### THIS WEEK

#### 2 Next Four Years
Omar looks to the future, Obama’s second term.
*Op/Ed*

#### 8 Lost memories
After losing her memory twice, Rebecca Jacobson keeps fighting.
*Features*

#### 9 Amendments pass
Nebraskans approved two amendments on election day.
*News*

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### Saving lives one letter at a time

The St. Jude Up ‘til Dawn crew raised the roof to raise funds for children suffering from cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

**BY ADRIANNA TARIN**
Antelope Staff

The St. Jude Up ‘til Dawn event on Monday was a hit once again. The event had an 80’s workout-inspired theme. So as you can imagine, there were neon colors everywhere, weights all around and the occasional Richard Simmons sighting.

“I believe that there are very few organizations that have as large of an impact as the St. Jude Up ‘til Dawn event,” said Jordan Moncrief, senior exercise science major from Kearney. “The work we do literally saves the lives of children. I did not need any more motivation than that.”

There were live performances by the Talbott Brothers, We Are This and Lanny Fuller. Free food was abundant as well as games ranging from “Pin the Glove on Michael Jackson” to Rubix cube races and a Richard Simmons workout video marathon.

So how does all this fun equal saving the lives of children?

“We call the event a letter-writing party, but it is much more party and much less letter-writing,” Moncrief said. “There are actually no letters written at the event.”

People spent hours addressing hundreds of letters to send out, asking for party, but it is much more party and much less letter-writing,” Moncrief said. “There are actually no letters written at the event.”

People spent hours addressing hundreds of letters to send out, asking for donations for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

**Hannah Beiermann**, freshman nursing student from Lincoln, along with a room full of people started addressing envelopes at 5 p.m. on Monday night.

**UP TIL DAWN, PAGE 11**

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### Double joy of giving at Ten Thousand Villages

“IT’s almost like giving twice,” said store manager Sandy Randall. When you purchase a gift from the store for a loved one, that purchase turns into a secondary gift. The gift of giving to someone in need.

Ten Thousand Villages, a nonprofit retail organization located on Central Avenue, sells fairly traded goods from around the world. Purchases from the store provide artisans in underdeveloped countries with a source of steady income.

Fair trade organizations, such as Ten Thousand Villages, who pioneered the fair trade movement 60 years ago, order products from artisans and sell them in areas, such as North America, where there is a market for the products.

Randall said the organization offers fair wages and life-changing opportunity for artisans. “Classically, they are taken advantage of many times by certain companies because a lot of huge companies go overseas to find the cheapest things to produce. Ten Thousand Villages, the organization I am a part of, works with companies that support the artisans.”

Randall said the organization has been in Kearney for 39 years and is located in the Ped Mall. “The store is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Sunday. So people can come and shop there any time they want.”

**BY MAGGIE SOWL**
Antelope Staff

**SANDY RANDALL**

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To view artisan’s stories, visit the Ten Thousand Villages website at: [http://kearney.tenthousandvillages.com/?SID=](http://kearney.tenthousandvillages.com/?SID=)
THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

Omar Takes Issue

Obama dominates battleground states, Democrats take Senate — time for America to move forward through the deadlock

BY JAY OMAR
Antelope Staff

It’s official—there will be four more years of Barack Obama as commander in chief.

On Nov. 6, over 110 million Americans went to their nearest polling place to cast their ballots for challenger Mitt Romney or the incumbent Obama.

A race that was supposed to be “razor thin” turned out the complete opposite.

The numbers may appear that Obama edged out Romney for the presidency. According to the popular vote—60,305,225 votes for Obama and 57,534,518 votes for Romney—that may be the case.

However, if looked at from any other angle, President Obama dominated.

The candidates needed 270 electorates from the Electoral College to win the White House, and battleground states such as Florida, Ohio, Iowa, Colorado, Virginia, and North Carolina played a major role in deciding the first person to hit that golden number.

Obama won every one of these states with the exception of North Carolina, a state Romney carried.

It all came down to strategy. Obama’s campaign strategists inched out wins in those battleground states. The margins of victory were small, with some states decided by less than 100,000 votes, but in the end it didn’t matter.

Obama’s victory does not just give him another four years in office. It gives him the backing needed to fulfill his campaign promises.

