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Voters participate in direct democracy

Ballot initiatives, from healthcare to voting rights, are more impactful on our lives

Elliot Gonnella
Antelope Staff

I think I can safely say that many are breathing a sigh of relief now that the midterm elections are over. For some, it is because their side won, for others because their side did not lose as bad as they were fearing. Me, I am just glad I don’t see as many political ads while watching videos online. Regardless of which side you’re on, election night did prove to be as colorful as we expected.

Ignoring the change of power in the House and the consolidation in the Senate, it is important to note something that appeared on not only Nebraska’s ballot but on several others too: ballot initiatives. Many states offer their citizens a chance to make a proposal, referendum, or initiative law by placing it on the ballot and passing it with a majority.

Starting locally, there was a statewide initiative regarding Medicaid. Called Initiative 427, it expanded Medicaid to around 90,000 individuals in the state who live 138 percent below the poverty line. After our governor and legislature have failed to pass Medicaid expansion, it was a Democratic middle finger if there ever was one. This expansion takes advantage of the Affordable Care Act provision of subsidizing the expansion of Medicaid, which would be beneficial as the costs are estimated to be anywhere from $39 million and $57 million by 2020 according to an article published in The Omaha World Herald.

Regardless of who was chosen to represent the state in Washington, this initiative will have a greater impact on our lives here in the state. Perhaps a slight tax increase or cuts to other programs will be necessary to cover the unsubsidized parts of this bill. The voters of the state said this is what they want; now the legislature has to follow the will of the people.

Idaho and Utah voted to approve similar measures to expand their state Medicaid, so this is clearly an issue citizens want addressed. However, healthcare was not the only issue voted on. Several other issues found their way on to the ballots. While it would be too long to list the specifics for each initiative, here are a few that I think are perhaps the most important:

- Criminal justice was a large issue for several states. Georgia, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Florida passed an initiative that would adopt a ‘victim bills of rights’. These measures are designed to allow victims of crimes to participate in all aspects of the court proceedings, giving them a voice that has apparently been denied. However, the American Civil Liberty Union stressed that these measures are poorly worded and interfere with the constitutional right of due process. One will have to watch to see how it works out.

The minimum wage was raised in two states, Missouri and Arkansas, with Missouri adjusting for the Consumer Price Index after it has been raised to a certain amount. Florida has reinstated voting rights to felons who were not convicted of murder or sex crimes, a snub to their former governor now embattled Senate candidate Rick Scott. Marijuana has been legalized for medicinal purposes in Missouri, expanded in Utah and legalized recreationally in Michigan.

The one I am most opposed to is the Alabama constitutional amendment allowing the 10 Commandments to be displayed on state property. We can argue about the reach of the federal government when it comes to drug laws and healthcare, but there is a clear rule against establishing religion. It will be amusing to watch the state throw away money to lose this argument when it is inevitably challenged.

These changes offer more impact to the daily lives of citizens than who sits in what chair amongst 435 representatives or 100 senators. Such initiatives show why it is important to fill out the entire ballot; because often times they are forgotten as they are at the end. It is a form of direct democracy in our republic, and in a time when we complain about how we are not heard, this gives us a voice.
Women’s Center promotes love, understanding
Organization members bring Love is Louder campaign to campus

Braydon Conell
Antelope Staff

This week, the UNK Women’s Center is partaking in a campaign to overpower the negative voices and forces in the world and spread love and support. The Women’s Center will be in the Nebraskan Student Union Atrium to play their part in the Love is Louder community. Stop in and visit them over the lunch hour to write a short post-it note or write on their poster about why Love is Louder.

Love is Louder was started in 2010 as part of The Jed Foundation. The goal: to amplify the message that love and support are louder than any voice that tries to bring us down. Over the past eight years, hundreds of thousands of people have joined the movement from around the globe. Using the hashtag #LouderTogether, the entire community has been tasked with helping spread the word.

The Love is Louder Week that the UNK Women's Center is participating in is the first annual Love is Louder Week. Founded as a counter to the focus on the factors dividing us, Love is Louder Week is meant to facilitate an area where we can openly speak on our differences, but focus on how they make us stronger, not how they divide us. Coinciding with the Women's Center being in the Union, the first Love is Louder Week runs from Nov. 9 through Nov. 15. The Jed Foundation has had more requests than ever from campuses and communities who want to use Love is Louder programs, events and resources to tackle issues like bullying, discrimination, body image, loneliness and depression, all things which impact students here at UNK. Love is Louder Week is simply a way to bring attention to and raise awareness of these issues that impact our communities and provide a space where we can grow together.

