

New Hampshire GUIDE TO SUMMER

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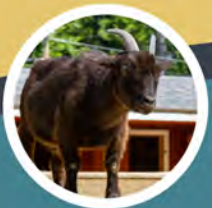
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Welcome to Summer 2025!

Longer days and warmer nights are finally here! New Hampshire’s natural beauty is on full display — and it’s time to get outside and get your family and friends together to enjoy it all.

This Guide to Summer special section is full of ideas for summer fun — from the mountains to the ocean, and the lakes to the trails. We hope to provide you with some great ideas to be active, to relax, to have an adventure, and to eat some lobster.

We kick off the section with a look at the growing popularity of charitable gaming in New Hampshire and some of the state’s newest casino venues. • *Pages 6-12*

PHOTO ON THE COVER: Guests of Purity Spring Resort in Madison enjoy a relaxing paddle across Purity Lake.
(Photo Provided by Purity Spring Resort)

A hiker pauses to enjoy the view while hiking in the Waterville Valley area.

UNION LEADER FILE PHOTO

STORY LAND

SUMMER FUN AWAITS

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GLEN, NH

So much to do in our great Granite State



Get the family together
• Pages 14-15



Get adventurous
• Pages 16-17



Get on the golf course
• Pages 20-21



Get some fresh air
• Pages 24-25



Get on your wheels
• Pages 28-29

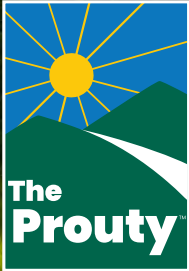


Get a lobster roll
• Page 30

Get on the water
• Pages 32



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'This is New Hampshire's



NIGHT OUT'

The Nash, Liliac Club are state's newest casinos

In addition to gaming, casinos also offer creative dining and bars, live entertainment and huge screens to watch sports.

By Kathleen D. Bailey

When The Brook casino opened in Seabrook, its first big special event was an appearance by Boston Red Sox great Tim Wakefield. "He would not leave until he signed every last autograph," Brook CEO Andre Carrier recalled. Carrier's father was coming out of a double whammy of COVID and pneumonia, and Wakefield shot a special video salute for him. It meant a lot to the senior Carrier, his son mused: "We lost him 12 months later."

"Creating memories," Carrier said, "is my job."

It's not your grandmother's casino, or even your mother's. More than a dozen charitable gaming houses in New Hampshire focus on a great night out for adults, with or without a single toss of the dice.

The Brook

A form of gaming has existed at 319 New Zealand Road, Seabrook, dating back to the last century, according to Carrier. The options included greyhound racing and historic horse racing. The dog racing ended in 2009. The facility officially became The Brook in 2020, closed for the pandemic and opened again in May 2020. "We missed the Kentucky Derby but opened again for the Belmont," Carrier said.

The Brook offers 48 table games, including poker; seven bars and restaurants; and 660 slot machines. The restaurants include Nine Drag-



KATHLEEN BAILEY

Above, Jamie Schultz, of Chicago, enjoys the morning testing her luck at the Nash Casino in Nashua earlier this spring. On opposite page, seniors Jim and Donna spend a morning playing slot machines at the Nash.

ons, an homage to the Kowloon in Saugus, Mass., and created along with Kowloon owner Bobby Wong. The Nine Dragons has its own event listing under "Forbidden City," he said, and invokes the ambience of the 1970s Kowloon.

There's also live entertainment. The facility has hosted Dueling Pianos, Kenny Chesney, and will welcome Rob Schneider back for a

third performance. They continue hosting sports figures. "We just had Pedro Martinez," Carrier said. And an Elvis impersonator is booked for late spring.

Carrier has a friend in Methuen, Mass., whom he's known for 30 years. The man hadn't been to the Brook, and Carrier kept inviting him. "I don't gamble," the old friend would say.

And Carrier remembered responding, "You don't have to. Do you want to watch the Celtics? It's more fun with other people." The facility also has a 60-foot-high TV screen, he pointed out.

Carrier was raised in the North Country and has been to Story Land and Santa's Village, both as a child and with his own children. He admits to loving New Hampshire's kiddie attractions but is pleased to offer an alternative. "It's a different way for adults to have a night out, as adults," he said.

The Nash

CEO Eric Althaus reeled off the numbers for the Nash Casino: 1,046 electronic gaming machines, 28 table games, 19 poker tables. But if a customer gets bored with gaming, there are also restaurants and a golf simulator in the facility next door to Nashua's Pheasant Lane Mall.

The restaurants include a casual cafe, The Woodlands Cafe, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner; the Asian-themed Lucky Lantern; a sports bar on both levels; and the company's formal restaurant, The Proper Chophouse, with crystal, silver and cloth napkins. The Chophouse includes a main dining room, a private dining room, and a lounge. The sports bar has television screens, but there's also a giant screen on the "video wall," he said, adding, "It's the Celtics tonight. We'll be jam-packed. Then there's the Masters for golf (at the time of this interview)."

