



Burrow’s toe injury could spoil Bengals’ hopes for playoff run

SPORTS, 1B

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Vermont musician Ali McGuirk PROVIDED BY JOANNA FIONA CHATTMAN

VT musician back with Higher Ground concert, new album

Brent Hallenbeck
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

From her earliest days, Ali McGuirk was all about her voice. Her mother could always tell when McGuirk was awake by the sound of the girl vocalizing to herself in her room. “I was always a little singer,” she said. Now the Vermont musician is fully grown and fully in command of her

voice — both the one she sings with and the one she uses to amplify issues of social justice. Her third album, “Watertop,” came out Sept. 12, and the tour alongside it includes a local show Oct. 4 at Higher Ground. “It’s hitting some big things. It’s a record about love, death, God and money,” McGuirk told the Burlington Free Press in a conversation. “I guess I am tackling taboos I wouldn’t have when I was younger.”

Mariah Carey’s influence, union roots and ‘the virtuosity of the diva’

McGuirk grew up outside Boston in Cambridge and Concord, Massachusetts. She was born to young, working-class parents in a family with a long history of union involvement and what she called an “insane orientation

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VT to keep ‘gender ideology’ in sex ed program

Megan Stewart
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Vermont officials plan to sidestep a Trump administration demand for states to nix “gender ideology” from a youth sex education program, opting to use state money to counter the threatened loss of over half a million federal dollars. About 300 young Vermonters participate in the program each year, and the state has enough money of its own to cover parts of the curriculum the federal government wants scrapped, Department of Health spokesperson Kyle Casteel said Friday. “In response to the federal government’s notice that funding for this program would be eliminated for using previously-approved references to certain facts about sex and gender, Vermont will stop using federal funding for aspects of the curriculum,” Casteel told the Burlington Free Press in an email.

What is PREP and how much money could Vermont lose for it?

The Personal Responsibility Education Program, or PREP, aims to teach young people nationwide about unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections such as HIV, especially those without housing or who live in rural areas. Every state sets its own curriculum for the program, which is run outside schools. On Aug. 26, federal health officials told leaders in Vermont and 39 other states that they had 60 days to cut “delusional ideology” from their materials or lose funding. Federal dollars shouldn’t be used “to poison the minds of the next

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Trombly named new editor of Burlington Free Press

Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Justin Trombly has been named the editor of the Burlington Free Press and assumed the role at the end of August. Trombly lives in Burlington and

brings strong community connections and journalistic experience to the job. He comes to the Free Press after working as the editor of Community News Service at the University of Vermont, a role that let him mentor young writers while they dug into stories on local is-

sues across the state. He arrives with well-built relationships throughout Vermont’s local news outlets and has helped tell hundreds of stories that resonate with people statewide. “I am excited to work with Justin and to see his leadership of the Burlington

Free Press,” said Caitlyn Kelleher, group editor of New England. “Justin brings a strong commitment to Vermont, the Champlain Valley and community news.”

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