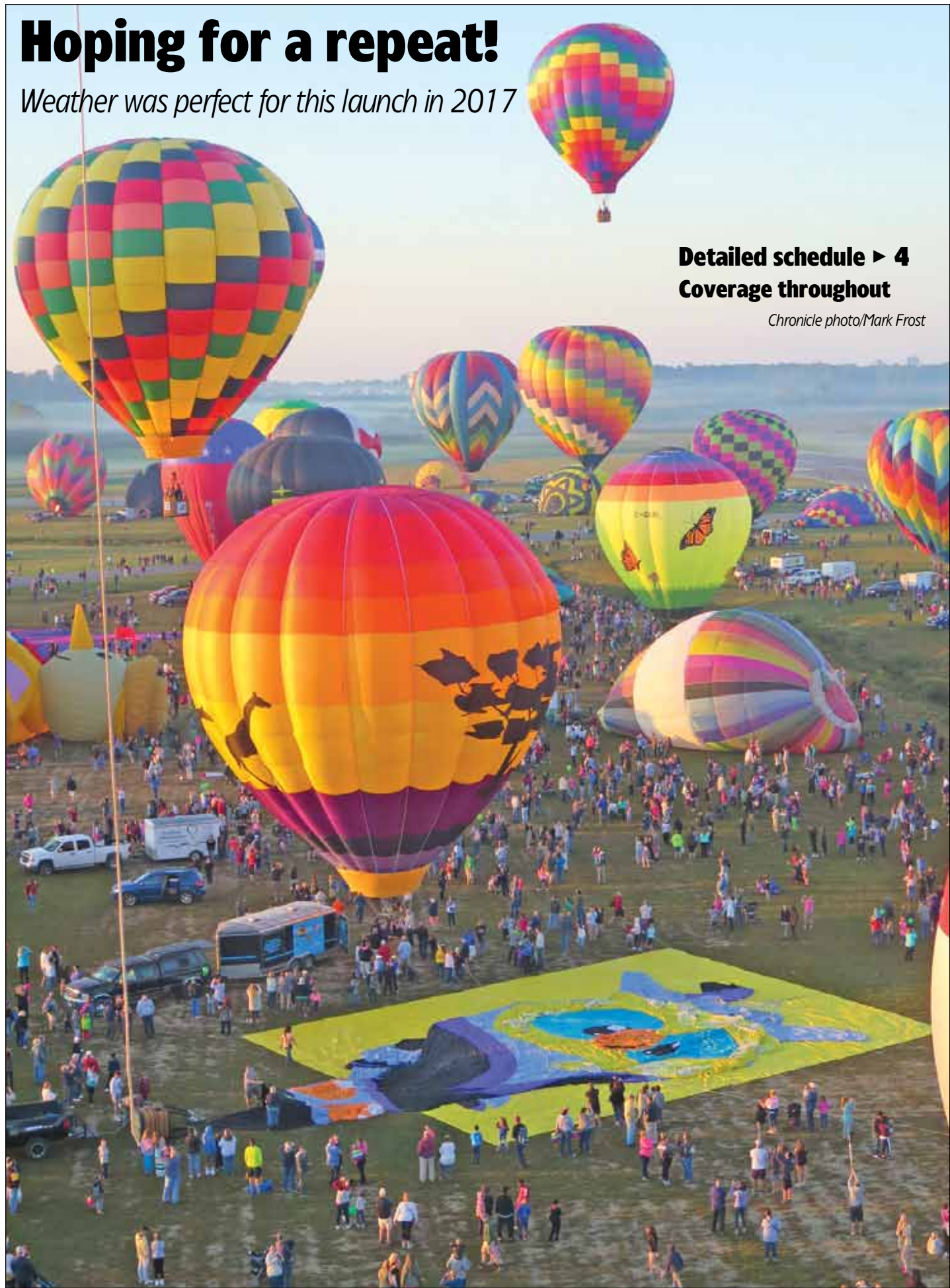


## Hoping for a repeat!

*Weather was perfect for this launch in 2017*



**Detailed schedule ► 4**  
**Coverage throughout**

*Chronicle photo/Mark Frost*

## 46th Adk. Balloon Festival

**By Cathy DeDe**

Chronicle Managing Editor

"The community buzz, the kids, the family excitement" — that's what Adirondack Balloon Festival volunteer president and long-time balloonist Mark Donahue says he most loves about the festival.

The 46th annual festival takes place this weekend with launches at Crandall Park in Glens Falls and Warren County's Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport in Queensbury.

Erin Reid Coker, festival board member and Mr. Donahue's right-hand man, says he most appreciates "being part of an event that means so much to the community. I didn't realize how much, even, until my daughter, who is eight — seeing how she sees it. Last year after the Moonglow, she said that was the greatest night of her life."

This year 96 balloons are registered for the festival's five scheduled launches. That final number tends "a little to ebb and flow," Mr. Donahue says.

"Last year was amazing," he says. "We had perfect weather. We had balloons at every launch."

"The Moonglow on Saturday night had 38 balloons, the biggest one on the east coast ever, I

*Please turn to page 11*

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