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

#freepress: Antelope editor commits to free independent press

The Big Event
Lopers volunteer around the community, event put on by student government

Dodgeball
Alpha Omicron Pi holds annual dodgeball tournament raising money for Arthritis

UNK theatre invites highschool students to watch and learn about Opera
Trump forgets who created this mess

Trump complains about immigration, ignoring his own policies are causing the chaos

Elliot Gonnella
Antelope Staff

With the way immigration is discussed on the news and in politics today, one could easily mistake this as the only time in our history we have had to deal with the challenge of immigration. The rhetoric, wall to wall coverage, and social media fodder makes it seem like nothing of the sort has ever happened before.

Trump certainly has been making a spectacle of it in the past few weeks, from threatening (and then walking back from those threats) about closing the border entirely to declaring America ‘full.’ It seems less like policy for Trump and more like a distraction. However, since he is the one sitting in the Oval Office, anything he says has to be taken seriously even if it is something as delinquent as closing all of the border over the idea of illegal immigration.

While it is true that illegal immigration has reached a twelve year high, it still has come nowhere close to the peak of 2000. Another key difference is that these are not single individuals who are coming through the border or overstaying their visas, but whole families.

And in an ironic twist, Trump and his ‘hardliner’ policies may actually be encouraging the rise of illegal immigration.

Think back to the family separation debacle that started almost a year ago. Remember the coverage along with the near universal and justified outrage of it all that spawned a rare public reversal from Trump regarding what he thought would serve as the perfect deterrent?

Because of the chaos of his own design, Trump is actually encouraging the migrants to cross the border. The immigrants know that they will only be detained by ICE for a short time, if at all, far away from the border. In an effort to combat what he saw as a problem with a moniker he called catch and release, the practice has been expanded because offices and centers are overwhelmed with the number of people.

There has not been any significant rise in crime, no mob of looters that are slowly working their way across the country, and no social service beyond immigration is cracking under the strain of just the immigrants. There is not a disaster at our border that Trump is suggesting.

And one has to ask the question, why? Why is Trump making an issue out of this with so many resources when many of us can go home and look out the window to see an actual flood destroying lives and communities?

“He does it for cheap political points with his base.”

He does it for cheap political points with his base. It is playing into the nativist idea that immigrants, particularly those from ‘those’ countries are here to destroy our culture, bring crime, and take our jobs. The one about jobs is a dialogue that has been spoken a thousand times over, both in jest and in all seriousness.

It is a fallacy to be fearful of immigrants from Central America or anywhere to come and take jobs away. Just by letting in immigrants or allowing asylum there are suddenly going to be no jobs for teachers, nurses, social workers, down to the supply chain managers? Overnight are all of the desirable middle class careers going to be filled and leave millions of Americans unable to do any work?

No, they are not. The economy, jobs, and immigration does not work that way.

Trump is using the tactic of fearing the unknown, the alien, to rally his supporters and draw attention to a problem he is more than likely responsible for. Simple and idiotic, but it cannot be denied that it is effective. Unfortunately, so long as his supporters have someone to blame it will continue to work.
Students react to ongoing construction

Construction affects campus enjoyment

Hanna Hake
Antelope Staff

Since the beginning of the school year, this campus has been filled with incomplete construction areas. Due to this issue, many students have voiced their concerns and frustrations with the many projects going on around campus.

One student hangout spot that has been missing this school year is Cope Fountain. Each spring, students look forward to the first time the fountain will be turned on, a sure sign that winter is over and that summer is on its way. Without the fountain this year, students are finding it difficult to get excited this spring.

“I think it will be great when it’s done, but honestly it’s a bit of an eyesore and I don’t think that can be good for trying to recruit students to UNK,” said Keaton Victor Kleespies, a sophomore 7-12 education major.

The fountain was removed as a part of the 2018 sewer line replacement project through the center of campus. The hope for the new fountain is to make it more of a year-round feature. Ever since late fall, however, the construction workers have left that part of campus, and the fountain location remains a muddy, fenced in blot on the landscape of UNK’s campus.

“The construction is a little disheartening, especially for older students who won’t be around for its completion.”

