Campus Kitchen brings Thanksgiving

Volunteers pack up special two-box holiday meals before delivery to clients in need

1. PACKING: After running out of pumpkin pie, the volunteers fill boxes with green beans and cranberry sauce. Pumpkin pie will be added to the boxes when it arrives at the kitchen.

2. GIVING DOUBLE: Sierra Bixenmann, Nicole Sveva, Lacey Johnson, Kate Bazemore and Cassie Kennedy work to fill the second set of the to-go boxes.

3. PLANNING THE ROUTES: Sierra Bixenmann (right) and Lacey Johnson (left) discuss delivery routes before heading out for delivery.

4. MAKING THE MEAL: Turkey and mashed potatoes look appetizing in the to-go boxes, but these are just one of the two each client will receive.

5. DELIVERING: Sierra Bixenmann, sophomore psychology major from Grand Island, leaves for delivery after packing festival Sunday Nov. 26.

19th straight NCAA run brings Lopers to big dance

Lopers tally fourth MIAA title, third tourney championship, trip to DII regionals Nov. 30

Photo by Amanda Demilt

Antelope Staff

DAVID MUELLER
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Video: Antelope

This now sixth-ranked Nebraska Kearney volleyball team is in the NCAA Tournament for a 19th straight season and will battle Missouri Western State in the first round of the Central Regional on Thursday, Nov. 30 in Marshall, Minn.

The regional, hosted by No. 2 Southwest Minnesota State, will be held at the PE Gym. The Mustangs swept two-time defending national champion Concordia-St. Paul in the NSIC (Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference) Tournament finals Sunday in St. Paul to earn the right to host the regional. Match times will be announced on Tuesday.

The 64-team NCAA field, eight schools from each of Division II’s eight regions, was announced Nov. 20. UNK is 27-21 all-time in the NCAA’s, advancing to the Elite Eight in 2005, 2004, 2003, 1996 and 1995. The Lopers also reached the regional finals on four other occasions but are currently riding a five-match NCAA losing streak. In last NCAA win came in the second round of the 2012 regional.

The Lopers’ 19-year NCAA run trails only the University of Tampa (1996-present). The Spartans have now made the “Big Dance” 22 straight years. The Central Region is far and away the best in the country as it features Concordia, winners of eight of the last 10 national titles, and 10 other nationally-ranked teams. The Top 25 teams left out of the regional this year are No. 13 Winona State, No. 16 Augustana, No. 19 Central Missouri and No. 22 Wayne State.

The third-seeded Lopers (33-3) and sixth-seeded Griffons (24-10) will meet for the fourth time this year and for the third time since November 11. UNK beat MoWest in four sets in Kearney during the regular season and last Saturday night in the MIAA Tournament finals. The Griffs handed the Lopers a 3-1 loss on its home court in the regular season finale.

The UNK/MWSU winner takes on either CSP or Central Oklahoma. The eight region winners advance to the Elite Eight, held Dec. 7-9 at the University of West Florida in Pensacola.

No. 3 seed UNK received an automatic bid from the MIAA and will play No. 6 seed Missouri Western State Thursday, Nov. 30.

1. HOW SWEET IT IS: The Lady Lopers celebrate after the hard work all season pays off in third consecutive MIAA title. MORE at Lopers.com

In this issue...

sisters for soldiers
AOII sends care packages from Kearney to soldiers overseas

Gonnella opinion
Gonnella looks back on 2016 political predictions

League of problems
Justice League movie falls short of expectations
Sisters support soldiers

Alpha Omicron Pi hosts Sisters for Soldiers to prepare care packages for U.S. military serving overseas

MOLLY STERN
JMC 215

Community members bustle around. Twinkling Christmas lights catch your eye. Holiday music fills the house. Smells of hot chocolate waft through the room.

With the holiday season quickly approaching, the sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi are trying to give back as much as possible. Nov. 9 they hosted their fifth annual Sisters for Soldiers event where they invite UNK students and Kearney community members to stuff care packages to send overseas to soldiers.

