UNK junior Teautla Gale Zimmerman, of Beatrice, died Wednesday, Sept. 14, at his home. Services were 2 p.m. Monday at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Beatrice with Rev. Kathie Forrest presiding. He was laid to rest at Evergreen Home Cemetery in Beatrice.

Zimmerman was an active 4-Her and received high honors for his work in photography for nine out of the 11 years he participated. His gift was particularly significant due to the fact that he was colorblind. His closest friend and confidant was his dog, Lahay. They were always working on tricks so that Zimmerman could show off how smart his dog was.

Majoring in information technology, Zimmerman always made sure that his grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters...
had the best-working cell phones and computers. He was known for his kind heart and love for technology, as well as his love of camping vacations with his parents and siblings. Golfing with his brother and sister and motorcycle trips with his dad were also among his favorite things.

“The loss of Teautla Zimmerman is one that will be strongly
felt in the UNK family,” said UNK administrator Gilbert Hinga when he informed the campus through email. Representatives from UNK Student Health and Counseling are available to individuals who would like to talk with someone. To do so, please visit the Counseling Center in Room 144 of the Memorial Student Affairs Building to make an appointment or call 865-8248.

Study Abroad Spotlight

I am excited to be enrolled at University of Nebraska Kearney because it gives me a chance to further my education.

On the other hand, this educational establishment has students from various nationalities, an element that will enhance my understanding and perception of global affairs. At the same time, universities in China differ from those in the U.S. because, unlike the former, the latter enjoys cultural diversity, and this is evident in the student population.

Before choosing to study here, I learned that University of Nebraska Kearney was located in a small town, with low incidences of insecurity, unlike most Chinese cities. I also find the climate favorable, although mornings and evenings tend to be a little bit chilly. I choose computer science as my major because I think it’s really cool,” Li Li said.”

/ Li Li, freshman
Neimeng of China
Computer science

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Political Autopsy: Gutting the Green Party

ELLIOT GONNELLA  
Antelope columnist

With the election roughly seven weeks away, this is often seen as the home stretch for the candidates and parties to make their pitch to those yet undecided in the vote. This is doubly true for smaller ‘third parties’ parties that desperately try to stay relevant in the mind of voters. I already covered one, but now it is time to take a look at those who claim they are the only true progressives left in the world. So let’s return to the political morgue, pull out a stiff and crack open the rib spreader. The Green Party is ready to be dissected.

I must make a confession, unlike the Libertarian Party I had next to no idea who or what the Green Party was. Until this election cycle I just thought they were the only true progressives left in the world. So let’s return to the political morgue, pull out a stiff and crack open the rib spreader. The Green Party is ready to be dissected.

That couldn’t be further from the truth. While there are groups like Green Party Canada, the only thing they absolutely share in common is the name. Policy and political beliefs vary greatly between the parties not only internationally but on a national scale. For example, some segments of the Green Party in the US and on a national platform in Canada oppose fluoridation water. Apparently they are alive and well, finding likeminded chumps to bond with.

Though the Green Party in the United States have put forward a candidate they claim will have them win the election.

Jill Stein. If you ask, ‘Who?’ I don’t blame you. She is a nobody, not even a footnote on the pages of history who deserves to remain that way, though it is a rather large tumor on the carcass so let’s take a look at her.

She is a doctor from Harvard, though I really wonder if she got that license/diploma legally. She is a quack, a fraud, and a con artist! She is quite the believer in many nature and health woo myths, and is anti-vaccine. Oh, wait, she believes in vaccines but doesn’t trust them because “the FDA is controlled by the drug companies”. Just what we need, anti-vaxers having a new model to get behind with their plague carrying rats called children.

In addition to denying what could be argued as the greatest advancement in modern medicine, Stein also believes in homeopathy. It is pseudoscience, discounted a long time ago by many in the scientific field along with crystal healing, anti-vaccination and bloodletting. Yet, she and a sizable group that is very vocal has managed to make it part of the official party platform. She also believes that Wi-Fi signals damage children brains and opposes modern medicine and education, believing nature is superior to those institutions.

Am I the only one who finds it hypocritical of her to say that?

