



Women's college basketball: Predicting the triumphs, heartbreaks of Final Four

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Culinary top prize



Fancy's chef/owner Paul Trombly sautees Brussels sprouts at the Burlington restaurant Feb. 12. BRENT HALLENBECK/BURLINGTON FREE PRESS

Burlington chef makes the finals for James Beard Awards

Brent Hallenbeck
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Burlington chef with a vegetable-forward cuisine and a Brooklyn bartender who grew up in Vermont are advancing to the final round of the James Beard Awards, the top prize in the American restaurant scene.

Vermont had a half-dozen semifinalists based in-state and another operating in New York when that list was announced in January. On Tuesday, the James Beard Foundation whittled those down to a group of finalists — “nominees,” in the foundation’s nomenclature — who will head to a ceremony in Chicago on June 15. There, they’ll find out whether they’ve won a prize from most

prestigious food-and-drink industry awards in the country.

Here is a rundown of the Vermont semifinalists and how they fared as the candidates were pared down to the final few.

Outstanding Restaurateur

Does not advance: Leslie McCrorey Wells, owner of Burlington restaurants Pizzeria Verita, Trattoria Delia, Sotto Enoteca and Alimentari Café & Provisions, was a semifinalist in this top category of 20 restaurant owners but won’t be going to the final round. Restaurant proprietors from California, North Carolina, Louisiana, Texas and Maine made

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Tunbridge native and James Beard Award nominee Ivy Mix, co-owner of Whoopsie Daisy bar in Brooklyn. PROVIDED BY NADER FARZAN

U.S. sees major shifts over 5 decades

Report details country's demographic changes

Marc Ramirez
USA TODAY

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, its population is

larger, older, more racially and ethnically diverse and likelier to be foreign-born than it was at the time of the nation’s bicentennial, according to a report compiled by the Pew Research Center.

The population has grown to 340 million over the past 50 years, an increase of more than 120 million people, the center said. Much of that growth,

it said, has been driven by immigrants, longer life spans and an increase in Asian and Hispanic Americans.

As the 1970s got under way, the baby boom generation was still between 6 and 24 years old, noted Ken Johnson, a professor of sociology at the University of

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The trails at Sugarbush Resort appear blanketed in snow in time for opening weekend.

PROVIDED BY SUGARBUSH RESORT

43-year-old skier dies after fall at Sugarbush

Rin Velasco
USA TODAY NETWORK - New England

A man died skiing at Sugarbush Resort on Saturday, March 28, 2026.

The incident occurred on Stein’s Run on the resort’s Lincoln’s Peak, Vermont state police news release said. The police investigation found that the skier suffered a fall and slid off-trail into some woods.

“The male was found unresponsive by ski patrol members, who brought the victim to the base of the mountain, where they were met by the Mad River Valley Ambulance,” the release said. “The victim was pronounced deceased due to his injuries.”

A GoFundMe identified the deceased as 43-year-old Cory Hartman.

Who was Cory Hartman, skier at Lincoln’s Peak?

The GoFundMe described Hartman as a warm and loving partner, father, and friend. He had a wife and three daughters as well as a web of extended family members, friends, and work associates.

“Your generosity will help cover unexpected expenses, and ensure Ashley and the children have immediate access to funds for their needs,” the GoFundMe said. “Every donation, no matter the size, will help them as they go forward.”

Organized by Alexis Morton, the fundraiser is now at \$115,504 out of a goal of \$170,000 at the time of writing.

A LinkedIn Post by J.T. O’Donnell said that Hartman was an emotionally intelligent and intellectually intelligent man and that he left life far too soon. She said her family had just gone skiing with Hartman’s family nearly a month ago.

“RIP Cory - your smile, laugh, and joy are going to be missed dearly,” O’Donnell said.

Rin Velasco is a trending reporter. She can be reached at rvelasco@usatodayco.com.

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