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NEW YEAR, NEW UNION

Improved space ready for students
UNK students were in for a surprise when they returned for classes this semester. The main entrance of the Calvin T. Ryan library was blocked by construction and will remain closed off until later this month.

This construction is the beginning phase of replacing aging sewer lines and storm drains that cross campus from the Nebraskan Student Union to U.S. Highway 30. The line serves many buildings and residence halls, but it has reached a point where replacement is considered a high-priority project.

“There are times when that line is running at 100 percent capacity. This line is pretty much at the end of its functional life,” said Lee McQueen, director of facilities management and planning at UNK.

The issues were discovered in 2015, but funding for the 3-million-dollar replacement project was not approved until August 2017, with the funds coming from utilities savings from the UNK conservation efforts.

The timing has many people irritated about the longer walks to classes and the detours they have to take.

“It’s been inconvenient for me. It blocks my main route to classes, so I have to go all the way around the construction area every day,” said Veronica Villalobos, a senior from Madison, Nebraska.

However, the timing of the construction could not be avoided. After obtaining all the proper permits and approvals to get started as well as waiting for the best weather conditions, classes were due to begin.

The completion of the construction near the library is estimated for Sept. 10, and the reopening of the main library entrance is estimated to occur on Sept. 17. Landscaping work will continue in the area after the entrance has been reopened.

When construction completes around the library, crews will move further into campus to finish this large-scale repair and replacement project.

Since repairs are expected to go right under Cope Fountain—one of the most iconic points on campus—the fountain will be removed and replaced with a new design, one that has not yet been finalized.

McQueen is hopeful that the new fountain will become a year-round feature on campus. It will be smaller and flush with the ground, allowing more traffic to pass around the area when the fountain is not running.

“The diameter of the original fountain was about 40 feet,” said McQueen. “The new pool will be about 24 feet.”

Increased lighting and new fixtures around the fountain will provide a new and inviting space for campus activities, with seasonal water flow.

The new fountain is expected to be up and running in time for spring commencement.

All donated benches, plaques, and bricks will be removed, saved and reused in a new design.

Concept design for the new fountain to be built to replace the current Cope Fountain. Facilities hopes to create a location that draws people in year-round, not just in the warmer months when the water is running.
Chick-fil-A, Starbucks join the Union

Fall school year brings new look to student union for Lopers

Alana Kellen
Antelope Staff

Students were greeted with a new and improved Nebraskan Student Union this school year. A $6 million project brought in a full functioning Starbucks and a brand-new Chick-fil-A to attract both on- and off-campus students.

For returning students and incoming freshman, the idea of having a more popular restaurant and a full Starbucks is exciting. New looks and better food will attract these students to the downstairs food court.

Carli Anderson, a junior business administration major from North Platte, likes the new look of the Union. Anderson appreciates how quiet and more spacious the Union looks for studying and relaxing purposes.

“I think it’s good for the University to have this newer looking building,” Anderson said. “It makes it look more modern.”

Chick-fil-A has had a lot of buzz since students found out they were getting one on campus.

Michael Christen, UNK director of business services, said that Chick-fil-A was a top choice, if not the top choice that students voted to bring to the Union.

“I like how everything is laid out in the Union,” Lothrop said. “The tables and chairs surrounding the restaurants, so you don’t have to walk too far for anything.”

Christen points out that students are utilizing the Union for more than just the food court. Students are in the Union all day doing homework, relaxing and grabbing a bite to eat.

“We expected numbers to go down, especially retail being used way more, but in the first week we actually saw a 74 percent increase of retail dollars being used compared to last year at this time,” Christen said. “As far as the Market and Louie’s, we only saw a 1 percent decrease in usage.”

Lothrop approves the modern look of the Union. The construction makes it annoying to get from the Union to the Market on 27th, but otherwise he approves of how it looks at the moment.

“I like the modern look of the Union now,” Lothrop said. “I also really enjoy the natural light that comes in. It’s a really bright and nice place to be at.”

Construction in the rest of the Union will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Additions to the Union will be added no later than fall break.

“We’re excited for it to be done,” Christen said. “We finally have a Union we can bring people in to and show it off to.”
Lopers get involved with campus activities

Right: Chance Hersh, Caden Eberspacher, Shelby Ferguson and Cierra Fisher cook up s’mores at the Agribusiness table during the Student Organization Fair.

Lower Left: Lambda Theta Nu Sorority Inc. performs at the Multicultural Greek Council Yard Show 2018.

Lower Right: Jacqueline Avina, Graciella Lopez and Jazmin Urbina encouraged students to join Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc. The sorority is a multicultural organization.

