

ESSEX JCT. TODAY



56°

Low 28° · Frosty start
Warmer Sunday: 62°

The Morning Courier

"Markets, Mountains, Box Scores & Bourbon — Delivered Before the Coffee Cools"

WORLD SERIES · GAME 2

TONIGHT, 8 P.M.

Brewers lead the Rays 1-0

Rays at Brewers on Fox

VOL. I · NO. 31

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 · ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT

MORNING EDITION · FREE TO JB

DOW 52,215 ▼ -1.2% S&P 500 7,624 ▼ -0.5% NASDAQ 25,955 ▼ -0.2% RUSSELL 2,776 ▼ -0.3% 10-YR 5.00% GAS \$4.29 WTI \$103

WALL STREET · FRIDAY

Oil Jumps Past \$103; Dow Drops 653

New Gulf attacks lift crude for a second day; AmEx plans layoffs, and a SpaceX cell-tower report rattles phone companies

FRIDAY BY THE NUMBERS

\$103.27

U.S. crude, +3.8%

−653

Dow points, to 52,215

−8.0%

AT&T, on SpaceX tower talk

+21.7%

Robert Half, best in S&P

BY THE COURIER MARKETS DESK · SOURCES: CAPPNOTES, STOCKANALYSIS.COM

Oil kept climbing Friday after another wave of Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia. U.S. crude jumped 3.8% to \$103.27 a barrel and Brent 3.1% to \$116.72, its highest since April 29, CappNotes reported. Energy stocks rose 2.6%.

The Dow fell 653 points, or 1.2%, to 52,215, but still notched a third straight weekly gain. The S&P 500 slipped 0.5% to 7,624 and the Nasdaq 0.2% to 25,955. Nearly three in four S&P stocks fell.

American Express fell 3.7% after saying it will cut about 5% of its workforce. A report that SpaceX is in talks to lease 80,000 cell towers sent Crown Castle up 9% and AT&T and T-Mobile down about 8%.

Consumers were gloomy but less than feared: Michigan sentiment came in at 48, and year-ahead inflation expectations rose to 4.7%. The Fed meets Tuesday and Wednesday; traders see about a 92% chance it holds rates steady.

The Big Board, Page 2.

ESSEX JUNCTION FORECAST



56°

Low tonight: 28°

Mostly sunny after a frosty start; light north breeze.



CHANCE OF RAIN TODAY

Dry through Monday

5%

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUN



62°

0%

MON



56°

15%

TUE



44°

5%

WED



51°

5%

Blue = chance of rain. NWS forecast data, Saturday a.m.

FORECASTER'S NOTE

WCAX: sunshine continues with a notable warmup Sunday, near 61°. A dry cold front Monday brings Tuesday's chill, highs in the 40s.

WORLD SERIES · GAME 1

Brewers Edge Rays, 3-2

BY THE COURIER SPORTS DESK · SOURCE: SPORTRADAR

Milwaukee scored twice in the first and held on in Game 1. Christian Yelich tripled and drove in a run, Jacob Misorowski won it and Trevor Megill survived a Rays run in the ninth for the save.

Game 2 tonight, 8 p.m. on Fox. **Page 3.**

INSIDE TODAY · IN BRIEF

MARKETS Oil tops \$103; AmEx to cut jobs. **P. 2**

VERMONT \$15 million more for heating help. **P. 3**

SERIAL Chapter 23: "Count to a Hundred." **P. 8**

NEW Puzzles & the Jukebox debut. **P. 13**

WEATHER AROUND THE MAP							Saturday forecasts · NWS data · "Now" = overnight						
MIDDLEBURY, VT		NOW 27°	HI 56°	LO 27°	RAIN 5%		CHARLOTTE, NC		NOW 48°	HI 65°	LO 47°	RAIN 0%	
MT. WASHINGTON, NH		NOW 34°	HI 47°	LO 33°	RAIN 0%	summit	WILMINGTON, NC		NOW 57°	HI 72°	LO 56°	RAIN 10%	
SNOWSHOE, WV		NOW 39°	HI 53°	LO 37°	RAIN 0%		ST. PETERSBURG, FL		NOW 67°	HI 79°	LO 67°	RAIN 20%	
ROSEBURG, OR		NOW 39°	HI 65°	LO 36°	RAIN 10%		FULTON, MO		NOW 52°	HI 78°	LO 49°	RAIN 10%	
E. DENNIS, MA · CAPE		NOW 45°	HI 55°	LO 42°	RAIN 0%		HOT SPOT · PHOENIX, AZ		NOW 62°	HI 78°	LO 57°	RAIN 0%	

INSIDE TODAY

2 Markets · World

3 Vermont · Sports

4 Bourbon · 5 Funnies · 6 Travel

8 Serial · 11 Crime · 12 Prices · 13 Games

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MARKETS & MONEY

Friday's close · Saturday, October 24

THE BIG BOARD — FRIDAY, OCT. 23

INDEX / STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE	PCT	DAY MOVE
Dow Jones Industrials	52,215.16	-652.82	-1.23%	
S&P 500	7,623.68	-39.75	-0.52%	
Nasdaq Composite	25,955.34	-53.52	-0.21%	
Russell 2000	2,775.90	-8.13	-0.29%	

JB'S WATCHLIST

Nvidia (NVDA)	210.96	-1.25	-0.59%	
Palantir (PLTR)	196.75	+0.57	+0.29%	
Microsoft (MSFT)	524.51	+3.44	+0.66%	

BIG NAMES

Apple (AAPL)	347.73	-0.49	-0.14%	
Amazon (AMZN)	248.00	-2.38	-0.95%	
Alphabet (GOOGL)	320.21	-4.02	-1.24%	
Meta (META)	642.62	-6.23	-0.96%	
Tesla (TSLA)	372.22	-2.36	-0.63%	
JPMorgan (JPM)	331.58	-4.95	-1.47%	
Goldman Sachs (GS)	875.68	-15.60	-1.75%	

Index closes via CappNotes; point changes computed by the Courier; stocks and ETFs via StockAnalysis.com.

RATES · ENERGY · METALS

10-yr Treasury up 5 bp, just under 5%	5.00%
30-yr Treasury up 4 bp	5.31%
2-yr Treasury up 5 bp	4.69%
Gas, U.S. avg. AAA regular, up 2¢ in a day	\$4.29
Diesel, U.S. avg. AAA; record is \$6.53 (Sept.)	\$6.32
WTI crude December contract, +3.8%	\$103.27
Brent crude +3.1%, highest since April 29	\$116.72
Gold -1.3%	~\$4,008
Fed meeting ~92% odds of a hold (Kalshi)	Tue.-Wed.

