fall 2019, student mix and demographics are changing, which has an impact on the budget.

"(Student) mix would be whether it's undergraduate

versus graduate students," Kuhlmann said. "Are they resident students versus non-resident students? Are they on campus students versus online students? The reason that is important is because there are different rates for those different demographics."

According to Kuhlmann, this is not the first time a committee like this has been formed at Emporia State.

"We had a budget advisory committee (a few years back) and whether it will look the same or look different, we haven't determined because I think this is a different kind of conversation that will be over a longer amount of time than last time," Kuhlmann said.

While there are currently no programs or services at immediate risk, potential changes will be discussed moving forward.

"The whole breadth of

whether there are expanded services or truncated services or programs are all going to be a part of discussions as we move forward and what they look like, or modifications to services and programs," Kuhlmann said.

While committee is going to help solve short term problems, the goal is to have them help prevent similar issues in the future according to Gwen Larson, director of media relations.

"Not only is this group going to look at what we need to do with the current budget we're in, but the other goal is to look at how we create budgets going forward," Larson said. "We know that our funding ebbs and flows, that's the nature of higher education across the country...I think for parents, that's showing that we are looking forward at sustainability and long term health."

## Police Reports

### Logs from ESU Police and Safety

**Jan. 22**

A female student requested to speak with officer in reference to suspicious gear left in South Morse Hall stairwell.

Officer admitted Brian Fordlee into Science Hall Room 247.

Officer stopped KS 983kzk in 1700 Highland. Verbal warning for defective tail light.

**Jan. 23**

Officers reported a parking problem at in Schallenkamp parking lot. Officers cited KS 940MLG for parking violation.

Officer checked the welfare of a female subject who had fallen in 1100 Merchant. She was not injured.

Officer stopped KS 077KKD in Sector 7 for a stop sign violation at 15th and Market and failure to use turn signal. Samuel Erickson was cited for Minor In Consumption.

Donovan Reeves was taken into custody for Minor In Consumption and Driving Under the Influence and transported to Lyon Co. jail.

**Jan. 24**

Officer escorted student Donovan Reeves from Lyon Co. jail to North Twin Towers.

Officer admitted staff Steven Sisson into HPER.

**Jan. 25**

Ambulance responded to Student Recreation Center for a sports injury and broken wrist. Subject transported by ambulance to Newman Regional Health.

Officer responded to a blue light emergency telephone call at Stormont Physical Plant. No problem found.

**Jan. 26**

Officer vacuumed out interior of vehicle 6379.

Officers stopped KS 596MHX at 6th and Washington for driving without headlights. Citation issued for no proof of insurance.

**Jan. 27**

Parking Enforcement immobilized KS 863HNE at Lot 5.

Officer stopped KS 074HPW in alley between 500 East and Sylvan. Citation issued to operator for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Officer assisted Emporia Police Dept. with a car chase and use of force at Scott and Janis.

**Jan. 28**

Andrew Hall reported a burglary to his vehicle at 415 E 12th. Report taken.

Officer stopped KS 722MBR at 10 E 12th -Subway parking lot for expired tag. Isaiah Noael Rueda was taken into custody for suspended DL and transported to Lyon Co. jail.

Officer assisted motorist with a flat tire on northbound I-35 on-ramp at Burlingame Rd.



During guest remarks, Nikole Huntley, freshman elementary education major, asks Anna Dragoo, administrative specialist, a question following Dragoo's presentation on Jan. 23 in the senate chambers. Dragoo visited to discuss the travel of recognized student organizations and her role in planning and helping RSOs with their travel. MARGARET MELLOTT | **The Bulletin**

## RAISE

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someone who studies it explain the concept. I think the fellow that was interviewed for that video course was actually one of the people who developed the concept and that was really interesting to hear it from the source. I feel like I understand microaggressions better, so that was good."

While Smith said he thought the training was good, he did disagree with the way certain topics were handled.

"A lot of the trainings will do this, the IT training we do is the same way, but some things are just so obvious," Smith said. "You just think 'Seriously? You don't think people already know this?' Not all of (the trainings are like this), but some."

# Bahamas and iguanas

**Lucas Lord**

Web Editor

Every other December, a handful of students visit the home of the San Salvador Rock Iguana with David McKenzie, biology professor, to experience field ecology. During the last trip, one of the iguanas was killed.

"There are about five hundred left in the world," said Scott Romeiser, senior biochemistry major. "They are endemic to San Salvador island, however none of them really live there; they live on cays...The feral dogs and cats have essentially killed them off. One of the feral dogs got into a breeding enclosure that was on campus, which is essentially two lives lost for what is a critically endangered species."

Romeiser was one of 13 students who participated in the ten-day course over winter break alongside McKenzie and Marshall Sundberg, biology professor.

"I didn't think about it too much just seeing them straight out," said Calder Klink, senior biology major. "It may seem a bit insensitive, but they were just another animal."

According to Klink and Romeiser, the students were all instructed not to tamper with native wildlife, given how fragile some of the ecosystems are.

"I really learned to appreciate and embrace the diversity of nature and that you don't have to go to the Bahamas to appreciate biodi-



Students of Tropical Field Ecology prepare for field research. Thirteen students visited San Salvador island in the Bahamas during winter break. | **Photo Courtesy of Calder Klink**

versity," Romeiser said. "We saw this squid, and it inked so that was cool...The class really enriched that experience because we had to pay attention to what we were looking at, the ecology of the living things and how they all work together."

While it was Romeiser and Klink's first trip to the Bahamas, it is a routine expedition for McKenzie.

"The guy I took it over from, Dr. Dwight Moore, said that he had been teaching the course for over 20 years," McKenzie said. "The class is called Tropical Field Ecology...I love it. It's probably my favorite class to teach because you get to go out there and see the biology rather than just reading about it."