Asic Helberg

For the majority of the school year, the area in which used to hold the Cope Fountain has been left empty as construction stopped indefinitely.

The completion of the new fountain is currently scheduled to occur in August and will end the $3 million storm sewer replacement project. For graduating students, the completion won’t be done while they are still on campus, making some feel bittersweet about the replacement timeline.

“The construction is a little disheartening, especially for older students who won’t be around for its completion,” said Asic Helberg, a senior majoring in business administration. “The fountain has been an iconic landmark and meeting place for so many students and may younger Lopers will probably associate their first year with construction. I look forward to the completion of the project.”

While the construction on campus must take place to build a better future for UNK, students and faculty are definitely getting anxious to have these projects completed so campus can return to normal. Other construction taking place around campus includes the new STEM building, the Early Childhood Education Center, The Fine Arts building, Warner Hall, and the Campus Curves project on Highway 30, just south of campus.

by Rachel Overby

by Hanna Hake

Photo by Hanna Hake

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April 10, 2019 3
Festival celebrates American song

High school students observe UNK performance, attend workshops to build own skills

Photos by Jiyoon Kim

Top right: Terran Homburg and Sharon O'Connell Campbell perform a one-act opera for high school students.

Middle right: Guest artist Tyler Koepp performs with UNK student Darien Myers.

Bottom right: Myers takes the stage in “The Telephone.” The opera was performed as a demonstration for high school students.

Top left: Minori Yamauchi and O’Connell Campbell act out a scene as part of a workshop that gave high school students the chance to interact with guests artists and UNK faculty.

Bottom left: Minori Yamauchi performs in “Captain Lovelock,” the second opera performed for high school students.
‘One of best years’ for Big Event

Around 400 UNK students went out into Kearney to help with different community service projects

Brett Westfall
Antelope Staff

At 9 a.m., bright and early for a college student on a Saturday, hundreds of students met at Copeland Stadium to listen to instructions and pump up speeches from Tim Danube and event coordinator Shelby Hoffman about how great this event is to the community. After breakfast was provided for students entering the stadium, students were put into zones around the community for their representative group to help at the job sites.

“This year, there was around forty-five job sites and close to four hundred students so it’s one of the best years I think by the numbers,” said Shelby Hoffman, event coordinator for The Big Event and visual communication and design major.

Students working received blue t-shirts representing the long tradition of The Big Event. They had a new paint brush design on the front to show the companies and people that they were helpers. The event planners and leaders wore the same t-shirts in yellow. While the event officially started at 9 a.m., the event organizers had an even earlier morning organizing the last minute details of the event.

“I woke up at six-thirty and had to be at the Student Union by seven-thirty,” said Asic Helberg, a senior event organizer. “We mainly just went over things to catch things that were problems in the past, planning wise, helping Shelby Hoffman with whatever she needed and just some things that could be like event management.”

After each of the groups finished their jobs at their assigned areas, students were rewarded with pizza outside at Harmon Park. Many sorority and fraternity members participated together in groups.

“After leaving Copeland Stadium, my group was assigned the Safe Center zone, so we had to go around and paint ribbons as well as hand out flyers to businesses,” said Gustavo Valencia, a business administration major and Phi Delta Theta fraternity member. “We were out there for just over two hours, but other groups vary based on the zone and the job I’m sure. Either way, UNK rewards us with pizza and lemonade at the end here at Harmon so we are in good spirits, plus it feels good to help the community and for them to allow us to.”

Hoffman and other students spent the past three months planning everything for this big day.

“Since January when we started planning this continued tradition, my great, amazing event planning team and Tim Danube were great help throughout the months,” Hoffman said. “From Google maps of circling the zones and the addresses of where student groups would go, getting in contact with places, liability release forms as well as forms for the businesses and job sites, and all of those long, extensive processes, we are here today.”

The Big Event originally started at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas in 1982 and has spread to many campuses around the United States, including UNK for the past 14 years.

“The community loved the idea from which the The Big Event in Kearney grew rapidly and is getting more students and businesses every year.”

“It’s a very good year, the most job sites we’ve had to offer to students to go help with, especially with flood relief in Gibbon and Wood River,” Hoffman said. “Once everything was done, we picked Harmon Park for all the groups to meet back at because it’s a tradition, as long as the weather is okay. I’m excited to pass this on to the next student and hopefully they have as good of weather and success.”