Photos by Jiyoon Kim
Village Flats welcomes Lopers home

Janicek, residents of Village Flats speak about apartment complex

Brett Westfall
Antelope Staff

A new year always brings students’ attention to the new construction on and around campus. This year, the big talk was about the substantial three-story apartment complex. Across the street from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the UNK Village Flats complex has 68 one-bedroom and 31 two-bedroom apartments that are fully furnished with wireless internet, cable, utilities and furniture included.

The Village Flats are open only to graduate students with at least nine credit hours, University of Nebraska Medical Students, students who are married and/or have children and non-traditional students or 21 and older undergraduate students who are enrolled full time.

Floor plans offered to students come in two options. The 700 square foot unit, which is $650 per month for a unit consisting of two full-time students or one full-time student and up to 3 immediate family members. The second is the 435 square foot unit, which is $800 per month and is offered to one full-time student or a full-time student with a spouse.

The three-story apartment complex is at 2201 University Drive. The complex was built because of a housing shortage in the area, a problem which

was explained by Kearney Mayor Stan Clouse during the ribboncutting ceremony on July 31.

“Village Flats really helps with our housing situation, and it should be attractive for students coming to our community,” Clouse said.

Not only was the completion of the $16 million Village Flats a success for UNK Chancellor Doug Kristensen, but it was also the first step in creating an urban community in the 104-acre parcel now owned by UNK. According to a UNK press release, the university’s next step is to build an early childhood development center, and for the next 15 to 20 years and between $400 to $500 million to finish developing Kristensen’s vision of creating an urban community close to campus. This building’s benefit for UNK’s student population is tremendous.

During the ribboncutting ceremony on July 31, not only did Kristensen speak about the start of more to come in the area, but Taylor Janicek, UNK’s student body vice president, also spoke. Janicek is a senior from Bridgeport, Nebraska, studying psychology with a minor in recreational management.

Looking back on the day, Janicek said, “It was an amazing experience, and I was just honored to be there, let alone speak.” Janicek said that the Village Flats are exactly what UNK’s vision should head for, because he said it gives a great opportunity to reach out to a wider student population.

Before the speeches and ceremony, Janicek got to go on a complete tour, inside and out, of the housing complex.

“When you walk in from the front,” Janicek said, “right away there is a unique meeting room surrounded by glass next to the mailboxes called, ‘the clubhouse,’ which should convey a neutral feeling that the room is a place to relax but also a play to be serious and study. But, if you go down the first wing of rooms either to the right or to the left, you instantly feel like ‘home sweet home.’”

As word of mouth spreads and more details on the Village Flats continue over the years, Janicek said that new or upcoming students will want to look into this building as a first option when they feel it is time to move away from the residence halls. “If I had come in as a freshman this year and saw this building,” Janicek said, “I would instantly look into it after I turned 21 because it is so easy, and I am accustomed to doing things from UNK’s facilities. Plus, this is cheaper than most options out there and everything is included. I think it should be everyone’s first option.”

Rachel Smith, a student in her final year at UNMC who lives in the Village Flats, said, “My overall feelings of living in the Village Flats is positive. Not only did I get everything to come fully furnished with all the utilities included, but I have been able to bring in my accents and pictures to make it feel more like home.”

Another resident living in Village Flats, Dane Daigger, also expressed his overall feeling towards living at the new apartment complex. Daigger said, “The complex as a whole feels more like a residence hall by having community laundry, desk assistants and living with other students. However, once in the rooms, it feels like a typical apartment with all the appliances a person would want.”

“If you go down the first wing of rooms either to the right or to the left, you instantly feel like ‘home sweet home.’”

Taylor Janicek

“The complex as a whole feels more like a residence hall. However, once in the rooms, it feels like a typical apartment.”

Dane Daigger

Village Flats is new housing for UNK graduate students, and other non-traditional students who are married or have children.
Editorial: Antelope commits to readers

‘The Antelope’ joins newspapers across the country defending press freedom

It is not the responsibility of the press in United States democracy to serve the state. It is the responsibility of the press to serve the people, the public and democracy. It is the responsibility of the press to hold those in power accountable.

Perhaps in Russia or North Korea or other authoritarian regimes where the press is controlled by the government, it may be acceptable for the nation’s leader to deem a critical press an “enemy of the people,” but not in the United States.

On Aug. 16, more than 300 newspapers across the nation, organized by ‘The Boston Globe,’ published editorials rebuking President Trump’s criticisms of the press. Though “The Antelope” was not publishing at that time, we wish to add our voice to this chorus.

