



# Upsets, comebacks, costly mistakes bring surprises, chaos

SPORTS, 1B

# Burlington Free Press

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## Two Vermont natives film stand-up specials

**Brent Hallenbeck**  
Burlington Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's a big week for the Vermont comedy scene with two New York comics returning to their home state ready to film their own comedy specials.

One of the comedians has already made an impression nationally and internationally. Tina Friml has appeared on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" and toured extensively throughout the U.S. and Europe. She comes back Oct. 16 for two sold-out shows in her hometown of Middlebury that will

be filmed for a one-hour special. Another comic seems primed for a breakthrough much like Friml's. Kendall Farrell, who grew up in southern Vermont, has four shows set for Oct. 15-17 at the Vermont Comedy Club, where he

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**Middlebury native Tina Friml performs Sept. 30 at the Vermont Comedy Club in Burlington.**  
BRENT HALLENBECK/BURLINGTON FREE PRESS



**Chris Smith, middle, is surrounded by the CVU girls soccer team during a mid-September practice. Following his collapse and triple-bypass surgery, Smith is now officially back coaching with CVU.** PROVIDED BY KELLY KNUDSEN

## Quick thinking saved soccer coach after collapse

**Alex Abrami**  
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On Tuesday, Sept. 1, Chris Smith went through his typical practice routine as the longtime assistant girls soccer coach at Champlain Valley Union High School. Early for that's day training, the 71-year-old Smith ran a few sprints. Smith, who retired after a second career in teaching, has maintained a fit lifestyle through exercise and eating habits over the last 25 years. "I'm crazy about it. I probably do 10 workouts per week," Smith said.

But then, without much notice, Smith collapsed on the field. "I felt fine. The last conscious memory I had was trying to decide to walk over to the bench or jog," Smith said. "There was no light at the end of the tunnel. I didn't see any relatives. I had nothing between collapsing and going to the (emergency room)." Although he has no recollection of events, Smith said he was told he tried to put himself on the stretcher without any help. "Absolutely that's 100 percent on brand. I'm sure I was like, 'I can do this,'" Smith said. "I don't like people to help me. I like to do things myself."

In the middle of a medical event involving his heart, Smith required immediate care. CVU athletes, girls soccer head coach Kelly Knudsen, athletic director Renee Breault and school nurses Amie Gaidys and Megan Trevithick were among those who came to Smith's aid. Their collective, quick-thinking efforts through CPR and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) kit, several of them said, helped to save Smith's life before Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived on the scene. "Those scenes can be chaotic. It was

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## New program teaches kids to swim safely

**Beth McDermott**  
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All 232 fourth-grade students in the Burlington School District will participate in a new swimming and water safety program through a partnership with the Greater Burlington YMCA aimed at reducing drowning risks among children. The initiative will begin this fall and will serve students from all six of the district's elementary schools, according to a community announcement. Students will travel to the YMCA twice a week for three consecutive weeks of instruction focused on water safety, swimming skills and self-rescue techniques. The program comes as fewer than half of Americans report knowing how to swim, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified significant disparities in drowning rates. Students will progress through beginner, intermediate and advanced lessons covering water acclimation, movement and stamina. Instruction includes learning to become comfortable underwater, practicing submersion techniques and completing swim sequences that combine swimming, floating and resuming movement in the water. **Students will learn self-rescue and water safety skills** Participants also will be taught self-rescue techniques, including how to

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