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

OMA=ODI
New name, same commitment to diversity and inclusion

Crane Migration
Sandhill cranes land in central Nebraska on annual migration path

LPAC brings AJR to UNK
After 3 consecutive country artists, AJR brings new atmosphere and fun to UNK's spring concert
Spring concert has successful turnout
AJR band brings community together on campus for concert

Brett Westfall
Antelope Staff

For $20 to $25 a ticket, students and others from around the community and Nebraska attended the pop trio AJR concert at the UNK Health & Sports Center. Opened by the Talbott Brothers, UNK changed their lineup this year from the previous years by having the headlining act perform pop music instead of country.

“I loved that UNK changed it up from country this year,” said Donovan Revill, a sophomore from Omaha. “Everyone has their taste of music and some people don’t like country, so I love that they did this to let everyone have a chance to enjoy something different.”

Throughout the show, AJR added some alternative entertainment by performing theme songs and blending pop culture references within their act.

“The overall show was good. My favorite, odd part is when they played the Office theme song in their own style and it was pretty awesome,” Revill said.

The Lopers Programming and Activities Council (LPAC) were in charge of organizing this concert. Members planned for AJR to perform as a new alternative from the usual concerts in attempt to bring new crowds in.

“There was a small change on ticket sells, because we sold less tickets than last year,” said Odwuar Quinonez, a senior elementary education major and one of the Events Programming Chair for LPAC. “I believe that there are a lot more country fans here in Nebraska, but LPAC as a whole is pretty happy with how many people bought tickets for a concert that’s a bit of a change.”

With a pop music headliner, the crowd was noticeably different than previous years.

“This year, the concert felt different than previous years because a lot more teenagers attended the concert,” Quinonez said. “Plus, it seemed louder because the Talbott Brothers and AJR did such an amazing job with hyping up the crowd, and so it got pretty loud, which was amazing.”

LPAC spent four months to planning and organizing the concert after AJR was selected. Students who attended the concert shared about their experience and how they appreciated the work done this year.

“I really do appreciate that LPAC chose a band other than country because I know that has been a big complaint in the past years that the majority of students were tired of country artists,” said Trey Janicek, sophomore Agribusiness major from Bridgeport. “I think the band really enjoyed coming to UNK because the students and community who attended the event really got into the concert and were very lively this year.”

Regarding future artists for next year’s concert, members of LPAC said that they are uncertain of what’s to come.

“I would definitely go see AJR again in the future but I am not sure if LPAC will be getting another pop artist next or if they will be bringing a country artist in like a tradition,” Quinonez said. “It is all going to depend on the next year’s Event Programming Chairs to decide along with the future members of LPAC. Everything this year ran so smoothly thanks to all the volunteers and it was a great time.”
OMA officially changes name to ODI

New name for office promotes current ideals

Amelia Cooper
Antelope Staff

Within the last month UNK’s Office of Multicultural Affairs has changed their name to the Office of Student Diversity Inclusion to be more welcoming to all students on campus.

“This office was established in the 90’s, and at that time, the students we were working with were a part of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and International Education, so the office’s main goal was to bring more diversity, but it was more cultural, ethnic and race specific,” said Juan Guzman, the Director of ODI.

Now, ODI is home to even more diversity than in the past. “We are getting more diversity, more minorities, and it reflects on the student body,” Guzman said, “We are also working with other student organizations such as QSA, Sister to Sister, Social Justice League and we now have Define American and DANZA.”

Guzman says the office was changing to be more inclusive and the groups were celebrating even more diversity - such as gender. “For us to do a better job at giving the best services, we needed to change the name,” Guzman said.

ODI gives a safe space to students from diverse backgrounds, they help raise cultural awareness on UNK’s campus and provide seven unique groups for students to get involved. Included in ODI is Sister to Sister, Social Justice League, Define American, DANZA, Hispanic Student Association, Black Student Association and Queer Straight Alliance. On top of multiple student organizations, they also have an environment that is set up to help student succeed.

“We want to continue to work with diversity issues and show that this is a home away from home for students and a safe place where they can come, be welcome and be themselves.”

Juan Guzman

The staff and attendees at the welcome party for ODI cut a ceremonial ribbon with Dr. Gilbert Hinga, Dean of the Division of Student Affairs. The ribbon-cutting marked the official change in name from OMA to ODI.

Guzman says the office was changing to be more inclusive and the groups were celebrating even more diversity - such as gender. “For us to do a better job at giving the best services, we needed to change the name,” Guzman said. “We want to continue to work with diversity issues and show that this is a home away from home for students and a safe place where they can come, be welcome and be themselves.”

ODI is going to start implementing even more educational events to encourage students to think about diversity on campus and in their lives. ODI wants to let them be able to learn about how important it is to acknowledge and know about diversity, especially in a future workspace.

