



Division I Vermont high school football outlook for 2025

SPORTS, 1B

Burlington Free Press

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SEPTEMBER ARTS EVENTS



The Celtic music-and-dance performance “A Taste of Ireland” PROVIDED BY CHRIS HARDY

Highlights include Jim Gaffigan, ‘Come From Away’

Brent Hallenbeck
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

So many people decry the end of summer, but if you think about it, we love celebrating everything a Vermont fall has to offer.

The air is crisp, and the leaves start to turn all sorts of shades. Soups soothe the soul. Scads of shoppers make a bee-line for any place offering pumpkin spice-flavored coffee or scones or ceiling tiles or whatever product you can or can’t imagine.

The cusp of fall is also a great time for the arts. Theater companies kick off new seasons. Concerts happen indoors and outdoors. (You’ll find some of the latter at the tail end of our summer concert preview.) Comedians welcome the darkening days with lightening humor.

OK, September actually begins with three weeks of summer; that’s a fair point. But the month heralds a busy season that gets fans of arts and entertainment especially excited. Here are 30 events that don’t need pumpkin spice to spice up your days and nights.

Denzel Washington, Spike Lee on film

4 and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3, the Vermont International Film Festival screens the new Spike Lee film “**Highest 2 Lowest**,” starring fellow Oscar winner Denzel Washington, Main Street Landing Film House, Burlington. \$6-\$12. www.vtiff.org

New design gallery in Burlington

4-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, the new design space **Gallery Nurture by Nature**, founded by Kate Swanson, will present exhibitions and collectible



Montreal singer-songwriter Ada Lee PROVIDED BY TESS ROBY

works starting with a reception celebrating the debut exhibition “**Unknown Friends**,” on display through Oct. 30, 47 Maple St., Burlington. Free. www.n-by-n.com

Art Hop bounds into South End

5-10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, the street party and self-guided gallery tour that is the **South End Art Hop** returns for its 33rd year in Burlington, with a three-day run ending at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, throughout the city’s South End. Events are free except for the **STRUT! Fashion Show** at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, at the former ArtsRiot space on Pine Street (\$20-\$30). www.seaba.com/arthop

A weekend for Pride

8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, a weekend of Pride events includes a **Pride Ball** with the circus-themed “**Freak Show**” featuring DJs and drag performers, Higher Ground Ballroom, South Burlington. \$25. www.highergroundmusic.com. The weekend culminates from noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, with a **Pride pa-**

rade and festival, downtown and at Waterfront Park, Burlington. Free. www.pridecentervt.org

‘Crazy People’ in Middlebury

2 p.m. Saturday Sept. 6, the Gail Freedman documentary “**No One Cares About Crazy People**,” inspired by the book by Vermont author Ron Powers with narration by Bob Odenkirk and music from Jeff Tweedy of Wilco, explores the crisis of severe mental illness in America and will be screened before a discussion that includes Freedman and Powers, Town Hall Theater, Middlebury. \$5-\$17. www.townhalltheater.org

Jeffersonville showcases new art exhibit

5-7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, the exhibition “**Across the Spectrum**,” which runs through Nov. 2 and features the work of Vermont artist **Cynthia Rosen**, includes this meet-the-artist

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Sex ed funding may be slashed

Megan Stewart
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A sex education program for young Vermonters could lose over half a million dollars if state leaders refuse the Trump administration’s demand to scrap all mentions of “gender ideology” from the curriculum.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services threatened to end federal money to Vermont and 39 other states for the Personal Responsibility Education Program, or PREP, if the cuts aren’t made within 60 days.

The program aims to teach adolescents nationwide about sexually transmitted infections such as HIV and preventing pregnancy. It’s especially meant to help young people who don’t have housing or live in rural areas, like Vermont, among other groups.

“Accountability is coming,” said Andrew Gradison, acting assistant secretary of the Administration for Children and Families, a division of the department, in a news release. “Federal funds will not be used to poison the minds of the next generation or advance dangerous ideological agendas.”

If Vermont does not comply, the state stands to lose \$670,036 toward PREP, according to data linked in the release.

Vermont officials haven’t said what the state’s plan is, but some of them worry what the nixed funding could mean for kids here.

“The cancellation of PREP funding would thus compromise a basic public health program that has benefited Vermont youth for over a decade simply because it includes references to certain facts about sex and gender, including the fact that some people are transgender,” said Kyle Casteel, spokesperson for the Vermont Department of Health.

The federal government is giving

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Burlington activists protesting President Donald Trump’s inauguration on Jan. 20 listed LGBTQ+ rights, especially for transgender people, as one of many civil liberties in jeopardy during another Trump administration.

MEGAN STEWART/FREE PRESS

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