Ground game, improved defense leads football team to 2-0 start for first time in seven years

Feline Friends
Volunteers care for cats at shelters throughout campus

Tough season
Senior Burns finds optimism in final games as Loper

To close or not to close?

Discussions to close campus for bad weather start early, happen often
Online sales tax won’t save mom and pop

Internet sales tax is new revenue, unlikely to save physical locations

Online shopping has been a talking point in regards to both politics and economics for almost the past two decades. Cyber Monday, the unofficial online-shopping holiday on the first Monday after Thanksgiving, is approaching its fourteenth year of existence, it has now surpassed Black Friday with total sales in a single day.

With the rise of online companies like Amazon, which accumulated over 73 billion dollars in the last quarter of 2018, there has never been a better time to shop a wide variety of items that may not be found in your traditional brick and mortar stores. University students especially benefit from the ease of buying things at a discounted price and finding specialty items that other places wouldn’t have at a local corner on the market.

As with any advancement, there have always been detractors with complaints that can be logical, emotional, irrational, or some combination thereof. Perhaps the one that has held the most weight is not that the online economy is destroying physical locations, at least not at the rate commonly said, but the issue of taxation.

Taxing online sales has always been something akin to an accountant’s Wild West, full of contradicting rules, varying levels of qualification, and the voluntary mention of sales for both businesses and the consumers. I am not that surprised that governments have been looking for a way to tap into that revenue stream for their own benefit, and after years of trying, the states got their opening.

In the recent court ruling, South Dakota v Wayfair Inc., the Supreme Court decided to allow states to enforce sales taxes on companies that use the internet to sell products. Almost twenty states, including Nebraska, have started to create legislation to be introduced, pending the ruling of the court to get that sought after revenue from businesses, large and small.

I have already seen taxes collect revenue from some purchases online I made through Amazon, and at the moment they are reasonable. They’ve proven to be nothing extravagant, just a few more bucks after I confirm my address. So far, these taxes do not concern me when it comes to paying them.

What does concern me is how these taxes will be administered throughout the states.

The Court only gave the green light for states to collect taxes; it did not lay out a specific plan of how these taxes would be collected, what rate would be acceptable, and what exceptions would be given. So while permission has been granted for revenue to be collected, it is still going to be the preverbal Wild West for the state revenue agents and those who handle the accounts for businesses.

Each state is going to have their own rules, and it will still be a jumbled mess of limits, rates, and taxable sales. Nebraska, for example, is looking at enforcing taxes on online sales for those that make more than $100,000 in sales or two hundred transactions online. Other states have proposed stricter tax rules, or similar but slightly different exceptions.

While smaller companies may not need to worry too much about these rulings, it will be difficult to keep up to date for medium size and up companies that don’t have the resources of a corporation.

The way the states plan to spend this sudden flush of income is also a bit disheartening for me. Governor

“Taxing online sales has always been something akin to an accountant’s Wild West...”
Democrats jump into 2020 primaries

Numerous Dems ready to challenge Donald Trump

Amelia Cooper
Antelope Staff

With voting becoming a revolving topic of discussion, especially with the controversies with the current president, knowing who the presidential candidates are is crucial to choose who to vote for in the primaries.

On top of the current president, according to Time, “there has been over 450 candidates that have registered with the Federal Election Commission to run for president in 2020.” But who are the bigger names that are running against the incumbent?


On Feb. 19, Bernie Sanders officially entered the 2020 presidential race and within the first four hours he managed to raise over $1 million. Sanders had been previously beat by past U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton in 2016. Sanders had been a major advocate for the $15 federal minimum wage, universal healthcare and campaign finance reform.

Sen. Kamala Harris is currently a U.S. senator from California, and she announced that she was entering the race on Jan. 21 with the slogan, “Kamala Harris for the People” on Good Morning America. According to kamalaharris.org, she supports a real tax cut for the middle class and Medicare-for-All. According to CBS News, she raised about $1.5 million in the first 24 hours of her campaign.