So besides being a professional hack on par with ‘Dr. Oz, what real qualifications does she have of being president? The answer is simple: none. She has no qualifications to be the head of the executive branch, and she has no friends in the legislative branch. Her whole platform beyond peddling snake oil is bashing both sides as fascist capitalists who will destroy all we love with their corporate medicine and education. How is she going to get anything passed on her platform if no one is keen on working with her?

Now to the heart of this corpse party, there is no real movement. It is just a protest party. Many of these people who claim that they have been supporting the Green Party since the beginning are liars. Many of these “green lifers” were Bernie Sanders supporters through the early years of the election. These individuals went by the name ‘Bernie or Bust’, parading around the flawless senator from Vermont.

But when the people of the party spoke, Bernie Sanders lost with no conspiracy against him and he soon endorsed Clinton. Instantly, he was accused of being corrupted by the Wall Street fatcats and a shill by the same people moments ago saw him as the perfect individual. Now they flock to someone they think is a true progressive but in reality little more than snake who takes advantage of suckers - I mean valued voters.

The Green Party claims to be the true progressives but their childish antics, belief in conspiracy theories, and rejection in peer reviewed medicine shows that they are not. They are reactionary regressives who lack a unified platform beyond a single person to follow. Alright, autopsy finished. Cremate this measles infested vermin before we get all infected.

‘Father’ Frank Pavone, a title I will use very loosely, is the head of Priests for Life. Recently he has been making many interviews and appearances to convince voters to vote for Trump because of his
Single mother digresses on struggles, future with baby

ANDREA MARTIN
Antelope Staff

This time last year I was dreaming of my future as most people neared their college graduation tend to do. When I thought about what my life would be like, I pictured the career I might have, the people I would meet and the trips I might take. I thought of the frivolous things I could buy, the money I could waste.

I had no responsibilities last year. I worked a few hours on the weekends, just enough to have spending money. When they wanted someone to go home early, you can bet I was the first to volunteer.

My real job, last year, was simply to get through the spring semester of my last year in college. The only thing I had to prepare for was finals. I was in charge of me and only me. The choices I made affected only my life. I had nothing to save for, no reason to be conservative, and I was enjoying every minute of my freedom; and then one day, completely out of the blue, I found out I was pregnant.

I am now a single mother of one beautiful baby boy. I had to ask myself, Was I ready to care for a baby while working full time and going to school full time? More importantly was I ready to do it alone?

I never thought I would end up pregnant. I was on birth control; I took it every day. I never wanted children, as far back as I could remember. Honestly I didn't really like them very much. I mulled over the decision for weeks. Finally, I picked myself up off the floor of the house I thought was so perfect was actually too small for a family and probably couldn't afford anyway. I mean the price of having a baby is outrageous. I started to look around and realized, that a choice needed to be made.

Now, here we are, September 2016. I no longer feel the pain and suffer the woes of pregnancy. My feet are no longer swollen, the cravings are gone and I can lift my own bucket of ice at work. I’ve already started to lose the weight I gained, and I even managed to keep my head a float during the spring semester before baby was born in July.

There is a whole new set of problems to deal with now, and the repercussions were more serious this time around because I have this amazing little person counting on me, watching my every move and paying for any wrong choice I might make along the way. My fun, exciting and care-free life had suddenly become a blur of diapers and bottles. I traded in bar-hopping for games of peek-a-boo and I am celebrating the fact that my baby can lift his head all the way up off the floor and pay me the attention that I need.

Skinny vs. fat judgments
It doesn’t matter, and the media especially needs to drop it rather than promote it

KATIE SADD
Antelope Staff

If you were staring at the TV in awe of all of the Olympic gymnasts, you weren’t alone. I even caught myself drooling over several of the—how should I say this—extremely attractive athletes who were competing in this year's Olympic Games.

Even though I found these athletes good looking, I was also amazed by their skill and athleticism. However, if you were paying attention to the media coverage this year, comments about body image diminished my support of media.

It doesn't matter. Y ou are you, and those girls are those girls. If you want to work out and go to the gym, it shouldn’t matter what size, shape, color or anything else you are.

Another insane thing about body image is it isn’t just “skinny vs fat.” It’s everything. It’s fit or not fit; it’s thigh gap vs. thick thighs. So many girls are caught up in what their body looks like and not its purpose or their health.