McKenzie said the class has existed for over 35 years and is something he is excited to continue given the diversity the islands have to offer.

"The iguana is a subspecies of the green iguana, so that main island and a few of

the cays are the only places on Earth you'll find them," McKenzie said. "There is a pupfish which is just a little fish that seems to be going through rapid evolution on the island...It's found nowhere else on Earth."

According to McKenzie, there are plenty of benefits to field work that students can't get at home.

"I love not having the class be research-focused but instead focusing on the field learning and having them ask why they see what they do," McKenzie said. "It's so different than any of the other classes we offer...Each trip is different but there are so many unique chances for immersion that students of all backgrounds can prosper from that exposure."

The class is open to all students who can afford the approximately \$2,000 it costs to attend. Interested students should contact McKenzie ahead of time to get their spots for the 2021 trip at dmckenzi@emporia.edu.



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“Mindfulness in the Classroom”  
by Thomas Armstrong

This book is definitely intended for education majors and all you future teachers should be on the lookout for this one. The book overall was extremely informational. The first part discusses the author’s experience with taking an eight week mindfulness class. Mindfulness is the psychological process of bringing one’s attention to present experiences which

can happen through meditation. Mindfulness really is something that needs to be addressed more frequently within schools. As teachers, we need to acknowledge the fact that our students are little people. They are learning how to manage themselves, their emotions and their personalities while also whatever subjects we teach them. Mindfulness gives them a

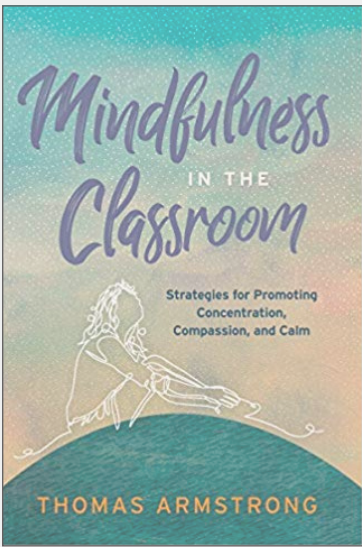
well-needed, focusing break. Sometimes, they really just need a second to breathe before they get back to work. As adults, we need a break so we don’t get overwhelmed. How can we expect kids to go without one? Armstrong discusses how mindfulness can be used in the classroom and aligns with educational models such as Social and Emotional Learning. SEL involves things other than the textbook knowledge we are consistently teaching. Students are still learning how to interact with themselves and the world around them which is what makes SEL important. This is a way to incorporate crucial aspects of their social and emotional well-being into our daily teaching styles. Often times, teachers are around students



This book received  
4 out of 5 apples.

more than their parents are. Therefore, we as teachers need to notice our students! They are not perpetual motion machines or simply knowledge sponges. They do not need to only soak up the literature and math we throw at them. They need to learn how to be the best version of themselves possible. The book includes information from psychological studies as well as providing mindfulness exercises. One of the best exercises I found within the book was a one minute exercise to do before taking a test. It can be as simple as closing your eyes and

focusing on your breathing. Overall, my experience with the book and with the concept of mindfulness itself has been a good one. If you consider focus and creating a less anxious environment for you and your future students, I would highly recommend that you read this book.



Dr. Storm, the Vampire Slayer

Katie Donnelly

Managing Editor

“Vampire virgins,” meet every Tuesday night, typically after dark, in the fourth floor of Plumb Hall. Their practices are safe but can be nauseating. Their professor, Mel Storm, professor of English, modern languages and journalism, did not coin the term to describe those who abstain from vampire intercourse. He is describing the students in his class, Literary Perspectives: Vampire Literature and Film, who have not been exposed to vampire literature or filmography. “The most vampire I’ve seen was in Hotel Transylvania,” said Ashleigh Boyd, freshman elementary education major. The class lets out at 9 p.m.

on Tuesdays, when the halls are empty and it’s already dark outside, adding an extra element of fear to the class. “I think it will make it weird,” said Kayla Snyder, freshman elementary education major. “(Storm) says there’s a few (movies) that are really creepy so I think leaving the class at 9 at night will be scary.” Although Storm does not believe in vampires, he said he’s enthusiastic about reading and teaching the unique worlds previous authors and directors have created for people to enjoy. The reason class is so entertaining for Storm to teach is the same reason he thinks it has stayed so prominent in pop-culture. “It tends to vary I think sort of where the culture is at a particular time. Vampires



The Literary Perspective: Vampire Literature and Film class meets to discuss one of the vampire books they are reading on Jan. 21 in Plumb Hall. “Mainly it’s a literature and a film class, so we’ll be reading a lot of vampire literature,” said Mel Storm, professor of English, modern languages, and journalism. “There is a lot of good stuff and watching vampire film, of which there are really good ones.” SHELBY HAMBLETON | The Bulletin

Movie List

Nosferatu Dracula (1979)

Nosferatu: Phantom der Nacht

Shadow of the Vampire Let Me In

Dracula (1931) Interview with the Vampire

Bram Stoker’s Dracula (1992) Near Dark

Love at First Bite The Vampire Lovers

“Dracula” by Bram Stoker Martin Let the Right One In

“Interview with the Vampire” by Anne Rice

“The Vampire Archives” by Otto Penzler

combined horror and fright, fear of creatures that are strangely like us and strangely unlike us...So it’s sort of got sex and violence all mixed in together,”

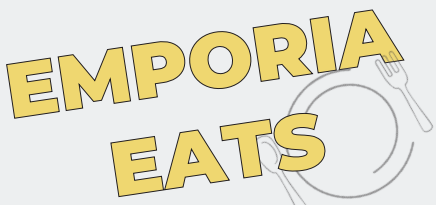
said Storm. Some movies will be more fun and romantic, like Love at First Bite and some will be more realistic like Dracula, almost appearing historical. Vampires have dated all the way back to the 17th century, which Storm guesses had to do with times of plague. “People would die and be buried, then other people would start to die,” Storm said. “Of ten family members. Some how along the way people

wondered if there was a connection between the first death and the second death... The belief got going that these were vampires and they would come out from their graves, they would suck the blood out of the living.” The stories may be fictional but the class is not for the faint of heart. “The notion that being bitten by a vampire can affect you with vampirism you then go on to become a vampire,” Storm said. “The notion that you can be more than a victim, you can become a victimizer. It’s a fairly complex series of matters of discomfort that go with vampire tradition.”