The Love is Louder website looks at how to get involved throughout the week — and the year — and go beyond just signing your name or making a post-it note. By connecting with Love is Louder, being grateful, expressing yourself, being kind, pressing pause to destress, changing your perspective, amplifying the “good stuff”, and using your support network, everyone can make a difference.

“It’s a community that supports each other and encourages you to love yourself and be yourself,” said one man in a video on the Love is Louder website. Building a community is the first step in creating a lasting effort to combat the negative voices. We must learn to live as a community that is integrated and not separated by our differences. Multiple celebrities are already a part of this community of love and are working to spread love. Debbie Ryan, the members of R5, JR Bourne from Teen Wolf, Monique Coleman from High School Musical, and Anna Camp and Skylar Astin from Pitch Perfect are just a handle of social influencers that have came out in support of this community.

Students can share the message that “Love is Louder” by visiting the UNK Women’s Center in the Student Union this week.

To learn more about Love is Louder or join the campaign, visit:

- loveislouder.com
- loveislouder.com/week2018
- facebook.com/WomensCenterUNK
Classic car collection benefits community

People reminisce about early 70’s at fundraiser hosted by World Theater

Brett Westfall
Antelope Staff

A midwestern downtown setting, the World Theater, historic hotrods and American Graffiti were full swing for the first annual Classic Car Collection fundraiser. A significant amount of people strolled into the World Theater the night of November 11, to see the nostalgia of American culture at its highest peak.

Plenty of well cared-for, classic vehicles lined the front entrance of the World Theater. Tickets were only $25 whether bought in advance or bought at the door for a movie and a show of vehicles.

“Those vehicles out front were actually from the Nebraska Auto Club and they are all owned by someone from the club,” said Kaitlin Schneider, member of the Classic Car Collection fundraiser. “Some of the owners met up recently and were willing to park them out front to add the classic scenery.”

Doors opened at 5:30 p.m. for those attending the silent auction or seeing the classic vehicles. At 7 p.m., the film, “American Graffiti” aired; the reason Kearney’s Classic Car Collection Museum and the Kearney Visitors Bureau selected the film was how close to the culture of the 1960’s the film perfectly portrayed. The United States Library of Congress deemed the film, “culturally, historically, and aesthetically significant.” The members of the Classic Car Collection Museum and the Nebraska Auto Club made sure that the cars lined in front of the World Theater gave off the vibe of living back in those times.

“The funds tonight will go to the Classic Car Collection for those traveling by and maybe want to see some of the vehicles,” said Brad Kernick, a sponsor from Kernick Auto Appraisal. Kernick helped in sponsoring the event and with the fundraiser as well.

“We want to help promote the tourism industry,” Kernick said. “It is a very expensive industry and all the industries that could be in tourism, like the Henry Doorly Zoo, the Air and Space Museum, or even smaller, all run at a deficit.” Kernick is hoping this event will not only help reduce costs of the museum, but also to add culture, like the museum portrays as well.

Kernick and a few other sponsors with classic vehicles also like to continue the American tradition by taking their classic vehicles out and around town. “The vehicles out front, you can see them around town too,” Kernick said. “Not just in the museum’s or at events, plus the black and white one in front of the entrance is mine. Also, George Lucas’ ‘American Graffiti’ is the best car movie ever.”

Smiles and nostalgia filled the area around the World Theater, as it does for most of its events. This time, though, as told by the character Curt Henderson of American Graffiti when it comes to all the nostalgic vehicles that night, “it was the most perfect, dazzling creature I’ve ever seen!”
Campus celebrates Resource Awareness Week

Different on-campus resources open their offices to students

Alana Kellen
Antelope Staff

When first coming to UNK, incoming freshmen are shown numerous resources on campus. The First Year Program brings out the different resources on campus this time of year because this is when a lot of things are happening. Students need to fill out the FAFSA, register for classes, job applications are opening up and it’s an important time to be going to the learning commons.

Brette Ensz, the assistant director for the First Year Program, decided to try the resource awareness week around campus last year. Ensz wants to make sure students know that these resources on campus exist.

The resources that Ensz brought out to the students were the financial aid office, academic and career services, First Year Program, peer health education and the learning commons and library, which are paired together. Colleagues and friends of Ensz volunteered to help with Resource Awareness Week to help get their names and offices out to students as well.

“We’re bringing the resources to the students instead of them having to come find our offices because sometimes they get lost, they’re confused, they’re intimidated and then they just don’t try,” Ensz said. “We’re trying to reach out to anybody that needs assistance.”

Along with the resources around campus, Ensz and others are promoting the Blue and Gold welcome coordinator position on campus. This is a position that essentially plans to help make new students’ transitions to UNK easier.

