



What happened to college football’s backup QBs?

SPORTS, 1B

Burlington Free Press

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026 | BURLINGTONFREEPRESS.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Downtown safety plan hits pause button

Corey Arwood
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

In the final minutes of an all-night session, City Council Democrats agreed to revisit their Burlington Forward plan with more collaboration from the mayor and Progressives — rather than chance a veto of their sweeping downtown safety vision.

“I don’t think we need a crystal ball or time machine to see what we’re on a crash course towards,” said Council President Ben Traverse, the lead Democrat behind the plan, at the close of the nearly seven-hour meeting Monday. After hours of debate, city councilors voted to table the item until their Dec. 7 meeting and to work with Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak’s office on the document through a new committee. The

new group will include Traverse plus the chairs of the two parties. A day later the mayor released a statement on the results. “I’m pleased that, after a long debate last night, the City Council agreed to my proposal to start anew as true collaborators,” Mulvaney-Stanak said in the statement. She added: “It is my hope that we identify each caucus’ priorities, fairly

assess the effectiveness of the City’s existing community safety strategies, and bring the community a new proposal — one that reflects the inspired, collaborative vision our residents want from city leaders.” After its party-line passage in August, the 20-page document started to get revised. On Monday, the resolution

See SAFETY PLAN, Page 2A

BURLINGTON

‘Everything has its season’



Janet Stambolian, center, and the cast of Girls Nite Out Production’s “Alumni Pie” in 2015. BURLINGTON FREE PRESS FILE

Girls Nite Out brings 16-year theater run to an end

Brent Hallenbeck
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Girls Nite Out Productions has spent a decade and a half entertaining Burlington theater audiences. But in the past couple of years, the company’s forward momentum began to slow. Jennifer Warwick, one of Girls Nite Out’s founders, felt the theater bug dissipate a bit. Another founder, Janet Stambolian, wanted to keep the company going. But when Girls Nite Out’s longtime set designer also said it might be time to bring things to a close, Stambolian reluctantly agreed. “You pull that brick out of the wall, and it’s like a house of cards,” she said. “It came as a shock. I thought we all had a few good years.” Those good years starting in 2010 end Oct. 29 and 30. The group is holding

See THEATER, Page 2A



Jennifer Warwick, left, and Janet Stambolian, founders of Girls Nite Out Productions, stand Oct. 27, in front of the theater company’s banner at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center in Burlington. BRENT HALLENBECK/BURLINGTON FREE PRESS

Key ballot measures mark midterms

Trans rights, billionaire tax among initiatives

Joseph Ax
REUTERS

While the battle for Congress in November’s U.S. midterm elections captures most of the attention, voters in more than three dozen states will also decide around 150 ballot measures, from the rights of transgender athletes, to abortion access, to the world’s first billionaire tax. Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska and Washington will decide whether to bar transgender girls and women from playing for all-female sports teams. Republican candidates have sought to highlight the issue on the campaign trail, after political strategists credited President Donald Trump’s attacks on transgender rights in 2024 with helping him to victory. Proponents of the limits say they protect girls and women, while critics say they discriminate against transgender students. Arizona and Nebraska have passed laws that prohibit transgender girls and women from teams that align with their gender identity. But Arizona’s referendum would expand its law to apply to private schools and require all schools to ensure bathrooms and locker rooms are open only to athletes whose birth certificate matches the gender associated with the facility. Nebraska’s measure would codify its ban into the state constitution, making it more difficult for lawmakers to reverse. Washington’s law would require any athlete seeking to join a girls’ team to have their “biological sex” verified by a healthcare provider, a provision some opponents have said could result in unnecessary and invasive examinations. Two states will also vote on restricting gender-affirming care for minors. A ballot measure in Colorado would ban transition-related surgeries for minors. In Missouri, where a law already prohibits gender-affirming medical treatment for children, voters will decide whether to add that ban to the state constitution. Idaho voters will decide whether to establish the right to abortion up to fetal viability, which is generally considered to be around 24 weeks of pregnancy. The state has banned virtually all abortions since 2022, when the U.S.