LUCAS LORD

While Emporia is a relatively small town, it continues to grow in all directions adding to the city various businesses that hardly seem to last. With the closing of Long John Silvers, 1928 West



Fresh food or fast food?

6. Ave., an entirely new Wendy’s has sprouted in its place.



Wendy’s received  
4 out of 5 forks.

While Emporia has plenty of local options when it comes to food, a new addition is never unwelcome. Wendy’s fresh, never frozen attitude is a relief in a town saturated with fast and often greasy food. Having seen that the lines for the last few weeks have often been city blocks long, I decided to order online ahead of time. While Wendy’s thankfully has plenty of affordable meal deals, I decided on the S’Awesome bacon cheeseburger with a

small peach lemonade and chocolate Frosty. The beef was juicy and fresh despite how busy things were, and despite being out of stock of the burger, they went ahead and custom made it for me anyways. The bacon and pickles were crisp if a little burnt with little lettuce to speak of, but the sauce was clearly the main pull, like a zestier version of honey mustard, but less mustardy. The fries were crispy and taught but hardly warm

by the time I got them, the Frosty was creamy and smooth which reminded me why I had missed having a Wendy’s for so long. When it comes down to it, Wendy’s is fresh, but hardly what I’d call fast food.





## Staff Ed

## Thank you, ASG

Free menstrual products are being brought to campus by Associated Student Government this semester. Tayler Laudermill, chair of the Diversity and Inclusion committee and junior social sciences education major, made the announcement late last week on Social Media.

This is a major move towards helping provide students with necessary resources.

ASG, thank you.

Thank you for providing free menstrual products in male, female and gender neutral bathrooms. Thank you for working with Greek Life to ensure the longevity of this project and thank you for working so hard to promote

equality at Emporia State.

Equality for all peoples is a long-term battle, and all strides we can make towards reaching every student on campus is so important. Everyone deserves to be heard.

Equality for all peoples is a long-term battle, and all strides we can make towards reaching every student on campus is so important. Everyone deserves to be heard.

Recently, various videos of Kaitlyn Bennet, a.k.a “Gun Girl,” have been circulating on Twitter of her walking up to students on college campuses and asking how they felt about menstrual products being provided in male bathrooms.

This is a private issue. Whether or not someone utilizes the free resource is no

one else’s business and helping provide equal access does no harm. It only helps students who aren’t always able to help themselves.

Nearly two-thirds of women surveyed in a large U.S. city had reported that they were unable to afford menstrual products in the past year, according to Reuters Health. While Emporia is a small town, its clear how much of an impact providing free menstrual products can make.

For some, it could be the difference between going to class or going home. Not everyone feels comfortable asking for help.

There is such a strong stigma around menstruating and



Photo illustration by Shelby Hambleton | THE BULLETIN

normalizing it is so important. Especially since not just women menstruate.

This addition to campus will continue to help students not just now, but in years to come.

This helps set an example for our community. Hopefully, more will follow in your steps to providing a necessary resource.

So, ASG, thanks again.

## Scholarship szn 🙄🙄🙄



Kalliope Craft

Design Editor

It’s officially scholarship season. For many, the approaching deadlines promising hundreds or thousands of dollars leave a knot in the stomach. However, taking the time to fill out all of those forms, write those essays and push through the anxiety is worth it.

There are so many reasons that getting those applications filled out is good for you.

Even if you don’t get the award, taking the time to write the essay about who you are and how the award applies to you is a good practice. When I write scholarship essays, it gives me an opportunity to reflect on my values, my goals and how I’ve grown as a person since I started college.

This is a great opportunity for positive self-talk. People don’t tend to like talking about themselves, but the more you do it, the more you might accidentally start believing in yourself.

Some don’t fill out scholarships because they aren’t motivated. You might believe that there are so many people applying that it’s not worth your time. But guess what? If you are thinking that, so are all the people around you. The odds aren’t as slim as you let yourself believe. I know many people who have won scholarships they weren’t even qualified for because they were the only applicant.

Just write the application. You won’t win any money you don’t ask for.

Even if you are motivated and ready to be reflective, sometimes it is difficult to find what scholarships are available. Problem solved. <https://www.emporia.edu/admissions-costs/admissions-and-costs/scholarships/> has all of the scholarships offered to ESU students.

Click through the links and find the ones for you. If sifting through the digital piles doesn’t work for you, email or schedule an appointment with your adviser and they can lead you to the right applications for you.

College is expensive. Don’t let yourself be weighed down by student loans that take decades to pay off because you slept through the deadlines.

These foundations and donors want to help you. Let them.

## Letter from the Editor



Margaret Mellott

Editor-In-Chief

This is my fourth semester at Emporia State and my second as editor-in-chief. Even though I have previous experience as an editor, last semester was particularly challenging. We’ve been dealing with some major budget cuts over the last few years and it has now fallen on me to brainstorm ways to save us money without sacrificing necessities.

Rarely does anyone see the work put in behind the scenes at *The Bulletin*.

