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CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD

Quinlan Kingman Eddy points Wednesday to a mural by his grandfather, Eugene Kingman, that hangs in the new Omaha Central Library at 72nd and Dodge Streets. Commissioned by New York Times Publisher Arthur Hays Sulzberger, the mural was on display in the newspaper's lobby for more than 40 years before it was brought back to Omaha.

Decades-old mural gets fresh beginning at library

Artwork is on display at new Omaha Central Library; daughter calls it 'dream come true'

JULIE ANDERSON
World-Herald Staff Writer

Years before globe-circling satellites, the Apollo missions or even the Artemis II made views of Earth from space nearly commonplace, artist Eugene Kingman painted a mural in the basement of Omaha's Joslyn Art Museum that captured the post-World War II globe as one entity.

Commissioned by former New York Times Publisher Arthur Hays Sulzberger, the mural hung in the lobby of the New York Times for more than 40 years before it was brought back to Omaha, where it was restored and hung downtown in the now-defunct W. Dale Clark Library for nearly a decade more.

Now the 7-by-20-foot mural has found a new home in the Omaha Central Library at 72nd and Dodge Streets, which opens to the public on Sunday.

On Wednesday, Kingman's daughter, grandson and Omahans who helped bring home and restore the mural held a dedication event to mark its return to the public eye.

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Omahan from Iran staying optimistic

'I hope something happens that is good,' he says amid the uncertainty

MARJIE DUCEY
World-Herald Staff Writer

Despite some of the negative news coming from the Middle East, Ahmad Nazar is still optimistic that U.S. and Israeli actions in Iran will have a positive outcome.

But it's scary right now, said Nazar, a native Iranian who owns Ahmad's Persian Cuisine in Omaha's Dundee neighborhood.

"I hope something happens that is good," he said.

University of Nebraska at Omaha adjunct professor James Clark said too many unanswered questions make it impossible to know how the conflict will end.

The situation has become more complex due to blockades of the Strait of Hormuz, which could have worldwide repercussions for fuel and fertilizer costs.

"It's a huge mess," said Clark, a member of UNO's history department who has lived in Iran.

"As Americans make adjustments, the Iranians make adjustments. As long as they can show they can stand up to the United States and Israel and endure this punishment, that is a success for them."

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CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD

Ahmad Nazar, owner of Ahmad's Persian Cuisine, worries about family members he can't reach in Iran.

Nebraska's budget now faces deficit of $72 million

State tax revenues hit below forecast

ERIN BAMER
Nebraska Examiner

LINCOLN — Two weeks after Nebraska lawmakers filled a $646 million hole in the state budget, a new round of tax receipts brought the state back into an expected deficit.

The State Department of Revenue released Nebraska's March tax receipts Wednesday showing a net loss of 14.8% compared to what Nebraska's Economic Forecasting Advisory Board had predicted in late February. That difference equates to about $78 million less in revenue headed to the state's coffers.

Lawmakers passed a pair of bills adjusting Nebraska's two-year budget on April 1, leaving the state with an expected surplus of roughly $6.2 million. The latest receipts means the ending balance of Nebraska's budget is currently about $72 million in the red.

With only one day left in the shorter 60-day legislative session and the budget bills signed, there is nothing that lawmakers can do about the expected deficit this session, according to Legislative Fiscal Analyst Keisha Patent.

If Nebraska remains in a projected deficit by the time the longer 90-day session begins in 2027, Patent said lawmakers would be tasked with balancing the current budget before the biennium ends on June 30, 2027, and also setting the next biennial budget that spans July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2029.

Nebraska's structural deficit that began in 2025 continues to add to a projected deficit in the next biennium that's currently estimated at $631 million.

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Historic proclamation
The Louisiana Purchase proclamation will be on display at the Union Pacific Railroad Museum. **Midlands, Page A3**

Mideast ceasefire
Israel and Lebanon agree on a ceasefire as optimism about ending the Iran war grows. **Page A9**

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Mural

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"This is just stunning," said Mixie Kingman Eddy, Kingman's daughter, as she got a glimpse of the mural, mounted at eye level behind plexiglass. In addition to being a painter and muralist, Kingman directed the Joslyn Art Museum from 1946 to 1968. The painting is dated November 1948 and signed signed by Kingman and friend Richard Edes Harrison, one of the nation's most famed cartographers.

Kingman Eddy credited her late mother and sister, Elizabeth, and the Omaha group for helping the mural make its journey. "I feel like my parents' spirits are here, and I'm just deeply grateful to all of you," she said, noting that having the mural in a new home is a "dream come true."

Maureen McCann Waldron, a driving force behind the mural's return and restoration, said dozens of people were behind the effort.

The New York Times had taken it down in the late 1980s, and it had sat rolled in storage for a quarter-century, according to World-Herald archives. The Kingman daughters got the piece out of storage and convinced then-Times Publisher Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr. to give it to them.

Waldron had suggested bringing it to Omaha years before it arrived. Waldron had originally phoned Elizabeth Kingman because she lives in Eugene Kingman's old Omaha home and wanted to learn more about the mural he'd painted in the staircase.

She convinced the Joslyn Castle Trust to accept the artwork and formed a group that members dubbed the Women of the Mural, which raised the funds to have the mural restored. Kenneth Bé, head of paintings conservation at the Nebraska Historical Society's Gerald Ford Conservation Center, cleaned off the decades of cigarette smoke, revealing the mural's vibrant blues and greens.

The restored mural was rehung in the W. Dale Clark Library in 2016. When the library closed, it went back into storage, this time at The Joslyn.

The mural now is located in a second-floor computer lab on the new library's second floor. The computer lab wall is one of the few spaces large enough in the glass-walled building for it to be displayed. The room may occasionally be in use, so visitors might not always able to get close to it.

Quinlan Kingman Eddy, Mixie Kingman Eddy's son, said he finds the line of poetry at the top of the mural inspirational, especially given today's world events.

From a work by Sarah Chauncey Woolsey, writing as Susan Coolidge, it reads, "Every day is a fresh beginning. Every morn is the world made new."

Kingman Eddy said he was disappointed when the mural went back into storage after W. Dale Clark closed. "But now to see it displayed in such a manner … really is amazing," he said.

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