See MIDTERMS, Page 3A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to burlingtonfreepress.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 199 No. 298
Subscribe 800-427-3126
©2026 \$3.50



WEATHER

TODAY



58
37

Variably cloudy, a shower; cooler

SATURDAY



52
33

Times of clouds and sun

SUNDAY



57
42

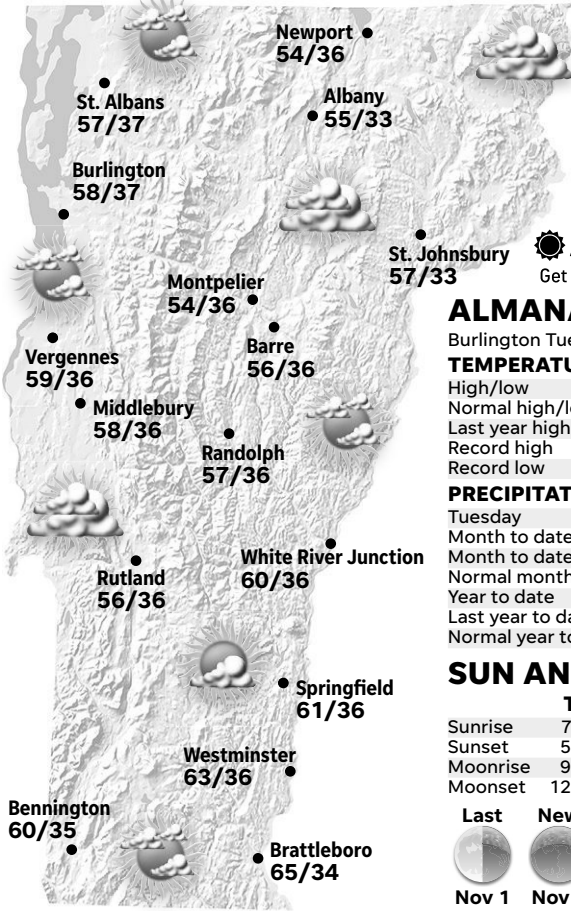
Mostly sunny

MONDAY



59
43

High thin cloudiness



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

 **AccuWeather**
Get the AccuWeather app

ALMANAC

Burlington Tuesday

TEMPERATURES

High/low	46/29
Normal high/low	54/38
Last year high/low	51/41
Record high	74 (1947)
Record low	22 (1974)

PRECIPITATION (in inches)

Tuesday	0.00
Month to date	2.43
Month to date last year	4.38
Normal month to date	3.38
Year to date	30.44
Last year to date	30.60
Normal year to date	31.88

SUN AND MOON

	TODAY	SAT.
Sunrise	7:27 a.m.	7:28 a.m.
Sunset	5:45 p.m.	5:43 p.m.
Moonrise	9:23 p.m.	10:41 p.m.
Moonset	12:54 p.m.	1:40 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
			

Nov 1Nov 9Nov 17Nov 24

AROUND VERMONT
NORTHWEST: Cooler Friday with a shower in the area. Winds W 6-12 mph. Partly cloudy and cooler Friday night. Winds NW 4-8 mph. Saturday: partly sunny. Winds NW 3-6 mph.

NORTHEAST: Cooler Friday with a shower in places. Winds W 7-14 mph. Colder Friday night with considerable cloudiness. Winds NW 7-14 mph. Saturday: a brief morning shower or two. Winds WNW 6-12 mph.

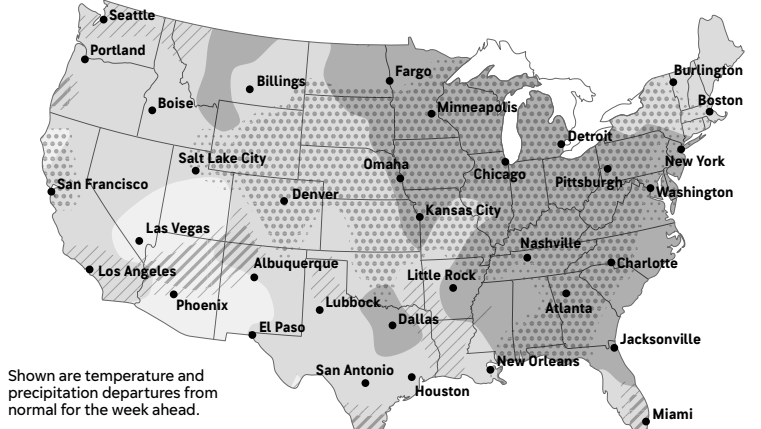
CENTRAL/SOUTH: More clouds than sun Friday. Winds WNW 6-12 mph. Mainly cloudy and cooler Friday night. Winds NNW 6-12 mph. Saturday: partly sunny. Winds ENE 4-8 mph.

THE MOUNTAINS: Cooler Friday with a shower in the area. Winds W 7-14 mph. Mainly cloudy and colder Friday night. Winds NW 6-12 mph. Saturday: intervals of clouds and sunshine. Winds WNW 4-8 mph.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN
Water temperature: 53
Lake level (as of 7 a.m. Tuesday): 93.52 ft.

VERMONT EXTREMES WEDNESDAY
High: 53 in Springfield
Low: 23 in Morrisville

NATIONAL FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD



Shown are temperature and precipitation departures from normal for the week ahead.