Because we are an independent publication, it’s my responsibility to make major business and editorial decisions. I also hire everyone, train everyone,

curate story ideas, write articles, take photos, edit every single thing we publish and so much more.

Could you imagine having to deal with all of that while also being a full time student? Let me tell you, it’s not easy. I spend nearly 50 hours a week working and going to classes. That’s a lot of time on campus.

However, I would not be successful in my classes without my work. Journalism has been an integral part of my life since I was a sophomore in high school and it’s been a passion of mine since then. So please trust me when I say I love my job, because I really do.

I love working with my staff. I love getting to help them learn and watch them grow. I love getting to see the amazing things students are doing across campus. I love getting to cover Associated Student Government, the ESU community and everything else in between.

While our final work is on public display, rarely does anyone see or know what’s really going on at *The Bulletin*. To help

improve public understanding and help show exactly what happens on before the final product, my editors will be writing opinions every week, similar to this one, about their jobs and their importance to campus.

There are also a couple other initiatives in the works to help showcase all the hard work put in by my staff on a daily basis, like potentially a video look into our production nights and maybe even a staffer of the week. I’m so excited to continue serving the community and I’m even more excited to showcase the passion we have here at *The Bulletin*.

Though there so many things I love about my job, I must admit my job is really fucking hard. Everything I do is open to criticism. Every word, photo, graphic and decision I make is in public view and everyone has an opinion. My staff and I put in hours upon hours of work only for much of it to be torn piece-by-piece on Social Media.

But man, do I love my job.

## Thrift shopping: It’s not a bad thing



Faith Burgoon

Opinion Editor

Most people are on two sides of the thrift shopping spectrum: Either you absolutely love it, or you despise it. A quick google search will show you that the

two most recognized thrift shops are Goodwill and the Salvation Army. Emporia has its own Goodwill, 904 E 12th Ave., and I must say, it is amazing.

As a college student, I am always broke. It comes with the territory. That makes needing new clothes a real hassle. Whether I need a dress for a dance, slacks for work or anything in between, Goodwill has me covered.

Personally, I don’t understand the idea that thrift shopping makes you look poor or that it’s gross. Generally, you can find that people give up perfect-

ly good items all the time. Sometimes you strike thrift store gold and find super nice name brand clothing with the tags still on.

We are a wasteful society who often throws away items that someone else couldn’t afford. Any opportunity to allow people to get something they need at a lower price should not be looked down upon. We should be supporting the fact that people are doing the best they can with what they’ve got.

So whether you’re a wealthy CEO or a broke college kid, go try your hand at thrift shopping. I promise you will not regret it.

## Submit your letter to the Editor today

Letters to the editor should be no more than 450 words and can address issues, concerns, ideas or events important to you. Letters may be edited for content and length.

email letters to [esubulletineditor@gmail.com](mailto:esubulletineditor@gmail.com). Please include your name and student email so we can verify authorship

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# Kansas lawmakers to fight over taxes, abortion and maybe pot

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas lawmakers expect a push to overturn a state Supreme Court decision protecting abortion rights, a contentious debate over income tax cuts and some bipartisan harmony on Medicaid expansion during this year's annual session.

The GOP-controlled Legislature may also tackle medical marijuana after it convenes on Monday for 90 days of lawmaking.

A look at some of the biggest issues:

### ABORTION

Top Republicans and the influential anti-abortion group Kansans for Life plan to push for an amendment to the state constitution to declare that legislators can regulate abortion as they see fit.

It's a response to April's ruling by the state Supreme Court that the Kansas Constitution protects access to abortion as a fundamental right. The decision blocked enforcement of a ban on a common second-trimester procedure. Abortion opponents fear that the ruling could lead courts to overturn a raft of restrictions enacted over the past 10 years.

To get an amendment on the ballot for voters to consider, supporters need two-thirds majorities in both chambers.

### ANOTHER TAX FIGHT

Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly last year vetoed two Republican proposals for cutting income taxes, arguing that the measures would decimate the state budget. But Kansas officials in November issued a new fiscal forecast for state government that boosted revenue projections and undercut her argument.

Kelly said in a recent Associated Press interview that she still wants to hold off because making changes in income tax laws "out of context" could make it harder to change the entire tax system next year.

But Republicans are determined. Their proposals were designed to provide relief to individuals and businesses that

are paying more to the state because of changes in federal tax laws at the end of 2017.

### MEDICAID EXPANSION

Kelly and Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning, an Overland Park Republican, have outlined a compromise plan for extending the state's Medicaid health coverage to as many as 150,000 additional people.

Their bipartisan bill is sponsored in the Senate by 22 of the chamber's 40 members, enough to pass it.

The House passed an expansion bill last year, but Denning and other top Republicans managed to bottle it up in committee, despite majority support. Denning's deal clears the way for a plan to pass, though conservatives are still going to fight it as potentially too expensive.

### AVIATION LAYOFFS

The state received a bad economic jolt just ahead of lawmakers' session when Wichita's largest employer, Spirit AeroSystems, announced that it was laying off 20% of its Kansas workforce, or 2,800 employees. Spirit produced about 70% of the troubled 737 Max aircraft for Boeing, which suspended its production.

The layoffs could affect lawmakers' decisions on budget and tax issues, and they and Kelly face questions about how best to help laid-off workers.

### STALEMATE ON GUNS

Mass shootings across the nation continue to fuel interest among some Kansas legislators for gun-control measures, particularly a measure to allow relatives and law enforcement officials to petition courts to have guns taken away from people deemed a risk to themselves and others.

But the Legislature still has gun-rights majorities, and proposals for a "red flag" law have spurred a backlash over concerns about whether people's right to due legal process would be respected. The House and Senate each have a proposal to ban such laws at the local level and to bar state and local of-

ficials from helping to enforce gun-confiscation orders issued under a federal law.