When I asked what they meant, they explained they felt uncomfortable going to the gym because they were bigger than most of the fit girls who were there.

My response is always the same. It doesn’t matter. You are you, and those girls are those girls. If you want to work out and go to the gym, it shouldn’t matter what size you are or how you look.

That’s really messed up in my opinion. She seems more confident and happier than ever and probably in the best shape of her life, and still people are judging her because I feel like today we live in a very media-centric world where people are judged on their body image and not on their ability.

Some girls work out and some girls don’t work out. It’s not like I’m going to go to the gym because I was bigger than those girls. If you want to work out and go to the gym, it doesn’t matter what size you are or how you look. If you want to work out and go to the gym, it doesn’t matter what size you are or how you look.

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I keep staring at this little $9 piece of plastic that had just turned my whole world upside down. The question kept ringing in my ears, “What are you going to do?”

It was right around Christmas time when I was finally convinced to take the pregnancy test. I never thought I would end up pregnant. I was on birth control; I took it every day. I never wanted children, as far back as I could remember. Honestly I didn't really like them very much. I mulled over the decision for weeks. Finally, I picked myself up off the floor of the house I thought was so perfect was actually too small for a family and probably couldn't afford anyway. I mean the price of having a baby is outrageous. I started to look around and realized, that a choice needed to be made.

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New planetarium director Lazarova plans more frequent shows, viewings

SARA GIBONEY
UNK Communications

Associate Professor Mariana Lazarova is the new planetarium director at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The 60-seat UNK Planetarium, which opened in 2010, features a state-of-the-art projector, the Zeiss Skymaster ZKP4. Using fiber optic technology, each star is individually projected on the dome, creating a replica of the night’s sky. Since the functions of the projector are controlled entirely by a computer, it is possible to use the planetarium to navigate to any place or time, whether it is in the past or the future.

The UNK Department of Physics and Physical Science presents educational shows to school groups and private organizations at no charge during the fall and spring semesters at UNK.

“Successfully completing a Ph.D. in the field of astronomy and becoming a professor felt to me like accomplishing a childhood dream, but being a planetarium director brings me a much deeper sense of fulfillment because it gives me the opportunity to share my fascination about the universe with others,” Lazarova said.

“I’m passionate about communicating the intricate beauty of how things work – on Earth and beyond. Hosting outreach events deeply energizes me, because I consider popularizing astronomy, not a job, but a calling. Through public planetarium shows and telescope viewing sessions, I have a chance to share my astronomy passion with a much broader audience, particularly reaching out to young children and fueling their innate childhood fascination with the cosmos.”

Lazarova completed her Ph.D. in physics in 2012 at the University of California-Riverside. She has an interest in quasars in galaxy evolution and their possible connection to ultra-luminous infrared galaxies and starburst galaxies. She uses Keck, Spitzer and Hubble space telescope data to study the nature of a rare class of broad absorption line quasars.

“Mariana has a special passion for doing outreach, especially for our younger audiences,” said Kenneth Tranham, associate professor and chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. “I feel that the passion and enthusiasm she carries will show through in the programming that will be offered through the planetarium.”

Lazarova has demonstrated active science outreach with her work organizing NanoDays events on campus. NanoDays is a nationwide festival of educational programs about nanoscale science and engineering. NanoDays celebrations bring university researchers together with science educators to create learning experiences for children and adults to explore the miniscule world of atoms, molecules and nanoscale forces.

Lazarova plans to offer more frequent public planetarium shows and telescope viewing sessions of Saturn, the moon and the sun.

“In the coming year, I hope to offer our planetarium visitors a cosmic perspective on their lives, and foster a sense of connection to a universe so vast and fascinating, but a universe our busy daily lives often make us forget even exists,” she said.

Events will also be planned for the total solar eclipse, which takes place Aug. 21, 2017.

UNK began offering an astronomy major during the 2014-15 academic year.

This Day in History

On this day in 1866, H.G. Wells, pioneer of science fiction, is born on this day in Bromley, England. In 1895, he published his classic novel The Time Machine, about a man who journeys to the future. The book was a success, as were his subsequent books The Invisible Man (1897) and The War of the Worlds (1898).