“I always say that the students that come here, it is the best place and the best time to learn about diversity,” Guzman said. “They can make mistakes and we want to be here to help and educate because it is better to make the mistakes here, while they are learning, than when they are working and can get fired.”

Guzman wants all students to know they are welcome and encouraged to come and join the fun at ODI.
Cranes invade central Nebraska

Sandhill Cranes fly into Kearney during annual migration north

Braydon Conell
Antelope Staff

After a prolonged winter, the famous Sandhill Crane migration that brings people to central Nebraska finally arrived. A large flock of these birds gathered in a field on the north side of the interstate at the Minden exit.

Sandhill Cranes get their name from the sandy river beds they like to gather around, such as the Platte River. These cranes rub brown or red mud found in these rivers on their feathers to preen themselves which can give a tint to the grey feathers of their body.

During the migration period, these large birds condense and fly over a swath of central Nebraska before spreading out into Canada and Alaska. These cranes circled the historical marker on Highway 10 north of Minden.

Every year, Sandhill cranes arrive in the area between Feb. and April peaking in March. Due to the prolonged winter and harsh blizzard and flooding, the migration was delayed a few weeks and there were not many birds until late March. In Nebraska, bird counts jumped from 13,000 to 300,000 birds in just one day.

While Sandhill cranes can be seen while just driving down the highways, a “must-go” spot for visitors and birdwatchers is the Crane Trust Nature and Visitors Center located at the Alda exit, just west of Grand Island. Every year, the Trust organizes tours along the Platte River to promote their mission of protecting and providing habitat for the cranes.

Many cranes prepare to take flight after resting in a corn field north of Minden. Sandhill cranes vary in size, but males average 10.1 pounds and females average 8.9 pounds and have wingspans between 5.5 and 7.5 feet. When these birds flock together, their signature loud, trumpeting call can be heard all around.
Queer Straight Alliance celebrates its second annual Queer Prom. The inclusive event gave all students and community members a safe space to have fun. The dance also raised money for the ODI Big Blue Cupboard.
Nebraska strong
Snowfall, rain, bomb cyclone bring flooding, road closures to Nebraska

Arianne Goode
Antelope Staff

A combination of snowfall, ice and warm rains mixed into what was called a “Bomb Cyclone” struck Nebraska on March 12-14, bringing massive flooding that caused road closures across the entire Midwest.

Blizzard conditions brought snow, and massive warm rainfalls meant the snow and ice would melt and would eventually bring historic flooding to Nebraska.

Hanna Hake is a senior AD/PR major and Multimedia minor at UNK and is from Creston, Nebraska and the surrounding areas around Creston were severely affected by the flooding.

“My hometown has not really been directly affected or washed out, but the bridges connecting Creston to towns like Columbus and Norfolk were washed out,” Hake said. “It makes it almost impossible to haul grain or move cattle when a lot of the roads are in such poor condition.”

Mike Davis is a former Wood River citizen and his family farm has been affected by the flooding as well. “The flooding is one thing, but when all of the underlying water and snow melts and thaws out, the roads give-way and it can take it anymore,” Davis said.

“I haven’t been involved much with the farm recently but hearing what my family has gone through since the flooding has happened breaks my heart,” Davis said. “When I drive through Wood River for work and I see that downtown is submerged is like seeing something out of a movie. It seems impossible, but the impossible happened.”

The biggest thing the Bomb Cyclone and historic flooding brought was the road closures they brought to the state.

“All I wanted to do was go back home to see the flooding myself,” Hake said. “All I could do from Kearney was look at the pictures from back at home and see all the water and damage, but there was nothing I could do to help. I got home for Spring Break when the water went down enough, and thankfully our house is built higher off the ground, but our fences and fields need a lot of help.”

Besides the washed-out side roads, many streets across the state gave away and crumbled in an instant.

“The water really did a number on the gravel roads in the area, and there aren’t enough resources for the counties to get out and fix them into an alright condition” Hake said. “I had to take the ‘scenic route’ back home and go all around to find a way back just because the flooding was so bad.”

“I hope the community and national efforts help Nebraskans out in a big way,” Davis said. “It’s bizarre to see national news coverage of my hometown in such a dark state of condition, but whatever brings national attention to us and gets us help, we need all we can right now.”

Climate talk heats up
UNK Sustainability Committee, Sustain UNL host Climate Conversations

Jose Perez
Antelope Staff

For the past few years, one topic of discussion in the state of Nebraska and in this country has been climate change. This situation is so heavily recognized, several conferences have taken place in this country to address this ongoing conundrum. People gather in one area to go over climate change and what steps need to be completed for this topic.