With Democrats dominating the Senate races and taking a commanding 53 to 45 majority lead in the Senate, Obama has what he needs to get bills approved.

America should expect the president to act on almost everything promised on the campaign trail.

Expect higher taxes on the wealthy, expect Obamacare to stay and expect a number of bills to be passed to bring down the deficit.

This a rare time in American history. Although the country is divided, Washington has a Democratic majority.

The House of Representatives remained in Republican control, but unlike the last four years, that control will not be enough to veto Obama’s ideas.

This next term will be different. America has spoken and this election shows that our country is ready for change.

Three states legalized same-sex marriage on Tuesday, while two other states legalized marijuana.

These are groundbreaking changes. It is just a matter of time until same-sex marriage and marijuana legalization become nationally accepted.

Obama has sparked these changes, as well as a variety of others.

Therefore, if your belief is that four more years of Obama is bad for America, examine the progress this election has proven, as well as the tools in place to revolutionize our country for the better.
Kole Kluver, senior broadcasting major from Fairfield, performs the first ever version of "Antelope Speaks" on Wednesday. The show airs every Wednesday at 12-12:30 p.m. to discuss recent stories from the campus paper.

Sudoku ★★★★★

How to play:
Sudoku is a placement puzzle. The aim of the puzzle is to enter a numeral from 1 through 9 in each cell of a grid. Each row, column and region must contain only one instance of each numeral. Completing the puzzle requires patience and logical ability. The puzzle initially became popular in Japan in 1986 and attained international popularity in 2005.

5 4 9 1
3 8 9 7
8 2 7 3
5 7 1
6 9 3 2 4 5
5 8 3
5 7 4 3
2 1 3 6
4 7 2 9

Find answer on page 10  www.sudoku-puzzles.net
BIGGER, BETTER

Study Abroad, International Fair
join forces for information, food Nov. 26

BY MANDY HINRICHS
Antelope Staff

Students interested in studying abroad or even just learning about other international opportunities will have the chance to at the Study Abroad Fair Monday, Nov. 26 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Ponderosa Room at the Nebraska Student Union. The event is open to all UNK students and faculty.

This year’s fair has been expanded. “The study abroad fair is going to be a bigger event this year because it is also going to be held with the international fair,” said Anne Marie Park, study abroad coordinator.

The UNK Semester Abroad Program is the most affordable option for studying abroad as an undergraduate, Park said. The fair will have information available for students about UNK study abroad in countries such as China, Peru, South Korea, Spain and Czech Republic.

UNK Students can participate in an international experience in almost any country. Programs range in length from several weeks to a full year. Class credit can transfer to the UNK curriculum and keep students on track for graduation if planned carefully with academic advisors.

“Posters and fliers will be available about the different locations to study abroad, and past students who have studied abroad will be there to speak with students,” Park said. “This also gives students the chance to hear personal testimonies.” International academic studies majors and minors, along with other groups like ROTC, Doctors Without Borders and other groups will have information available for students.

“Everyone should try to get more exposure, so when they graduate they have the word international on their resume, it’s going to speak volumes.”

Along with information, students can sample different international hors d’oeuvres. Park says that this fair is a good opportunity for non-traditional students and students who don’t want to study abroad. “There will be other opportunities available for students to learn about and to consider that will get them involved internationally while staying here on campus.”

“With how the world is becoming more global and everything more international, I think everyone should try to get more exposure, so when they graduate they have the word international on their resume, it’s going to speak volumes,” Park said.

Wildlife Society cleans up polluted Kearney Canal

BY AMANDA ARNOLD
Antelope Staff

The UNK chapter of the Wildlife Society gathered volunteers and hosted a “Canal Cleanup” on Nov. 10. The organization saw the current state of the canal as a dangerous eyesore, and something needed to be done.

“The pollution has a very negative impact for other streams downstream,” said August Wilson, biology major and president of the UNK Wildlife Society. Wilson, a senior from Atkinson, said many people like to fish out of the canal, which can be very dangerous with the current state of the water.

About 20 people showed up at 9 a.m. to lend a hand to the Wildlife Society, and Little Caesars donated pizzas to the volunteers afterward. The Wildlife Society set up a booth on-site so people could use this event for hours toward community service.

