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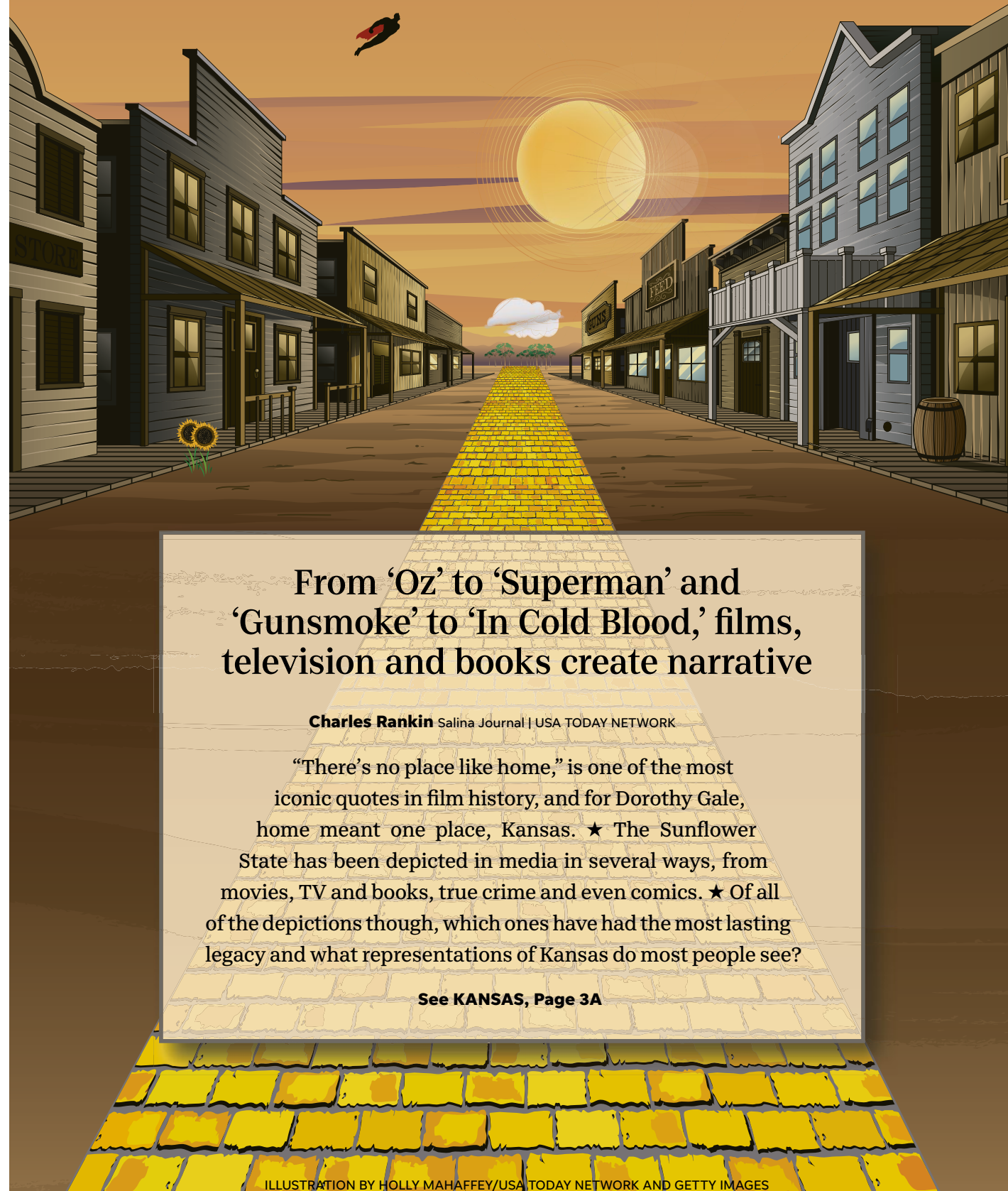
WEEKEND

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

HOW MEDIA HAS SHAPED KANSAS'S IMAGE

NO PLACE LIKE HOME



From 'Oz' to 'Superman' and 'Gunsmoke' to 'In Cold Blood,' films, television and books create narrative

Charles Rankin Salina Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

"There's no place like home," is one of the most iconic quotes in film history, and for Dorothy Gale, home meant one place, Kansas. ★ The Sunflower State has been depicted in media in several ways, from movies, TV and books, true crime and even comics. ★ Of all of the depictions though, which ones have had the most lasting legacy and what representations of Kansas do most people see?

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ILLUSTRATION BY HOLLY MAHAFFEY/USA TODAY NETWORK AND GETTY IMAGES

UNEMPLOYMENT OVERPAYMENTS

KDOL tries to collect \$67M

Jason Alatidd
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Thousands of Kansans will be getting letters saying they owe the government money because they were overpaid for unemployment insurance benefits in the past seven years.

The Kansas Department of Labor sent billing notice letters on April 23 to 8,526 Kansans who collectively owe more than \$67 million back to the

government.

In Shawnee County, 513 people are getting notices, totaling more than \$4 million.

People who receive notices are provided with information on the amount owed and their options for next steps.

The move comes about 17 months after KDOL launched a modernized unemployment insurance system, which has new functionalities on overpayments. The new UI system was created after the old system "collapsed" under the strain of the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant strain on the old system, which paid out hundreds of millions of dollars in fraudulent claims.

What is an overpayment? When is it fraud?

An overpayment is when a claimant for unemployment insurances gets more in benefits than they were eligible to receive.

"This can result from a range of factors including changes in eligibility, reporting discrepancies, employer-provided corrections or administrative adjustments," said Amy Selm, the KDOL deputy director. "Overpayments may involve fraud in some cases, but many do not. They are often identified after additional information becomes available following the initial payment of benefits."

Roughly 2,700 of the cases involve fraud.

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Kansas employers among nation's best places to work

Tim Hrenchir
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Three Kansas-based employers were recognized this month as being among the nation's best places to work.

Topeka-based Mize CPAs Inc., Lenexa-based Tallgrass and Overland Park-based Johnson County Rehabilitation Hospital were among the 1,661 employers announced April 9 to have been

selected for that honor by USA Today and research firm Energage.

This marks the sixth year the two have teamed up to conduct the survey, for which results were used to identify large and midsize organizations with at least 150 employees that are exceeding national benchmarks for employee satisfaction.

Energage and USA Today chose the winners after surveying employees of 2,375 organizations last year about fac-

tors that included pay and benefits, direction and leadership, meaningfulness and appreciation.

Here's how the honorees were picked

The survey identified winners in four size categories, USA Today said. Those were the following:

- Companies with 2,500-plus employees.

- Those with 1,000 to 2,499 employees.

- Those with 500 to 999 employees.
- And those with less than 499 employees.

Energage created rankings identifying the top 100 employers in each of those categories, then listed the remaining winners in alphabetical order.

The three Kansas-based honorees

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