We will defend our profession because our profession defends the public. We do not take an interest in promoting personal agendas or protecting politicians or businesses. We do, however, take an interest in informing our readers on issues essential to daily and political life. We take an interest in holding government accountable, keeping it transparent and investigating it when it is not.

“The Antelope” joins journalists across the country in adhering to a set of standards and ethics meant to promote a free and independent press. We make every effort to avoid conflicts of interest and report stories in their entirety.

So, as we begin publication of the 120th volume of “The Antelope,” we make our readers these commitments:

We will make every effort to be fair and accurate in our reporting, writing and editing. We acknowledge the human nature of our work, and we will print corrections and clarifications as necessary.

We will ask questions. We will provide context. We will be informed. We will do our research. We are committed to telling the full story.

We will actively avoid the use of anonymous sources. Though we do not expect them to be required frequently, we will not allow an aversion to anonymous sources to stop the distribution of important information to the public.

We will be transparent. We will explain reporting and editorial decisions. We will accept phone calls and respond to emails. We encourage criticism when it is justified.

We will continue to serve the interests of democracy, and we will be relentless in holding those in power accountable.

Our commitments are to our fellow Americans, our readers, neighbors and friends, not to any one politician, motive or ideology.

Kavanaugh confirmation likely

But Gonnella isn’t excited about it

Elliot Gonnella
Columnist

The most powerful check/balance the executive branch has on the judicial branch is nominating a justice to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of the United States is the most powerful judicial authority in the nation, able to set precedence for decades.

However, the nomination process can be filled with controversy and political bickering.

Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump’s nominee for the Supreme Court, went through four days of what could only be called organized chaos.

“Kavanaugh has a mixed record on privacy, the right to peacefully assemble and labeling laws. He is, perhaps, a good representation of the current political atmosphere.”

Perhaps most notably, previously withheld documentation was released at the last moment, making it nearly impossible to analyze, let alone use.

Unless something drastic happens during the hearings, I have little doubt that Kavanaugh will be confirmed. Several Republican senators have to vote against Kavanaugh, or he will be confirmed.

Since that is the reality, a closer look at Kavanaugh shows that, for the most part, the criticism is warranted. He has voiced his belief that the wall between church and state should be weakened, especially in schools. This is concerning because the only religion that goes through that weakened wall is Christianity, and even then, only a select few flavors of it.

His stance on abortion and women’s rights is hypocritical. He claimed the law was settled, but in a released email he said, “I am not sure that all legal scholars refer to Roe as the settled law of the land at the Supreme Court level since Court can always overrule its precedent.” When asked at his hearing if he was aware of any laws restricting the male body, he stumbled.

Kavanaugh has a mixed record on privacy, the right to peacefully assemble and labeling laws. He is, perhaps, a good representation of the current political atmosphere.

On the surface, he does appear to be moderate. He paints himself as a voice of reason in a divided country, someone who interprets the constitution as the founders intended. But looking deeper, he seems to be more of a confidence man, one who is willing to say anything for power.

During the hearing, he dodged questions about Trump’s ability to pardon himself. I cannot hold any hope that if/when that ability is tested in front of the Supreme Court with Trump still in office that Kavanaugh would be unbiased or recuse himself.

If he is confirmed to the court, will he be the worst judge to sit on the esteemed bench? I wouldn’t say so; it would take plenty to be worse than Clarence Thomas or Antonin Scalia.

I think I already know the outcome of this confirmation, but if there is anything to be learned from the past two years, always plan on the unexpected.
Nationally ranked volleyball continues onslaught

The No. 1 ranked Nebraska-Kearney volleyball team closed on a 7-2 run to sweep the California Vulcans (25-16, 25-18, 25-22) Saturday evening in Western Pennsylvania.

The Lopers (12-0) swept the Bloomsburg Huskies (25-17, 25-15, 25-11) earlier in the day to go 4-0 on the weekend. These four matches were part of Cal's Vulcan Invitational.

As expected the tilt against CUP (7-5) was the toughest in the tourney as UNK was down 20-18 in the third set. Overall, the match featured 21 ties and seven lead changes with the Lopers finally moving ahead in the third thanks to an unforced error and ace from junior outside Julianne Jackson (Bonner Springs, Kan.). That made the score 23-21 and was part of a 7-4 Loper run.

Kearney closed out California thanks to two kills from sophomore outside Mary Katherine Wolfe (Omaha Marian). The Lopers ended the night with 45 kills as six different players were between four and nine kills.