The team tackled the task for several hours, encountering numerous peculiar objects along the way. “There are tires, golf balls, irrigation tubing and even a washer and dryer in the canal,” Wilson said. Luckily, the city of Kearney was there to lend a hand. With the help of Steve Hart, the sanitation supervisor of Kearney, the Wildlife Society obtained dumpsters to ease the burden of the cleanup.

When the volunteers called it quits for the day, they had covered a decent amount, but there is still more work to be done. “We got to the canal turn by the Lutheran church,” Wilson said.

This project looks like the first of many of its kind for the Wildlife Society. “We’re looking to extend. Since this is a big project, doing it all in one year isn’t going to be feasible,” Wilson said. He said that the idea originally came from Dr. Marc Albrecht, an associate professor of biology. Albrecht encouraged the Wildlife Society to take on the project due to the positive impact for the Kearney area.

The UNK chapter of the Wildlife Society takes on several projects a year, and according to Wilson, the Canal Cleanup will most likely be repeated until the entire canal is free of harmful debris and pollution. The organization is also hoping to help out and gather volunteers to help check in deer during the hunting seasons. Wilson said that there are no special requirements to be a part of the Wildlife Society or any of these events. “It’s open to anybody that has an interest in wildlife conservation,” he said.
Following a 2-0 cap to the regular season against Central Missouri and Washburn over the weekend, the UNK Loper Volleyball team (30-2, 16-1) has clinched the school’s first MIAA regular season title and the top seed in this week’s conference championship.

After destroying Central Missouri in three sets (-17, -15, -17) at home on Friday, the Lopers found themselves in a five set jam against the Lady blues that featured two of the league’s top squads and an exciting fifth set that showcased eight ties, four lead changes and three match points (22-25, 18-25, -13, 27-25, -17). With the win, the Lopers took sole possession of first place in the conference and snapped an impressive 51-game home winning streak for the Lady Blues dating back to 2009.

“Playing like that in a hostile environment and coming away with a win has definitely given us a big boost of confidence going into post season play,” said junior OH Katie Sokolowski. “Mentally we still have to have the same day-by-day approach that we’ve had all season, but it’s nice to be able to look back on the season so far knowing we’ve played pretty good volleyball.”

Pretty good volleyball would probably be understatement for this Loper squad, who has won their last 12 games while only dropping two sets in the season finale to Washburn. In addition to the team’s top seed, the Loper’s will have home court advantage throughout the MIAA tournament.

“I guess you could say we are on a little bit of a hot streak following our two losses earlier in the year. But like I said earlier, we approach every game with the same day-by-day attitude because the MIAA is such a good all-around volleyball conference,” Sokolowski added. “I truly believe whoever shows up this week playing their best volleyball is probably going to win.”

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With the good sometimes comes the bad — and the ugly

BY YIFEI ZHAO
Antelope Staff

Yifei Zhao, an international student from Qingdao, China, writes for The Antelope this term while working toward a journalism degree in the communications department. She will be writing a variety of stories including features on international students.

Email Zhao with story ideas or if you would like to submit columns or blogs as an international student.

The word family is not difficult to understand for Korean students who take English classes for years and prepare diligently for their time in Kearney. Here they find a strange place continents away from their South Korean families, locals who pronounce words sometimes difficult to understand, instructors who cannot say their name and people at times impatient or unkind.

They come here hoping for Americans to welcome them.

This semester 156 new South Korean students arrived ready to learn, experience a different culture and lifestyle and face all kinds of difficulties while studying and living on campus.

Not a surprise that it is not all easy. All students interviewed emphasized family support was important to help them through difficult times.

Korean students interviewed embrace the whole experience here as a good opportunity for self-improvement. Sunmi Baik, a freshman majoring in computer science from Seoul, South Korea, has been on campus eight months.

"Since I came to UNK, my English improved very fast. I can understand most American people when they are talking, and I also become more open than before," Baik said.

The language barriers in social and learning situation are the first challenges that most international students need to solve. Haejin Hong, a freshman majoring in music from Gyeonggi-do, South Korea, arrived just as classes began.

"I felt nervous and scared when I just came here. I had to speak English every day, but my English is not very good. Speaking English and talking to American people are little hard for me. But I am trying to improve my English," Hong said.