In the state of Nebraska, more people need to be aware of climate change and how much of an impact it can truly have. The purpose of the climate conferences is to inform the public about this topic: what exactly is climate change? Afterwards, people discuss what changes need to be done in order for the state and planet as a whole to function well in the environment.

On March 30, UNK’s Sustainability Committee and Sustain UNL hosted the Nebraska Climate Conversations at the Ponderosa Room. The event was open to the public with prior registration, to inform everyone about climate changes and open up discussions to people during the event. It was an opportunity people took advantage of, to know what was happening on the planet and what needed to be accomplished.

People attending the event were remined of what climate is.

Climate is fairly similar to weather.

When describing weather, it gives several descriptions of the environment for the outside world for several days. This information is shown to the public by simply looking up the weather on applications that can be used on almost any device. Climate is basically the same, only it gives a description of the environment that has been recorded from the last 30 years.

Climate changes over time due to human activity that affects the carbon in the environment. Carbon is a molecule that traps heat. The heat is caused by the natural gas, oil, coal, and other substances that humans release to the atmosphere and waterways. Although we may not notice this, these types of activities effect any state and can continue to spread across the planet Earth.

According to the Nebraska Climate Assessment, the record yearly average temperature in Nebraska has risen by one-degree Fahrenheit since the year 1895. Nebraska is landlocked, meaning the state’s warming temperature has not been rapid and has not been as directly observable as other states in this country. It is typically the states near the equator that show the rise in temperatures.

This type of information is unlikely to pique a person’s interest. Unless people take an interest in the environment, almost no one will consider the climate change in Nebraska or any state to be relevant. However, that type of mentality is not recommended to have since the issue needs to be taken seriously. The climate conference was a platform used to motivate the people attending to act. Unlike previous years, this current generation has the opportunity to make a difference to act with the changing of climate and prevent less threats to the environment.

Several people attending the conferences shared ways to help out the environment: use less electricity in your homes, be less wasteful with food, plant your own food, reducing transportation emissions, etc. Moreover, people were told to simply share these ideas with everyone by using one of the most influential platforms in the world today, social media.
Jackson dominates track and (football) field

Florida native Montrez Jackson makes impact on two Loper teams

Austin Jacobsen  
Antelope Staff

Only standing at 5-foot-8, it’s easy to understand why sometimes Montrez Jackson can be overlooked. Jackson has proven otherwise in his short career so far at UNK.

Montrez Jackson, a sophomore from Trenton, Fla., is a current member of the Loper football and track and field teams. He is a utility player for the Loper offense on the gridiron, plugging in where he is needed at receiver, running back, and kick returner. Jackson leads the high jumpers for the Loper track and field as well.

Maintaining two sports, as well as the other demands of being a student athlete, has not deterred Jackson so far. “Personally, I don’t feel burnt-out,” said Jackson. “Maybe for some other people, but in high school I was playing sports back-to-back-to-back. This is nothing new to me.”

Getting to this point in college was a different story altogether for the two-sport athlete. Jackson was originally recruited for football only by schools in the Florida area until Nebraska-Kearney called.

“I only had a few options, one being in Florida,” Jackson said. “It really came down to UNK being a better offer and trying to experience something different away from home.”

Once he arrived at UNK, Jackson was immediately redshirted for his first season on the football field. By the end of the season, Jackson looked for something to break the monotony of working out and schoolwork.

“I was bored, so I had seen the guys high jumping one day, and I went over to the coach and asked ‘What are your high jumpers like?’”, said Jackson. “Coach said they didn’t have many, so he checked out my film and let me try out for the inter-squad meet.”

Jackson placed second in that meet, jumping 6-feet-9. Jackson recently just won the high jump at the UNK Indoor Invitational on Feb. 2, 2019, clearing 6-foot-8.25. Even at his shorter stature, Montrez never feels overlooked by his competition.

“To me, I never really think about it. It’s all confidence really,” Jackson said.

Flying over his competitors in track and field has helped Jackson establish dominance in the passing game as well. “Playing receiver, it helps me high point the ball when I’m trying to catch,” Jackson said. “Having that high jump approach, I run on a curve and jump to get to my highest point. It’s the same motion really.”

This approach was most apparent on Oct. 6 when Jackson rose above a Lindenwood defender to snag a pass from quarterback Alex McGinnis for 15 yards to move the chains. That critical conversion led to a UNK touchdown on that drive.

While Jackson’s main love is football, which is apparent by his Facebook biography which has his occupation as “Running Back at NFL”, he never takes his other athletic achievements or talents for granted.

“My dad always told me ‘whatever you start, you finish.’ Whether it’s school, track, football, I’m giving it my all. I work out at six in the morning, football meetings, attend class, go to track practice in the afternoon, and do whatever else I have to do,” Jackson said.