The casino was busy on a Friday morning in April, with a group of women trying their luck at the slots.

See **Casino**, Page P9



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Casino

From Page P7

Jamie Schultz of Chicago killed time while visiting relatives. And a retired couple, Donna and Jim, worked side-by-side slots. It’s their third trip to the Nash, Donna said, and she gave the casino high marks. She also likes it because it’s close by, she said.

“It’s something for us old people to do for entertainment,” she said, adding that they visit casinos frequently. “You name it, we’ve been there.”

According to Althaus, the Nash has added 600 jobs to the Nashua area and is poised to give \$1.5 million to local charities. The company also owns the Lucky Moose Casino in Nashua.

The Lilac Club

For Eric Barbaro, CEO of G2

Gaming, a branch of Granite State Gaming and Hospitality, it’s all about respecting the local history. When his company purchased the Lilac Mall at 7 Milton Road, Rochester, they made sure to honor its past and the locals who shopped there. “We looked at how we could pay homage to what was there,” Barbaro recalled. This included an installation honoring the former Spinelli Cinemas and, at the spot where the K-Mart used to be, there are mannequins embedded in the ceiling design, according to him.

Like Carrier, Barbaro points out that “you don’t have to be a gamer” to enjoy the Lilac Club. “You can enjoy a great meal, a great cocktail” at the facility’s Lucky Oak

See **Casino**, Page P10



KATHLEEN BAILEY

Friends Kelly Delapena, left, of Nashua, and Amanda Bennett of Stow, Mass., celebrate Bennett’s birthday earlier this spring at the Nash Casino. Joe Ferris is their dealer.



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Casino

From Page P9

Restaurant, he said. There’s a bar that seats 37 people, with no slots in the immediate vicinity.

But Lilac Club also feeds the need for luck, with an array of table games, 200-plus gaming machines, and a 12-table poker room. It also offers a Players’ Card, with automatic discounts for regular customers.

“We want the tourists to feel welcome, but every day we serve the locals,” Barbaro said.

The company also owns the Beach Club Casino at Hampton Beach and is licensed for a third facility in Littleton.

Charitable Gaming

New Hampshire only licenses casinos if they operate under the

state’s charitable gaming laws, which requires them to donate a portion of daily proceeds to a nonprofit. Carrier’s Seabrook facility supports Angel Flight, providing quick medical transportation; Make A Wish; and Meals on Wheels, among other charities. He’s especially proud to be associated with the Krempels Brain Injury Center. “I routinely write checks for up to \$200,000,” he said.

According to Barbaro, commercial gaming across the country almost always gives back to the community. But in places like Las Vegas, the owner decides how much they want to donate. It’s more structured in New Hampshire, with

See **Casino**, Page P12



KATHLEEN BAILEY

The Electric Pheasant is the source for live entertainment at the Nash Casino, Pheasant Lane Mall, Nashua.

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Casino

From Page P10

a mandate that casinos give 10 percent of their profits back to the state and 35 percent to charitable organizations.

Though the Lilac Club only opened in March, Barbaro has already given \$58,000 to Rochester Rotary and \$58,000 to the Rochester Main Street Program, he said.

Barbaro added that the Lilac Club has added 130 jobs to Rochester. While local people didn't have extensive experience in the casino business, he was willing to "train and develop them into the role. They don't have to go into the same trade their father did."

What happens in Vegas ... may not happen here

Gambling has had a murky image in the past, with organized crime, quickie weddings and strippers. Barbaro isn't having any of the bad press. He grew up in Las Vegas, graduated from high school there, and has seen the positive im-

pact on his city. The industry provides jobs and the owners often give back to the community. "Is there a negative impact? Probably, but you have that with every industry."

Barbaro said even Vegas sends a message to those at risk of addiction, with brochures on problem gambling stacked up in front of the cages. "We are sending a strong message of awareness," he said. He also pointed out that in the matter of crime, "our surveillance system is better than the police."

Carrier agreed. While his clients are adults and make their own decisions, "The systems and people should be in place to prevent problem gambling," he said.

Barbaro described today's casinos as a fun answer to the question, "What do you want to do tonight?" "A great casino answers that question for everyone," he said.

"This," Carrier said, "is New Hampshire's night out."



KATHLEEN BAILEY

One of the slot machines at the Nash Casino at the Pheasant Lane Mall, Nashua.