Shelby Hoffman, event coordinator for The Big Event, is excited that all the months of planning is completed and The Big Event is happening.
Dodgeball takes over HSC

Alpha Omicron Pi’s annual dodgeball tournament raises funds for Juvenile Arthritis Foundation

Jose Perez
Antelope Staff

On April 4, Alpha Omicron Pi hosted its annual “Strike Out Arthritis” dodgeball tournament on the Buckle Court located in the Health and Sports Center. Around 10 teams signed up for this popular event, which included current UNK Students going head-to-head. This popular tournament was held in double-elimination style, with all the games being five minutes long.

Before students could participate in this event, each team was required to pay $30 as part of their official entry. All the proceeds for the event went toward the international philanthropy for Alpha Omicron Pi, the Arthritis Foundation.

Lupe Perez, a UNK Sophomore from Ogallala, was one of the many students to take part of this famous UNK event. Perez was encouraged to be part of a dodgeball team that consisted of several Student Diplomats named “The Business Casualties”.

“Honestly, I was very reluctant to be part of a dodgeball team. I severely lack coordination and athleticism in any sport.” Perez said. “But knowing what my donation was going towards and being able to spend time with my friends and being provided by free snacks from my boss, why wouldn’t I join?”

Perez and The Business Casualties were one of the many teams eliminated early in the competition. Despite having some amazing moments in all their games, the team made up of Student Diplomats was unable to progress in the first round after a defeat by the hands of Pi Kappa Alpha.

Despite the early elimination, the unfortunate event did not ruin the spirit of fun for Perez and his teammates.

“To be fair, no one in my team was expecting to get first place in tournament. Our main mission was to have fun. It would have been nice if my team won the competition, so we can display the trophy at the UNK Admissions Office.” Perez said.

On paper, dodgeball is the type of competition that is only meant for people with an athletic background. That is not the case for the tournament held at UNK. Over the years, members of Alpha Omicron Pi have encouraged many UNK Students to sign up for their event despite lacking the average credentials to compete in dodgeball.

“I think students should participate in these activities because you meet so many amazing people and you are promised a good time,” Perez said. “A good cause, a fun time, and being a difference maker is what being a Loper is all about! Since my time at UNK, I strongly believe we have built a strong community where, whether we are fundraising for philanthropic organizations like this one, to just coming together to doing community service for the Kearney Community, we all come together.”

Allison Blum, a UNK senior from Wahoo, encouraged Perez and the other Student Diplomats from the Business Casualties team to sign up for the iconic event in the first place. Blum was also one of the many members from Alpha Omicron Pi that volunteered to help with the event that night.

She did everything possible to make the event progress efficiently from cheering on every UNK Student that was participating in the dodgeball tournament, to making sure all the balls used from the games were on the court if they were thrown out of the court.

Fortunately for Blum, she had over 50 other members of Alpha Omicron Pi to help out with dodgeball competition. Since this sorority is known for recruiting so many members each school year at UNK, the Strike Out Arthritis event goes according to plan since so many members of the sorority are on the same page and communicate well during this hectic, yet amazing athletic event. As a result, Alpha Omicron Pi creates a great time every year for the participants and spectators in the Health and Sports Center.
Senior talks time spent at piano

Thomas Prentice talks about his senior recital, history of playing

Ian Kahler
Antelope Staff

Thomas Prentice, a senior piano performance major and Psychology minor at UNK, is on his way to finishing his musical path at UNK.

“I’ve been playing the piano for about fourteen to fifteen years of my life and have been involved with multiple UNK theater and dance performances across my 5 years of being here,” Prentice said. “The benefit of playing for so long is that all the repertoire that you have played previously all of sudden becomes very easy. From there you can have an entire back catalog of knowledge to draw from various sources to apply to your new pieces.”

Prentice also said that the music department and staff have been an enormous help in the process of being involved in the Fine Arts building.