House Majority Leader Dan Hawkins, a Wichita Republican, said he can see the anti-red flag proposals advancing. Kelly said she won't push gun-control measures this year.

### MEDICAL MARIJUANA

With conservative neighbors Missouri and Oklahoma authorizing the medical use of marijuana, Kansas lawmakers are under increasing pressure to consider doing the same.

They've taken steps with laws to create an industrial hemp research and production program and to protect people who use cannabidiol oils to treat children with debilitating medical conditions from criminal prosecution.

But allowing wider use of marijuana for medical person faces opposition from law enforcement groups.

### SHADOWED BY POLITICS

Politics will cast a shadow on the Legislature's session. All 40 Senate seats and 125 House seats will be on the ballot, and lawmakers inevitably will consider how their votes on hot-button issues play with conservative GOP primary voters or more centrist general election voters.

Senate President Susan Wagle, a Wichita Republican, is running for the U.S. Senate in a crowded race that has her emphasizing her conservative bona fides. But Denning, facing a potentially tough general election race in a county that Kelly carried easily in 2018, has political incentives to move to the center.

In the House, Speaker Ron Ryckman Jr., an Olathe Republican, has been considering for months attempting in 2021 to break a tradition against serving more than two, two-year terms in the Legislature's most powerful position. That creates pressure on him to deliver big on GOP goals.

# Snowplow kills two walking along the highway in Kansas

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A snowplow struck and killed two pedestrians in Kansas before sunrise Friday after a winter storm coated parts of the Midwest with snow.

The collision involving a Riley County plow truck happened shortly after 5 a.m., after the National Weather Service issued winter weather advisories across parts of Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin and a large swath of Missouri.

The Kansas Highway Patrol said Stephen Toler, 22, and Jayden Rosa, 20, both of Manhattan, were walking in a lane of U.S. 24 when they were hit by the snowplow north of Kansas State University and near Tuttle Creek State Park.

Trooper Ben Gardner said the driver, Lawrence Gassmann, 65, of Manhattan tried to avoid hitting the victims. He said

Gassmann wasn't plowing or salting at the time and that he was driving with the plow's blade raised. He said he didn't know whether it was snowing but that road conditions and speed didn't appear to be a factor in the collision.

Kansas State spokeswoman Michelle Geering said neither Toler nor Rosa were students at the university.

Marvin Rodriguez, chairman of the Riley County Commission, described the accident as a "tremendous tragedy."

"Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to all involved in the accident," he said in a news release.

In neighboring Missouri, roads in much of the north of the state are covered in snow. The Missouri Department of Transportation urged drivers in a news release to "remain vigilant."

# Kansas hopes to better help foster kids, families

TOPEKA (AP) — The same kids who end up in trouble with the law often come from families in disarray.

Those families, in turn, regularly turn to the state for food assistance, foster care or mental health care.

So last week, Democratic Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly announced plans to merge many of the state's social service offices — effectively reversing a breakup of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services that came in 2012 when Republican Sam Brownback was governor.

According to KCUR-FM, Kelly wants to combine the two state agencies handling social welfare with the office that handles juvenile justice services. The new agency would be called the Department of Human Services.

Experts say they're optimistic, but the changes will create their difficulties, including the merging of social work and criminal justice cultures.

Human Services, under the Kelly plan, would knit together three operations.

The Department for Children and Families, which oversees foster care, adoption, family preservation services, food stamps and other welfare programs.

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services,

which oversees mental health and programs for the elderly and disabled.

And juvenile justice services for children who are charged with crimes, run by the Kansas Department of Corrections.

In a news conference, Kelly and Laura Howard, her secretary of KDADS and DCF, said the new agency would streamline services for families and children, especially "crossover youth" — children who are involved in both the foster care and criminal justice systems.

Republican leaders in the state Legislature criticized the governor for not consulting them.

Many details of the merger remain unsettled. They'll be unveiled when the governor releases her executive reorganization order in a few weeks.

"One of the biggest benefits is providing more seamless access for individuals and families to government human services," Howard said. "Sometimes, it can be really complex to navigate all of those different systems."

For example, she said both DCF and KDADS have employment assistance services. And a family may use benefits like cash and food assistance while its elderly members use KDADS services.

# Wildfires threaten Kansas trees

WICHITA (AP) — Trees in Kansas pose a mounting wildfire risk as they continue to take over grassland around the state, according to a new study.

Initial research from the University of Nebraska also suggests a link between the proliferation of trees in the Great Plains and an increase in the size and frequency of wildfires.

"Trees promote more extreme wildfire behaviors that are much more difficult to suppress," said Victoria Donovan, a researcher at the university, told KCUR-FM radio Monday. "In the Great Plains, in general, if you have woody vegetation we see a higher wildfire risk."

Historically, the Great Plains has not had many trees. The few in the region usually grew near rivers and streams. But contemporary fire-suppression strategies and the increase of homes and businesses nurtured wooded areas.

Kansas experienced its largest wildfire ever in 2017, and the six largest fires ever have all been recorded in the past 25 years.

A great way to control the spread of trees into grasslands, Donovan noted, is through regularly prescribing controlled burns. By reintroducing fires, which were a more natural part of the ecosystem, it would help keep the grass healthier and eradicate undesired trees.

Kansas fire departments have decades of experience extinguishing grass fires, but they are inexperienced at battling woodland fires.

"There's definitely a difference in the fire regime once you start getting a conversion from natural prairie grass to the brush and timber types of fuels," said Eric Ward, an assistant fire management officer at the Kansas Forest Service.

Christopher "Chip" Redmond, a meteorologist at Kansas

State University who oversees the state's network of weather stations, said wetter weather can spurt the wildfires.