To read more please visit:
http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history
New leader, new ideas
As president of UNK’s Agribusiness Association, Ohrt connects students to professions in ag world
RACHAEL FANGMEIER
Antelope Staff

Like many Nebraska ag students, Holdrege junior and agribusiness major Taylor Ohrt, plans to keep to her roots and continue with agriculture.

“I grew up on our family farm and always went to work with my dad. I honestly hated it once I actually had to do work like fixing fence or irrigation. But after a while, it became something that I really enjoyed doing. I absolutely love working outside,” Ohrt said. “My favorite part of ag is the diversity. I love how each day is so different form the last. It is a constantly evolving industry that offers a lot of opportunities.”

This is Ohrt’s second year in the organization and her first year as the president. “I was nominated by the seniors (who were) graduating, but I really loved the club and wanted to stay involved and have a leadership role,” said Ohrt. She plans on becoming more involved in the ag community.

“My favorite memory was probably the trip we took last year to the John Deere’s manufacturing facilities. It was a cool experience to see how these complex machines are put together. There were also a lot of laughs on the car ride there and back,” Ohrt said.

“I think that being a part of our club helps students build relationships with industry professionals in the Kearney area. The club has guest speakers come to our meeting. We also have networking events with the board members of the Gateway Farm Expo. We get together and do a fun activity while getting to know these industry professionals.

“We will have speakers like agronomists and brokers. I try to ask the other members what types of speakers they'd like to hear from. There are so many different fields within agriculture that give us a variety of people we can hear from”.

Ohrt said meeting with pros really helps get a foot in the door. At events employers often tell students what they are looking for in potential employees. “We even had a mock interview showing us what to do and what to avoid.”

Members can make a lot of connections with employers in the area if they come and help with the events and talk to people while they do it, Ohrt said. “They might even find a mentor or even a potential employer.”

The club helps at the Gateway Farm Expo by setting up and cleaning up. They have also helped at the Cattlemen’s Classic in years past, but it is still in the works for this year.

“We are also trying to plan some trips to tour agriculture facilities nearby like Case IH or Adams Land and Cattle,” Ohrt said.

The organization recently went on a trip to Gothenburg’s Water Utilization Learning Center for a tour of their test plots. “It was a really interesting and informative trip about the different farming tactics that can be used. There is so much research that goes into even the smallest things.”

Ohrt said they learned about weed control, crop inputs, drought hybrids and so many other things. Gothenburg’s Water Utilization Learning Center is conducting research about how to use water most efficiently.

“The best thing was their moving building. They have an entire building set on rails that will move when it senses rain to maintain the integrity of their drought experiments. The guide sent a text to the building and it started to move away from the crops. It was a really great experience.”

It can be difficult for students to find an organization that interests them, as well as to break through the awkwardness of joining a new group of people. Ohrt says, “Figure out what you are passionate about. Organizations are a great way to meet people and there are so many options. Try going to at least one meeting or event before you decide it's not for you. Sometimes the people are what makes an organization fun or not.”

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We get together and do a fun activity while getting to know these industry professionals.

/ Ohrt

How to join
Holdrege junior and agribusiness major Taylor Ohrt said students do not have to be majoring in agribusiness to join UNK Agribusiness Association, they just need an interest in ag. With about 20 people in the organization this year, the organization is looking to grow.

Ohrt said she received an email inviting her to come to the first meeting of the year last year. “I was a transfer student so I wanted a way get involved. I love agriculture so I was hoping to meet other people who had the same interests that I did. I basically just showed up to the meeting.”

Joining UNK’s Agribusiness Associations is just that easy. Students who are interested just need to show up to the meetings that take place the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in WSTC 205N.

For more information or if you have any questions, email Taylor Ohrt at ohrtta@lopers.unk.edu.
Construction class meets real world

Photos by Todd Rundstrom

Students in Dr. Essink’s Construction Materials and Methods Class (ITEC 240) tour the Kearney Crete and Block facility on Thursday Sept. 15. Leading the tour are GM Terri Holtzen (right) and Plant Foreman Dawson Johnson (below).
Students CAN speak up, be heard
Residents able to voice opinions about residence halls, campus and community

RACHEL STAUFFER
Antelope Staff

Community Assembly Night (CAN) is a weekly meeting held in the main lounge areas of the residence halls across campus at 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

CAN serves as a way to bridge the gap between residents and the student life offices on campus, such as Residence Life and Dining Services.

