

## Dunning, wife make major donation to ASU

### Give gift of \$50,000 for band, scholarships

By **TERRY LEWIS**  
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ALBANY — Since taking the helm at Albany State University two years ago, Interim President Art Dunning and his wife Karen Baynes-Dunning have set the bar high in their commitment to the university.

Earlier this week the couple made a challenge gift of \$50,000 for need-based scholarships for ASU students and the marching band — all in the name of “strengthening this nation” through education.

Specifically, the Dunnings have donated \$25,000 for need-based scholarships and have committed

up to \$25,000 to be matched by ASU supporters to send the ASU Marching Band to the 2016 Tournament of Roses Parade, which will be broadcast around the world on New Year’s Day.

“We have chosen to live in this community and we feel a deep sense of obligation to invest in it,” Dunning said. “By investing in our students, we have the opportunity to strengthen our community and the entire southwest Georgia region. In some instances, we need to be able to fund an entire scholarship package for a student. In other instances, they may need just a little help. If all that is standing between a young person and graduation is a small financial

need, we should be in a position to address that.

“We invite others to join us in this effort.”

Throughout October, the Dunning Matching Fund will match all donations made to the Rams in the Roses and Beyond Campaign dollar for dollar up to \$25,000. In addition, a gala will be held in Atlanta on Friday, Oct. 23. Alumni, businesses and community members are solicited to continue giving donations to activate the full match.

“We are so honored by the showing of support from alumni, elected officials, faith communities, individuals and businesses

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Albany State University Interim President Art Dunning and his wife Karen Baynes-Dunning share a moment with Miss ASU landria Joseph, right, at the Dunnings’ home during a recent dinner event. (Photo: Reginald Christian)



Jaden Hodges hand feeds a butterfly during last year’s “Butterfly Encounter” exhibit at the Albany Flint RiverQuarium. The exhibit returns this Saturday during the organization’s Water, Wings and Wildlife Festival. (Herald File Photo)

## Family-oriented fun

### RiverQuarium hosting Water, Wings & Wildlife Festival Saturday

By **BRAD MCEWEN**  
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ALBANY — Albany’s Flint RiverQuarium is hosting its sixth annual Water, Wings & Wildlife Festival this Saturday where patrons can enjoy a variety of special programs designed to provide educational fun of the whole family.

“Our primary audience are families, so there’s something there for every-

body,” said Flint RiverQuarium Director Tommy Gregors. “A wide range of different groups will be there and we’ve got great activities planned.”

Indeed, the entire day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. is jammed-packed with different activities, exhibitions and exhibits, focusing on a variety of different themes and topics all related to the natural world.

Things get started at 10 a.m. Saturday with the dedication of a new touch tank

inside the RiverQuarium that was made possible by the Darsey Family Foundation, which is dedicated to the preservation of nature through environmentally sound behavior.

According to Chuck Darsey, a member of the foundation, the touch tank was a great way for the family to show people why things like recycling and preserving the environment are so important.

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## Dougherty Library Board under budget for fifth year

By **CARLTON FLETCHER**  
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ALBANY — Even as Dougherty County officials look for reasons why utilities at the Central Library branch were \$70,000 over budget during Fiscal Year 2015, the county’s Library System came in under budget this year by almost a quarter-million dollars — the fifth consecutive year of under-budget spending.

Library director Pauline Abide passed on that good news during the Dougherty Library Board’s monthly meeting Monday.

The financial good news was not the only reason for optimism during the board’s meeting. Usage numbers show that all four library branches are having a significant impact on the community.

“Usage of our libraries was up overall,” Board Chairman Walter Kelley said. “And I think the numbers at Westtown are significant. While materials usage was down slightly, computer usage was up more than 18 percent. I believe that shows we did the right thing by putting more computers in the branch when we reopened it.

“As needs change in the community, it is our responsibility to respond to those changes. That’s something I think Pauline and her staff have done.”

Also at Monday’s meeting, the Library Board was introduced to its new attorney, Alfreda Shepard, who is part of the local Watson Spence firm. Shepard replaces John Stephenson, who now serves as a Magistrate Court judge.

The system also agreed to a partnership with Georgia Legal Services in which that group will use space, initially at the Westtown branch, to hold meetings with clients. Kelley said the plan is for the scheduled meeting days to rotate between the Westtown, Tallulah Massey, Northwest and Southside branches. Southside may open in January.

“The pictures Pauline showed us of

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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
“What is a soul? It’s like electricity — we don’t really know what it is, but it’s a force that can light a room.”  
— **Ray Charles**, musician (1930-2004)

**CORRECTION**  
This newspaper is committed to publishing fair and accurate information. Errors should be brought to the attention of Editor Jim Hendricks at (229) 888-9352. Corrections or clarifications will appear in this space.

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