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TIMES UNION

TIMESUNION.COM SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026 ALBANY, NEW YORK \$4.00

Legislature finishes year at Capitol

Measures on redistricting, data centers, immigration, Tier 6 pass despite late budget

By Dan Clark and Timothy Fanning
STAFF WRITERS

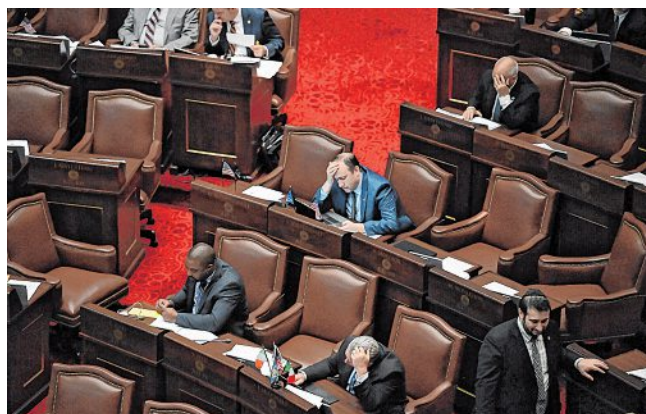
ALBANY — The six-month legislative session wound to a close Friday with lawmakers scrambling to get their priorities to the finish line after Gov. Kathy Hochul's top policy wishes had consumed months of negotiations that delayed passage of the \$268 billion state budget.

The budget deal reached by the governor and other

Democratic leaders last month followed a script that has long frustrated rank-and-file lawmakers on both sides of the aisle; it was negotiated largely behind closed doors and subsequently voted on with little public discourse. And because it was late, it left just two weeks for the Legislature to rush through hundreds of bills with debates on their merit and necessity often stretching past midnight.

Despite the convoluted

See **SESSION**, A4



Will Waldron/Times Union

Assemblyman John T. McDonald III, bottom, in the Assembly chamber in the final days of the legislative session. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle said they were again frustrated by a budget process that left them out of the discussions on top policy measures.

Nonprofit campaign donations widespread

Charities are engaging in prohibited election activity across U.S., investigation finds

By Emilie Munson
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Across the U.S., hundreds of nonprofits in the last decade made donations to political candidates, parties and committees through contributions which may have violated federal law, a Times Union investigation found.

Large and small, the organizations include churches, museums, colleges, healthcare entities, private foundations and other charitable groups. The list includes nonprofits with hundreds of millions of dollars in annual income and well-known names like the American Heart Association. Their money flowed to right- and left-leaning candidates and special interest groups.

The nonprofits are known as 501(c)(3)s for the section of federal law that exempts them from paying taxes. In exchange for this perk, the organizations agree to make no election contributions, endorsements or political statements under the Johnson Amendment, which is a provision in the U.S. tax code that requires them to remain nonpartisan.

Nonprofits also must affirm annually on federal tax documents under penalty of perjury that they abstain from election activity. But a lack of enforcement means some nonprofits appear to be making contributions anyway.

The Times Union identified at least 500 nonprofits that made contributions in state elections that could violate federal law. Some nonprofits contacted by the newspaper claimed the expenditures were allowable for various reasons, while others declined to answer questions about their payments.

The newspaper previously found hundreds of New York nonprofits donated to political campaigns in the state despite federal and state laws that prohibit it. In Brooklyn, 501(c)(3) nonprofits contributed to campaigns, endorsed candidates and promoted election fundraisers, sometimes with the goal of securing more government funding for their charities, according to multiple sources.

The additional nonprofits identified by the Times Union made political donations in 24 states, including California, Florida, Washington and Utah, all of which permit corporations of many types to give directly to campaigns. Corporations are not permitted to donate to federal campaigns. Federal law precludes 501(c)(3) nonprofits from giving money to election campaigns in all states.

See **NONPROFITS**, A3

Golden win



Jim Franco/Times Union

A huge crowd gathers at Saratoga Race Course on Saturday for the 158th running of the Belmont Stakes. With jockey Jose Ortiz aboard, Golden Tempo won the race, capturing the third leg of the Triple Crown after winning the Kentucky Derby in May. Cheering him to victory was Cherie DeVaux, his trainer and a Spa City native. This is the third and final Belmont Stakes to be held in Saratoga Springs, with Belmont Park on Long Island set to reopen this fall following its \$455 million facelift.

Full coverage in **Sports**, B1

New proposal may be death knell for coroner's office

Law would create medical examiner post in Albany County

By Patrick Tine
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The death knell is sounding for the Albany County Coroner's Office.

The County Legislature is set to vote Monday on a measure that would replace the county's four elected coroners with a medical examiner's office. The move would abolish positions dating back to colonial times in favor of appointed medical doctors who would oversee the county's death investigations.

The four men who serve as

coroners take turns working on-call shifts so the office is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The job has taken County Coroner Kevin Crosier to murder scenes, car crashes, overdoses and workplace accidents. He was the coroner on the scene when Natalie Gillis, a Canadian pilot, was killed in a 2024 plane crash near Albany International Airport.

In an interview this week, Crosier explained the work he and his colleagues do. Though they have an office in the county's downtown building, the nature of the job means they might embark on a call from their respective homes. A call comes in — usually from a police officer if it's an unattended death — and Cro-

sier heads to the scene. Sometimes, while en route, another call will come in, and he will know where he's going next.

"The first thing I do is take photos," Crosier said.

He photographs the body and its surroundings, noting the temperature in the room and the body's condition. He also takes a look around. "We'll look for prescription drugs; we'll look in a refrigerator; we'll try to find any hospital discharge papers, drug paraphernalia," he said. "Anything that might lead us to a cause."

Coroners are not doctors — they can pronounce people dead, but they do not determine a cause of death or perform au-

See **CORONER**, A14



Will Waldron/Times Union

Coroner Kevin Crosier, one of Albany County's four elected coroners, at his home in East Berne. The County Legislature is set to vote to replace the coroners with a medical examiner on Monday.

Business/Jobs **E**
Classified **D5**
Comics **Inside**

Crossword **Unwind**
Obituaries **C4**
Perspective **D**

Real Estate **Spaces**
Sports **B**
Television **D4**



WEATHER: A stray thunderstorm, not as warm.
High: **76°** / Low: **52°** / Details, **A2**

