



Burlington girls basketball advances to first final since 1976

SPORTS, 1B

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Allen Van Anda, owner of Lost Nation Brewing, stands Jan. 4, 2024 among hundreds of empty cans touting the Morrisville brewery's flagship Mosaic IPA. PHOTOS BY BRENT HALLENBECK/FREE PRESS

Beer is flowing again through the tanks at Lost Nation Brewing

Brent Hallenbeck
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

This is one of five articles in a series by the Burlington Free Press, which spoke with breweries in Vermont about the state of the beer industry. Brewing in Vermont had been on an upward trend for decades before slowing in the past five years. What are the challenges? What is the future of one of Vermont's best-known industries?

MORRISVILLE — Lost Nation Brewing was in critical condition. Hard times before and especially after the pandemic led the Morrisville beer maker to stop brewing. The business relied on its restaurant, entertainment space and guest beers in the taproom to stay alive.

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A Yesterday's Tomorrow ale brewed with plums, shown Jan. 4, 2024 at Lost Nation Brewing in Morrisville.

Council votes on public safety, housing

Sydney P. Hakes
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Burlington will be investing in a few quality-of-life initiatives, focusing on two of the city's biggest hurdles: housing and public safety.

The March 10 City Council meeting ran shorter than most but led to the passing of two contracts that Burlingtonians will see go into effect soon.

The downtown Marketplace parking garage, which has long been a hot spot of vandalism, graffiti and drug usage, will be renewing their security contract to further secure the garage's safety.

Champlain College will be lifting their student housing cap to better serve their students who are struggling to find affordable housing in Burlington's housing market.

Marketplace Garage security to be renewed

The council voted unanimously to continue the contract with Green Mountain Concert Services (GMCS), which will "continue the work already being done to secure the spaces."

The contract will be renewed for \$395,000 to extend into fiscal 2026.

The Department of Public Works told the council that they cannot open stairwells in the garages because of the amount of crime and vandalism. But DPW Director Chapin Spencer said there has been a change since GMCS started patrolling the building, as much less repeated vandalism is being reported.

Besides having patrolling security guards, GMCS monitors and maintains security cameras, has increased and upgraded lighting, holds annual meetings with hotels and businesses and improves fencing when necessary.

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Officer allegedly had video playing during fatal crash

Sydney P. Hakes
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Shelburne police sergeant had a YouTube video playing on a computer mounted tablet in his cruiser when he fatally hit a cyclist in South Burlington this past November.

Investigators say Kyle Kapitanski was driving over the speed limit with a YouTube video playing moments before the crash. The information comes from recently revealed court documents that were filed in support of a felony charge against him.

Kapitanski's body-worn camera captured this. Detective Sgt. Steven Gelder of the Vermont State Police wrote in the

charging document that Kapitanski's car mounted tablet displayed a web browser with a YouTube video pulled up, and "[Kapitanski's] hand can be seen changing the tablet's display screen, after the collision, from the YouTube web site to Valcour, which is a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) screen."

Zachary Nebeker of the state police's technology investigation unit confirmed that YouTube footage was visible on the tablet from 2:29 a.m. to 2:40 a.m.

Kapitanski was issued a felony citation last month following an investigation by Vermont State Police, and his arraignment for the charge of grossly negligent operation with death resulting took place March 13.

The accident

Kapitanski hit Burlington resident Sean Hayes in the early morning of Nov. 11, 2024. Hayes was reported to be pushing a bike with an attached trailer along the curb of Shelburne Road, heading south when he was struck from behind. Hayes did not have reflective gear or lights on his bike or trailer.

The crash report after the accident revealed that Kapitanski was driving about 40 miles per hour, in an area with a speed limit of 35. He also did not stop right away, with his brakes being activated about 85 feet past the collision site.

The police department's IT team reported the video playing at the time of

the accident was titled, "Trans woman CONFRONTING Matt Walsh takes UNEXPECTED turn."

Hayes died at the scene from blunt force trauma. Kapitanski was placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

Kapitanski is expected to appear in court on Thursday for his arraignment. If convicted on the gross negligence charge, he could face up to 15 years in prison.

In a statement, his attorney David Sleigh said he plans to challenge the charge, stating the evidence presented does not constitute the charge.

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