NEXT WEEK ON WALL STREETMon. Verizon earningsTUE.-WED. Fed meetingTHIS WEEKAlphabet, Microsoft, Amazon

Friday: Dow -1.2%, S&P -0.5%, Russell -0.3%, Nasdaq -0.2% · energy +2.6%; staples -1.9%

Index closes via CappNotes

WALL STREET · THE WEEK AHEAD

A Big Week: The Fed and Big Tech

BY THE COURIER MARKETS DESK · SOURCE: CAPPNOTES

The Fed meets Tuesday and Wednesday, with traders putting the odds of a hold near 92% — though futures show about a 71% chance of a quarter-point hike in December. Alphabet, Microsoft and Amazon report earnings this week.

Friday's data were mixed: a flash manufacturing gauge hit 56, its highest in 53 months, while five-year inflation expectations rose to 3.5%.

STOCKS TO WATCH TODAY

On the Radar

Robert Half (RHI) — Up 21.7% on an earnings beat.

LKQ — Down 22.5%; pulled its outlook, new leaders.

SLB — Up 7.1%; sees a stronger 2027.

American Express (AXP) — Down 3.7%; to cut about 5% of jobs.

Crown Castle (CCI) — Up 9.1% on SpaceX tower-lease report.

Infosys (INFY) — Down 6.6% after cutting its outlook.

ETF SCOREBOARD

SPY	S&P 500	759.97	-0.52%
QQQ	Nasdaq-100	704.40	-0.01%
DIA	Dow	521.37	-1.24%
IWM	Small caps	275.75	-0.33%
GLD	Gold	366.61	-0.65%
XLE	Energy	69.33	+2.60%
XLK	Tech	183.23	+0.49%
XLF	Financials	55.90	-1.32%

Best of these: Energy +2.60% Worst: Banks -1.32%

YEAR TO DATE

Russell 2000	+11.8%
Nasdaq	+11.7%
S&P 500	+11.4%
Dow	+8.6%

Through Friday; Courier estimate from AP year-start levels.

THE LUMBER DESK

Oil Over \$100

FOR THE JB WOODS DESK

U.S. crude closed at \$103.27 a barrel and diesel averages \$6.32 a gallon, AAA says — near September's record. Weather: sunny and dry through Monday; a chilly Tuesday.

HOUSING STARTS · SEPT.

1.22M

-5.2% from Aug.
-7.4% from a year ago

Permits 140M
Single-family 859K

Census Bureau, seasonally adjusted annual rate · next report Nov. 18

NATION & WORLD

Washington, the courts & beyond

WORLD · THE GULF

More Attacks, Higher Oil

BY THE COURIER NATION DESK · SOURCES: CAPPNOTES, AAA

Houthi militants launched another wave of attacks on Saudi Arabia on Friday, and beaches in the United Arab Emirates closed after a tanker oil spill, CappNotes reported. Brent crude rose to \$116.72 a barrel, its highest settle since April 29.

Iran's army chief said the country is ready for "asymmetric warfare," amid reports of possible U.S. and Israeli strikes after the Nov. 3 midterms.

At the pump, the national average rose 2 cents in a day to \$4.29, AAA says — still 3 cents under a week ago, but \$1.22 above a year ago.

ELSEWHERE

Ukraine. Russia and Ukraine confirmed U.S.-brokered talks in Abu Dhabi in early November. (CappNotes)

Brazil. Sunday's presidential runoff is a dead heat in a Datafolha poll. (CappNotes)

Mideast. Israel closed the West Bank after two soldiers were killed near Hebron. (CappNotes)

Britain. UK consumer confidence fell 11 points, its biggest drop in more than 10 years. (CappNotes)

VERMONT

Around the Green Mountain State

STATEWIDE · WINTER HEAT

\$15.3 Million More for Heating Help

BY THE COURIER VERMONT DESK · SOURCE: WCAX

With heating oil near \$6 a gallon, lawmakers and Gov. Phil Scott have approved \$15.3 million from the state’s General Fund to help Vermonters stay warm this winter, WCAX reports.

The money adds to the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which gives Vermont about \$22 million and helps roughly 15,000 low-income families. Officials worried the federal share wouldn’t cover the need, and more households are likely to need crisis fuel

help.

The goal, said Miranda Gray of the Department for Children and Families, is to give households that heat with oil and kerosene 62% purchasing power. The state expects Washington to repay it.

STATEWIDE

A Warmer, Wetter Vermont

A UVM climate assessment says Vermont is no longer a climate haven: three straight years of floods, a 2025 drought, and 32 inches less annual snow in southern Vermont since the 1960s. It flags old power poles and 100-plus century-old dams. (WCAX)

BURLINGTON

Tech Jam Today

Seven Days’ free Tech Jam runs 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at Hula, with more than 40 exhibitors, many hiring, plus free headshots and résumé reviews. (WCAX)

FOLIAGE REPORT

sunshine and a Sunday warmup

Sunny weekend: 56° today, near 61° Sunday.

Frosty mornings in the valleys, upper 20s.

Monday: a dry cold front; Tuesday tops out in the 40s.

Next chance of showers: late Thursday, maybe.

Stickers: Burlington’s Theo Moore designed the winning “I Voted” sticker.

THE WEEK IN VERMONT

Today Mostly sunny, 56°.

Sun. Sunny and mild, 62°.

Mon. Some clouds, 56°.

Tue. Chilly sun, 44°.

Forecast data for Essex Junction; check before you go.

VERMONT BY THE NUMBERS

\$15.3M New state heating aid

~15,000 Families on LIHEAP

\$6 Heating oil, per gallon

32 in. Less snow in southern Vt.

40+ Tech Jam exhibitors

AROUND THE STATE

BARNARD — Kids earn ‘Aldo bucks.’ A Barnard business owner’s classroom-economy program now runs in 34 Vermont and New Hampshire classrooms.

BURLINGTON — Sticker winners. Theo Moore’s design won the statewide “I Voted” sticker contest

for K–8 students.

STATEWIDE — Ski resorts adapt. Ski Vermont says high winds and floods are the new headaches, not a clear snowfall decline.

SPORTS

Brewers take Game 1 · Bruins host San Jose tonight · College Saturday

WORLD SERIES GAME 1 · MILWAUKEE 3, TAMPA BAY 2

TEAM	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
TB	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	0
MIL	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	X	3	8	0

W: Misorowski · L: Martinez · S: Megill · Yelich triple, RBI · Brewers lead series 1–0

WORLD SERIES · GAME 1

Brewers Hang On, 3–2

BY THE COURIER SPORTS DESK · SOURCE: SPORTRADAR

Milwaukee jumped out with two runs in the first and made them stand up. Christian Yelich tripled and drove in a run, and William Contreras and Jackson Chourio each had two hits. Jacob Misorowski allowed one run in five innings for the win; Tampa Bay scored in the ninth before Trevor Megill closed it.

Game 2 is tonight at 8 on Fox in Milwaukee; SportRadar makes the Brewers a 54% favorite. Games 3–5 are Monday through Wednesday in St. Petersburg.