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• **Story Land** — With opening day on May 24, Story Land is planning to have its longest season ever in 2025, with events planned into the fall months. Enjoy all your favorite kids rides and entertainment, including the second season for the Moo Lagoon water play area. Nostalgia Nights — for the adult crowd 21 and over — return on July 12 and 26; Aug. 9 and 23; and Oct. 11. Located in Glen, visit storyland.com.

• **Water Country** — The 2025 season opens on June 7 with popular rides like Hyperlight, Dragon's Den and Dr. Von Dark's Tunnel of Terror, and family favorites like the Wave Pool and Thunder Falls and Wild Canyon. Popular events return in 2025 as well, like the Father's Day Flop and Kids Fest (check website for event dates and tickets). Located in Portsmouth, visit watercountry.com.

• **Canobie Lake Park** — Having recently opened on May 17, Canobie Lake Park is an amusement park with a long history and amazing growth into a favorite New England family attraction. Enjoy more than 85 rides, tons of carnival games, live shows, several dining options, and the super fun Castaway Island water park. Located in Salem, visit canobie.com.

• **Clark's Bears** — Clark's Bears kicked off the 2025 season on May 17, and Darla and Hildie are ready to enter the ring and delight you with their bear antics and tricks. On those hot summer days, cool down on the Blaster Boats and Anaconda Escape. Visit the museums on site, don't forget the train ride with a visit from the Wolfman on every trip, and much more. Located in Lincoln, visit clarksbears.com.

Conway Scenic Railroad



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CONWAY SCENIC RAILROAD

Water Country



PHOTO PROVIDED BY WATER COUNTRY

Story Land



PHOTO PROVIDED BY STORY LAND



- **Whale’s Tale** — Catch a wave, or just enjoy watching others try flow boarding, at Akua Beach, one of Whale’s Tale Waterpark’s most unique attractions. Find more thrills on Poseidon’s Voyage, The Plunge, Eye of the Storm and Banzai Pipeline. Or take it easy on Jonah’s Escape, Shipwreck Island, Castaway Cove and Willie’s Wild Waves. Located in Lincoln, visit whalestalewaterpark.net.
- **Santa’s Village** — If you didn’t get the chance to ride the new Midnight Flyer rollercoaster last summer, put it on this summer’s to-do list. All the favorites from you were a kid are still there, too, plus when it’s extra hot outside, enjoy Santa’s Water Park, featuring Ho Ho H2O, Poogee’s Splash Pad, Polar Paradise and more. Don’t forget to visit the reindeer barn and Elf University. Located in Jefferson, visit santasvillage.com.
- **Mel’s Funway Park** — So many activities in one place — miniature golf, batting cages, laser tag, go-karts, bumper boats, plus ice cream and snack shop. For the pre-school crowd, check out Mini Mel’s with mini-sized attractions. Get jumping with your friends in the bounce houses and race on the inflatable obstacle course. Located in Litchfield, visit melsfunwaypark.com.
- **Hampton Beach** — A trip to Hampton Beach can include so much more than sunbathing on the sand and a dip in the ocean. Weekly events include fireworks on Wednesday nights; Monday Night Movies; and Music at the Seashell. Annual summer events include Sand Sculpture Classic; Miss Hampton Beach Pageant; Talent Competition; and Cirque du Hampton. Visit hamptonbeach.org for schedules.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SANTA’S VILLAGE



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MEL’S FUNWAY PARK

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• **The Cog Railway** — The Cog travels to the 6,288-foot summit of Mt. Washington. Narrators provide details about the railway's history and Mt. Washington's weather and terrain along your journey. The three-hour round trip includes a one-hour layover at the summit, where in clear weather you can see five states, the ocean and southern Quebec. Located at the base of Mt. Washington, visit thecog.com.

• **Alpine Adventures** — The Spring Skyriders has three different tour options: Treetop Tour, which is recommended for people getting their first introduction to ziplining; Timberline Tour, which has longer, faster and higher lines than the Treetop Tour and there are side-by-side lines to race your friends; and SUPER Skyriders Tour is the most extreme tour and has some physical challenges. Located in Lincoln, visit alpinezipline.com.

• **Saco River Tubing Center** — Tubing adventures include 1-mile float; two 3-mile float options; and a 5-mile float. The center also rents kayaks and canoes, and paddling trip adventures range from 5 miles to a 9.2-mile adventure. Shuttle services make sure you get to the right drop off points so you can float back to the center at the end of your trip. Located in Conway, visit sacorivertubing.com.

• **Cathedral Mountain Guides** — Guided climbing locations include places like Cathedral Ledge, Whitehorse Ledge, Cannon Cliff and more. Low-ratio, private guiding makes it easy to meet your goals. Intro to Rock shows you the ropes — spend the morning learning the basics, then spend the afternoon climbing. Rock Leader Course and Self Rescue Workshop are also offered. Located in North Conway, visit cathedralmountainguides.com.



