

TikTok banned?

Why are many nations so upset?

BY MAKAELE BINDER
Talon Staff Writer

The most populous country, about 18% of the world’s population, bans TikTok. The second most populous country makes its citizens use a watered-down version of the app. The country with the biggest economy is poised to ban it as well. India, China and the USA represent almost 40% of the world’s overall population. Why would the U.S. decide to threaten a ban on one of the most popular forms of social media?

There are several reasons why the U.S. government recently passed legislation that would ban TikTok unless its owner, ByteDance, a Chinese-based company, sells the social-media platform to a U.S. government-approved company.

The most general concern is that TikTok is considered a threat to national security, because it is assumed

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A secret Star Wars mission



Art teacher Nate Stromberg works on a large collage he produced for Lucasfilms, creators of the Star Wars films. Above, Stromberg works in the innovation lab on March 14, before the project could be publicly announced. It debuted in May. **Read Anavie Bernick’s story on page 10.**

PHOTO BY LUCAS FREEMAN

America braces for 2024’s unprecedented election

Several factors combine to make it unlike any election voters have witnessed

BY NINA MAST
Talon Staff Writer

As the 2024 election approaches, many concerns are being raised. It has been described by many to be unlike any election before. The outcomes will not only shape politics, but will affect every single U.S. citizen and the future of the country.

For most if not almost all of the students attending the Minnehaha Upper School, this will be the first election students can actively participate in considering the majority would have been in grades 5-7 during the last election. Whether it be through voting, volunteering, or even studying what is truly going on in the world of politics, each and every student can have an impact.

While considering these factors, a key concept to point out is that this election is extremely different from the rest. With Donald Trump facing four separate criminal indictments, the new addition of AI deepfakes, the age of both major candidates, and the turbulent transfer of power following the 2020 election, Americans have the right to be more than concerned.

“This election is going to be extremely different from the rest,”

first-year James Elving predicted.

Let’s take a closer look at these factors. One if not the most unprecedented events is the possible re-election of Donald Trump. In the past, the thought of a previous president/current candidate being involved in masses of legal chaos was unimaginable. The 2024 election makes these seemingly far-off thoughts a reality with Donald Trump re-running for office.

“Trump has a lot of allegations,” Nathan Johnson, social studies teacher, said. “There are dozens of criminal charges that have been made against him and various federal and state courts.”

As of May 2024, Trump was faced with 91 felony charges while involved in four criminal cases.

In the New York state court, Trump is accused of falsifying business records and possibly violating election campaign funding regulations in an attempt to pay “hush money” to an actress after an alleged extramarital affair.

This trial has begun. In Georgia state court, Trump is charged with conspiracy in

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Climate change hits home

Minnesota’s fortune may actually attract migration

BY JOSEPHINE JOHNSON
Talon Staff Writer

It’s feasible to imagine new-to-moving families planning fastidiously with their realtor about what kind of house they want, what kind of renovations they’re willing to do, and everything in between.

They might want a big yard, a screened-in porch, gardening space, an open concept living room, kitchen, and dining room — but these hopes and dreams are superficial at best.

For as any experienced persons who have moved previously, and as any good realtor knows, the three primary considerations in the event of choosing a house are as follows: Location. Location. Location. Et cetera.

According to U-Haul, after their annual analysis of the “Top Growth States,” based on how many U-Haul trucks were used to move on one-way trips, they discovered that Texas, for the third year in a row, has been the top destination for

movers. Florida was second, North Carolina was third, and Minnesota was 20th.

But Minnesota, albeit without sunny dispositions or ocean views, won’t be 20th for long. For climate change is a slithery beast lurking under rising tides.

As sea levels advance across retreating shorelines, as islands slowly succumb to the greedy onslaught of the ocean, as flooding

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Minnesota gets new flag



Minnesota’s new state flag (above) was officially raised at the State Capitol on Saturday, May 11. **Read Danielle Hobbie’s story on page 11.**

The ins and outs of sports medicine

MA's athletic trainer and strength & conditioning coach support students

BY DESMOND BERTHIAUME

Talon Staff Writer

Minnehaha is home to many exceptional sports teams and hundreds of student athletes. Behind those teams and athletes are many amazing coaches who know how to bring out the best in each student.