TEMPERATURE					PRECIPITATION				
Much below	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above	Much below	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above
									

Summary: Heavy thunderstorms will continue across much of Texas on Friday, increasing the risk of flash flooding. A few showers are expected across the Rockies, with snow mixing in across the higher terrain.

NATIONAL EXTREMES WEDNESDAY (for the 48 contiguous states)
High: 90 in Falfurrias, TX **Low:** 16 in Mammoth Lakes, CA

NATIONAL CITIES			WORLD CITIES		
	Today	Sat.		Today	Sat.
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	69/49/t	66/50/pc	Louisville	78/58/pc	72/59/c
Anchorage	45/37/r	42/33/c	Miami	86/76/t	87/76/t
Atlanta	78/62/s	75/59/c	Minneapolis	58/44/pc	56/51/pc
Atlantic City	72/46/s	61/53/pc	Nashville	82/59/pc	77/61/c
Boston	70/45/s	58/39/s	New Orleans	80/70/pc	78/69/t
Charleston, SC	80/62/s	77/63/sh	New York City	73/49/s	63/49/pc
Chicago	64/52/pc	62/54/sh	Oklahoma City	66/56/t	63/55/r
Concord	68/35/s	56/27/s	Orlando	84/70/sh	86/70/t
Dallas	72/62/sh	72/62/t	Phoenix	74/63/t	81/66/c
Denver	63/41/pc	62/44/pc	Portland, ME	67/38/s	53/29/s
Detroit	63/46/pc	60/51/c	Portland, OR	55/39/sh	55/41/pc
Hartford	70/41/s	60/35/pc	Providence	72/43/s	59/37/pc
Honolulu	85/74/c	84/73/pc	Richmond	82/49/s	68/48/pc
Indianapolis	72/53/pc	68/54/c	St. Louis	78/61/pc	72/60/c
Jackson, MS	81/64/pc	78/66/t	Salt Lake City	68/48/sh	66/47/pc
Kansas City	75/58/sh	66/57/r	San Francisco	68/52/pc	66/50/pc
Las Vegas	75/58/sh	72/60/c	Seattle	53/38/sh	56/41/pc
Los Angeles	73/59/pc	70/59/c	Washington, DC	79/50/s	65/50/pc

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.
Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2026

Safety plan

Continued from Page 1A

appeared on the agenda, up for a vote in its latest draft form.

It came up for debate late in the evening, last on the agenda and after two hours of public comment. Most of the folks speaking on the resolution opposed it and characterized it as a way of appealing to business owners and landlords and scapegoating people without homes for business woes. Critics believe the resolution sought to push un-housed people out of downtown without addressing what might've caused their homelessness, such as a lack of affordable housing or limited resources for mental healthcare and addiction

treatment.

A handful of speakers called for its approval and said strong policing and consequences, like those mentioned in the resolution, were needed remedies.

Mulvaney-Stanak spoke about the resolution for over 10 minutes to open the meeting.

She said that in her seven years on City Council and as a state representative, she had never seen a resolution or bill completely go around committee deliberations.

“The proposed revisions we'll hear about tonight were neither vetted nor voted on by council committees, bypassing a transparent and democratic review process,” said Mulvaney-Stanak.

Progressive councilors characterized the document as nakedly political and

detached from reality, plus compared it unfavorably to the homelessness policies of Trump administration advisors.

Traverse said if the new resolution was approved that night, he would call for a pause on any work to the document until Dec. 7.

“The original version of this resolution is a working draft,” Traverse said. “From my perspective, this is an item that still remains before all four of the committees that are taking it under consideration and that there would be absolutely nothing stopping those committees, or from us in collaboration from the mayor's office, to continue to work on the items that appeared in the original version as well as ... in the amended version.”

As Progressives debated the proposal just before 12 a.m., Ward 3 Councilor

Laura Sanchez-Parkinson proposed an amendment to create the new ad-hoc committee. Then both sides took a break to untangle the various proposals.

Later, Traverse said that although he heard “concerns about yet another committee” from his peers, they did not have votes to pass the resolution that night and needed to reach “common ground” on “fundamental disagreements.”

“Pushing this forward to a final vote is teeing up a showdown where, if I were sitting in the mayor's shoes, I would anticipate that I would veto this resolution as it stands right now, and then it goes nowhere,” he said.

Corey Arwood is the Burlington Free Press city reporter and can be reached by email at clarwood@gannett.com .

Theater

Continued from Page 1A

a farewell celebration in the place where it staged its productions, the Main Street Landing Black Box Theater.

“It gets down to: Do we do this because we can't bear not to do it? Or do we say, ‘The standards we set, we are not willing to compromise?’” Stambolian said.

‘Steel Magnolias,’ ‘The Odd Couple’ and more

Stambolian and Warwick spoke Oct. 27 with the Burlington Free Press in the Black Box Theater as crew put staging in place for the farewell celebration. The duo, who met through local community theater stalwart Lyric Theatre, formed Girls Nite Out Productions to give performers and audiences the chance to experience well-written plays with great roles for women.