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UNION LEADER FILE PHOTO



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- **Surfing with Summer Sessions** — Make your next trip to Hampton Beach a little more adventurous with surfing lessons from Summer Sessions. They offer private one-on-one lessons, semi-private and advanced lessons at Jenness Beach, right across from the surf shop. Boards and wetsuits are provided. Located in Rye, visit newhampshiresurf.com.
- **Cranmore Mountain Adventure Park** — When the snow is gone and the mountain turns green with grass and blooming trees, the summer fun begins: Soaring Eagle Zip Ride, Giant Swing and Mountain Coaster. During the summer core season (June 15-Labor Day), tickets are full day admission with unlimited rides on open attractions. Located in North Conway, visit cranmore.com.
- **Granite State Whale Watch** — Every trip is different — the weather, the friendliness of the ocean, the travels of the whales — but a boat ride out to Jeffrey's Ledge yields about a 99% chance of seeing humpback, finback or minke whales, along with Atlantic white-sided dolphins. Guests might also catch sight of seals, porpoises and many ocean birds. Located in Rye, visit granitestatewhalewatch.com.
- **Eastman's Docks Deep Sea Fishing** — All-day fishing trips usually takes guests to Jeffrey's Ledge for haddock, pollock and a variety of other bottom feeders. Half-day trips can be fishing a few miles off shore for mackerel or taking a trip to the Isles of Shoals. Located in Seabrook, visit eastmansdocks.com.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CRANMORE MOUNTAIN



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• **Owl's Nest Golf Course** — According to its website, Owl's Nest is the only Nicklaus-designed golf course in New Hampshire. Just north of the Lakes Region, the course is nestled at the southern edge of the White Mountains area, with elevation changes and scenic vistas that can be enjoyed throughout the seasons. Located in Thornton, visit owlsnestresort.com.

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Owl's Nest

UNION LEADER FILE PHOTO

• **Campell's Scottish Highlands** — Built on 135 acres of farmland, the website explains the “gently undulating hills and meadows are an ideal setting for a links-style course.” With its convenient location in the highly populated southern area of the state, Scottish Highlands is home to many leagues and hosts local tournaments. Located in Salem, visit scottishhighlandsgolf.com.

• **Lochmere Country Club** — Known for its elevation changes, the course offers gorgeous mountain views. Lochmere has a 4.5-star rating from Golf Digest, and seasonal memberships are offered. Lochmere also has two 3Trak golf simulators. Located in Tilton, visit lochmeregolf.com.

• **Country Club of New Hampshire** — Nestled at the base of Mt. Kearsarge, the Country Club of New Hampshire is known for gorgeous mountain views and lush greens. Twice the course was rated one of the top 75 public golf course in the U.S. by Golf Digest. Located in North Sutton, visit countryclubofnh.com.

• **Breakfast Hill Golf Club** — Opened in 2000, Breakfast Hill celebrates its 25th anniversary this summer. One of the newer courses on the New Hampshire golf scene, Breakfast Hill was designed by golf course architect Brian Silva and carved through the soaring pine trees on 170 acres of land. Located in Greenland, visit breakfasthill.com.

• **North Conway Country Club** — Established in 1895, North Conway Country Club has been a “golfer friendly” course for over a century. Located in the center of North Conway Village, the course grew from 9 holes to 18 in 1975 with course architect Philip Wogan. The tree-lined course is surrounded by beautiful White Mountain views. Located in North Conway, visit northconwaycountryclub.com.

• **Stonebridge Country Club** — A perennial favorite in the Union Leader's annual Readers' Choice polling for best golf course (2018-24), Stonebridge is surrounded by beautiful country views and anchored by an elegant clubhouse

and event facility. The course has weeknight leagues available, as well as annual memberships and loyalty program. Located in Goffstown, visit golfstonebridgecc.com.

• **The Shattuck Golf Course** — Nestled at the base of Mount Monadnock, The Shattuck was designed to emphasize its surrounding beauty. Golfers will pass over multiple wooden bridges spanning ponds and protect wetlands, offering the chance to view wildlife like deer, fox, great blue herons, even bears on occasion. Located in Jaffrey, visit shattuckgolf.com.

• **Sagamore-Hampton Golf Club** — The most popular course on the Seacoast, Sagamore-Hampton has “a nicely maintained layout that's proven to be enjoyable for all players of all abilities.” The family-owned golf club prides itself on providing a fun and friendly atmosphere to keep families of golfers coming back year after year. Located in North Hampton, visit sagamoregolf.com.