Rachel Overby is a junior member majoring in advertising and public relations from Omaha. "Our goal is make people aware that simple things like a Sudoku book or a Slim Jim can really make a difference in a soldier's life," Overby said. "It's the little thought that can make the biggest difference."

Handwritten letters. Candy and treats. Playing cards. Games. These are just a few of the things guests are invited to add to their personalized box they put together for a soldier.

In the weeks leading up to the event, Alpha Omicron Pi set up booths outside of local grocery stores to ask for donations. "We try and catch people before they go into the stores, so while they are shopping they can hopefully purchase some of the items off of the list to donate," Overby said.

For those that donate money, all of the money raised goes toward purchasing the boxes and the extra shipping fees.

Guests complimenting the delicious chocolate chip cookies.

"Alpha Omicron Pi was one of the first groups to contact me after winning, and once I learned more about the event, I couldn't pass it up," Miss Nebraska (Allison Tietjen) said. Miss Nebraska's platform is United We Stand: Honoring Our Military which was inspired by her late grandfather who proudly served as a Marine in the Korean War.

"I hope to help people understand the service and sacrifice made by military men and women for our country," Miss Nebraska said. "I think what Alpha Omicron Pi is doing is an amazing thing, and I love the impact it will have not only on the soldiers serving our country but also this community!"

One of the great things about this event is that it is open to the community for anyone wanting to lend a helping hand.

Lexi Vecera, a freshman from Fremont studying nursing was one of the many who stopped by the house that chilly Thursday night.

"I have always had a special place in my heart for the military and those serving our country so when I heard about Alpha Omicron Pi putting on Sisters for Soldiers, I knew I had to contribute in some way," Vecera said.

Vecera wrote a few letters thanking the soldiers for their service and helped pack a couple of boxes.

When asked what kind of impact they hoped to make, Alpha Omicron Pi President senior math education major Alexis Stockton of Fort Collins, Colorado, said, "We hope it makes them smile and realize that there are people back home that care about them and are thinking of them. I couldn't imagine being away from my family for the holidays so I hope this makes it a little easier for them."

This year the goal for the event was to fill at least 215 boxes. This goal was succeeded easily with Alpha Omicron Pi boxing 225 packages to send to soldiers for the holidays.

NEXT WEEK in The Antelope:

The Senior Edition

Ashtyn Bratt sees Europe
By Sydney Norris

'Antelope Speaks' duo to end with Mueller's graduation
By JD Rader

Meza takes lifetime journey
By Jose Perez
Looking back on predictions

One year later, Gonna reflects on predictions, realizes how naive he was.

Charity outlook of the week:
EFF - Electronic Frontier Foundation is a nonprofit that promotes freedom of expression and privacy in a networking world. They achieve this through education programs, bringing and defending lawsuit for consumer rights, privacy and security on the Internet. About 75% of all funding goes to programs, with the remaining 25 divided up almost evenly between fundraising and management. Find out more at https://www.eff.org/
DC presents league of problems

Were admission prices really justified for latest ‘Justice League’ superhero ensemble?

I miss the days when one's biggest concern was exploding wind-up penguins.

...and some characters audiences don't even get the time to care for, would they really want to sit through yet another movie akin to this one? The plot itself was fairly simple, but it was a vehicle for many previously released superheroes films from the get-go. The plot was entirely off. In the beginning, during which events unfurled much too slowly, I kept waiting for things to pick up, but by the time the credits rolled, I just sat in my chair thinking... "What? That's it? That wasn't exciting!" Sure, it leaves the option for more. In true DC fashion, even as audiences see Bruce Wayne making plans for a conference room for the entire band of heroes! Just when all seems lost, Superman swoops in to save the day in a battle that audience members were hardly invested in the first place. Overall a lackluster tale, "Justice League" presents an array of problems for the usual superhero film fanatic. Of course, my world is Marvel-centric, but even putting that bias aside, what happened to the brilliance present in the last DC film? Or was "Wonder Woman" just a wonderful fluke? Either way, you certainly don't have to be as fast as The Flash in racing to see this film.