Anticipation builds for 2019 football season

Excitement, expectations circulate as spring football begins for Lopers

Jack McLeay  
Antelope Staff

Loper spring football kicked off this week and coach Josh Lynn had his 3-year anniversary taking over the reins of a struggling football team. For Lynn, this spring is all about finding cohesion as a football team and being able to execute.

“We need to be able to execute at a high level offensively and defensively,” Lynn said. “We have a strong senior class with good experience and now it is time for us to turn it up a notch.”

The football team finished in the regular season with a 5-6 record. Four of those five losses were by 14 points or less. Although UNK has shown improvement from years past, the bitter taste remains in the mouths of players.

Starting quarterback Alex McGinnis, who last year rushed for 471 yards and threw for 1,364, talks about the heartache last season provided.

“It will always sting,” McGinnis said. “Knowing that you were a few crucial plays away from being 10-1 never sits well, but it is also a motivator.”

McGinnis goes on to talk about his excitement this spring and the addition of Drew Thatcher, the new offensive coordinator for UNK.

“I am stoked for this spring and Coach Thatcher is going to be a great addition for us,” McGinnis said. “He knows this style of offense well and we have a solid offensive line and some high caliber skills position players.”

The excitement does not only come from the offensive side of the ball though. The Lopers are excited about their defense and the potential it holds this year as well. After losing some key starters, defensive tackle Tye Spies and defensive backs Famous McKinnon and Malik Webb, starting linebacker Sal Silvio is still optimistic of the potential for UNK’s defense.

“Obviously, it hurts losing guys like Tye [Spies], Famous [McKinnon], and Malik [Webb],” Silvio said. “But we still return eight starters and have good depth surrounding everyone.”

Silvio, who last year finished with 107 tackles and was named First Team All-MIAA linebacker, says he thinks that this spring is crucial to the future success of Loper football.

“This spring will decide how good we want to be,” said Silvio. “We have a great group of guys right now and they will be the core people who take this team to the top. I cannot wait.”

UNK football has had three practices so far and will have 11 more before wrapping up spring football with their spring game on April 20. For the first time in a long time, the, “buzz” of Loper football is real and people are excited to see what this team has in store for them this fall.
Life for UNK athletics without Mannie Reinsch would be a lot more difficult. The assistant athletic director and facilities and events director has a job that few envy, but one that is critical to the success of every game.

“A typical day for me is checking in on our ticket offices, talking with coaches about practice schedules, looking at calendars to see what events are going on that day and where, rescheduling events, contacting officials and the MIAA offices,” Reinsch said. “There’s really no true routine. It’s no normal 9-to-5 job.”

That job shifts gears every few months as well. Starting in August with football and volleyball games at Foster Field and the Health and Sports Center, Reinsch has a list of duties to check off to make sure the gameday experience is up to par. From contacting officials to creating timing sheets for pre-game events, Reinsch’s team makes sure that UNK has the ability to be seen as one of the premier athletic facilities in the MIAA.

“We have a great staff. Our ticket operations are phenomenal with Jake Greco. Peter Yazvac always handles our media relations which he’s great at,” Reinsch said. “My main goal is to make sure our fans can have a great experience. If something goes wrong, I didn’t do my job.”

Creating the best fan experience is always in the front of Mannie’s mind. This past year, UNK fans had the opportunity to not only witness the MIAA Volleyball tournament at home, but also the first round of the Division Two NCAA Regional Volleyball tournament. Being able to host one of these events is always a dream of the athletics staff.

“It’s a benefit to our campus, our fans, and our student athletes,” Reinsch said. “Having these unique events in Kearney is a great benefit to the community. Our staff usually puts bids in for regional matchups like these, but in the end it came down to our volleyball team performing well and getting the job done to host their conference tournament.”

Reinsch, a Kearney High School and University of Nebraska Kearney graduate, was himself a student-athlete during his time at UNK. Being a member of the UNK Baseball team from 2009-2014 has given him many insights into how life for a student-athlete is on this campus.

“The student-athlete experience is key to us. If they don’t have a great experience, then what are we even doing this for?” Reinsch said. “That’s why you come to UNK. To build those relationships with student-athletes and see their interactions with their coaches and other students.”

Mannie has yet to miss any home athletics event during his time at UNK. There have been heartbreaking losses to show stopping performances, and Reinsch has seen them all.

“One of my favorite things that we’ve done during my time here is hosting the NCAA Regional Volleyball tournament this year,” Reinsch said. “We had the Health and Sports Center triple booked, switching from volleyball to basketball practices throughout the day. It was a challenge, but a great challenge to have to better our staff and our team.”

Reinsch has been a Loper for many years, and he loves the atmosphere and environment that is provided by UNK for not only himself and his staff, but for his family as well.

“I can bring my daughter out to games, my wife can come out to games and they get to watch. To see them at games is always a great feeling.”