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Save the date: July 10

The 35th American Independence Festival will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 10, in downtown Exeter. The festival celebrates the anniversary of the arrival of the Declaration of Independence to New Hampshire in 1776. Admission is free. According to independencemuseum.org, festival highlights include:

- Arrival and live reading of the Declaration of Independence
- View the original that was brought to Exeter in 1776
- 18th century artisans practicing traditional skills and crafts
- The First NH Regiment and other reenactment groups
- Colonial games, dance and music
- Visit the American Independence Museum galleries and historic tavern
- Talk with historical interpreters
- Enjoy the beer garden



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- **WAITRESS** at the North Shore Music Theatre - June 4
- **Yellowstone & Grand Teton National Parks** - June 8-15
- **NE Clambake & Isles of Shoals Cruise** - June 17
- **Halifax & the Royal Nova Scotia Tattoo** - June 25-30
- **Lubec, Maine & Campobello Island** - June 30-July 2
- **Tanglewood & the Berkshires** - July 6-7
- **GUYS & DOLLS** at the Ogunquit Playhouse - July 9
- **HIGH SOCIETY** at the Ogunquit Playhouse - Aug 6
- **GREASE** at the North Shore Music Theatre - Aug 13
- **Bears & Belugas Summer Adventure** - Aug 21-29
- **The WIZ** at the Boston Opera House - Aug 24
- **Cooperstown & Baseball Hall of Fame** - Sept 2-4
- **Bay of Fundy Explorer** - Sept 6-15
- **Lake Placid & the Adirondacks** - Sept 7-9
- **Ogunquit Overnight & Show** - Sept 21-22
- **Three Pines - Louise Penny Inspired Tour** - Sept 18-19
- **The Shenandoah Valley of VA** - Sept 26-Oct 2
- **Boston Revolutionary History Day Tour** - Sept 28
- **Scenic Scotland Signature Tour** - Sept 30-Oct 12
- **Maryland's Eastern Shore** - October 19-24
- **HAMILTON in Boston** - Oct 25, 26 & Nov 1
- **Veterans Day in Washington, DC** - Nov 8-13
- **A Magical Christmas & Longwood Gardens** - Nov 20-24
- **Christmas on the Rhine Cruise** - Nov 28-Dec 9
- **Newport Holiday** - Nov 30-Dec 1
- **Maine Holiday & the Portland Symphony** - Dec 11-12

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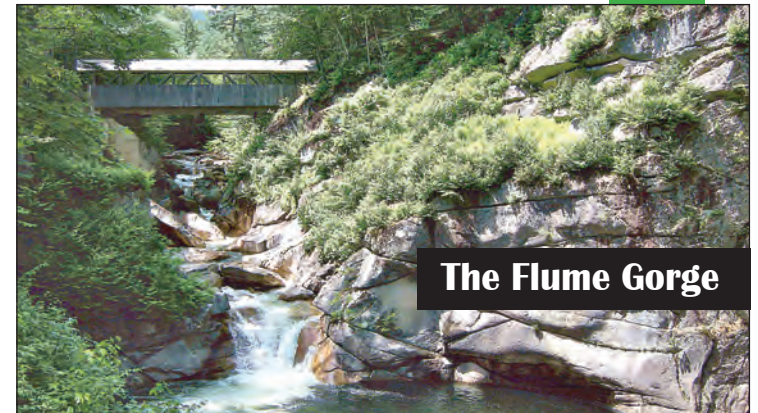
• **The Flume Gorge** — The 2-mile loop through the glacier-made Flume Gorge is a nature immersion. Highlights include Avalanche Falls, Table Rock, the Flume Covered Bridge, Liberty Gorge and the Sentinel Pine Bridge and Pool. Be ready for uphill climbing and lots of stairs — but it's so worth it for the views. Located in Lincoln, visit nhstateparks.org.

• **The Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves** — Nestled in Kinsman Notch, a 1-mile boardwalk winds through the gorge along the Lost River. Highlights include the Forest Adventure Trail, treehouse and suspension bridge. Meander through rock walls, huge glacier boulders and cascading waterfalls. Located in North Woodstock, visit lostrivergorge.com.

• **Tarbin Gardens** — The website says it best — “tranquility defined.” The beauty of Tarbin Gardens is the perfect setting for an afternoon of relaxation, or inspiration for painting, writing or just reflecting. It's a popular spot for both nature photographers and anyone seeking a beautiful photo backdrop. Guests are welcome to bring in a picnic. The 2025 season opens on June 1. Located in Franklin, visit tarbingardens.com.

• **The Friendly Farm** — A truly hands-on experience, The Friendly Farm is where you'll find “some of the most agreeable animals you'll ever meet,” according to the website. Hold recently hatched baby chickens; pet the rabbits; feed the goats; wave at the pigs and more. Opening in late May, come and wander the 5-acre farm and bring a picnic. Located in Dublin, visit friendlyfarm.com.

