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# Burlington Free Press

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 | BURLINGTONFREEPRESS.COM

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## One of Vermont’s oldest restaurants closing Sept. 12



Ray's Seafood Market & Restaurant on Pinecrest Drive in Essex Junction on Sept. 2.  
PHOTOS BY BRENT HALLENBECK/BURLINGTON FREE PRESS

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

ESSEX JUNCTION — Janice Clark’s cluttered desk at Ray’s Seafood Market & Restaurant holds a pair of particularly noteworthy objects.

The salt shaker evokes the Atlantic Ocean, home of the lobsters, clams and other seashore delicacies Ray’s serves.

The bottle of liquid pain reliever reflects the rising toll running the restaurant has taken on Clark.

“It’s just time to retire,” Clark told the Burlington Free Press, a week and a half

before the restaurant that’s been serving diners since 1952 closes Sept. 12. She and her brother, Paul, are the only ones of their generation overseeing the family business now that their three sisters, co-owners of the restaurant, have stepped aside.

“This is what we’ve done for a long, long time,” Clark said. “It’s getting a little overwhelming.”

Customers understand. Still, they’ll miss the spot many have known all their lives, a place where people can eat seafood in fried, baked or broiled form in

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Fried whole-belly clams at Ray's Seafood Market & Restaurant in Essex Junction on Sept. 2.

## Trump targets protections for wolves

Move condemned by animal welfare groups

**Anthony Thompson**  
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Sept. 4 directing federal officials to review Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves and Mexican wolves, a move that could make it easier for ranchers to kill predators threatening livestock as the administration looks to support the cattle industry and lower beef prices.

The order gives Interior Secretary Doug Burgum 90 days to determine whether the wolves have met federal recovery criteria for delisting or down-listing under the Endangered Species Act. If they have, the administration would begin the process of removing or reducing their federal protections while preparing legislative recommendations for Congress.

The order also directs the Interior and Agriculture departments to consider revising regulations governing lethal wolf removal, compensation programs for livestock losses, and emergency responses involving wolves that threaten livestock or human safety.

Trump signed the order alongside Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and ranchers during an Oval Office ceremony, according to reporting from The Hill.

“They’re destroying these businesses,” Trump said. “You watch them go right through your herd, and they’re violent.”

Rollins said ranchers in areas where wolves remain federally protected have been unable to shoot predators

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## White House renews push for mail-in ballot limits

Administration appeals to Supreme Court

**Tim Reid**  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration on Sept. 6 renewed its appeal to the Supreme Court to allow a plan that could limit mail-in ballots ahead of November’s congressional elections after a federal judge recently blocked those restrictions.

Lawyers for the Trump administration filed an emergency application to the nation’s highest court to allow the U.S. Postal Service to implement a rule restricting mail-in voting, even as some states have already started sending out postal ballots ahead of the Nov. 3 mid-term elections.

On Sept. 4, Boston-based U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani extended a ban preventing the new rule from taking effect. The final decision on whether the administration’s mail-in voting restrictions can proceed likely now rests with the Supreme Court.

Solicitor General John Sauer, representing the Trump administration, urged the Supreme Court to allow the rule to immediately go into effect, warning that each day the lower court’s injunction remains in place “risks sowing confusion and chaos” as more states issue mail ballots.

Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson set a deadline of Sept. 9 for responses to the Trump administration’s request.

The administration filed an earlier

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The final decision on whether the Trump administration’s mail-in voting restrictions can proceed likely now rests with the Supreme Court.  
BENJAMIN FANJOY/GETTY IMAGES FILE