"It helped extensive ... grass growth," Redmond said, "which is our primary fuel in Kansas."

A storm system that brings in air and strong winds could prompt large fires in Kansas this spring, according to Redmond.

Gov. Laura Kelly signed a proclamation declaring the week of Feb. 3 as Wildfire Awareness Week.

"While some wildland fires can't be prevented because they spring from lightning strikes or other natural causes," she said, "many are avoidable by carefully observing basic precautions when using fires outdoors."

In 2019, Kansas fire departments responded to more than 2,500 grass or field fires. The fires caused four deaths and burned nearly 28,000 acres (11,331 hectares).

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# Healing through diverse expression, community comes together



During the National Racial Day of Healing celebration on Jan. 21 in Webb Hall, students across campus came together to perform. (Bottom right) Madeline Alford, Black Student Union president and senior political science major, expresses the significance of community and healing. “In order to heal, we have to talk about the pain, and the pain sometimes is excruciating and it never seems to heal,” Alford said. **SHELBY HAMBLETON | The Bulletin**



## LENS

continued from page 1

Willingham, professor of photography.

When Nicole began the project as a sophomore, she had not yet reached out for help about the trauma she had experienced as a high school senior. Which made it challenging to connect with and speak about topics of sexual assault.

“Where I was raised, it was very Catholic, very religious, no sex-ed, we don’t talk about sex, hush, hush,” Nicole said. “Then if you take something like that, a taboo topic, or a taboo where I was from (like) the idea of sex, and add in violence or abuse or manipulation, how are we supposed to

have a conversation about it when we can’t even talk about healthy relationships?...It was just something that I shoved down and dissociated from.”

She spoke to other survivors and allies of sexual assault, which she found through anonymous surveys. Once the individual conversations were had and the stories were shared, she found models that resonated with the words survivors used to describe how their assault had impacted them.

“They didn’t get a

choice in how their body was viewed, how their body was handled, and how they were treated,” Nicole said. “That’s what I want to give them back, which is where I think the nudity comes into play. Nudity implies vulnerability. (The photos) are uncomfortable to

look at and it should be uncomfortable in a way.”

The first time Nicole shot for the project, she had to push back the knot in her throat and breathe over the tightness in her chest. She knew through the process she would find peace and help others do the same along the way.

After advising several people involved in her project to go to therapy or seek some help, she realized it was time for her to do the same.

“I really respect her for trying to make a difference in helping people,” Karen Gomric said. “She’s just a real big hearted person that cares for others. “Any chance that she gets, she wants to help someone. This is right up her alley.”

Though the journey has not been easy, she has found freedom and is finally at a place where she can end her senior project in peace.

“All of these people have gone through these traumatic experiences and it’s awful, but nobody wants pity and these individuals are stronger because of it,” Nicole said. “I hate to say things happen for a reason, because I don’t think this should need to happen, but they’re stronger people because of it. They persevered.”



“It has opened my eyes to the horrors we only hear about on the news. Thoughts of suicide that I thought had disappeared have now come back to mind.”

“Nobody cared until it happened to them.”

**Photos Courtesy of Nicole Gomric**



Nicole Gomric, senior photography and graphic design major, talks about her upcoming project, “The Person I am Because of You.” The multi-medium collection displays a variety of models and thoughts on identity. **LUCAS LORD | The Bulletin**



Social sciences professor takes students to Iowa



President Donald Trump | Photo Courtesy of The White House

Emma Boyd

Copy Editor

At approximately 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 3, Professor Michael Smith, department chair of social sciences, and 14 students will leave ESU to attend the Iowa caucus at Simpson College in Iowa. The caucus takes place at 7 p.m. Monday evening, and the group will stay the night and arrive back at ESU around 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

Smith says the group might also participate in a political rally after the caucus, if invited. The students each paid \$100 and were asked to bring additional money for food and souvenirs.

The Iowa caucuses are the first step toward deciding the two candidates of the final presidential election.

Mackenzie Haddix, president of the campus collegiate Republicans and sophomore elementary education major, said “I think, especially if you are a democrat, it’s really important to pay attention to this Iowa caucus because this is where the candidates...start their momentum.”

Grecia Caro, sophomore

secondary education major, will be going on the trip.

“I’m not registered to vote yet, so hopefully going to this, I will have an idea on who to vote for in November,” Caro said.

Caro said she considers herself part of the Independent party and believes it is important to stay open-minded.

“I think even if you are Republican or you are Independent or you are Democratic, you should be able to see both sides,” Caro said.

The Republican candidate is widely assumed to be President Trump, but the Democratic candidacy is a tight race.

“Sen. Sanders is running pretty strongly,” Smith said. “He is likely to win with a plurality which means you finish first, but it’s not over 50 percent.”

Sen. Sanders cannot campaign in Iowa during this time due to the impeachment trial, but it does not seem like that will affect his sway at the caucus.

Smith believes there will also be a lot of discussion on who will finish second.

“I think there will be a lot of pushing to see who ever finishes second because if somebody doesn’t

really break out and finishes strong second, the race could turn into a competition between Vice President Biden and Sen. Sanders very quickly,” Smith said.

Smith took students to the Iowa caucus in 2016 as well.

“It’s good, especially if you live in a caucus state, to see how the caucusing process works so that you can participate and know what you are doing,” Smith said.

Kansas is a caucus state, and Smith encourages students to also vote in the Kansas caucuses and other local elections.

“I tell students, ‘Vote in primaries. Vote in Caucuses. Vote in local elections,’” Smith said. “Don’t wait until November in presidential election years because the other elections often are the ones that carry the most weight.”

Haddix said she agrees that voting is an important part of being a citizen of the U.S.

