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Burlington Free Press

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Weird Al, Jack White among July concerts



Jack White performs during halftime at Detroit Lions vs. Green Bay Packers at Ford Field in Detroit on Nov. 27, 2025. FINN GOMEZ/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Brent Hallenbeck
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The country turns 250 years old this month. That, to put it mildly, is a big deal. Numerous activities will take place to celebrate that rare occasion, many of which we at the Burlington Free Press have written about elsewhere.

A couple of the 31 Vermont events listed below are tied into that patriotic party. The remainder are less starry and stripey and more about just having a good time and being enlightened and uplifted in that way only a good perfor-

mance can accomplish.

Either way, it's as good a time as any to celebrate the artistic bounty that the nation's 14th state so prodigiously provides us.

Jammin' in July in Essex

5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, the weekly music series "Jammin' in July" kicks off with the **Lara Cwass Band** and continues at the same time each week with, on July 8, **The Grift**; July 15, the **All Night Boogie Band**; July 22, **Soul Porpoise** with **The Project**; and July 29, **Kyle Chadburn & the Earthbound**

Spirits, The Old Stage at the Essex Experience. Free. doublelevt.com

VSO celebrates 'America 250'

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, the **Vermont Symphony Orchestra** begins its 2026-27 season with the tour "America 250," showcasing iconic American music starting on this night at the Saskadena Six Ski Area, South Pomfret, and continuing (all at 7:30 p.m.) Thursday, July 2, Burke Mountain Ski Resort, East Burke; Friday,

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Vermont restaurants honored by Wine Spectator

Beth McDermott
Burlington Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

Wine Spectator has announced the winners of its 2026 awards for restaurants worldwide with exceptional wine programs, according to a community announcement, and named over a dozen Vermont establishments.

The awards, established in 1981, highlight three levels of excellence: the Award of Excellence, Best of Award of Excellence and Grand Award. This year, 2,083 restaurants received the Award of Excellence, 1,830 earned the Best of Award of Excellence and 99 were honored with the prestigious Grand Award.

"The restaurant industry is rapidly transforming as diners become more selective about when, how and what they drink. As wine drinkers grow more mindful, restaurants are adapting with creative wine programs," said Marvin R. Shanken, chairman and CEO of Wine Spectator.

Here are the Vermont winners:

- **Alpine Hall**
7412 Mountain Road, Stowe
Wine strengths: California, France, Italy
Cuisine: Farm-to-table, French
- **Ardelia's at Basin Harbor**
4800 Basin Harbor Road, Vergennes
Wine strengths: France, California, Italy, Washington
Cuisine: American
- **Dining Room at Twin Farms**
452 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard
Wine strengths: California, Burgundy, Bordeaux, Italy, France
Cuisine: American
- **The Hermitage Inn**
25 Handle Road, West Dover

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Noah Kahan makes fans promise to use the restroom

Taijuan Moorman
USA TODAY

Noah Kahan is speaking out about a disgusting habit picked up by some music fans.

The "Stick Season" singer took to X to ask fans not to defecate on themselves at shows, after a graphic, viral TikTok video showed feces on the ground at one

of his concerts.

"If you have to poop at a show please dear god just go to the bathroom lmao," Kahan wrote on June 27. "I've pooped my pants as much as the next 29 year old but you guys gotta understand there's a venue worker out there with a 1000 yard stare after dealing with that."

Kahan has had fun with the incident, making fans at a recent show in Toronto

recite a pledge that they would not defecate their pants or, if they do, not "take it from" their "pants and put it on the floor."

The folk singer is currently on The Great Divide Tour, which kicked off June 11 with nearly 60 dates in North America and Europe. The tour wraps in December in Paris.

He first played "The Great Divide"

about two years ago during a set in Texas, he previously told USA TODAY. The singer added that the song evolved and wasn't finished until a few months prior.

"It's always special for us to have a chance to play something new because we're feeling it for the first time and we're learning," he said. "We can still be

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