• **Bedrock Gardens** — Explore this 30-acre site now described as “a public oasis of horticulture, art and inspiration.” Get your daily steps in while browsing beautiful landscapes and art exhibits. New this year with paid admission, visitors can follow an audio walking tour of the gardens at their own pace. Private tours with lunch options are also offered by reservation. Located in Lee, visit bedrockgardens.org.



The Flume Gorge

MARK GOLDSTEIN



Tarbin Gardens

JACK TARBIN



Bedrock Gardens

BEDROCK GARDENS PIC



• **Visit more waterfalls** — In addition to the aforementioned Flume Gorge and Lost River, Granite Staters and visitors can hike to many more waterfalls around the state. Popular sites include Arethusa Falls in Crawford Notch State Park; Glen Ellis Falls and Crystal Cascades in Pinkham Notch; Beaver Brook Falls in Colebrook; Profile Falls in Bristol; and Sabbaday Falls and the Lower Falls on the Kancamagus Highway. For more recommendations, visit visitnh.gov.

• **Andres Institute of Art** — New England's largest outdoor sculpture park is open daily from dawn till dusk. Admire more than 100 sculptures spread out on the 140-acre campus. You can definitely get your daily steps in on 10-plus miles of trails, some uphill. Your visit can be either self-guided or docent-led. Located in Hollis, visit andresinstitute.org.

• **Squam Lakes Natural Science Center** — The Live Animal Exhibit Trail is an afternoon delight for all ages. The three-quarter mile trail winds through open meadows, forests and the marsh boardwalk. Animal exhibits include coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, white-tailed deer, black bear, river otter and various birds. If you have time, visit Kirkwood Gardens or maybe schedule a cruise on Squam Lake. Located in Holderness, visit nhnature.org.



Andres Institute of Art

Kathleen Bailey/Union Leader File Photo

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Save the date: June 7

The N.H. Bacon & Beer Festival, scheduled for June 7 at the Anheuser-Busch Brewery Outdoor Fields in Merrimack, is the primary fundraiser for the High Hopes Foundation of NH.

According to nhbaconbeer.com, “For over 40 years, High Hopes Foundation has provided life-enhancing medical equipment, assistance and opportunities to New Hampshire’s terminally and chronically ill children.”

The event will run from 1:30 to 5 p.m., with VIP Festival Admission opening at 12:30 p.m. Enjoy more than 60 craft brewers and barbecue samples, and bacon samples from local restaurants, food trucks and catering companies.

According to the website, the 2025 VIP ticket is already sold out. General admission tickets cost \$65 and include continuous tasting from all brewers, bacon samples, keepsake sampling glass, free parking and access to entertainment. Designated driver tickets cost \$35 and include bacon sampling, two bottled waters, free parking and access to entertainment.

This year’s musical entertainment will be provided by The Slakas, a five-piece classic/modern rock cover band from Nashua. Read more about the group at theslakas.com.

To purchase tickets for the fundraising event, visit nhbaconbeer.com.

David J. Murray DeerEyePhoto.com

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• **Great Glen Trails** — Located at the base of the Mount Washington Auto Road, Great Glen Trails Outdoor Center can provide a great day of bike riding for families — with rentals available and both carriage trails for comfortable riding and more challenging single- and double-track riding. You can also bring your own bikes and purchase a bike trail pass for the day. Located in Gorham, visit greatglentrails.com.

• **Granite State Rail Bikes** — Pedal your way along the shores of Lake Winnisquam on a scenic rail bike. The 5-mile roundtrip leaves from the Laconia Railroad Station and lasts about 2 hours. When you rent one rail bike, you get all four seats. Arrangements can be made for larger groups. Located in Laconia, visit gsscenic.com.



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Funding for the buyback program and this ad is provided by the Loon Preservation Committee and by the US Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of the Bouchard Barge 120 Buzzards Bay Oil Spill Trustees.

• **Northeast ATV Rentals** — Northeast rents Polaris two- and four-seater side-by-side ATVs and the Polaris Slingshot two-seater. The North Country boasts more than 1,000 miles of connected trails, so you’ve got plenty of country to explore. Self-guided and North-east Guided adventures are offered. Free GPS tracking is included with the rental. Located in Gorham, visit northeastatvrentals.com.

• **Highland Mountain Bike Park** — Your experi-ence level will determine how you spend your day at Highland Mountain Bike Park — but if you’re new to lift-access mountain biking, consider trying the Find Your Ride package. The package includes your lift pass, one-hour Park Ready instructional session, four-hour bike rental, helmet and safety equipment. Located in Northfield, visit highlandmountain.com.

• **Port City Bike Tours** — Explore the Portsmouth area’s history, charm and nature surroundings with four tour offerings: City of Portsmouth; Islands & Harbor; Nature & Wildlife; and Coastal & Seaside Tour.