Caitlin Thomas, a sophomore wildlife biology major from Fort Collins, Colorado, and the Antelope/Nestor CAN vice president said, “I’d like to make sure that their voice gets heard. I feel like CAN is a great way to achieve that, and have everyone get an opinion and participate.”

In addition to playing games and eating snacks provided by the CAN executive board and Residence Life, CAN provides residents the opportunity to address concerns they might have about the residence hall or about the UNK campus community itself.

Cheyanne Lemburg, a sophomore from McCook majoring in criminal justice, who serves as the Residence Hall Association (RHA) representative of the Antelope/Nestor CAN executive board said, “It gives you a sense of belonging, that you’re not just a number out there. You’re someone who has a voice in the UNK community.”

CAN also provides residents with a way to participate in campus events through their residence halls, such as Homecoming. Each building’s CAN meetings have resulted in groups of residents participating in this week’s Homecoming events.

Last week, residents of Antelope/Nestor and Mens halls met to sign up for Homecoming event committees and get the ball rolling on participation ideas. “They are secret though,” said Thomas. “We don’t want all the other halls to read it in the paper.”

Executive-in-Residence Wojtalewicz to present Sept. 22

SARA GIBONEY
UNK Communications

Jeanette Wojtalewicz credits her success in finance to taking risks and learning from failures.

Wojtalewicz, chief financial officer for Catholic Health Initiatives – CHI Health, is the Ron Landstrom Executive-in-Residence at the University of Nebraska at Kearney for 2016. She will present, “Keep the Door Open – Life After UNK,” at 11 a.m. Sept. 22 in the Nebraskan Student Union Ponderosa Room. The presentation is partially funded by the JA Baldwin Free Enterprise Lecture Series.

The Ron Landstrom Executive-in-Residence program brings successful business executives to campus to talk with College of Business and Technology students about “best business practices,” as well as their personal career paths and lessons learned.

These executives engage students in several classes, make campus presentations on their areas of expertise and participate in a session with the CBT Student Advisory Board and faculty. They also participate in a networking opportunity with members of the Business Advisory Board.

“Part of my message to students will be to keep the doors open as you’re getting your education, to get engaged and to accept invitations to be involved. Getting out of your comfort zone every once in a while is important because it’s amazing what you’ll learn,” Wojtalewicz said.

“In my career, as painful as it is to go down a road and have it not work out, that is the greatest learning opportunity. Failures are gifts in disguise as long as you use them as learning opportunities.”

Her presentation will focus on self-confidence, life-long learning, stepping outside your comfort zone to grow and finding balance in life.

Wojtalewicz, who grew up in Humphrey, graduated from Kearney State College in 1984 with a degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting.

“I’ve always loved finance and math. I took an accounting course in high school and just loved it. I also like the creative side of business,” she said. “I feel like I use both my right brain and left brain. I think in business you have to have that balance. There was something about accounting that just spoke to me.”

She credits the encouragement, support and guidance from professors such as Ron Landstrom with her ability to grow in her career.

“Having that background and that knowledge base jumpstarted me in my public accounting career. It’s really been the underpinning of my ability to continue to grow in my career over the years,” she said.
Loper volleyball deserves national attention

Team starts season off with 3 pre-season tournaments, yet to show any sign of weakness before MIAA play begins this week

With a returning All-American in Annie Wolfe along with other key players from last year’s 29-7 team, the expectations were high for the University of Nebraska Kearney Volleyball team coming into the 2016 season. Add in pre-season national rankings and the Lopers were excited to get the season started; excited is how they are playing.

Rick Squiers’ team started the season in Golden, Colorado in the Courtyard and Residence Inn Volleyball Classic. There, they went 4-0 and only lost one set in the four games. In those four games Senior Annie Wolfe (46) and Junior Kaitlynn Thomas (43) led the Lopers in kills.

The following weekend, the Lopers made their home opener in the New Victorian Inn & Suites/Runza Fall Classic. UNK again took care of business beating all four teams they faced. In those four games UNK never lost a set and average victory per set was over nine.