“I’d say the biggest thing that the department has given me since coming here is the ability to learn how to handle a gigantic load of course-work and figure how to plan your schedule around that. In college it is very easy to get distracted,” Prentice said. “In music one must juggle even up to 9 classes at a time, including gen-ed classes while learning their music. This caveat can prove to be a challenge if one isn’t good with time management.

So, the ability to learn how to handle a lot emotionally, physically, socially, has been probably the biggest benefit from the music department.”

The road to the actual performance of a senior recital isn’t anything short of difficult.

“Preparing for a senior recital is unlike preparing for anything I have had before in any of my schooling. The list was decided on pretty much right after my junior recital in 2017,” Prentice said. “It was arguably the most time-consuming thing I’ve had to put effort into. One must practice 3 hours minimum to even get close to competent in their ability to play gigantic piano literature. Compound this with having to memorize the entire thing and that becomes another problem one must solve.”

The road to Thomas’ senior recital wasn’t an easy one. An injury in October and picking up a new minor were roadblocks on the way, but he powered through and made it more worthwhile at the end.

“This provided an extra challenge, but in retrospect, I like to think that it happened for a reason,” Prentice said. “It teaches you a lot, such as how to practice in small segments, but in the end, it was all okay.”

While his time at UNK is almost over, playing piano and being involved in physical activities will keep Thomas busy for years to come.

“I plan on playing in weddings and at the Alley Rose on weekends to keep my music drive in me going,” Prentice said. “I’ve discovered that working out and personal training is something I enjoy a lot and it helps me keep in shape as well. It’s a win-win.”

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Ian Kahler and Hannah Wick keep the news chat going with Antelope campus news and weekly guests.

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Head coach Josh Lynn knew he needed to help his offense out with an improved passing game. That obstacle only grew more challenging once former quarterbacks coach Kevin Bleil left UNK to join Stephen F. Austin's staff as an offensive assistant coach.

Lynn called Drew Thatcher, and by Feb. 13 the former New Mexico Military Institute offensive coordinator had packed his bags and moved from low elevation desert to high winds and bitter cold winters in Kearney.

“He’s a great up-and-coming coach,” Lynn said. “Some of the guys he’s coached are very talented, and have played well at the junior college and Division I level.”

Some of those players, such as the University of Mississippi’s Jordan Ta’amu, prove Lynn’s high praise. Ta’amu was invited to the 2019 NFL Combine in Indianapolis, and is expected to be one of the 256 players drafted in the upcoming NFL draft.

The passing game for UNK last season was in desperate need of a reload. While competent, the Lopers never had an explosive passing game that could threaten defenses behind the arm of first year starting quarterback Alex McGinnis, the redshirt junior from Crete, Neb.

McGinnis completed 50 percent of his passes for six touchdowns and seven interceptions last season. He also added 1,364 yards in passing, along with 157 rushing attempts leading to 471 yards gained on the ground.

Thatcher understands the need to grow the offense and expand with the playmakers surrounding McGinnis. The Lopers ranked 7th in the MIAA last season in total offense, torching defenses with 268.9 yards per game which lead the MIAA. UNK faltered in their passing game, however, sitting 11th out of 12 teams mustering only 128.6 yards per game.

“Our goal is not only to throw it more, but to throw more efficiently,” Thatcher said. “If we can succeed in that, and with a few new concepts, it’s going to make our running game even more explosive.”

Luckily for Thatcher, UNK has a staple of workhorses to work with in his new backfield. Darrius Webb was two yards short of one thousand last season, and rising juniors Dayton Sealey and David Goodwin received significant playing time last season as well. Key contributor and team leader Luke Quinn also returns to provide a reliable and steady hand in the backfield.

Thatcher runs a similar system to what Loper fans saw last season. Bringing back that familiarity helps in the transition from coach-to-coach, especially when working with players who ran a successful offense the previous season. Jack McLeay, a senior offensive lineman from Omaha, is already enjoying the new coaching change this spring.

“Many of our calls are very similar to last year,” said McLeay. “The offensive line has so many guys returning this year, and it feels like we’re already hitting our stride.”

The Lopers will return on Friday, April 12 for a short scrimmage followed by their own spring game the next Saturday, April 20 at 1:30. The Lopers will begin their season on the road for the first time in three seasons, as they take on the Lions of Missouri Southern State.