NFL · THIS WEEK (ET)

Favorite’s win chance

CHI 30, NE 24	Thu	Final
PIT at NO	Sun 9:30a	PIT 63%
IND at MIN	Sun 1:00	MIN 72%
MIA at NYJ	Sun 1:00	NYJ 68%
CIN at BAL	Sun 1:00	BAL 58%
CLE at TEN	Sun 1:00	CLE 54%
TB at CAR	Sun 1:00	CAR 61%
SF at ATL	Sun 1:00	SF 62%
NYG at HOU	Sun 1:00	HOU 81%
DEN at ARI	Sun 4:05	DEN 67%
LA at LV	Sun 4:25	—
GB at DET	Sun 4:25	—
KC at SEA	Sun 8:20	—
DAL at PHI	Mon 8:15	—

Win probabilities via SportRadar; — = not yet posted.

AFC EAST STANDINGS

TEAM	W-L	GB
Buffalo	5-1	—
New England	4-3	1½
NY Jets	2-4	3
Miami	0-5	4½

Via SportRadar. Patriots off this week; at Miami Nov. 1, 4:25 p.m.

NHL · BRUINS CORNER

Sharks at TD Garden

Fresh off a 6–0 win over Nashville, Boston (8–2–1) hosts San Jose tonight at 7. Next: at Carolina Tuesday and St. Louis Thursday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

College Saturday

Noon: Indiana at Michigan · LSU at Auburn · WVU at TCU · Pitt at Miami.

Friday: Duke 19, Virginia 16 · UConn 35, UMass 16.

MLB · FULL SCHEDULE (ET)

WS G2 Rays at Brewers, tonight 8:00

WS G3 Brewers at Rays, Mon. 8:00

WS G4 Brewers at Rays, Tue. 8:00

THE BOURBON PAGE

Barrel proof from Lawrenceburg · plus the Bourbon Smash



BOTTLE OF THE WEEK

BARREL PROOF · NON-CHILL FILTERED · LAWRENCEBURG, KY.

Wild Turkey Rare Breed

PROOF	AGES	STYLE	MAKER	PRICE
~116	6, 8, 12 yrs	Barrel proof	Wild Turkey	~\$50–60

Wild Turkey introduced Rare Breed in 1991 as a bourbon straight from the barrel — no water added before bottling. It is a blend of Wild Turkey whiskeys aged six, eight and 12 years.

The proof changes a little from batch to batch, usually landing in the mid-110s. Like Wild Turkey 101 (featured here before), it comes from the distillery on a bluff above the Kentucky River at Lawrenceburg, home of the Russell family of master distillers.

How to drink it: neat first, then add water a few drops at a time. Expect caramel, orange peel, baking spice and a long, warm finish. Plan on \$50 to \$60.

BOURBON SCIENCE 101

Why Blend Ages?

BY THE COURIER SPIRITS DESK

Younger bourbon tastes brighter and spicier; older bourbon picks up more oak, vanilla and dark caramel from the barrel.

Blending barrels of different ages lets a distiller balance the two — and keep the taste steady from batch to batch.

Label tip: an age statement on a blend must name the youngest whiskey in the bottle.

Did you know? “Straight” bourbon must be aged at least two years.

THE WILD TURKEY SHELF

One House, Many Pours

Rare Breed — this week’s bottle: barrel proof.

Wild Turkey 101 — the classic, featured here before.

Russell’s Reserve 10 — the family’s own label, also featured before.

Kentucky Spirit — a single-barrel bottling.

Longbranch — a softer pour filtered with oak and mesquite charcoal.

Hunting tip: Rare Breed’s exact proof is printed on each label — compare two batches.

THIS WEEK’S POUR

Cocktail Corner

The Bourbon Smash. Fresh, minty and easy.

In a shaker, muddle 3 lemon wedges and 6 mint leaves with ¾ oz simple syrup. Add 2 oz bourbon and ice, shake hard and strain over fresh ice. Garnish with a mint sprig.

Go gentler here — save the Rare Breed for sipping.

Vermont twist: maple syrup in place of simple syrup.

TASTING LAB

Pour Rare Breed beside Wild Turkey 101 with water on the side: same house, two strengths.

THIS WEEK’S POUR PLAN

TONIGHT · WORLD SERIES GAME 2

Rare Breed with a splash of water — Brewers up 1–0.

SUNDAY · A 62° AFTERNOON

A Bourbon Smash on the porch while the sun lasts.

What to sip with what’s on

MONDAY · GAME 3 IN FLORIDA

Rare Breed beside Wild Turkey 101: same house, two strengths.

THE BOURBON GLOSSARY

Label terms, decoded

Barrel proof — bottled without adding water. Non-chill filtered — not chilled to strip haze. Batch — one mingling of barrels; proof varies. Age statement — the youngest whiskey in the bottle. Straight — aged at least two years.	Smash — spirit, citrus, mint and sugar over ice. Muddle — press fruit or herbs to release flavor. Simple syrup — sugar dissolved in equal water. Neat — straight from the bottle, no ice. Finish — the flavor that lingers after a sip.	Master distiller — the person in charge of the whiskey. Rickhouse — the warehouse where barrels age. Angel’s share — whiskey lost to evaporation. Proof — twice the alcohol percentage. DSP number — a distillery’s federal ID on the label.
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THE FUNNY PAGES

JB's Morning Strip — original art by JB, fresh lines daily



Characters and artwork © JB. Today's dialogue: The Courier.

THE WEEK-AHEAD PLANNER

Saturday, Oct. 24 — Wednesday, Oct. 28

ON THE TUBE (ET)

Tonight 7:00 — NHL: Sharks at Bruins.
Tonight 8:00 — World Series Game 2, Fox.
Sun. 1:00 — NFL Sunday (Patriots off).
Mon. 8:00 — World Series Game 3 in St. Pete.
Tue. 8:00 — WS Game 4; Bruins at Carolina.

AROUND VERMONT

Today — Tech Jam, 10–3 at Hula, Burlington (free).
Today — Free light festival in Burlington.
Through Nov. 3 — Early voting at your town clerk's office.

WEATHER AT A GLANCE

Sat. — Sunny, 56°.
Sun. — Sunny and mild, 62°.
Mon. — Some clouds, 56°.
Tue. — Chilly sun, 44°.

GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Kindness, critters & comebacks

ALASKA

A Walrus Gets a Second Chance

An orphaned 5-month-old Pacific walrus found alone on a remote northern Alaska beach was rescued, cared for in Seward and flown to a new home at SeaWorld Orlando. His name, Annautaq, means “axe” in Inupiaq. (Good News Network)

ITALY

The Ring Comes Home

Three young Italians searched a mountain stream for three days — roping themselves to boulders on the last — to find an Irish tourist's lost wedding ring. Then they flew to Ireland to hand it over. (Good News Network)

KANSAS

“I Can Do Hard Things”

A first-grade teacher at Rex Elementary in Haysville started ending each day with positive affirmations. Now the whole school does it. (Good News Network)

ITALY

Grapes Love Solar Shade

In Puglia, vines grown under solar panels made grape bunches almost three times heavier and needed less water, University of Bari researchers found. (Good News Network)

BURLINGTON

Sticker Champ

Theo Moore of Burlington won the statewide contest to design Vermont's “I Voted” sticker. (WCAX)

BELGIUM

Bricks From Rubble

A new wing of Ghent's Design Museum was built with 85,000 bricks made from demolition waste, cutting their carbon by about two-thirds. (Positive News)

THE WEEKEND KITCHEN

A SEASONAL RECIPE

Classic Shepherd's Pie

Serves 6 · 25 min prep · 30 min bake

THE FILLING 1½ lb ground lamb or beef · 1 onion, 2 carrots, diced · 2 Tbsp tomato paste, 1 Tbsp flour · 1 cup beef broth, 1 Tbsp Worcestershire · 1 cup frozen peas, 1 tsp thyme

THE TOPPING 2½ lb potatoes, peeled · 4 Tbsp butter · ½ cup warm milk · ½ cup shredded cheddar · Salt and pepper

METHOD

1. Boil the potatoes until tender, 15–20 minutes; mash with butter, milk, salt and pepper.
2. Brown the meat with onion and carrots; drain. Stir in tomato paste and flour for a minute.
3. Add broth, Worcestershire and thyme; simmer 8 minutes until thick, then stir in the peas.
4. Spread in a 9-by-13 dish, top with potatoes and cheddar, and bake at 400°F about 25 minutes until golden.

Courier tip: Made with beef, it's really a cottage pie — either way, it's a frosty-morning supper. Leftovers reheat beautifully.

THE TRAVEL DESK

Destinations, drives & the airport board



Courier illustration: mountains at sunset

DESTINATION OF THE WEEK · ACROSS THE LAKE

Lake Placid, New York

Twice an Olympic host, a village on Mirror Lake in the High Peaks of the Adirondacks — about two hours from home

Why go: Lake Placid hosted the Winter Olympics in 1932 and 1980, the year of the U.S. hockey team’s “Miracle on Ice.” The village wraps around little Mirror Lake, with the High Peaks all around and Whiteface Mountain a short drive away. Late October is quiet between seasons, and this weekend looks sunny, in the upper 50s by day and frosty at night.

DON'T MISS

- Olympic Center.** The arena where the 1980 “Miracle on Ice” was played, with a museum of both Games.
- Mirror Lake.** An easy walk around the lake from Main Street’s shops and cafés.

- Olympic ski jumps.** The towering jumps just outside the village.
- Whiteface Mountain.** The Olympic ski mountain in nearby Wilmington, N.Y.

Lake Placid this weekend: sunny, 57° Saturday and 61° Sunday; nights near 28°. From Essex Junction: about two hours, by the Lake Champlain ferry or around through Rouses Point. Sources: forecast data; Courier travel desk.

ROAD TRIP FROM ESSEX JUNCTION

Montpelier and the Maple Farm

About 80 miles round trip · an easy afternoon

- 1 Essex → Montpelier.** I-89 south about 40 minutes.
- 2 The capital.** The gold dome of the State House on State Street.
- 3 Morse Farm.** A maple sugarworks on the hill above town — creemees and syrup.
- 4 Back.** Home on I-89 before the evening chill.
- 5 Why today.** Sunny, 56° — a perfect fall drive.

WEEK-AHEAD OUTLOOK

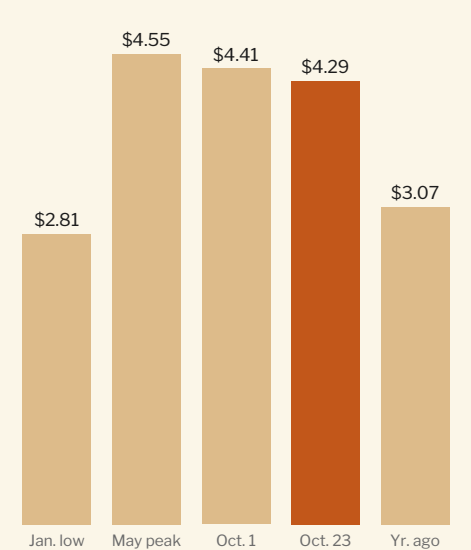
	SAT		SUN		MON	
Essex Jct., VT	56°	5%	62°	0%	56°	15%
Lake Placid, NY	57°	10%	61°	0%	54°	15%
Snowshoe, WV	53°	0%	54°	0%	60°	0%
St. Petersburg, FL	79°	20%	80°	5%	80°	20%
Charlotte, NC	65°	0%	67°	5%	69°	0%
Cape Cod, MA	55°	0%	60°	0%	64°	0%
Roseburg, OR	65°	10%	58°	70%	56°	30%
Milwaukee, WI	67°	10%	72°	10%	57°	10%

Highs and rain chances, NWS forecast data, Saturday a.m.

AIRPORT BOARD · TRAVEL ALERTS

- Milwaukee:** World Series crowds tonight.
- Tampa Bay:** Games 3–5 Monday–Wednesday.
- Northeast:** Clear skies; a quiet travel weekend.

REGULAR GAS IN 2026 (AAA)



TRAVELER'S TOOLKIT

Before You Go

- Lake Placid:** Upper 50s; frosty nights.
- Ferry:** Check Lake Champlain ferry hours before you go.
- World Series:** Game 2 tonight in Milwaukee.
- Gas:** U.S. regular \$4.29, AAA says.
- Vermont gas:** \$4.36 a gallon on average.
- Bring:** A warm hat for the High Peaks.

COMING UP

Your Pick Next?

Snowshoe in ski season is still on our list — send your next pick, JB.