Senior setter Lindsey Smith (Dakota Dunes, SD) had 36 assists, five digs, three aces and two kills in the win. She represented UNK on the all-tournament team as she came in 11.7 assists, 1.9 digs, 0.8 kills, 0.8 aces and 0.5 blocks per set for the weekend. Smith also guided an offense that hit .282 and averaged 13.7 kills per set.

UNK started the day with a rare match against a first-year program. The Lopers managed 9.0 team blocks against the Huskies (3-5) with Grand Island sophomore Mackenzie Puckett providing the most trouble with seven stuffs. Kearney also dug up 60 balls led by 17 from senior libero Ewllie McDonnell (Papillion).

Offensively, balance was again the key as seven different players were between three and nine kills. Wolfe hit .400 with Grand Island junior outside Emma Benton coming in at .348 with a team-best nine kills.

UNK heads to Emporia State and Washburn next weekend.

Women’s soccer nets two wins in weekend sweep

The UNK Women’s soccer team packed its brooms this weekend in Montana, as the Lopers swept their games against the University of Mary and Montana State-Billings.

The first contest was against Montana State-Billings, a game in which the Lopers outshot their opponent 21-12, including a 16-7 advantage in that department during the second half.

Cierra Clark chipped in a score at the 59:13 mark to make the score 1-1, and she wasted no time adding to the scoring department with a goal less than two minutes later at the 61:11 mark to put the Lopers ahead for good at 2-1.

Still playing in the mountain time zone, the Lopers fought off the University of Mary with a Tori Weber penalty kick at the 2:25 mark. The defense manufactured a shutout in what was ultimately a very successful weekend for the Lopers.

“This weekend, we really put everything together that we’ve been working on,” said UNK defender Molly Willis.

“We dominated the majority of the game in time of possession, played very solid defensively and had lots of scoring opportunities.”

The Lopers look to continue their win streak this week when they face Washburn at home Friday. They then travel to Hays, Kansas, to take on Fort Hays State on Sunday.
Loper football off to running start

UNK starts season 2-0 for the first time in seven years

It's been over four years since the UNK football team could say it had won back-to-back games. That all changed after an encounter with Central Oklahoma last week.

After a 45-0 blowout victory against Missouri Southern in Week 1, UNK traveled to Central Oklahoma to face a team that had won six of their last seven games dating back to last year. The Lopers left Edmond, Oklahoma, on top of the MIAA Standings after a 31-27 victory.

The only player remaining from that 2014 season? Starting center David Squiers, who was redshirting while playing for coach Darrell Morris, Squiers’ first of three head coaches during his time at UNK.

Squiers said he only vaguely remembers the back-to-back wins in 2014. Now a key contributor for the Lopers, he is somewhat of a poster boy for the present state of the football program.

“It’s definitely been a long and bumpy road to get to where we hopefully want to get to this year,” Squiers said. “But, that’s what makes this team so resilient. Most guys playing right now are guys that chose to fight through both coaches and players leaving.” Squiers said.

Josh Lamberson was hired in 2015 to turn around a Loper team that had gone 3-8 the previous season. After winning one contest in two seasons, Lamberson was hired as the offensive coordinator at Abilene Christian.

Lamberson installed a more modern offense that featured its fair share of passing plays. In January of 2017, that approach took a complete 360 with the hiring of Josh Lynn and his run-heavy option attack.

“I wasn’t thrilled about it at first,” said first year starting quarterback Alex McGinnis.

The junior was recruited by Lamberson out of high school and decided to stay put and adapt to the new offensive philosophy. “It grew on me the more I started playing in it… it took some time learning how Coach Lynn’s offense operated during that first year. There weren’t as many growing pains this year.”

McGinnis and the Loper offense have certainly turned it up a notch this year in Lynn’s second season. After throwing the ball 47 times against Central Oklahoma last season, the Lopers utilized eight incredibly efficient passes and 52 rushes to accumulate 450 yards of offense and 31 points against Central Oklahoma.

On the season, McGinnis has made the most of his 25 passes, completing 18 of them for 277 yards and two touchdowns, good for a quarterback rating of 191.5. On the ground, McGinnis has 32 carries for 152 yards. More importantly, he has made the necessary reads for breakout running backs Darius Webb and David Goodwin to combine for 399 yards on just 33 carries.

Defensively, the Lopers have given up an average of just 13.5 points per game. Sal Silvio has anchored the defense with 21 tackles and two forced fumbles through the first two weeks. Returning defensive end and captain Tye Spies also has eight tackles and two tackles for loss.

“Our defense has played well through the first two games,” Spies said. “We need to work to get rid of mistakes and penalties, but overall, I’m very happy with how we’ve played thus far.”

The Lopers will host Emporia State at 2 p.m., Saturday.