Sen. Cory Booker announced his candidacy on Feb. 1 through a video on The View, multiple radio interviews and a press conference. Booker is a U.S. senator from New Jersey and, according to Time, he “continually sponsors bills that aim to alleviate poverty, expand affordable access to healthcare and raise the minimum wage.”

Sen. Elizabeth Warren officially announced she was running for president on Feb. 9 at a rally in Massachusetts. Her main rationale is that she can help rebuild the middle class.

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard is currently a U.S. Representative from Hawaii’s 2nd District. She officially announced her candidacy on Feb. 2 at an event in Hawaii. Gabbard is currently for standing up against Big Pharma and is for Medicare-for-All.

One of the candidates that is not a representative or senator is Julian Castro. He was previously the Mayor of San Antonio and former President Barack Obama's Housing and Urban Development Secretary. Castro officially came out with his candidacy on Jan. 12. He has opinions on immigration and is an outspoken anti-Trump advocate.

As we wait for the primaries and for the continuing amount of people announcing their candidacy, learning more on the current candidates can help voters learn what policies they agree with for each candidate. So read up, learn more and vote in the primaries.

Democrats at the Polls
Morning Consult poll of likely 2020 Iowa Primary voters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Polling Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joe Biden*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernie Sanders</td>
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<td>Cory Booker</td>
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<td>Amy Klobuchar</td>
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<td>Michael Bloomberg*</td>
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<td>Sherrod Brown*</td>
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<td>Tulsi Gabbard</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julian Castro</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Spread: Biden +9

*Candidate has not formally declared presidential bid

Polling conducted Feb. 11 - 17
Source: Real Clear Politics
Deciding to close campus is more complicated than students think

Hanna Hake
Antelope Staff

A topic that has been discussed continually this year on and around the UNK campus is one that university administrators take very seriously—cancelling classes because of the weather.

“Our number one priority is to be open,” said Jon Watts, UNK’s Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance. “The best place for our students to be is in their classes or participating in activities, so we really start by doing everything we can to keep campus open.”

This has been a particularly busy winter for the UNK grounds crew who has been working hard to help keep campus open.

“We start by clearing the ADA accessible paths,” Watts said.

To view a map of these sidewalks, visit www.unk.edu/campus-map/ and select the accessible walking path icon and numerous blue paths will be displayed. Snow removal is prioritized in the following order: accessible pedestrian areas, remaining pedestrian areas, parking areas, and campus roads.

“Our goal is to always make a decision by 6:00 a.m., if not the night before,” Watts said. “A couple of the ice events (this winter) were challenging because by 6:00 a.m. the ice wasn’t a problem, but between 6:30 and 7:30 it became a problem, and by then it’s too late.”

“We get complaints, but people should really understand that our number one priority is to be open, and we make our decisions with that in mind.”

- Jon Watts

“These last couple storms our campus has used about four tons of salt each time, so one of the challenges is that if there’s a lot of snow forecasted, we will hold off salting parking lots, because we can only have so much salt on hand, and if there’s the potential to not have enough salt for the couple hundred acres of sidewalks.”

Every reasonable effort is made to clear multiple entry/exit points for each of UNK’s residence halls. UNK custodian staff is responsible for clearing snow within 15 feet of the buildings, giving the grounds crew the ability to move through faster. During last year’s significant budget cuts, two ground positions were eliminated, leaving the small team short two bodies this winter.

“It’s a small team but it’s all a team effort,” Watts said. “We also really try to invest in good equipment and that makes a huge difference. We get complaints, but people should really understand that our number one priority is to be open, and we make our decisions with that in mind.”

What do you think?

Send in your thoughts or stories about the winter weather and they could get published in next week’s paper!

Contact us by
Facebook: facebook.com/unkantelope     Email: antelopenews@unk.edu

Letter to the editor policy: In order for a letter to the editor to be considered for publication, it must be signed. Individuals are limited to having two letters to the editor printed each semester.

