



Scheffler’s repeat bid, Spieth’s return top storylines

SPORTS, 1B

Burlington Free Press

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Non-alcoholic beer market grows



Bill Cherry, founder, president and brewer at Switchback Brewing, and Abbe Carroll, director of marketing, hold cans of the company’s nonalcoholic version of its flagship ale at the Burlington brewery Jan. 23.

BRENT HALLENBECK/BURLINGTON FREE PRESS

Students prep for medical careers

Beth McDermott
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Forty-six high school students from Chittenden County will attend the 2026 Governor’s Institutes of Vermont Health & Medicine Institute this summer.

The event, which runs July 12-18 at the University of Vermont, brings together 140 Vermont high school students for a week of hands-on activities focused on health and medical careers, according to a community announcement.

The program will include clinical skills training, emergency response preparation and opportunities to connect with healthcare professionals, educators, college faculty, employers and community partners.

Throughout the week, students will explore a variety of health and medical fields, including patient care, emergency medicine, nursing, respiratory health, neuroscience, psychology, biomedical research, dentistry, rehabilitation therapy, surgery, diagnostic imaging, public health, laboratory science, biomedical engineering, paramedicine, dental hygiene and healthcare leadership.

Students will also participate in training related to CPR, AED and Stop the Bleed, with eligible students able to pursue preparation connected to Vermont Emergency First Responder certification. These experiences will introduce students to practical skills that can support future education, volunteer service and employment opportunities in healthcare and emergency response.

This year’s program will include learning opportunities at UVM, including clinical skills and

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Switchback Brewing gets help to make product

Brent Hallenbeck
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

It was a long night when Bill Cherry and fellow veteran employees at Switchback Brewing first ran their new nonalcoholic brewing system this spring. The effort to create Switchback’s

first made-in-house NA beer kept the four at the Burlington brewery until around midnight.

Cherry said the feeling reminded him of 2005, when the craft-beer industry was beginning its boom in America. That was happening in Vermont, too, with Switchback and other brewers gradually turning the state into one of

the nation’s craft-beer meccas that annually leads the nation in breweries per capita.

“It was the old guard just chaperoning this thing,” Cherry said of that first NA batch.

Switchback’s embrace of NA beers

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VT Brewers Festival guide to tickets, live music, food

Brent Hallenbeck
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Are you interested in going to the Vermont Brewers Festival in Burlington this weekend? You have plenty of company, as the event celebrating the state’s world-renowned beer scene typically lures thousands of people thirsty to sample unique brews from Vermont and the region.

The 33rd such celebration features more than 40 brewers in 2026. Regular attendees pretty much know the drill, but if you need a refresher or plan to visit the Vermont Brewers Festival for the first time ever, here are some handy tidbits of information that should help make your experience worthy of a toast with those miniature glasses the festival provides visitors with.

When is the Vermont Brewers Festival?

The first festival session is 5:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, July 17. Two more sessions follow on Saturday, July 18, one from noon to 4 p.m. and the other from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Where is the festival?

Along the shores of Lake Champlain at Waterfront Park in Burlington

How much does the Vermont Brewers Festival cost?

Tickets are \$60 per session in advance, \$65 day of the event. VIP tickets for Friday only are \$115 and allow early

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Music fans line up for food at the El Gato Cantina truck June 5, at Waterfront Park during the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival.

BRENT HALLENBECK/BURLINGTON FREE PRESS

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