But what happens when an athlete's season is interrupted by injury? To whom can athletes turn when the unfortunate injury bug bites, and they need help getting back into the lineup? Minnehaha is home to two experienced athletic coaches and trainers with years of experience under their belts. They are the "Go-To" resources for athletes when they need support recovering from injuries.

Meet Kristen Fosness, Minnehaha Academy's athletic trainer. Kristen works in prevention, evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of emergent acute or chronic injuries and medical conditions and rehabilitates orthopedic injuries as well. That background allows Fosness to support student athletes across a wide array of injuries, allowing them to return more quickly to the sports they love.

Fosness completed her undergraduate education at Hamline University in St. Paul, earning



PHOTO BY SOPHIA SMITH

Kristen Fosness
athletic trainer

a bachelor's degree in exercise science and a minor in psychology. She also has a master's degree in athletic training from North Dakota State University. Fosness says that her career connects one of her passions to one of society's needs.

"I wanted to work in the medical field because my parents said there was always a need for that," she said. "And then I love sports, so it was a perfect fit to do medicine in



PHOTO BY REID WESTREM

Brandon Peterson
strength and conditioning coach

the sports world."

Brandon Peterson is the equally impressive, other half of the training team at MA. He focuses on injury prevention through athletic training. Peterson assists athletes in enhancing performance and preventing injury through strength training and improved flexibility.

Peterson has a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Minnesota State Mankato. He worked at Bloomington Jefferson High School

as a conditioning coach for 11 years before coming to Minnehaha.

"In 11 years at Bloomington Jefferson, I have never got to the point where I worked with every single team, and I worked with almost every single sport the very first fall that I was here," he said.

Peterson also added that he appreciates the support he gets from the athletic coaches at Minnehaha.

"Coaches have been excellent at getting kids into the weight room," he said.

Although Peterson sees mostly positive differences between the schools, he has had a few challenges at Minnehaha.

"In comparing Bloomington to here, the kids that I worked with at Bloomington Jefferson lived within five minutes of the school, (so) many walked or rode their bike," he said. "It was really easy to get kids to stay after school."

Although Fosness and Brandon have similar roles, there are a few key differences.

"The difference between Brandon and I is mainly I do evaluation of injuries or prevention of injuries, where he focuses more on prevention of injuries and building strength and movement patterns that can decrease your risk of injury," said Fosness.

Although they have different backgrounds they still work very closely together.

"I like to work closely with her in that she can feel free to pass people off to me that need more ongoing stuff," Peterson said. "But I do not have the rehab medical background that she has, mine is on the performance enhancement side of things."

Students at Minnehaha have generally had positive experiences with the athletic faculty.

"She always made herself available to me and came up with solutions to problems that I probably wouldn't have thought of myself," said first-year Makaela Binder. "And made it so that I was able to keep playing the things that I loved."

Junior Max Krumm also experienced positivity surrounding the athletic faculty.

"Brandon has helped me by creating a training program that I can use whenever," Krumm said. "You should go to him just to get stronger in general, you know, for a sport or activity, he's just a smart, intelligent guy."

Overall, Fosness and Peterson play a major role in supporting our athletic teams and helping injured athletes return to the sports they love.

CLIMATE: Will state draw migration?

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pursues America's coasts, as the ensuing repercussions of carbon emissions stack up — people will find themselves in need of an escape. Several highly populated places in North America will become unlivable. Relocation will be the designated coping mechanism.

And what happens to be one of the forecasted prime regions in the U.S. to live?

That's right. Minnesota. Specifically, the Twin Cities and Duluth.

As the weather becomes warmer and increasingly moderate in the coming years, Minnesota and the Midwest will be some of the safest locations for relocating families, as the area is not as susceptible to extreme weather conditions, has lots of fresh water, and does not have as many hilly or mountainous areas.

