

zephyrus

The official student newspaper of Edina High School

Thursday, April 20, 2023 | Volume 43, Issue 5 | 6754 Valley View Rd. Edina, MN, 55439 | www.edinazephyrus.com

Op-ed on affirmative action

This June, the Supreme Court will rule on two cases regarding the use of affirmative action in college admissions—Students for Fair Admissions...

10

► OPINION

...just how “green” is Edina?

“We can no longer go on pretending that the problem is happening somewhere else and that we, at the local level, don’t have enough power to do our part,” wrote the City of Edina Energy and Environment Commission in a letter prefacing the Climate Action Plan (CAP), Edina’s most...

6-7

► IN-DEPTH

Girls’ Badminton beats SWHS

Check out the latest photos from the Edina Girls’ Badminton team against Southwest High School!

12

► SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

CONTROVERSY SURROUNDS THE WILLOW PROJECT IN AK

Lauren Chang
section editor

On March 13, the Biden administration approved the Willow Project, which will allow ConocoPhillips, a Houston based petroleum refinery, to drill for oil on public land in Alaska. The project would be located inside the National Petroleum Reserve on Alaska’s North Slope—the biggest undeveloped area of public land in the country that also holds up to 600 million barrels of oil.

The potential environmental effects of the project have been the source of controversy in recent months. The City of Edina’s Sustainability Manager, Grace Hancock, summarized her three main issues with the project. “The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] report, [which was] just released, outlines how important it is not to start new fossil fuel projects; any new drilling undermines the world’s ability to address climate change,” Hancock said.

The IPCC’s AR6 Synthesis report for 2023 states that “limiting human-caused global warming requires net-zero CO2 emissions,” which also directly correlates with the United Nations’ sustainability goals. “Global carbon dioxide emissions need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels and reach net-zero emissions by 2050,” the UN said in their 13th sustainability goal which was released 2020. However, the Willow Project is estimated to release the equivalent of 277 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere over the next 30 years, which counters any effort by environmentalists to reduce fossil fuels.

“The project is on federal public land, which should be used for the public good, including the good of the plants and animals that call that area home; this project is not in the interest of the public good,” Hancock said. The destruction of habitats that belong to native species, the well being of arctic wildlife, and the ecosystem that many Indigenous Alaskans rely on has been a major concern amongst conservation groups like Defenders of Wildlife.

“The project is in an area that is already suffering from climate change more quickly and more intensely than other parts of the world,” Hancock said. “Communities in Alaska are already faced with the question of mi-



art by Amanda Strack

grating to safer areas due to climate change, [even if it means] losing access to traditional cultural grounds.” This year, Alaska had its warmest December on record with a statewide average temperature of 19.4 degrees Fahrenheit, 15.6 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th century average.

Although the Willow Project could negatively impact the environment, many Alaskans are in favor of the project. It is projected to deliver \$8 billion to \$17 billion back to the fed-

eral government and would decrease American dependence on foreign energy supplies. Also, the project would create over 2,500 construction jobs and around 300 long-term jobs which would further help the economy. “[The creation of jobs] will be revenue and income to a state that desperately needs it... We’re seeing a net outmigration, unlike any state in the country, and it is because it’s directly tied to the state of our economy,” said Alaskan Senator Lisa Murkow-

ski on the Senate Floor on March 16.

In addition to environmental and economic controversy, there has been political controversy on whether passing the project made President Joe Biden incongruent with the platform he ran on. Olivia Machart, leader of Edina High School’s environmental club, Project Earth, shares her perspective. “I think it contradicted the environmental...

► NEWS, 3

From France to Edina: Learn more about EHS’s French interns

Lainey Maniak
copy editor

[The interviews in this article were translated from French into English by Lainey Maniak and Jane Porter.]

Tucked away in the hallways of the language classrooms at Edina High School, there are three seemingly normal teachers. However, Elisa Lesauvage, Melissa Destrac, and Alexander Bafoil are anything but. The trio are French citizens, part of this year’s group of 27 young interns providing Edina’s French students with a glimpse into native French language and culture—an opportunity the three have taken advantage of while in the United States.

As part of the high school’s staff, the interns have the opportunity to take part in all the events put on throughout the year at EHS. Hockey games, POPs, pep fests: scan the crowd, they’re probably there. More uniquely Minnesotan activities also made their to-do lists: ice-skating, skiing, and of course, the polar plunge. “I wanted to die, but at least I can brag about doing it,” Bafoil said, laughing...

► FEATURES, 4

Returning actors in the film industry

Karissa Cheng
staff writer

Ke Huy Quan touched the hearts of millions when he won an Oscar for Best Actor in a Supporting Role. “This is the American Dream,” he said, referring to the long journey that led him to success. Though he had stepped away from the big screen in his 20s, Quan’s appearance in “Everything Everywhere All At Once” placed him back into the spotlight. He is not the first to have achieved success through a second chance; throughout the years, numerous actors have made comebacks by appearing in hit movies or shows after lengthy pauses in their careers...

► ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, 5