JON WATTS

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Letter to the editor policy: In order for a letter to the editor to be considered for publication, it must be signed. Individuals are limited to having two letters to the editor printed each semester.
Top: The UNK grounds crew starts working to clear the ADA accessible paths as soon as possible. They are cleared at the highest priority after a snow or ice event. Bottom: Icy sidewalks, streets and parking lots have been a common and dangerous issue this winter.
LoperCats provide help for campus cats

Volunteers have set out to improve the lives of felines living at UNK

Braydon Conell
Antelope Staff

Students, faculty and community members cannot wander around UNK's campus without noticing the presence of at least a few cats, especially when it is warmer and the cats are more active. These felines, referred to as LoperCats, have a more important role in our campus community.

LoperCats is an organization here in Kearney that works to help the feline population on campus. Two of the leaders of this group are Sherry Morrow and Deb Schroeder. Nearly 20 years ago, Morrow came upon the problem of UNK's feral cats and saw a need to do something about it.

Morrow is a cat owner herself and grew up with a strong sense of empathy toward animals.

“My parents could never stand to see an animal hungry,” Marrow said. “I can’t either, but I was seeing hungry cats on campus and around the community. She has given this same love of animals to the cats in the Kearney community.”

There is an estimated population of around 100 million feral cats worldwide with nearly 60 million just in the United States. Cats, even those that are domesticated, are territorial and often have varying territory sizes. Here at UNK, these cats may stick close to one building or they may spread well out of the 235-acre campus.

After gathering donations from local construction companies, partnering with the university's building and grounds department and the UNK Construction Management Organization, LoperCats built several small feeding stations that offer shelter and hold food and water. These stations are placed at seven sites on campus.

They are in places across campus that don’t attract much attention. Three sites, for example, are on the north side of the student union, at the Fine Arts Building and near the College of Education.

Volunteers have helped LoperCats leaders and assist in maintaining the shelters and watching for new cats that need medical care. LoperCats participates in what is known as a trap-neuter-release program. This is a process in which feral cat colony populations are maintained through removing the ability to reproduce without cutting the life of these animals short. This program promotes a healthy populated colony and helps protect natural wildlife such as birds and small mammals at the same time.

“I don’t think they should be euthanized because they are part of the ecosystem and should be protected, as well,” said Giovanni Luna, a freshman biology major from Grand Island.

“LoperCats are a part of what makes UNK a great campus and becoming involved was an easy way to help out my favorite animal in the world.”

LoperCats encourages students and community members to check out the LoperCats Facebook page to keep up to date on events in the community and to see what cat lovers are doing nationally. And remember, if you see a cat around campus, treat it with kindness and know that hardworking volunteers are engaged in giving it a better life.
Men’s team fights to rise
Burns find optimism during Loper’s struggling season

Jack McLeay
Antelope Staff

This season hasn’t been what the UNK men’s basketball team had hoped for.

After being defeated by Northwest Missouri State on Thursday, Jan. 24, the Lopers fell to 6-12 on the season. Carter Burns, a Senior from Iowa, spoke words of encouragement for the future of the program as he entered his last 10 games wearing a UNK jersey.

UNK has brought on 7 new faces to this year’s roster and Burns has helped to create a new identity as well as give wisdom to the youth throughout the season.

“We have grown so much as a team,” Burns said. “We have a young team and every game is a chance to learn. Win or lose, we have improved almost every game. We learn something new about ourselves every game.”

What has stayed consistent throughout this year is the mentality of the players before they step onto the court.

“In the locker room before the game we try to focus on what we need to do to win,” Burns said. “Everyone has a different role, but we want to come out with the mentality that everyone is playing for each other.”

Burns, who has seen significant playing time since his freshman year in 2015, has seen many different outcomes while playing for UNK. From NCAA tournament runs, to losing seasons, Burns has been able to stay consistent throughout his career.

“I have learned how to handle the ups and the downs of a season,” Burns said. “That is the most impactful thing I want to leave for my teammates because it was the most important lesson I learned here in my four years.”

Regardless of the record, Burns is proud of his career at UNK and the team he has played on.