“If you are passionate about making change in our country, then the best way to get involved is to just vote for someone who aligns with what you believe in because they’re representing you,” Haddix said.

Faith Burgoon

Staff Writer

Kappa Delta Pi, the education honors society, will host their first Educating for Empowerment conference on Feb. 1 in Visser Hall. They’ve scheduled break-out sessions and two keynote speakers: Stephanie Byers and Dorthy Stucky Halley.

“We have a keynote speaker about human trafficking,” said Jullian Jasinski freshman elementary education major. “It’s mostly a networking event between teachers and future teachers.”

The cost for the event is \$25 for students and \$50 for teachers. The fee covers lunch and materials at the conference. Registration closed on Jan. 28.

“It wasn’t looking well last week, but now we have 33 people

registered,” Jasinski said. “I, personally, sent out 100 emails to different schools.”

Among speakers are other break-out opportunities provided by teachers and students from around the state. According to the KDP website, the break-outs are approximately 75 minutes and there will also be a silent auction.

“I am most excited about how the conference is based around social justice within education,” said Nikole Huntley freshman elementary education major. “I can’t wait to hear about how we can incorporate social justice into our teaching styles.”

The conference is a fundraiser for KDP and the first of what they hope to be many Educating for Empowerment conferences.

Physical science department adds atmospheric concentration

Lucas Lord

Web Editor

With the addition of a storm chasing course to the physical science department, a fourth concentration, atmospheric sciences, is slated to be added to the program by next semester.

“The earth science faculty members have been discussing this for a hot minute,” said Paul Zunkel, earth science professor. “You can take an advising track which is great, but it’s not reflected on the transcript. We can now push you into one of four concentrations which are going to be professional geology, environmental geology, soil science and lastly atmospheric sciences.”

Zunkel said that a growing number of students have been wanting a more formalized approach to meteorology and atmospheric sciences. While his request for a weather station remains, Zunkel believes the budget deficit will hurt everyone.

“I might get it, but I might also win the lottery,” Zunkel said. “When I had this idea (for the course), I didn’t think there would be any interest in it. We currently have twelve people in the course. There is a large portion of that with students who have in the last few years come to me and told me they wanted to do the atmospheric tract.”

Given the danger of the course, Zunkel said he plans to keep the class limited to 10 or 12 students.

“I don’t want this to have more than ten,” Zunkel said. “We are bringing someone into an environment which is scary, you can see all kind of phenomena related to weather. So, my prime focus with this course is safety above all

else...any student who wants to take the course has to sign a liability waiver.”

As the planet’s climate continues to change, science courses have had to adapt.

“I’ve learned that physics ideas have had a big impact on what’s going on in civilization,”

said Jorge Balester, professor of physical science. “Because the general education physical science courses are required to take, and some students

take space science I have to bring up global warming somewhere.”

According to Balester, he would expand upon the required amount of science courses if he could.

“I think you’re asking the wrong person because I think every student have to take at least five physical science courses,” Balester said. “One of the reasons Venus is so unexpectedly hot is because of all the trapped methane gasses... some of this stuff is real and has real consequences for us. What I’m bothered a lot by is people who dismiss it like we really don’t know, and we’ve learned a lot over the past thirty years, and we continue to learn more about it. Sometimes its ignorant and sometimes its dishonest.”

With the addition of the atmospheric concentration, students will have a greater variety of specialties to pursue.

“I really enjoyed physics in high school and an earth science course as a freshman,” said Elizabeth Lane, freshman physics and vocal performance major. “I think the more the general population is educated the more likely we are to come up with a solution to the problems facing us, like sustainable ways to cut back on our consumption.”

Late January winter weather falls on picturesque campus



Late Tuesday night, campus remains quiet as snow falls. Campus facilities continue to put out ice-melt to prevent the sidewalks from getting slick. MARGARET MELLOTT | The Bulletin





# Home Game Schedule

## Women’s Basketball

vs. Pittsburg State  
**5:30 p.m.** // Feb. 5  
vs. Missouri Southern State  
**3 p.m.** // Feb. 8

## Men’s Basketball

vs. Pittsburg State  
**7:30 p.m.** // Feb. 5  
vs. Missouri Southern State  
**5 p.m.** // Feb. 8

## Men’s Track

**Feb. 15**

## Womens’s Track

**Feb. 15**

## Softball

vs. Concordia  
**2 p.m.** // Feb. 21  
vs. Concordia  
**4 p.m.** // Feb. 21  
vs. University Sioux Falls  
**2 p.m.** // Feb. 22  
vs. Minnesota State  
**4 p.m.** // Feb. 22

## Baseball

vs. Southwestern Oklahoma  
**10 a.m.** // Feb. 1  
vs. Augustana  
**7 p.m.** // Feb. 21  
vs. Augustana  
**1 p.m.** // Feb. 22  
vs. Augustana  
**4 p.m.** // Feb. 22

source: esuhornets.com Infographic by Margaret Mellott | THE BULLETIN

# Joe Montana headlines QBs with ties to 49ers, Chiefs

MIAMI (AP) — Soon after the Super Bowl matchup was set, Hall of Famer Joe Montana went to Twitter to send out a picture of his framed jerseys for the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers.

Joe Cool will be a champion once again.

“You heard from me first. I GUARANTEE my team will win the SUPER BOWL!!” Montana tweeted.

Montana won four Super Bowl titles in 14 years with the 49ers before finishing his career with two seasons on the Chiefs when he made one trip to the AFC championship game.

The path from San Francisco to Kansas City is a well-traveled one for quarterbacks with four other passers besides Montana taking that route as starters. In fact, for 11 of 13 years starting in 1988, a former 49ers quarterback led the Chiefs in passing.