SNOW WATCH 2026-27

Season tracking Nov. 1 through Apr. 1 · all totals in inches

8 DAYS UNTIL SNOW SEASON OPENS

Opening day: Sunday, Nov. 1 · Closing day: Thursday, Apr. 1 · 151 days of tracking

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR 1

PRESEASON

ESSEX JCT. ❄️ Burlington (BTV) NEXT 24 HRS LAST 24 HRS SEASON TO DATE 0.0" Tracking starts Nov. 1	MIDDLEBURY ❄️ Addison County NEXT 24 HRS LAST 24 HRS SEASON TO DATE 0.0" Tracking starts Nov. 1	STOWE ❄️ Mt. Mansfield NEXT 24 HRS LAST 24 HRS SEASON TO DATE 0.0" Tracking starts Nov. 1	SNOWSHOE, WV ❄️ Highland House · Rimfire NEXT 24 HRS LAST 24 HRS SEASON TO DATE 0.0" Tracking starts Nov. 1
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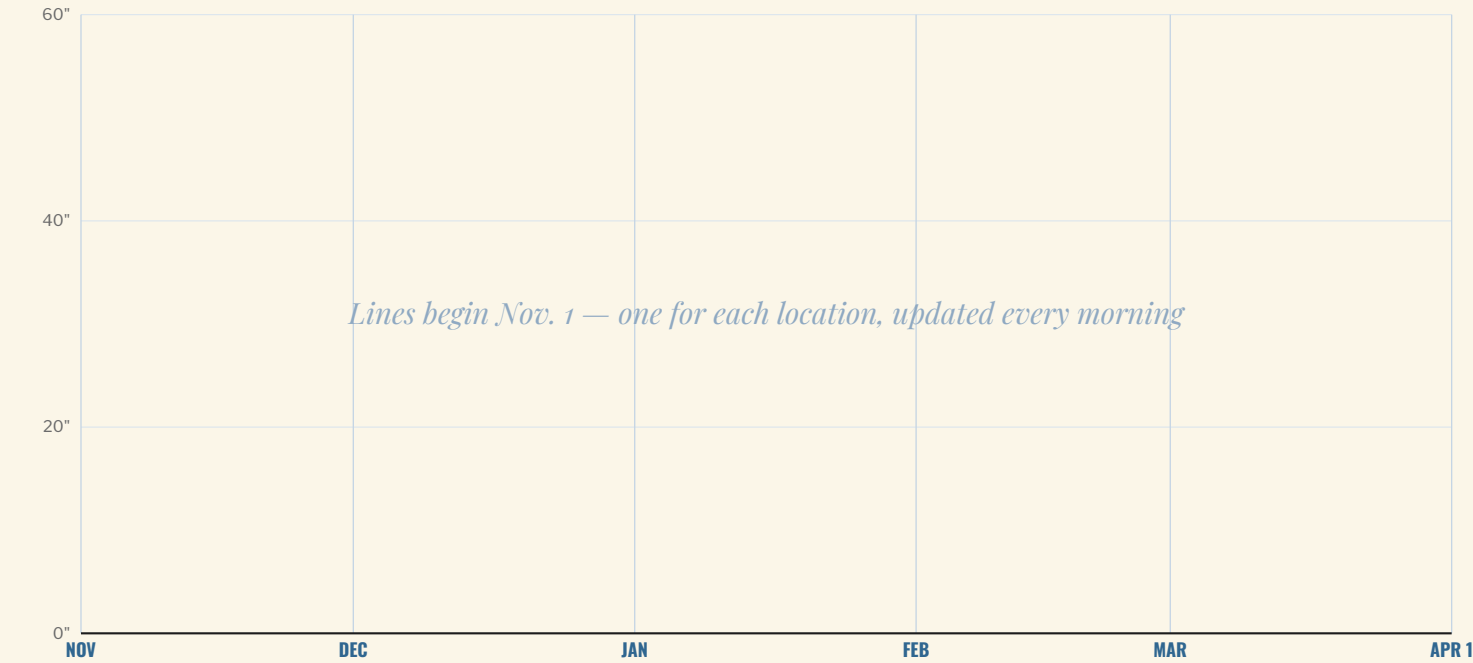
THE SEASON SO FAR — CUMULATIVE SNOWFALL

Essex Jct.

Middlebury

Stowe

Snowshoe, WV



STORM LOG

Biggest Storms of the Season

No storms logged yet. Every storm of 3 inches or more at any tracked spot will be ranked here, with dates and totals.

SNOWSHOE WATCH

Mild Weekend

Snowshoe stays in the 50s through Monday with nights in the upper 30s, forecast data show — still no snowmaking weather.

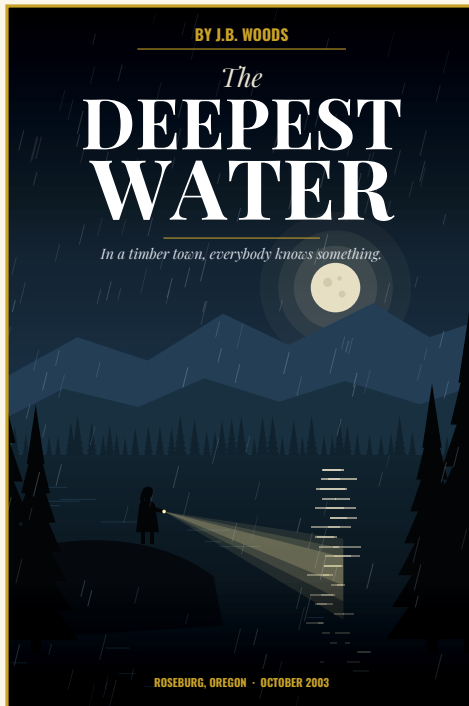
MOUNTAIN WATCH

A Cold Snap Tuesday

Mount Washington’s summit warms to the mid-50s Sunday, then forecast data show a high near 32° Tuesday and lows in the low 20s.

Snow tracking begins Nov. 1 — 8 days from today.

THE DEEPEST WATER

New reader? Tap here to read from Chapter 1 >

“TESS, YOU WERE not supposed to be in Room 118.”

The voice was low and close, and it was the first thing she heard after the scream died in her throat. A gloved hand was over her mouth. He knotted a hand towel from the bathroom across it, tight enough that she could breathe but not call out. Then he yanked a pillowcase off the bed and pulled it down over her head, and the room went dark.

“Stay calm,” he said. “Don’t run. Nobody is going to hurt you.”

He walked her out through the curtain, onto the deck and down the wet bank, one hand clamped around both of her wrists. Cold grass. Mud. The roar of the river. He lifted her into something that rocked under her feet — a boat — and set her on a bench. She heard a box rattle under the seat, and then a plastic strip cinched tight around her wrists. A zip tie. The kind you bundle a tarp with. A motor sputtered, then settled into a low, muffled hum — quieter than any boat motor she had ever heard, as if someone had made it that way on purpose. They ran with the current for a long time, and Tess counted bridges by the echo, and then lost count.

When the boat scraped gravel, he led her up another bank to a truck with a high metal floor, like the back of a moving van. The door rolled shut. The road turned to gravel, then to something much worse, and she braced her feet and bounced against the wall for what felt like an hour.

* * *

When the pillowcase came off, a lantern was burning.

She was in a room dug into a hillside, walls of stacked logs, a ceiling of poles and black plastic

CHAPTER 23

Count to a Hundred

Roseburg · October 2003

Previously: Kally and Teresa found Room 118 empty, the glass door to the deck wide open to the river. Tess was gone.

“The less you know, the safer you’ll be.”

and, she guessed, a great deal of dirt and brush on top. A cot. A propane stove. Plastic jugs of water. Shelves of canned beans, crackers, coffee — and, on the end of one shelf, a little pile of mayonnaise packets.

Tess stared at them. *Kally*. The fishing hole.