International students also need to deal with being so far away from home that they cannot return often. "I have been here for seven months. I always miss my parents. I really want to go home to see them," said Sara Kim, a freshman majoring in biology from Busan, South Korea.

As time passes, language skills improve and loneliness subsides. "I feel more comfortable talking with a stranger or in front of crowd. I will go back soon. But I really want to stay UNK longer. I really like here now," Baik said.

South Korean students say learning how to become stronger and to resolve troubles is more important than just to learning the knowledge in classes. One UNK freshman who did not wish her name to be used said troubles with others students are stressful. She has been forced deal with unkind American students in an unfamiliar culture.

"...American students carved my face on my door and made noise at night. I could not go to sleep at night. I don't know why this happened to me, and I never met this kind of situation before. I feel scared and stressful."

— Name withheld

"...I will never forget this valuable time with my host family. Nobody can imagine how much they helped me to adapt to the United States. I love them as much as I love my 'real' family."

— Kyungju Ko

THE GOOD
[ FAMILY ]

THE UGLY

— American students carved my face on my door and made noise at night. I could not go to sleep at night. I don't know why this happened to me, and I never met this kind of situation before. I feel scared and stressful.

— Name withheld
LEFT: Kyungju Ko is ready to take aim at a piñata Sept. 21 in Minden. His host mother, Michele Malcom from Minden, always tries to let their international children experience American culture as much as they can.

TOP: Enbyul Kim was able to shoot a gun with her host father Frank Shukar in Minden on Sept. 21. Since shooting a gun is totally prohibited in South Korea, she said that it was very exciting.

ABOVE: Mary Schukar lights birthday candles. As host mother for students from South Korea, she was having a 21st birthday party for Hyeoni Amy Lim. Schukar has acted as a host mother since January 2012. Lim said she was amazed by the number of candles. In Korea they have one long candle for each ten years and one small candle added for the “ones.” She expected three candles, like Roman numerals XXI for 21.

“The most fun thing for me is that I can experience new culture. Since the culture in Korea and the United States are totally different, learning the other culture is so much fun.”

— Enbyul Kim

TOP: Enbyul Kim was able to shoot a gun with her host father Frank Shukar in Minden on Sept. 21. Since shooting a gun is totally prohibited in South Korea, she said that it was very exciting.

ABOVE: Mary Schukar lights birthday candles. As host mother for students from South Korea, she was having a 21st birthday party for Hyeoni Amy Lim. Schukar has acted as a host mother since January 2012. Lim said she was amazed by the number of candles. In Korea they have one long candle for each ten years and one small candle added for the “ones.” She expected three candles, like Roman numerals XXI for 21.
Rebecca Jacobson fights her battles courageously saying "I want others to know they don't have to give up."

Losing memory twice did not stop Jacobson

“I felt it coming on, and I tried to get someone. I fell and hit my head really hard. I woke up from the spell and everyone thought I was just fine, but I knew no one, I didn’t know my mom or dad, my name, I didn’t know anything about me or my life.”

They called the ambulance and took her to the hospital. “The doctors ran all these tests and said you need to take her to the Mayo Clinic.”

She went home for a week and started to regain her childhood memories, but none of her college memories. When she came back to school, she had to relearn everything.

Her AOII sisters would take her to class and then reteach her everything she had learned. She ended up with a 4.0 GPA at the end of the year. The Mayo Clinic denied her after her first spell claiming that they would just do the same tests that had already been done.

“I just tried to live with it until I had a spell and lost my vision, I couldn’t see anything, and I couldn’t feel my spells coming on anymore, I lost my vision for 48 hours, I couldn’t make out shapes or anything. My vision started coming back, and then a week later I had another spell and lost my memory again.”

Before senior year she had to wear a heart monitor to record what her heart was doing while she was having her spells. The monitor would record how long they lasted and found that during her spells she hardly had a pulse. The heart doctor couldn’t do anything for her because the heart monitor could not record anything since her pulse would go down so much.

The only thing they could do was encourage her to go to the Mayo Clinic. All the doctors got together and wrote the Mayo Clinic asking them to accept this girl because there was something seriously wrong.