This past weekend, the Lopers headed to the northeast to play in the Merrimack College Invitational in North Andover, Massachusetts. Just as they did in the previous two tournaments, the Lopers dominated. Winning all five games, they never lost a set in the 15 sets they played. Sophomore Lindsey Smith averaged over 26 assists per game in the five games.

After their trip to New England, the 14-0 Lopers will open up MIAA conference play at home Tuesday against Fort Hays University and last week’s MIAA Co-Specialist of the week, Hannah Wagy.

The Lopers were a perfect 18-0 at home last year and I know Squiers, Wolfe and company would love to extend their winning streak at The Health and Sports Center.
instead of celebrating the fact that class was canceled the morning after a night of drinking too much.

I am now a single mother of one beautiful baby boy. I had to ask myself, if I were ready to care for a baby while working full time and going to school full time. More importantly, was I ready to do it alone?

The one thing I promised myself upon finding out that I was pregnant was that I was going to finish school. Having the amazing support system I had in my friends and family, reassured me there was no shame in waiting and finishing up later. I was so close to my diploma I could almost feel it in my hand as they slid it to me in front of my peers and invited guests. No. I was going to get through it.

I managed to not only finish a full-time semester pregnant, but I actually fared well. I also managed to work until one week before I gave birth to my son, no problem there at all. I even managed to keep my cool driving myself to the hospital, while in labor to Kearney from Axtell on Cruise Night. I was smart, and determined and strong. “I could do this,” I said to myself.

I’m here to tell you folks, if you think college is difficult in its own right, try managing classes with and 8-week old baby. A baby who has colic. A baby with double ear-infections. A baby who, despite being a “surprise” and despite keeping you awake all night, is the most handsome human being you have ever laid your eyes on. You want nothing more than to curl up on the couch next him and listen to him talk in sleep for hours.

For starters, nothing is ever done on your time. Ever. Again. You have to manage everything around your child. Showers, house chores and yes, homework, are all to be accomplished when your little bundle of joy is napping. Except at 8-weeks old, your baby is staying awake longer and longer every time he wakes up. You can no longer put a bottle in his mouth and expect him to sleep. You can no longer wake up, your baby will ALWAYS need their diaper changed just as you buckle them into the car seat. They will ALWAYS want a bottle the minute you zip up the diaper bag. Oh, did I mention, the fun you have while searching for a babysitter? Now in my case my mother does a lot for me as far as babysitting goes, and I was lucky enough to find a friend who adores my baby as much as she loves her own, but even then, nighttime babysitters practically don’t exist anymore. At this point you feel so out of control of nearly everything in your life you consider trading your backpack in for a baby carrier so the ‘Boss’ can accompany you to every class.

In moments, when your sink is full of dishes, your floor is covered in the loudest toys ever from tummy time, which your baby didn’t enjoy, and yes even when you have a stack of homework sitting in front of you that seems so endless, you realize just how lucky you have it. Difficult or not, you wouldn’t trade your messy house, your stack of homework or even the rattle that you trip over every time you cross the living room to the kitchen, for even one more day as the “party girl.”

Every minute spent with your child, screaming, laughing or smiling is a moment in time you can never get back. At graduation you’ll have an opportunity to make the kind of choices you know are right for you and your most precious possession. Someday, he will be able to recognize how difficult it was for you to go back and finish that last semester at school and he will thank you for it. All after, your baby is now, and will always be your biggest fan, looking to you for wisdom and guidance, even when it can be an overwhelming.

The best advice I can offer someone who will be returning to college after their life gets turned around is to try your hardest to let go of that control, once you start rolling with the punches, and letting things try to work itself out. As cliché as it may sound, it’s really great advice. Take your life and the life of your gorgeous baby one day at a time, eventually your life will come full circle.

“...and made me work hard, and that made such a difference. They believed in me, they took time for me and they pushed me beyond my comfort zone.”

Wojtalewicz transitioned into the medical field, in part, because of advice from her professors. They suggested that she work as a certified public accountant to discover what industry she liked best.

She worked for Seim, Johnson, Sestak & Quist, a public accounting firm in Omaha that worked with many clients in the health care industry.