He cut the strip on her wrists and untied the towel from her mouth. Then he sat down on an upturned crate across from her, and in the lantern light she saw his face again — older, thinner, a gray beard grown in — the face she had seen at the foot of the bed.

“Somebody at that hotel always told me when 118 was empty,” he said. “Always. That was the deal. Last night my source failed me.” He rubbed his eyes. “I’m sorry you were the one who paid for it.”

“People think you’re dead,” Tess said. Her voice came out a whisper.

“Good. That’s better for everybody. I am being hunted, Tess.”

“By who?”

He was quiet a long time.

“Ever since the mill closed, people have been angry,” he said. “And money is owed. A lot of it. We shipped more than lumber out of that mill. Things hidden in the loads. The people on the other end are very dangerous, and they are from very far away.” He looked at her. “And plenty of the people involved are right here. People who never worked a day at the mill.”

Tess stared at him in complete awe. All those years of the town grieving that mill, and nobody had ever said a word.

“What was in the loads?”

“The less you know, the safer you’ll be.”

She thought of the knife in her front door. Of the note. *Go for a swim too*. She opened her mouth to ask — and he stood, turned the lantern down, and the moment was gone.

* * *

The day passed in pieces. Thin light through a crack where the poles met the hill. Crackers and a can of peaches. A wool blanket that smelled of wood smoke. She slept once and woke to find him by the door, listening to the woods.

When the crack of light turned orange, he picked up the pillowcase.

“Before I take you back,” he said, “I need your word. Nobody hears about this place. Nobody hears you saw me.”

Tess looked at the shelves, the cot, the little pile of mayonnaise packets. “You have my word.”

“I believe you.” He turned the pillowcase over in his hands. “I knew your father, Tess. I could never hurt you. I need you to know that.”

Back in the truck. The gravel again, and the bad road, and then pavement, smooth and fast. After a long while she heard big rigs roaring past, close, and the truck slowed onto gravel and stopped.

He walked her a few steps and cut the new strip on her wrists. “Count to a hundred before you take that off.”

She counted. At forty she heard the truck door. At sixty, gravel spitting. At a hundred she pulled the pillowcase off.

Dusk. A gravel turnout beside I-5, the freeway roaring past. A quarter mile up the road, the lights of the Rice Hill truck stop were just coming on — the same truck stop where Harlan Voss’s wallet had turned up in the trash.

The truck was gone.

Tess stood in the cold, shaking, and the questions came all at once. What was in the loads? Who was hunting him? Who at the hotel was his source? Did he know anything about the knives — the one in the river, the one in the ottoman, the one in her own front door? And why did a man who said he would never hurt anyone keep a box of zip ties under the seat of his boat?

So much more I wanted to ask him, she thought. She had sat across from the biggest story in Roseburg for a whole day, and fright had kept her mouth shut. She was angry with herself. As a reporter, she had failed.

But she was alive. Right then, that mattered more than any story.

Then she said the name out loud for the first time all day.

“Gordon Pryce. Maybe you’re a good man after all.”

THE DEEPEST WATER · READER'S GUIDE

The Story So Far · Chapters 1–23

Published chapters only — no spoilers. Updated every edition. By J.B. Woods · Roseburg, Oregon · October 2003

October 2003. Roseburg is a timber town still sore from the mill closures of the '90s. When its most prominent mill owner vanishes, a reporter who came home to start over finds a town where everybody knows something, and nobody is saying it.

CHAPTER 1

Lights On Till Eleven

Editor Walt Brenner hands Tess Halloran the story: Gordon Pryce, owner of the shuttered Pryce Lumber mill, left the Elks Lodge Friday and never came home. Then a car turns up on Highway 138.

CHAPTER 2

Whoever Left It There

A deputy turns Tess away from Pryce's Lincoln, its wheels turned neatly toward the river. At Del's diner in Glide: marionberry pie. At dawn Sheriff Coyle admits the wallet was on the seat with \$200. Whoever left that car wanted it found.

CHAPTER 3

The Sister at the Bar

Del says nobody stops at that pullout by accident. At the Idle Hour, Big Dave says Gordon was scared all summer and points Tess to "Tic Tac." His sister Darla drinks Tess's drink: her brother told Coyle what he saw Friday night.

CHAPTER 4

Forty Dollars a Plate

Tess remembers covering Janet Marsh's funeral. Over dinner at Brix Grill, PI friends Teresa and Kally of Eye Spy identify Tic Tac in unison: "Oh, Josh Foster?" But Josh had called Eye Spy asking what it costs to run a license plate.

CHAPTER 5

If I End Up in the River

Trent Pryce says he was home watching the game with his mother. Over lunch at Abby's, Josh tells Tess he saw the Lincoln heading up the canyon with a dark pickup behind it, no lights. As he leaves, a dark pickup follows.

CHAPTER 6

Patient as the Rain

Old neighbor Buck, who fished with Gordon for years, tips Tess to his hidden fishing hole at Cavitt Creek and Little River. That night Darla calls: Josh never showed at the bar, and his truck and fishing gear are gone. "Where is my brother?"

CHAPTER 7

The Third Time Today

With Big Dave as bodyguard, Tess returns to the Idle Hour. Police come looking for Josh about a gold-shop break-in. A dark pickup with no lights roars past; the chase fails. Darla: that's the third time today.

CHAPTER 8

Your Case, Not Ours

Deputy Cal Walters: the dark pickup was seen at the Holiday Inn by the river. A beagle finds a stag-handled knife in the shallows engraved DOUGLAS COUNTY ROADS · 1987. Coyle has it logged as found property, then calls a number twice. No answer.

CHAPTER 9

Up Little River

Kally and Teresa search Gordon's fishing spot and find an old, silt-filled tackle box with "G.P." carved in the lid — and a torn mayonnaise packet sitting on top. Tess: "Don't tell anyone you found it. Bring it to me."

CHAPTER 10

August 1987

Kally delivers the tackle box to the Ledger: "No, Tess. Mayonnaise!" Channel 9 breaks the news: Commissioner Harlan Voss is missing; his wife, Tiffany, pleads on TV. That night an envelope waits on her desk: "Ask them about August 1987."

CHAPTER 11

Behind the Hedge

Tiffany Voss lets Tess into a plain, dusty house. Sunday evening Harlan took a call from Josh Foster, came out scared, said "Don't wait up" and drove off. Walters calls: Harlan's wallet turned up at the Rice Hill truck stop. "Harlan never goes north."

CHAPTER 12

The Tin in the Gravel

FBI profiler Christine Mason arrives; Coyle wants no help. Harlan's wallet turns up in Rice Hill with cash receipts. Mason: somebody wants us looking north. Tipped off, Tess finds Josh's dented mint tin behind the Ranch Motel.