She went to 15 doctors in five years, and none of them could tell her anything.

“The next day I got a call saying ‘Yes you have to come to the Mayo Clinic.’ I went to the Mayo Clinic for two weeks and they just ran a bunch of tests.” The tests were turning out normal, and the doctors thought she should do tests to qualify for a new thing called a spells clinic.

“I got my own private room with cameras in it, and they monitored me 24/7. Nurses came in every hour. I had an EEG, which is when they put the sticky things on my head to monitor brain activity.”

After the Mayo staff saw a few spells, they then tried a few things that would trigger spells, random things like alcohol and sleep deprivation. They figured out it was not a seizure; it was like a fake prolonged seizure.

“I’m on a medicine now that tries to control the nerve system. It will never fully go away until they find a cure. I should compare it to Alzheimer’s because there is not a cure, and it is all experiments,” Jacobson said. “But you can try to do things to prevent it. I go to cognitive therapy, which is basically like counseling; you just work on things to try to make your brain rethink things and to do them differently.”

“Stress is the biggest thing and my body is reacting way different than a normal college students.”

Now in her last semester at UNK she is doing an internship at a hospital in Omaha. Jacobson is not giving up and refuses to let her spells get in the way of her life.

“Last Friday I had my first spell in five weeks and two days! I just want people to know they don’t have to give up!”
October Of The Month awards

Each month, the National Residence Hall Honorary accepts nominations to recognize outstanding leaders among UNK’s students, faculty and staff in a variety of categories. Here are the campus winners for October:

Institution Faculty/Staff: Dr. Hector Palencia, nominated by Lisa Burghardt
Organization: UNK Marching Band, nominated by Mei Ogata
Resident Assistant: Kayla Ambrose, nominated by KayCee Upton
Residential Community: Randall Hall 2nd Floor, nominated by Quin Merriweather
Social Program: Murder Mystery, nominated by Alie Brabec
Spotlight: MACURH Conference Staff nominated by Justin Vogel and Josh Brummer, nominated by Lacey McPhillips
Student: Travis Arnold, nominated by Alyx Lingenfelter
Executive Board Member: Emily Widger, nominated by Libby Manfull

Nebraskans approve two amendments

Impeachment, hunting and fishing laws changed

BY AARON URBANSKI
Antelope Staff

Prior the 2012 Election, Nebraska voters were placed with the task of approving or rejecting four proposed amendments to the state’s constitution in regards to impeachment of state officials, wildlife cultivation, state senator term limits, and salaries.

Now that the votes have been counted and the results have been released, Nebraskan’s have approved two proposed changes focusing on impeachment and hunting rights to the state’s constitution set to take effect January 1, 2013.

Amendment 1

After a potentially embarrassing close call in 2006 concerning former University of Nebraska Reagent David Hergert, who was impeached for filing false campaign statements six days after taking office. Nebraskan’s have approved the Amendment 1 measure to effectively close a constitutional loophole that indirectly fostered an environment where candidates pursuing office could potentially break the law without facing the liability of impeachment from the state legislature.

With an 83 percent approval rating for the measure, the state’s constitution will now read as follows in regards to the laws surrounding impeachment:

“A civil officer of this state shall be liable to impeachment for any misdemeanor in office or from misdemeanor in pursuit of such office.”

Historically, the Nebraska Legislature has only impeached two officeholders since the state’s inception: the state’s first Gov. David Butler in 1871 and Hergert in 2006.

Amendment 2

Despite being tabbed as an unnecessary addition to the Nebraska Constitution by those in opposition of the Amendment 2 measure, Nebraska voters overwhelmingly passed the right to hunt, fish, trap, and cultivate Nebraska’s wildlife with an approval rating of 80 percent.

According to State Senator Pete Pirsch, who proposed the measure, the idea was to provide legislation that would help “protect Nebraska’s habitats and some of the traditions in which Nebraskan’s have come to enjoy outdoors.”

Furthermore, Pirsch believes “These activities lead to a higher quality of life for our citizens throughout the state” and deserves protection within state law. Pirsch also credited Nebraska’s wildlife industry as an economic force responsible for over $700 million in annual revenue for Nebraska as well.