Private group tours can also be booked. Bike rental is included in your tour, and e-bike upgrades are avail-able. All guides are very familiar with Portsmouth’s history and geography. Located in Portsmouth, visit portsmouthnhhistoricalbiketours.com.

• **Jericho Mountain State Park 4x4 Jeep/Truck Trail** — Bring your own Jeep or truck and drive the 2.5-mile trail; vehicles are required to have a winch, modified tires and other modifications. Some trails are more challenging with obstacles, hills, rocks and tight technical areas. Located in Berlin, visit nhstateparks.org.

• **Remix Skate** — Need a break from the sun and the heat, or trying to find something to do on a rainy day? Bring the family roller skating at Remix. All-Skate ses-sions last 2 hours and include rentals. Booking ahead of time is requested in order to meet capacity needs. Check their website for the many events and theme nights on the schedule. Located in Manchester, visit skateremix.com.



KAARIN CLAUSEN/UNION LEADER FILE PHOTO



DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER FILE PHOTO



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Great Glen Trails



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METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

• **Beach Plum** — The Beach Plum aims to satisfy every size appetite — offering its popular lobster roll in five different portion sizes: 4-ounce, 5-ounce, 6-ounce, 8-ounce and 10-ounce. Atop the long list of awards is Best Lobster Roll at the Hampton Beach Seafood Festival. With locations in Portsmouth, Epping and seasonally in North Hampton, visit thebeachplum.net.

• **Rye Harbor Lobster Pound** — A highlight to the start of summer is the reopening of Rye Harbor Lobster Pound after their winter closure. The locally fresh-made lobster rolls are award-winning, and other menu delights include lobster bisque, “fluffy” chowder and lobster mac. Located in Rye Harbor, follow their Facebook page for the most up-to-date details on this year’s opening.

• **Markey’s Lobster Pool** — Opened in 1971, Markey’s Lobster Pool has become a family tradition dinner experience on the Seacoast. Open year-round with indoor seating, the restaurant also has outdoor seating for the warmer seasons and beach-going crowd. The lobster roll is

clearly a favorite — with dozens of reviews linked to their online menu. Located in Seabrook, visit markeyslobsterpound.com.

• **Petey’s Seafood & Bar** — Petey’s offers its award-winning lobster rolls in two sizes: regular and jumbo. Open year-round, Petey’s menu also includes clams, shrimp, haddock and more. And, if you’re in the mood to cook your own lobsters, Petey’s ships fresh live lobsters anywhere. Located in Rye, visit peteys.com.

• **Brown’s Lobster Pound** — Brown’s has been a family business since 1947 and opened in its current spot in Seabrook in 1950. Their dine-in era began with a lunch counter opening in 1952. Brown’s and its award-winning lobster rolls have been popular ever since. Located in Seabrook, visit brownslobsterpound.com.

• **Sawyer’s Dairy Bar** — While the name might make you think of ice cream — and they do sell plenty of that — don’t forget about trying their lobster rolls this summer. Located in Gilford, visit their Facebook page to stay on top

of opening dates and specials being offered throughout the summer.

• **The Sea Ketch** — The Sea Ketch restaurant sits in a prime location on Ocean Boulevard in Hampton Beach, with multi-level decks offering great ocean views. Try their “Colossal Lobster Roll” measuring a hefty 10 ounces. Located at Hampton Beach, visit seaketch.com.

• **The Lobster Boat** — The Lobster Boat Restaurant prides itself on offering fresh caught seafood to people living in the Merrimack Valley. The Merrimack location opened in 1984 and the Litchfield location opened in 2002. At dinner-time, the lobster roll is served in both regular and jumbo sizes. Visit lobsterboatrestaurant.com.

• **Boardwalk Bar & Grill** — The Boardwalk Bar & Grill is home to one of the best outdoor decks in the Lakes Region. Enjoy drinks, dining and live entertainment with a lake view. Soak up some sun and fresh air while enjoying a fresh lobster roll. Located in Laconia, visit boardwalknh.com.



Save the date: Aug. 1-2

Jericho Mountain State Park sits a few miles northwest of downtown Berlin, and every summer thousands of people show up in their off-road vehicles for the "Journey to Jericho ATV Jamboree."

According to promotional material on the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce website, Friday, Aug. 1, will include the Blessing of the ATVs; the Downtown Berlin Block Party; and the ATV Torchlit Parade. Highlights on Saturday, Aug. 2, will include Jericho ATV Poker Run; Cornhole Tournament; and a Concert at the Park.

Of course, the whole weekend will include hours of riding more than 1,000 miles of connected trails throughout the Androscoggin Valley.

Visit androscogginvalleychamber.com for more details.