“I have played with some great players, and created even better friends,” Burns said. “I want to be able to leave this place satisfied that this team went out with a positive culture and their heads held high.”

The Lopers will next be in action at home Thursday against Pittsburg St. On Saturday they’ll end the regular season versus Missouri Southern St. at the Health and Sports Center.

SALES TAX from page 2

Ricketts is pushing for the revenue from online sales to be used to fund property tax relief, in a time where public education and other services are seeing a decrease in their budgets.

Nothing has been set in stone yet, but it seems that the executive, and some legislature, of our state aim to use the sales taxes as a pork barrel for a select few in their voter base.

Finally, I do not see these taxes as a way to ‘save’ the mom and pop stores from the big bad online retailers. The landscape of the marketplace is changing and technology will always be an asset for any company, both to keep up with the rules and regulations in addition to being open to a wider consumer base. Businesses will not come back to Main Street because of these taxes.

You may see a slight cost increase in ordering products online in the future, but very little will change otherwise. The government is taking their share, and one can only hope the funds are appropriate and serve a real purpose, rather than as a slush fund for supporters.

The Antelope Has Gone Digital

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Wrestling claims super regional title

Lopers qualify six for nationals

Alex Eller
Antelope Staff

The Lopers didn't disappoint in front of their home crowd, racking up 121.50 points throughout the day. UNK had a placer at every weight class except one and qualified six wrestlers for the national tournament.

“We won the regional tournament as a team and that's a great thing,” Dalton Jensen said, UNK wrestling coach. “We do not take that for granted. I'm very pleased with our six NCAA qualifiers and excited to see them compete at the national tournament. The guys we are taking are all capable of doing some special things at nationals.”

To get more wrestlers to the national tournament, the NCAA opened 20 extra bids for the Super Regionals. They did this by creating six Super Regionals rather than the four seen in the past. Because of this, the top three finishers in each weight class qualified instead of the top four.

At 125 pounds, UNK had the No. 1 wrestler in the Super Regional coming in, Josh Portillo. In his first match of the day, he made quick work of Dominic Rivera of New Mexico Highlands, beating him by tech fall 17-1.

In the semifinals, he got an upset over No.4 ranked Darek Huff of Adams State. Dawkins rode him from the top position in every period, to earn an 8-0 decision.

The championship had Dawkins paired up against No. 2 in the nation D'andre Brumfield of Colorado State-Pueblo. Brumfield controlled the match from the top in the first period and then pinned Dawkins in the second at 3:10.

At 165, Calvin Ochs wrestled smart and only gave up a combined two points in his first two matches.

In the semifinals against Zane Zeman of Colorado State-Pueblo, the match was neck and neck up to the third period. It was then that Ochs was finally able to get Zeman on his back and get near fall points to win 7-1.

In the title bout, it was strength vs. strength. Neither Ochs or Koery Windham of Adam State were willing to give up anything.

Both did a good job of countering the other's move, and as a result, regulation ended with a stalemate at 1-1.

The turning point in the match was when Windham broke through and finally got Ochs on the mat. As a result, he was able to pick up the 5-4 decision in the fourth overtime.

Zach Stodden, a senior for the Lopers, took advantage of a wide open 174-pound weight class. In the first-round matchup, he got a 5-1 decision over Seth Lathman of Colorado Mesa.

Then in the semifinal, he pulled off the late 8-6 victory over Robert Gambrell of Colorado School of Mines. This punched his ticket into the national tournament.

In the championship, Stodden met No. 1 and undefeated Brandon Supernaw of Western Colorado. He gave him his toughest match of the day, but in the end it wasn't enough, as he fell 7-2.

“Zach Stodden is a proven post season wrestler, Jensen said. “He performs at his best when there is the most at stake. That is why he is a two time All-American and going for his third.”

UNK’s final qualifier of the day was Jarrod Hinrichs at 285 pounds. Hinrichs found himself wrestling through the back half of the bracket after suffering an upset to Sammy Deseriere of Western Colorado in his first match of the day.