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UNK theatre department brings suspense with ‘And Then There Were None’

BY CAITLIN OSTBERG
Antelope Editor

The UNK theatre department is at it again. Murder and suspicion cloud the upcoming production of Agatha Christie’s “And Then There Were None,” which opens today.

The murder mystery will run through Sunday, Nov. 18 in the Studio Theatre of the Fine Arts Building. The play, which was first performed in 1943, surrounds a motley crew of guests who are taken to an island mansion and accused of murder by a mysterious host or hostess.

“In this superlative mystery comedy, statuettes of little soldier boys on the mantel of a house on an island off the coast of Devon fall to the floor and break one by one as those in the house succumb to a diabolical avenger,” said Janice Fronczak, associate professor of theatre and director of the play. “As the 10 little soldier statues on the fireplace mantle start to disappear, so do the guests.”

Janice Fronczack, associate professor of theatre and director of the play. “As the 10 little soldier statues on the fireplace mantle start to disappear, so do the guests.”

Each guest is harboring secrets of their own which come to light as the accusations continue to grow and characters begin to disappear. There are 11 members of the cast including guest faculty actor Jack Garrison, associate professor of theatre, as Sir Lawrence Wargrave, a retired judge who becomes the unspoken leader as the disappearances begin.

“I am a big fan of Agatha Christie’s writing and have always wanted to direct ‘And Then There Were None’.”
— Janice Fronczak

Tickets for the show
• $8 for adults
• $6 for non-UNK students, faculty and staff
• $5 for groups of 10 or more
• Free for UNK students with a valid ID

For tickets or more information contact the box office at 308-865-8417 or boxoffice@unk.edu

The show will run through Sunday, Nov. 18 in the Studio Theatre of the Fine Arts Building.
Ten Thousand Villages sells products from around the world including India, Peru and Pakistan. Jewelry, ceramics, woodcarvings, stone carvings, woven blankets and baskets are just a few of the handmade. To view artisan’s stories, visit the Ten Thousand Villages website at http://kearney.tenthousandvillages.com/?SID=

that they can sell. Many times they are underpaying artisans. So the fair trade principle of fair wages is looking after their best interests.

The mission of Ten Thousand Villages is “to alleviate poverty and provide hope,” said Randall. “The more we sell for them the more their income becomes stable.”

The income attained from partnering with Ten Thousand Villages allows artisan’s to improve their lives enabling them to provide better health care, meals and education for their families thus enhancing the artisan’s feelings of self-confidence, self-worth and instilling a hope for a brighter future.

In fact, the impact of an artisan’s income has reached far beyond the artisan’s immediate family, as many artisans have given back to their communities by creating employment opportunities in workshops they have been able to open with the increase in income. Some artisans have even funded community services not previously available in their local regions, such as trash collection.

While making a purchase is one way to help, there is another way if money is tight. As a nonprofit organization, Ten Thousand Village relies on volunteers to work in the store.

The majority of volunteers are retired individuals or students from the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus. Randall says she believes that volunteers gain a sense of how big the world really is as they learn about the differences in cultures through working at the store.

Kearney’s local store also works with a few work-study students from UNK. Ariana Lopez, a senior international studies major, who applied at Ten Thousand Villages for work-study after learning about the value of organization said, “You’re helping someone out. By coming in here and volunteering your time you know you’re making a difference. You see the impact that the store makes in the lives of the artisans.”

Ariana Lopez

The Ten Thousand Villages organization has over 390 retail stores throughout the United States and Canada that share in providing the organization’s artisans with gift of a steady income, but for local residents, Ten Thousand Villages stores provide the gift of being able to help those in need and improve upon the world we live in.

that every second was worth it in the end.”

As this was Moncrief’s second year on the executive board and fourth year participating in this event, he’s seen the students at UNK come together to help others.

“My favorite part about the event is seeing the rest of campus get excited about raising money for the kids of St. Jude,” Moncrief said. “Seeing these people devote their time and energy for such a good cause is amazing to witness.”

At Up ‘til Dawn this year, 430 participants addressed letters. Those who had 50 letters or more had a chance to win a variety of prizes throughout the night, which included an iPad mini, a $200 Visa gift card and a flip camera.

A former patient of St. Jude spoke about her experience at the hospital, and the mother of a child who received treatment at the hospital motivated the group even more, Moncrief said.