CHAPTER 13

The Brass Key

Josh's tin holds Tic Tacs and a brass key stamped "1987." Tess gives both to Mason. Darla breaks down: Josh knew things that put him in danger. At Del's diner, Del says Owen Marsh is out of prison and asking about Harlan Voss.

CHAPTER 14

The Twin Knife

At Seven Feathers, Tess runs into Owen Marsh, the boy she once babysat. He swears he was at the Screw and Brew in Cannon Beach the weekend Pryce vanished. A housekeeper finds a bloody knife in an ottoman in Holiday Inn Room 118. The guest two doors down: Marsh.

CHAPTER 15

The Door That Wasn't Locked

Room 118's deck door is rigged to look locked. Owen, who loves 118, drives off in a dark blue pickup. Tess sends Eye Spy to the Screw and Brew.

CHAPTER 16

The Screw and Brew

At the Screw and Brew in Cannon Beach, Eye Spy learns Freddy, the chef and Owen's alibi, was stabbed to death last night.

CHAPTER 17

Alive a Minute Ago

Owen checked out of the Holiday Inn the night the knife turned up. At the Idle Hour, Josh calls Darla in a whisper: "Pryce and Harlan are alive. At least they were —" A gunshot, and the line goes dead.

CHAPTER 18

The Phone Didn't Ring

At the Idle Hour, Coyle detains Darla; Mason says Josh is now a suspect. Darla tells Coyle he probably has more to do with the disappearances than anyone.

CHAPTER 19

Room 118

At City Hall, Coyle never names Josh. A dark pickup races past; Darla spots a figure in black: "Josh!" Tess books Room 118.

CHAPTER 20

Not a One-Glass Night

Home alone, Tess hears a thud at the door: a third DOUGLAS COUNTY ROADS · 1987 knife, with a note — STOP DIGGING OR YOU'LL GO FOR A SWIM TOO.

CHAPTER 21

Rubber Gloves and White Wine

Mason casts a shoe print from Tess's lawn. Tess checks into Room 118, Eye Spy next door. At 3:08 a.m. someone stands at the foot of her bed. "It's you!"

CHAPTER 22

Pale as Chalk

Room 118 is empty, its deck door open, a motorboat far off. Tess is gone. Kally suspects a hotel insider. Mason casts a riverside shoe print.

CHAPTER 23

Count to a Hundred

Gordon Pryce is alive. He takes Tess to a hidden shelter: he is hunted, and goods were once smuggled in mill lumber. At dusk he leaves her near Rice Hill.

OPEN QUESTIONS

• Pryce is alive and hiding. Where are Josh Foster and Harlan Voss?

• What does the brass key stamped 1987 open — and why did Josh have it?

• Three matching knives — river, Room 118, Tess's door. Whose are they?

• Who killed Freddy — and where did Owen go when he checked out Friday?

• Josh says Pryce and Voss were alive. Where — and what was that gunshot?

• Why is Coyle so eager to blame Josh — and whose side is Mason on?

• Who left the notes — and what happened in August 1987?

• What was hidden in the mill's lumber — and who is hunting Pryce?

THE DEEPEST WATER · READER'S GUIDE

Who's Who in Roseburg

Published chapters only — no spoilers. Updated every edition. By J.B. Woods · Roseburg, Oregon · October 2003

THE LEDGER

Tess Halloran — Our lead, 34. Reporter at the Umpqua Ledger. Grew up in Winston, laid off from a Portland daily, came home. Daughter of the late Frank Halloran, a faller at Pryce Lumber.

Walt Brenner — Ledger editor. Gruff and protective; keeps stories tight in the conference room until they're ready.

Gloria Bordiam — New staff reporter and newsroom busybody. Tells Tess what to eat — and orders it for her.

THE MISSING

Gordon Pryce — Owner of the closed Pryce Lumber mill. Vanished, his Lincoln left on Hwy 138 — but he is alive and hiding in the woods.

Josh “Tic Tac” Foster — Idle Hour regular (40s, Mariners cap, rattles a mint box). Saw the dark pickup tailing the Lincoln, got part of a plate, vanished. Called Darla (Ch. 17); a gunshot. Now a suspect.

Harlan Voss — Douglas County commissioner. Left home Sunday about 6 p.m. after a call from Josh Foster; his wallet turned up at the Rice Hill truck stop on I-5.

THE PRYCE HOUSEHOLD

Trent Pryce — Gordon's son, 35, running for county commission. Says he was home all night watching the game with his mother.

Evelyn Pryce — Gordon's wife. Watches silently in a gray cardigan.

Martin Kessler — The family's Eugene lawyer. Shuts down interviews.

THE VOSS HOUSEHOLD

Tiffany Voss — Harlan's wife of 18 years, about 20 years younger; nobody knows her real name. Flashy in public, a plain brown house at home. Josh was kind to her when she was new in town.

THE LAW

Sheriff Ray Coyle — Douglas County sheriff. Stonewalls Tess, downplayed Josh's statement, keeps the river knife quiet — and didn't ask for the FBI.

Deputy Cal Walters — 28. The only lawman who seems to care. Quietly feeds Mason and Tess what he finds.

Christine Mason — FBI profiler, about 50. Takes no guff from Coyle. Holds Josh's tin and the key.

Officer Ron & partner — Roseburg police. Want Josh about a break-in at Umpqua Gold & Coin; lose the pickup in a chase.

FRIENDS & ALLIES

Teresa Juniper — Eye Spy Investigations co-owner, Tess's friend since high school. Tea drinker; has an office cat in Klamath Falls.

Kallysta “Kally” Hawthorn — Eye Spy co-owner, self-declared germaphobe, transplanted from back East. Found the “G.P.” tackle box.

Big Dave — Shift supervisor at the veneer plant south of town; knew Tess's father. Her Idle Hour escort.

Buck — Tess's old Winston neighbor (red suspenders, calls her “Tessie”). Worked for Gordon fifteen years.

Del — Runs the diner in Glide on Hwy 138; drove log trucks thirty years. Marionberry pie and advice. Keeps a faded snapshot of his “niece” by the register.

Flo — Waitress at Del's for as long as Tess can remember. Pink uniform, pencil behind her ear: “Sit anywhere, hon.”

THE IDLE HOUR CROWD

Darla Foster — Josh's protective older sister; raised him. Tends bar part-time and is thawing toward Tess.

Herb & Rocky — Herb, in a fishing vest, waltzes with Rocky, a googly-eyed pet rock.

The owners — Brothers who flip coins to decide who pays for drinks.

TOWNSFOLK & WITNESSES

Earl Haskins — Graveyard-shift cabinet-shop worker who tipped police about the pickup.

Heather — Holiday Inn front-desk clerk; doesn't notice trucks. Called Walters about Room 118.

Marisol Reyes — Holiday Inn housekeeper who found the Room 118 knife.

Lorraine Pettibone & Moose — Retired teacher and her beagle, who found the engraved knife.

Janet Marsh — Local woman whose funeral Tess covered three weeks before the story opens.