JOHN KOZIOL/UNION LEADER FILE PHOTO

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METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

• **Irwin Marine** — Offering rentals in Alton Bay and Laconia, Irwin Marine has a “Water Fun Pack” available for tubing, water skiing, wakeboarding and knee boarding. Bowriders and pontoon boats can be rented. Visit irwinmarine.com.

• **Trexler’s Marina** — Trexler’s Marina has a variety of boats available for rent — aluminum boats, bowriders and pontoon boats of various sizes. Boats are rented by the week, or short-term if available. Trexler’s also rents kayaks, canoes and stand up paddle boards. Located in Moultonboro, visit trexlers.com.

• **Fay’s Boat Yard** — Rental choices at Fay’s Boat Yard include an 18-foot and 25-foot pontoon boat, 21-foot bowrider, and 20-foot Wellcraft. Fay’s also offers kayak and canoe rentals. Beginning in 1944, Fay’s is now a fourth-generation family business. Located in Gilford, visit faysboatyard.com.

• **Winnisquam and Winni Marine** — Winnisquam Marine offers boat rentals on Lake Winnisquam, and Winni Marine offers rentals on Lake Winnepesaukee. With a lineup of 35-plus boats for rental, they offer the largest and new-

est rental fleet in New Hampshire. Located in Belmont and Laconia, visit winnisquammarine.com.

• **Winni Watersports** — Aiming to please all types of water sport enthusiasts, Winni Watersports offers four different models for pontoon boats; jet skis; fishing kayaks; pedal fishing kayaks; canoes; stand up paddle boards; and floating water mats. Located in Alton Bay, visit boatvacanzanh.com.

• **Goodhue Boat Company** — Sporting boats, fishing boats, pontoons and cruisers are available for daily and weekly rentals. Rental locations include Meredith, Wolfeboro, Sunapee and Ossipee, and Sebago, Maine. Equipment can be rented, too, like tubes, water skis and wakeboards. Visit goodhueboat.com.

• **Lakefront Landing** — For those looking to spend time on Lake Ossipee, Lakefront Landing offers several rental options: various size pontoon boats; fishing boats; a bowrider and deck boat; kayaks and canoes; and stand up paddle boards. Water ski and tubing packages are also offered. Located in Center Ossipee, visit boatrentalsnh.com.

• **Lake House Boat Rentals** — If you’re staying on Lake Ossipee this summer and want to use a boat during your stay, take a look at Lake House Boat Rentals, a boutique service on the lake. Two pontoon boats are available, and the company will deliver one right to your dock, and pick it up for you when you’re finished. Add-ons include paddle boards, lily pads and towables. Located in Ossipee, visit lakehouseboatrental.com.

• **Melvin Village Marina** — Melvin Village offers Super Air Naticque models, bowriders and pontoon boats for rent. Melvin Village also offers guided watersports charters for the following experiences: wakesurfing, wakeboarding, water skiing and tubing. Located in Melvin Village, visit melvinvillagemarina.com.

• **N.H. State Parks** — No motor boats available, but many locations have one or a couple of the following items available to rent: canoe, kayak, row boat, pedal boats and stand up paddle boards. Visit nhstateparks.org and click the “Fees & Reservations” tab to see the boat rental availability.



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For more information on events at Hampton Beach, visit hamptonbeach.org.



UNION LEADER FILE PHOTO

"Sophia's Cradle" by artist David Ducharme won first place in the 2024 Hampton Beach Sand Sculpting Classic.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT

Several concerts will take place throughout the summer at the Sea Shell Stage.

Make memories at the beach this summer

- **Fireworks** — The summer 2025 fireworks schedule opens with a special show for Memorial Day Weekend on Sunday, May 25. Weekly Wednesday night shows start on June 18. Check hamptonbeach.org for other special shoot dates.
- **Sand Sculpting** — The 25th Annual Hampton Beach Master Sand Sculpting Classic is scheduled for June 12-14.
- **Country Music Fest** — "Country by the Coast" headliner this year is Niko Moon. For a full schedule of events across the three nights, July 8-10, visit hamptonbeach.org.
- **Talent Show** — The 20th Annual Hampton Beach Talent Show competition runs Aug. 22-24.
- **Miss Hampton Beach** — The 79th Annual Miss Hampton Beach Pageant is scheduled for July 27, and Little/Junior Miss Hampton Beach will be selected on July 26.
- **Children's Festival** — The 17th Annual Hampton Beach Children's Festival kicks off on Aug. 11, and the Giant Costume Parade will be Aug. 15.
- **Cirque du Hampton** — Cirque du Hampton Beach with the Boston Circus Guild is scheduled for Aug. 30 with jugglers, musicians, acrobats and body-bending feats.
- **Seafood Festival** — Save the date for Sept. 5-7 and enjoy!
- **Fire Show** — This year's annual Fire Show is scheduled for Sept. 13.

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