



## Playoff predictions for high school boys basketball

SPORTS, 1B

# Burlington Free Press

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 | BURLINGTONFREEPRESS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Iranian Americans split over U.S. attacks



Reza Pahlavi, the son of Iran's last shah who lives in the United States, praised the U.S. strikes as "a humanitarian intervention." ABDUL SABOOR/REUTERS FILE

### Many live in California, fled after revolution

Sarah D. Wire and Eduardo Cuevas  
USA TODAY

Military strikes in Iran have highlighted deep chasms between Iranian Americans seeking to overthrow the country's government and others who wanted a peaceful resolution through negotiations.

The United States and Israel launched military strikes and "major combat operations" against Iran on Feb.

28, President Donald Trump said, targeting the country's missile capabilities.

"Now is the time for Iranians to stand up and take back their nation and bring lasting peace to the Middle East," Republican Rep. Stephanie Bice of Oklahoma, the first Iranian American elected to Congress, said on social media.

Arizona Rep. Yassamin Ansari, the first Iranian American Democrat elected to Congress, said in a statement that she is balancing her family history with her responsibility as a member of Congress. She said she plans to support the war powers resolution that House Democrats intend to force to the floor this week.

"Donald Trump has specifically said

Americans and innocent Iranians will die in this conflict, yet he has not shared a real, comprehensive plan with Congress or a justification with the American people," said Ansari, whose family fled the regime.

More than one-third of the nearly 400,000 Iranian immigrants in the United States are in the Los Angeles area, and more than half live in California. Many fled Iran after the 1979 revolution.

Los Angeles city councilman Adrin Nazarian, a Democrat, fled Iran when he was 8 years old in 1981 with his family, who are Christian Armenians, a minority that has faced discrimination in

See **ATTACKS**, Page 2A

## Polar vortex set to linger into forecast for March

Doyle Rice  
USA TODAY

Hello spring?

The forecast is looking promising for warmer weather. In the East, a dramatic warm-up is in the forecast, and the Climate Prediction Center's outlook for March 6-12 shows warmth spreading across much of the nation, including the beleaguered Northeast.

But a winter weather boogiemay may still be lurking.

"We are not completely done from an influence from the polar vortex," said AccuWeather meteorologist Paul Pastelok in an e-mail to USA TODAY.

The infamous weather pattern may affect the month of March, forecasters told USA TODAY.

The polar vortex made its biggest headlines of the winter in late January and early February, as it was a significant factor in the Arctic air that flooded south into the eastern United States, helping produce record cold and memorable snowstorms.

As meteorologists predicted multiple cold snaps this winter, the polar vortex was often one of the many forces at play. After the dust settled, experts found only one example - in

See **VORTEX**, Page 2A



A person clears snow from their driveway in Revere, Massachusetts, on Feb. 24. The Climate Prediction Center's outlook for March 6-12 shows warmth spreading across the Northeast. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Funding available for projects supporting LGBTQ+ people

Beth McDermott  
Burlington Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Funding is available through the Samara Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation for projects supporting LGBTQ+ people in Vermont.

Applications are open for LGBTQ+ led initiatives seeking transformational grants, according to a community announcement. The fund aims to support individuals and organizations working to strengthen the power, health, joy and safety of LGBTQ+ and HIV-positive people across the state, according to the announcement.

The Samara Fund will prioritize projects that align with its values, including practicing intersectionality, promoting transformative justice and being transparent. The fund is also emphatic about trans-inclusivity at every level of its work.

Key priorities for the 2026 grantmaking cycle include:

- Queer- and trans-led projects and organizations.
- Projects led by and centering BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) and trans Vermonters.
- Initiatives supporting elders and youth.
- Programs for queer and trans Vermonters with disabilities.

• Harm reduction efforts, including HIV/AIDS prevention and advocacy.

• Projects extending beyond Chittenden County.

• Smaller budget projects.

• Long-term initiatives.

The Samara Fund offers four types of grant funding:

- General organizational support.
- Project-specific support.
- Emergent support for unplanned organizational needs.
- Sponsorship of queer events.

Additionally, scholarships for Vermont LGBTQ+ youth are available through a separate process through the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.

Nonprofits and community groups can apply for up to \$5,000 during the application period, which runs through 5 p.m. on April 7, 2026, according to the announcement.

Emergent and sponsorship funding will be available year round as long as funds last.

For more information or to apply, visit [vermontcf.org/samara](http://vermontcf.org/samara).

This story was created by reporter Beth McDermott, [bmcdermott1@usatoday-co.com](mailto:bmcdermott1@usatoday-co.com), with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process.

### Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [burlingtonfreepress.com/enewspaper](http://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. 61  
Subscribe 800-427-3126  
©2026 \$3.50



0 40901 01001 2