



## What golf history comes next for Rory McIlroy after Masters repeat?

SPORTS, 1B

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# DAILY COMMERCIAL

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## Snow drought presents climate stress test



### Low snowpacks bring worries about water, wildfires

**Alejandro N. Flores**  
Boise State University  
THE CONVERSATION

Across much of the Western United States, winter 2026 was the year the snow never came.

Many ski resorts got by with snow-making but shut down their winter operations early. Fire officials and water supply managers are worried about summer.

Where I live in Boise, Idaho, temperatures hit the low 80s Fahrenheit in mid-March. The same heat dome sent temperatures soaring to 105 F in Phoenix.

Ordinarily, water managers and hydrologists like me who study the Western United States expect the mountain snowpacks to be at their fullest around

See **DROUGHT**, Page 3A



A recent assessment of drought conditions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Integrated Drought Information System suggests 2026 will be a tight year for water supplies. MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

## Dining out from Palmetto and to Leesburg

**Julie Garisto**  
Leesburg Daily Commercial  
USA TODAY NETWORK

I was visiting family over the weekend in Manatee County, about three hours away from home.

My niece, an Augusta, Georgia-based gymnastics coach and gym co-owner with three young and adorable kids, celebrated a mostly successful competition in the area, and we ate a ton of pizza (and leftover pizza) from the gatherings at her Bradenton Beach BnB. While visiting my brother in Pinellas, we ate fried chicken, too.

On our way home, I craved something healthier with vegetables and spices, something to detox from all the meat, batter and flour-gut-gobbing

See **FOOD**, Page 2A

## New store opens this month in Lady Lake

**Julie Garisto**  
Leesburg Daily Commercial  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Burlington Stores is set to open a new location in Lady Lake this spring, bringing its updated shopping format and a range of discounted brand-name merchandise to Village Crossroads.

### What used to be in the location?

The Joann Fabric and Crafts store in Lady Lake closed its doors a year ago this spring.

The closure was part of a nationwide liquidation after the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy for the second time in early 2025.

See **STORE**, Page 2A

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