



Seven NFL draft picks who could surprise as rookies

SPORTS, 5B

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FALLING FAST TO FUEL AUTISM AWARENESS



Skydivers land during Greystone Program's 10th annual leap for autism event at Skydive the Ranch in Gardiner, NY on May 2. The fundraising event hosted over 40 solo and tandem skydivers and has thus far raised over \$90,000, according to its website. PHOTOS BY KELLY MARSH / SPECIAL TO THE TIMES HERALD-RECORD

Skydiving event in Gardiner raises thousands



Skydivers load into the plane during Greystone Program's 10th annual leap for autism event.



Supporters watch as the plane takes off during Greystone Program's 10th annual leap for autism event at Skydive the Ranch in Gardiner on Saturday.



Skydive instructor Igor Tolstov, left, hugs skydiver Georgia Newman of Brooklyn after their jump during Greystone Program's 10th annual leap for autism event at Skydive the Ranch in Gardiner on Saturday.



Skydiver Martin Wu of Long Island glides down to land at Skydive the Ranch in Gardiner.

'Needy' school districts hit hardest by budget

Tardiness having a trickle down effect on state government

Emily Barnes
New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

As New York school districts prepare for taxpayers to vote on their budgets for the 2026-27 school year in a matter of weeks, the increasingly late state budget poses unique challenges for both parties involved.

The state Legislature passed its eighth budget extender on Wednesday, April 29, bringing the total amount spent on keeping the government open past the April 1 deadline to \$16.7 billion. New York's state budget process is currently being held up by policy issues Gov. Kathy Hochul wants passed, and it's a process that's been met with heavy pushback and mounting frustration this budget season, including calls to weaken the governor's power within it.

Albany's budget tardiness is also causing a trickle-down effect on other elements of state government, including how much school districts choose to allocate for their budgets, which

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Calls grow to regulate online betting

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – As scandals continue to plague popular online betting platforms, calls within Congress to intervene are getting louder.

A series of controversies in April – from political candidates profiting from their own campaigns to a soldier's alleged bet on a major military operation – prompted a unanimous April 30 decision to change the Senate's rules.

Senators and their staff members are now banned from trading on prediction markets, where people can buy and sell bets online on future events.

Sen. John Curtis, R-Utah, vowed that it was just the beginning of a new wave of federal scrutiny. Next on the legislative agenda, he said, would be prohibiting all government officials from using insider information to bet

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