As the executive director for this event, Moncrief oversaw all of the planning and execution of the event, acted as the liaison between the UNK group and the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, ran all the meetings and helped out wherever he could.

“This event is something I have poured a lot of hard work into, and I know that every second was worth it in the end.”

NATIONAL AWARD FOR UP ‘TIL DAWN
AFFIRMS TEAM COMMITMENT

Determined to follow the success of the $45,000 raised last year, 2012 Up ‘til Dawn board members executive director Jordan Moncrief from Kearney and assistant director Kendra Wurdeman of St. Edward attended a three-day Collegiate Leadership Seminar last summer with adviser Brandon Blackmer, Martin Hall director.

At this seminar, the UNK St. Jude Up ‘til Dawn event was named the Most Outstanding Up ‘til Dawn Event in the nation for 2011.

“This was a huge honor for our school and our program, and set the bar even higher for this year’s event,” Moncrief said.

Read the rest online at unkantelope.com
GOOD OL’ MR. WILSON
...and well-meaning UNK volunteers

UNK students and beloved director help
Kearney’s youth, one child at a time

BY JOENE CROCKER
JMC 215

“No, it’s not the blond-haired boy who wears red overalls and a striped shirt known as Dennis the Menace setting foot into his neighbor George Wilson’s home, but a local school-age youth from down the street who bellows out those words announcing his arrival at Press On Ministries.

As for the director of the center, Jim Wilson, he is nothing like the cranky, cantankerous middle-aged retiree living next door to Dennis, but he individually greets and welcomes the children with a sincere heart, opposite George Wilson who shows a gruff exterior in the comics.

The youngsters, full of youthful energy and an enthusiastic nature, trickle in one by one or in small clusters. They carry backpacks, school books, outer apparel, and sometimes...the weights of the world with them into the center. To the director, the children and youth are not perceived as pests and nuisances, but as important individuals who can be impacted through God’s love and individual attention.

“It’s really, really good to get to know kids individually because you find out a lot about them. I like to pay attention to them.”
—Jim Wilson

“There’s never a dull moment here,” said Megan McLey, a freshman middle school education major from Syracuse. “I volunteer here because I wanted a chance to work with older age kids before I graduate. I had only worked with young kids,” she said.

According to Wilson, mischief has happened during their open hours, and when discipline is needed it is handled in three steps: immediately, confidentially, and clearly. This involves explaining the definition of discipline as training and making sure the child knows this is not punishment. “Discipline without love or a relationship can lead to rebellion,” said Wilson.

However, the Monday through Thursday after school program has plenty of structure to ward off any possibility for mischief to occur. “It’s very organized. There’s not a lot of messing around time,” said another volunteer Brady Weiss, a sophomore physical education major at UNK. According to Weiss, the daily order of events consists of first snack time, homework time, devotion time and then free time.

The free time is opportunity for Weiss to put his college education into practice. He gets a hands-on experience monitoring games of kickball, dodge ball, or football and playing catch or Frisbee with the children. “Interacting with the kids is the funnest part,” Weiss said.

At the closing time at the center one day as the youngsters rounded up their belongings, said good bye to friends, gave hugs to Mr. Wilson, a child participating in the after school program spoke to his friend and said, “Hey, what are you leaving for. We still have five minutes.” Those words show how attached the kids are to Press On Ministries.

The motto for the nonprofit organization is “Helping kids on the road to life.”

The director himself as a youth got on the wrong path, a path headed towards addictions and crime which eventually he became totally immersed in. His lifestyle found him not only running from the cops but from God also.

As a teenager he hid from the police in a field where the ministry building currently sits. And eventually God found him too, and through a repentant heart, he now strives to help kids and families on the road that leads to life.

Press On Ministries is a non-denominational and nonprofit organization in southeast Kearney and welcomes youths the ages 8 to 19. Wilson and his wife, Terry, serve as missionaries at the center.

An average of 28 youth participate daily, and at least four or five volunteers are needed during their open hours.

Volunteers from the community do not participate daily, and at least four or five volunteers are needed during their open hours. Individuals, businesses, and churches from local and area communities contribute financially to provide a place and opportunity for kids and families to be ministered to.