Mackenzie Cuba, the graduate assistant for the First Year Program held the Blue and Gold coordinator and new student enrollment leader position so is now promoting that job. Cuba enjoyed these jobs because she got to engage with students her age coming in as freshmen.

“The First Year Program is really a place like a jumpstart for students coming to campus whether that be pointing them to where this is you need to go to get that fixed or if you have a question for certain situations,” Cuba said. “If you’re struggling to find where you fit in on campus, maybe you’re struggling a little we have programs that can help the students.”

On Monday, ice cream was offered to students and on Tuesday hot chocolate was given. Ensz set up the hot chocolate in a progressive style. Students had to stop at each table to get a cup, the hot chocolate and toppings. As they stopped they were asked if they’ve registered for classes or filled out the FAFSA, so students learned about resources as they got their drink.

Ensz’s job is to make sure students are transitioning well in their first year on campus and one of the areas that she sees that is good for students is access to resources. As students come to campus they are reminded in the summer for when they arrive in the fall, but Ensz has noticed a lull where students get disconnected, so they do it again in November to remind students that these resources are still here for the students.

“I love doing this because it gets me out of my office and we call it harassing students, but to be honest it’s just fun to help a student genuinely figure out what they are needing to do,” Ensz said. “Even if they walk by and I ask if they’ve registered for classes and if they say no, I feel like then I’ve helped remind them that they need to register for classes.”

Benefit Christmas Concert
The 1733 Kearney Area Barbershop Chorus and Friends

When: December 16 at 2 p.m.
Where: UNK Recital Hall- Fine Arts Building


$50 stipend for those who join practices on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in Countryside Christian Church. Enter in South door.
Contact Fran Wilson: frjgwils@yahoo.com or 234-5376
Admission for event is free!
Can not cannot
UNK students, alumni prepare for various Disability Awareness Week activities

Sydnee Bartruff
Antelope Staff

As the Collegians for Integration and Accessibility puts on various activities for Disability Awareness Week, students are busy preparing for the shows, handing out flyers across campus and educating individuals about disabilities. Others make the familiar route back to campus.

For the 25th anniversary of Disability Awareness Week, CIA brought in several UNK alumni to talk about their disabilities along with their experience with both the student organization and the Disability Service Office.

“Talking about their disabilities in front of their peers— it takes a lot of guts,” said David Brandt, the disability services coordinator. “But I think it’s important. They are community here.”

Many of the alumni who came back are working as professionals, attending or have attended graduate school, or working in the medical field or teaching.

For Disability Awareness Week in the past, the student organization has had panels involving current students who have spoke about their disability. This year is the first time alumni have come back to share their experiences after graduating.

Over his 16 years of being active with the organization, Brandt says his duty involves working with students to get their accommodations that they need to be successful in housing and academics.

“When we think of a disability, we think of wheelchair and visually impaired, we think of hearing impaired—the obvious disabilities,” Brandt said. “You don’t think of the students with anxiety and depression.”

Currently Brandt is working with 300 students. That number grows each year by about 10%, said Brandt.

The disabilities range anywhere from students with learning disabilities, bipolar disorders to veterans with PTSD.

Anxiety and depression, however, are a big part of Brandt’s cases.

“It's a huge problem with our youth today, but we are here to serve them, we are here to help them, to be able to navigate the system and do well and do well in system,” Brandt said.

While previous students made their way back for the panel, UNK Alumni Panel of Abilities, past presidents and directors of the organization also came back for the panel and other events for the week.

“To me, (25 years) means that there has been a lot of time and effort set aside to promote integration and accessibility on the campus, for the students and ultimately for the broader community,” said past president Tim Hanley.

Hanley was a member of Collegians for Integration and Accessibility group in 2000 and president of the organization from 2003-2004.

While there are many presentations to attend throughout the week regarding various topics, Tasha Schuh is this year’s headliner. Each year the students in CIA work together to find a find somebody with a disability to share their unique story.

Paralyzed from the neck down, Schuh is an inspirational speaker from Wisconsin and will share her story with UNK Thursday at 7 PM in the NSU Ponderosa Room.
New faces, roles for UNK basketball

After receiving 10th place in pre-season poll, Lopers look to replace nearly 80% of last year’s scoring in 2018-2019 season

Chris Langin
Antelope Staff

If you’ve followed UNK basketball over the past half decade, these names just popped into your head:
Lansman, Danielson, McKay, Rohrich.

Those four combined to play in 519 games and started 345 of them during their careers.

Unfortunately for the Lopers, that’s the last time they’ll step on a collegiate court.

Coming off a 16-14 season, the Lopers appear to be entering ‘rebuilding’ mode. The stats would back that up, as they have to replace 77 percent of their scoring from last season. Trey Lansman, who was last seen posting up cornerbacks on the gridiron, accounted for 28 percent of the scoring himself last year, more than what the entire team returns. They were picked to finish 10th in the MIAA conference by the coaches.