“That gave me an opportunity to do auditing, consulting and perform analysis for hospitals across the state of Nebraska. I really just found my calling to be in the health care field,” she said. “I knew I could never be a nurse or a doctor, but supporting the business side of health care had a huge appeal to me.”

Wojtalewicz got her start in health care at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha as director of finance. She also served as director of finance for Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, director of accounting for the Nebraska Hospital Association in Lincoln and chief financial officer for Orchard Place-Child Guidance Center.

She began working for Catholic Health Initiative in 1999 as vice president of finance and the chief financial officer for Saint Elizabeth Health System. In 2008, she became the chief financial officer for CHI Nebraska, where she was responsible for a $900 million operating revenue. She was accountable for four hospitals, foundations, a physician network, a home care agency and multiple joint ventures.

“I work for a Catholic health care company now, Catholic Health Initiative, a faith-based organization meeting the needs of the vulnerable and underserved, and it connects with my values and desire to serve,” she said.

She has worked for CHI Health for 18 years now. She now serves as CFO of CHI Health, a $2.2 billion company comprised of 15 hospitals, two physical enterprises with 750 physicians and a clinically-integrated network along with several foundations and numerous joint ventures.

“The medical field is complex and constantly changing. There’s never a moment of boredom. You’ll never know it all because of the regulatory changes and the significant amount of money that people spend on health care. It’s a job that will keep you on your toes,” she said. “I like the complexity and I like to be challenged. There’s never a dull moment.”

As CFO, Wojtalewicz completed a finance transformation to centralize and standardize statewide finance functions resulting in a $2.4 million annual savings. She also lead the implementation of a $101 million financial improvement plan including revenue growth and expense reduction strategies, including the reduction of $22 million in overhead costs.

“The health care costs across the country – and Nebraska is no exception – are spiraling out of control,” Wojtalewicz said. “CHI Health is really looking at how we can change health care and how we can transition from the old model of taking care of sick people to changing how health care is provided so we’re providing an environment that keeps people well and that keeps people out of the hospital.

“We’re really focusing on changing health care for the future because it’s just flat out too expensive. We want people to be well.”

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FOOTBALL WORD SEARCH

BACKFIELD  INTERCEPTION
CENTER     KICKOFF
CORNERBACK LINEBACKER
DOWN       OFFENSIVE LINE
DRIVE      PUNT
END ZONE   QUARTERBACK
EXTRA POINT RED ZONE
FAIR CATCH RETURN
FIELD GOAL RUSHING
FULLBACK   SACK
FUMBLE     SAFETY
GUARD      SNAP
HALFBACK   SPECIAL TEAMS
HAND OFF   TACKLE
HUDDLE     TIGHT END
INCOMPLETION WIDE RECEIVER
8 CANIDATES FOR HOMECOMING ROYALTY

Courtney Hayden, Alpha Omicro Pi – A senior from Kearney, Hayden is majoring in recreation management with a minor in family studies.

McKenzie Cuba, Loper Programming and Activities Council – A junior from Silver Creek, Cuba majoring in business administration with an emphasis in management and minor in photography.

Michael Weise, Pi Kappa Alpha – A senior from Arlington studying business administration with an emphasis is finance

Luke Grossnicklaus, Sigma Phi Epsilon – A junior from Aurora majoring in secondary business education with a coaching endorsement

Carlie Prososki, Alpha Xi Delta – A junior Spanish education major with a minor in biology from Kearney.

Lainey Russell, Alpha Phi – A junior from Kearney studying psychology and health science for pre-occupational therapy

Greg Christen, Student Government – A senior from Anselmo majoring in industrial technology with a minor in business administration

Sam Stoltenberg, Student Athlete Advisory Committee – A junior from Omaha majoring in biology.

Finalists were selected by student vote. The final round of voting takes place this week.

Courtney Hayden, McKenzie Cuba, Michael Weise, Luke Grossnicklaus, Carlie Prososki, Lainey Russell, Greg Christen, Sam Stoltenberg

Eight finalists for homecoming royalty at University of Nebraska at Kearney were announced Monday. The king and queen will be crowned at 9 p.m. Thursday at the Health and Sports Center. They also will be recognized during halftime of UNK’s football game against Washburn at 2 p.m. Saturday and oversee other homecoming week festivities.