Here’s a look at the QBs

who have started for both San Francisco and Kansas City:

STEVE DEBERG

DeBerg began his NFL career with the 49ers in 1978 and was Bill Walsh’s first starting quarterback in San Francisco the following year. DeBerg led the NFL in attempts and completions running Walsh’s West Coast offense in 1979 but the Niners still went 2-14. DeBerg was replaced the following year as starter by Montana and Walsh famously described his tenure like this: “He plays just well enough to get you beat.”

DeBerg went on to spend time in Denver and Tampa Bay before joining the Chiefs in 1988. He started 52 games over four seasons and led Kansas City to two playoff berths, beating the Raiders in the wild-card round in 1991.

JOE MONTANA

Montana had his greatest success in San Francisco,

helping establish a dynasty that won four Super Bowl titles in the 1980s. But with Steve Young waiting in the wings and an elbow injury that sidelined him for almost the entire 1991-92 seasons, Montana was dealt to Kansas City in 1993.

Montana showed he still had plenty left with the Chiefs, making the Pro Bowl his first year when Kansas City made it all the way to the AFC title game in 1993 for the first time since winning the Super Bowl in 1970. Montana led the Chiefs back to the playoffs the following season before retiring.

STEVE BONO

Bono spent five years as the backup in San Francisco, serving as the third-stringer behind Montana and Young in 1989-90 and then winning five out of six starts in 1991 when both stars were injured.

The Niners traded Bono to Kansas City in 1994 and he backed up Montana once

again his first year before leading the team to 13 wins in his first season as starter the following year. He started one more year before getting cut when the Chiefs turned to another former Niners quarterback.

ELVIS GRBAC

After three years as Young’s backup in San Francisco, Grbac signed with the Chiefs in 1997 for the chance to be the starter. He started the first nine games that season before getting hurt, but helped Kansas City win the AFC West. Grbac returned for the season finale and then lost the playoff opener at home to Denver.

Grbac split time with Rich Gannon in 1998 before starting his final two seasons with the Chiefs.

ALEX SMITH

Smith was the No. 1 overall pick by San Francisco in 2005 ahead of Aaron Rodgers. He struggled his first six seasons as a pro as the Niners lacked offensive talent

and stability as Smith was forced to work with a revolving cast of coordinators that hindered his development. That all changed in 2011 when coach Jim Harbaugh arrived and Smith helped lead the Niners to 13 wins and a trip to the NFC title game that season.

But Smith struggled in that loss to the New York Giants and then lost his starting job the following year to Colin Kaepernick after suffering a concussion. Kaepernick led San Francisco to the Super Bowl and the Niners dealt Smith to Kansas City.

Smith became the starter in coach Andy Reid’s first season and led the Chiefs to the playoffs in four of his five seasons in Kansas City. But he was 1-4 in the playoffs, contributing to the decision to draft Patrick Mahomes in 2017 and then deal Smith to Washington after that season.

## OPINION

# Chiefs for the Super Bowl win



Faith Burgoon  
Opinion Editor

Just about every person native to America has heard about the Super Bowl at some point in their life. So the fact that the Kansas City Chiefs will be playing the San Francisco 49ers at Super Bowl LIV on Feb. 2, and the excitement that comes with it throughout Kansas should be of no surprise.

I know a lot of people doubt the team, but I really think the Chiefs will pull through with a win to wrap up one of their best seasons yet.

It has been nearly 50 years since the Chiefs’ last Super Bowl appearance back in 1970, which they won. This year is a big deal for Chiefs fans throughout the country. As expected, love for the Chiefs can definitely be felt.

Patrick Mahomes is on his third season as the quarterback for KC. Some of his stats include 26 Touchdowns and

Good luck, KC! The world is rooting for you.

passing for over 4,000 yards with an average of 8.3 yards per pass. Many believe that Mahomes is the main reason for their success as he helps the team connect. Although,

everyone on the team has had an amazing season.

The Chiefs have a current standing record of 14-4. Total offensive yards are over 6,000. The Chiefs have also scored over 50 touchdowns. The defense has been able to rack up a total of 45 sacks so far in the season. The Chiefs played the 49ers last season with an outcome they are sure to repeat.

The last time the Chiefs played the 49ers was at Arrowhead Stadium in 2018. The Chiefs played dominantly during the game to pull out a 38-27 victory over San Francisco.

The 49ers have also had a good season. Fans (including myself) are hopeful for a red and gold victory.

Good luck, KC! The world is rooting for you.

# Kansas City business gives up tickets to the big game, donates \$20,000

KANSAS CITY, Mo. —For over three years now Alenco, Inc., a Kansas City based home improvement company, has made a friendly bet with like-companies from across the United States that call themselves the Big12.

These businesses in the Big12 not only work together on best practices for their companies but also work together to support one another’s local communities and charities. Alenco and the Big12 made their bets early in the season much like they do every year. The format of the bet was that the last team standing must reach the NFL championship. A California based company opted for the Rams at the beginning of the season so the Kansas City Chiefs became the default winner. The bet was that if your team made it to the Big Game, your company had the choice to receive tickets to

the championship or donate. With the Kansas City Chiefs not being to the big dance in 50 years, it was a tough decision for the owner.

However, in the end, Allen Erskine (owner) and Jon Erskine (VP of operations) made the decision to fall back on what they value the most, giving back. So this year, Alenco will be presenting a check for \$20,000 to Royal Family Kids Camp of Lenexa, KS.

Royal Family Kids Camp is a network of camps that offer child mentoring for abused, abandoned, and neglected children in the foster care program. Alenco Home Improvement have been Kansas City Chiefs season ticket holders for nearly 30 years. While it was a tough decision, giving up tickets to the Big Game to benefit a charity felt it was the right thing to do.