“We definitely have a chip on our shoulder,” said junior Kyle Juhl, the leading returning scorer. “And being picked 10th in the conference is everyone else’s expectations. We are expecting to improve every week and by the end of the year we expect to be better than 10th in the conference.”

Kyle Juhl

while Lansman's contribution was significant, they also have a lot of guys who are capable of stepping up on any given night. The scoring will be a lot more balanced.

Sophomore Sam Morris, who took a medical redshirt last season, looks to replace McKay at the point guard position. Chase Winchester, a transfer from Division I Stephen F. Austin, also looks to play in the backcourt.

One name in particular to keep an eye on is Freshman Kanon Koster, who was the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star Athlete of the Year at Kearney High last year. Koster has had to adjust his style of play a bit in the past couple months.

“We are expecting to improve every week and by the end of the year we expect to be better than 10th in the conference.”

Kyle Juhl

UNK junior Kyle Juhl, an important sharp shooter of the team, goes in for a score against Oklahoma Baptist during the November 10 game. Juhl says that he is taking on a leadership role this season in helping step up and score more points. The players hope the scoring of each game this year will be more balanced than has been in previous years.

“The game is a lot more physical, and it's faster,” said Koster. “The style of play changes from high school because of the size in college.”

The Lopers will have their first home game on Saturday against the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs.

by Arianne Goode

The UNK women’s volleyball team followed up their regular season MIAA conference championship, with the MIAA tournament championship Nov. 10.

What makes the tournament championship even more special, is the fact that the Lopers were able to win it on their home floor in front of their fans.

“I want to mention how sweet it has been to play the tournament at home the past 3 years because I believe we have the best fans in the world and there is no place like the Health and Sports Center,” Julianne Jackson said.

The road to the championship started with a first-round matchup against Missouri Western State on Nov. 6. This was a tricky draw, because UNK had just played the Griffons four days prior.

In the first set, the Lopers put up a great offensive performance. With the score 4-3 in favor of UNK, Mary Wolfe went on a tear recording 4 straight kills. Kendall Schroer recorded 2 of the 3 final kills off the assist from Lindsey Smith to secure the first set 25-15. The Lopers had a scorching .405 hitting percentage compared to Missouri Western .057.

It was a different story in the next two sets, as UNK struggled offensively. Fortunately for the Lopers, they were able to keep the Griffons done offensively as well with great defense.

UNK's performance was good enough to win sets two and three 25-20 and 25-21 and sweep the Griffons in straight sets.

The Lopers followed up the first-round victory with a sweep of No. 11 Central Missouri on Nov. 9. It was the same script to an all too familiar story. Wolfe and Jackson closed out the first set with five straight kills between the two of them.

The Mules turned things around defensively but struggled offensively throughout the night. UNK was able to hold Central Missouri hitting percentage under .100 for the entire match.

Add that stat, to the fact the Lopers were able to produce 11 blocks to Central Missouri’s three. UNK earned the three-set sweep of the Mules 25-11, 25-22, and 25-21.

The Lopers next matchup No. 10 Washburn was an all too familiar foe. The Ichabods came into the match as the only team to beat UNK this season.

To begin the match the Lopers looked like a team on a mission. With the score tied at 23 apiece, Washburn went to work trying to get a kill. Their efforts were thwarted by Wolfe and Jackson who came up with back to back blocks.

In set two, UNK saw a three-point lead dwindle down to one, late. Wolfe closed the door on Washburn with three straight kills.

With their backs against the wall, Washburn responded in a big way in set three. After being tied with UNK at five, the Ichabods closed out the set on a 20-8 run.

This carried over into the fourth, where the Lopers couldn’t claw themselves out of an early hole. Genna Berg’s kill cross court ended the set and pushed the match to a fifth set.

“By the end of the 4th set, we had sparked some momentum again that allowed us to really start fighting for each other and with each other,” Jackson said.

UNK was determined in set five to not let Washburn best them again. Jackson, Wolfe, and Smith started the match off with three straight kills. Wolfe’s service ace put the Lopers up 9-3.

At that point, the Ichabods went on a 7-point run. This was cemented with a block by Kelsey Gordon.

Both teams didn't want to give in, and found themselves tied at 14.

Anna Squiers' kill gave UNK the lead, and an uncharacteristic bad set by the Ichabods set up the victory for the Lopers.

By winning both the regular season and tournament for the MIAA Conference, UNK secured themselves a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Regionals, so the Lopers will be at home for the start of the NCAA tournament.

They will take on the 8 seeded Harding University (25-7) on Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Health and Sports Center.