Minnesota will benefit economically, but it will also become much more crowded than anyone ever expected. The Twin Cities may very well turn into a mega, metropolitan, concrete jungle. Is Minnesota ready for it?

Abrahm Lustgarten's book *On The Move: The Overheating Earth and the Uprooting of America* (2024) is an analysis on the U.S.'s impending population shift and migration.

"Of all the geographic threats from climate change," Lustgarten

writes, "the most explicitly disruptive is the methodically slow march of rising sea levels as the oceans warm and expand, and the planet's great ice sheets melt and flow into them. There is no moderate response or varying interpretations about acceptable risk on low-lying coasts."

Besides addressing climate change directly with new habits and technologies, societies will need to cope with shifts in population.

"The waves can't be extinguished, tidal surges can't be air-conditioned," Lustgarten writes. "People will eventually be forced to leave. *You simply can't survive underwater.*"

An example? California, where citizens who have dealt with drought and wildfires for years are now increasingly plagued by heavy flooding, landslides, mudslides and incessant rain.

In early February this year, the Los Angeles had more rain in one day than it usually gets in a full year. This flood type has been called an "atmospheric river," a storm system that forms in the tropics and drops catastrophic amounts of rain or snow upon encountering a mountain range, such as the Sierra Nevada.

Places like California are more susceptible to "wet and intense" weather due to warmer air, which has a larger capacity for retaining moisture.

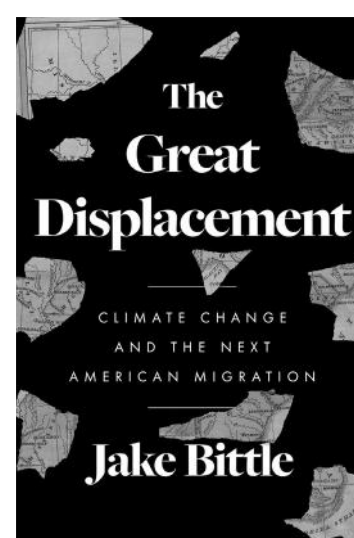


FARRAR, STRAUS & GIBROUX

Two recent books have analyzed the impact that climate change will have on population movements in North America: *On the Move: The Overheating Earth and the Uprooting of America* (2024) by Abrahm Lustgarten, and *The Great Displacement: Climate Change and the Next American Migration* (2023) by Jake Bittle. Both predict that the Midwest, including Minnesota, will become attractive places to live, especially for people living in increasingly unlivable areas, due to heat waves, wildfires, droughts, water shortages, heavy storms and flooding.

Because the soil can retain only so much water, mudslides occur and trees fall as the earth becomes looser. Raging winds rip buildings, trees and power lines this way and that.

This is the kind of winter that afflicts California and may become more common in warm weather coastal states and cities like Boston, Miami and New York. When the weather becomes too



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much, where will these capsized Americans flee? To safer, inland places like the Midwest.

Minnesota and the rest of the Midwest, of course, are not exempt from climate change. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported increased flooding, temperature, and much warmer winters than ever before, such as this past winter.

The DNR reported that "the

Twin Cities broke its record for number of 50 F days for the season by early February, racking up 18 by the end of the month."

Additionally, it recorded that "most areas in the state had received less than 50% of their normal snowfall through the end of February."

In *On The Move*, Lustgarten describes Minnesota's "mega-rain events, storms that drop more than six inches of water over one thousand square miles in less than a day."

What's concerning is that usually, according to scientists, these mega-rains have a one-in-one-thousand chance of occurring per year. But there were two in 2016. And there have been 11, Lustgarten says, since 2000. Like a flash flood from the sky — they are concentrated in a mere few hours.

Lakes like Lake Michigan are rising even faster than the seas. According to Wisconsin Public Radio, Lake Michigan has risen a total of three feet in the past decade or so.

So, is Minnesota ready for it? Will we have the infrastructure for housing, transportation, energy and health care to support an influx of people?

Are citizens of the U.S.A. ready for — literally — an upheaval of what has been the United States for years?

And that's just scratching the surface.