Girls Nite Out's productions began with “Steel Magnolias” and included works by Nora Ephron and Neil Simon, whose script for “The Odd Couple” was

“It gets down to: Do we do this because we can't bear not to do it? Or do we say, ‘The standards we set, we are not willing to compromise?’”

Janet Stambolian
co-founder

presented with female leads. The company offered several works by Vermont playwright Carole Vasta Folley, including “The Family of Ewe,” “Alumni Pie” and “The Sleepover.”

In one review, the Free Press noted that Vasta Folley's script for “The Family of Ewe” as presented by Girls Nite Out “brought substantial depth along with the witty dialogue and feel-good tone.” The company's final play, “Paint Night” by Carey Crim, was staged last fall.

Girls Nite Out had been finding it more difficult to discover relevant, fun, meaningful and well-written plays with substantive roles for women. Plays from the 1970s through the '90s felt outdated

and were often stereotypical, according to Stambolian.

She said ending Girls Nite Out is hard but “braver” than continuing on with compromised values.

“Everything has its season,” Warwick said. Girls Nite Out had 16 of them.

“Let us not continue to ‘jump the shark,’” she said. “Let's leave our legacy as a good one.”

Girls Nite Out fund to help Lyric Theatre

The nonprofit company, which pays modest stipends to cast and crew, is dissolving its remaining assets and sending materials related to theater productions to Lyric and Vermont Repertory Theatre. Leftover money will establish the Stambolian/Warwick Girls Nite Out Fund to provide for underserved populations in Chittenden County access to Lyric Theatre productions.

Stambolian hopes the fund will inspire young people who might otherwise not encounter plays and musicals to become involved in performing, building sets or designing costumes themselves.

“In order for theater to survive,” she

said, “there has to be a new generation.”

Warwick was 42 and Stambolian was 62 when they began Girls Nite Out 16 years ago. Both hope to pursue theater with other organizations. In the meantime, they're preparing for the farewell celebration, which will include video highlights from several productions as well as live music from “Prima Donnettes” and “Smokey Joe's Café,” two revues Girls Nite Out presented.

Stambolian expects a finale full of people who love Girls Nite Out will be the balm she needs.

“I'm in deep grief. I need to go through these stages of grief,” she said. “Doing this event will really help.”

If you go

WHAT: Farewell celebration of Girls Nite Out Productions
WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29-Friday, Oct. 30
WHERE: Main Street Landing Black Box Theater, Burlington
INFORMATION: \$55. girlsniteoutvt.com
Contact Brent Hallenbeck at bhallenbeck@burlingtonfreepress.com .

HAVE A NEWS TIP OR STORY IDEA? GET IN TOUCH:



Editor

Justin Trombly

802.651.4810 | jtrombly@burlingtonfreepress.com

SUBMITTING AND FINDING COMMUNITY EVENTS
<https://events.burlingtonfreepress.com/> (add your own event, search for others)
<https://www.findandgoseek.net/> (visit Find & Go Seek, the Burlington Free Press' partner in supplying listings of family and community events to readers)

CELEBRATIONS AND IN MEMORIAMs
1-844-544-1619 or bfpccelebrations@gannett.com

Burlington Free Press

Customer service
To view important information online related to your subscription, visit aboutyoursubscription.burlingtonfreepress.com. You can also manage your subscription at account.burlingtonfreepress.com. Contact the Burlington Free Press for questions or report issues to 1-800-427-3126.

Operating hours are:

- Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. with limited support for Digital
- Sunday: 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Contact us

Customer Service	1-800-427-3126
Newsroom	802-660-6500
Advertising	802-660-1834
Obituaries	burlingtonfreepress.com/obituaries
Classifieds	classifieds.burlingtonfreepress.com

Corrections and clarifications
Our goal is to promptly correct errors. Email us at accuracy@freepressmedia.com to report a mistake or call 800-427-3124. Describe the error, where you saw it, the date, page number, or the URL.

Full access print and digital subscriptions
Subscribe and save today by visiting burlingtonfreepress.com/subscribe.

Postal information
The Burlington Free Press (USPS# 079-9400) is published daily except Saturday, all Federal holidays, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve by USA TODAY Media Corp. (fka Gannett Media Corp.), 305 Saint Paul St., Ste. 326, Burlington, VT, 05401. Periodicals postage paid at Burlington, VT and additional mailing offices. **Postmaster:** Send all UAA to CFS. (See DMM 507.1.5.2); **NON-POSTAL ONE AND MILITARY FACILITIES:** Please send address corrections to Burlington Free Press, Customer Service, 401 W Main St #600 Louisville KY 40202.