Owen Marsh — Janet's son, about 28; 6-foot-5. Tess babysat him. In and out of prison since 18. Says he was in Cannon Beach the Pryce weekend. Stayed two doors from Room 118; checked out the night the knife was found. Drives a dark blue pickup.

Freddy — Smoker chef at the Screw and Brew in Cannon Beach; met Owen in prison. Found stabbed to death in an alley (Ch. 16).

Sally — Screw and Brew waitress who breaks the news.

The Ranch Motel clerk — Kind, tired, reading glasses on a chain. Remembers a man paying cash Sunday night; didn't see him leave.

THE EVIDENCE LOCKER

The Lincoln — Gordon's car, wheels turned neatly toward the river, wallet on the seat with \$200.

The knife — Stag-handled, engraved DOUGLAS COUNTY ROADS · 1987. Found in the shallows; Coyle had it logged as found property.

The tackle box — Silt-filled, “G.P.” carved in the lid, a torn mayonnaise packet on top. Locked up by Eye Spy.

The note — Unstamped, on Tess's desk: “Ask them about August 1987.”

Harlan's wallet — Tossed in a Rice Hill truck-stop trash can, \$41 inside, plus cash receipts from the K&R Drive-In (Sunday, 9:12 p.m.) and the Ranch Motel.

The mint tin — Dented, in a puddle in the tire ruts behind the Ranch Motel. Josh's — still holding his Tic Tacs. Now with the FBI.

The brass key — Small, worn, stamped “1987,” found under the mints. Now with the FBI.

Room 118's back door — Looks locked but opens with a tug; the strike plate was tampered with. A private way in from the river deck.

The second knife — In an ottoman in Holiday Inn Room 118: stag handle, dried blood, same 1987 engraving. The river knife's twin.

KEY TIMES

Gordon Pryce: Friday night: leaves the Elks Lodge · about 10 p.m.: calls home to take a drive “up the river” · about 10:30: Josh sees the Lincoln heading up the canyon, a dark pickup behind it with no lights · next morning: the wallet is still on the seat.

Harlan Voss: Sunday, about 6 p.m.: leaves home after a call from Josh · Sunday night: cash at the K&R and the Ranch Motel · Tuesday: the wallet turns up at Rice Hill · Wednesday: the FBI arrives; that night Tess finds the tin, meets Mason at Carlos and sees Darla · Thursday morning: Del's diner and the news about Owen Marsh · Friday: Owen at Seven Feathers; 4:40 p.m., the knife in Room 118; that evening Walters questions Owen · Saturday: Eye Spy heads for Cannon Beach.

KEY PLACES

Roseburg · Glide · Hwy 138 pullout near Toketee Falls · Idle Hour Tavern · Umpqua Ledger · Brix Grill · Abby's Pizza · Fred Meyer · Holiday Inn on the South Umpqua · Cavitt Creek & Little River · the Voss house on the hill · Rice Hill, 25 miles north on I-5: the truck stop, the K&R Drive-In and the Ranch Motel · Carlos, Winston · Seven Feathers Casino, Canyonville · the Screw and Brew, Cannon Beach

THE CRIME DESK

Cold cases · Blotter · Court watch · Top 20 · Scams · Trivia

COLD CASE FILE

Thetford, Vermont · 1977

Doris Maxfield: A Death First Called Natural

On Jan. 3, 1977, a family member found Louis Maxfield — who preferred the name Doris — dead in her home in Thetford, in Orange County. She was 46.

At first, her death was believed to be from natural causes. Later investigation found that she had been killed, and her death was ruled a homicide.

Nearly 50 years later, the case is still open. The Vermont State Police Major Crime Unit lists it among the state’s unsolved homicides.

Someone who lived in Thetford that winter, or who knew Doris Maxfield, may remember a visitor, a vehicle or a conversation. Even a small

detail could help.

CASE FACTS

NAME
Louis (Doris) Maxfield

AGE
46

FOUND
Jan. 3, 1977

WHERE
Thetford, Orange Co.

AGENCY
VSP Major Crime

STATUS
Open, unsolved

CASE NO.
489949

vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit (anonymous)
Text VTIPS to 274637 · VSP 802-244-8727

VERMONT POLICE BLOTTER

MORGAN — A 41-year-old woman reported missing Sunday afternoon was found alive and well Tuesday, police said.

ST. JOHNSBURY — A corrections officer at the Northeast Correctional Complex was cited on aggravated assault and disorderly conduct charges after a Harvey Street call.

Tips: vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit

COURT WATCH

Williamstown — The animal-cruelty case in the death of a family husky continues after Wednesday’s not-guilty plea. (WCAX)

INSIDE THE CASE · TOP 20 · NO. 19

Dennis Rader

Rader killed 10 people in and around Wichita, Kansas, between 1974 and 1991, and named himself “BTK” — bind, torture, kill — in taunting letters to police and the press. Then he went quiet for years — a church council president and city compliance officer. In 2004 he started writing again. In 2005 he mailed a floppy disk; its hidden data pointed to his Lutheran church and a user named “Dennis.” DNA from his daughter’s medical sample sealed it. He pleaded guilty and got 10 life sentences. His need for attention caught him.

TOP 20 U.S. SERIAL KILLERS			Ranked by confirmed victims		
#	NAME	KNOWN AS	CONFIRMED	SUSPECTED	YEARS
1	Samuel Little	—	60	93 confessed	1970–2005
2	Gary Ridgway	Green River Killer	49	71+	1982–1998
3	Donald Harvey	“Angel of Death”	37	87 claimed	1970–1987
4	John Wayne Gacy	“Killer Clown”	33	—	1972–1978
5	Charles Cullen	Nurse	29	up to 400 est.	1988–2003
6	Dean Corll	“Candy Man”	28	—	1970–1973
7	Juan Corona	Farm labor contractor	25	—	1971
8	Patrick Kearney	Trash Bag Killer	21	43	1962–1977
9	Ted Bundy	—	20	30 confessed	1974–1978
10	Jeffrey Dahmer	Milwaukee Cannibal	17	—	1978–1991
11	Robert Hansen	“Butcher Baker”	17	—	1971–1983
12	Randy Kraft	Scorecard Killer	16	67	1971–1983
13	William Bonin	Freeway Killer	14	21+	1979–1980
14	Arthur Shawcross	Genesee River Killer	14	—	1972–1989
15	Richard Ramirez	Night Stalker	13	—	1984–1985
16	Joseph DeAngelo	Golden State Killer	13	—	1975–1986
17	Herbert Mullin	—	13	—	1972–1973
18	Edmund Kemper	Co-ed Killer	10	—	1964–1973
19	Dennis Rader	BTK	10	—	1974–1991
20	Lonnies Franklin Jr.	Grim Sleeper	10	—	1985–2007

Confirmed = convicted, pleaded guilty or officially attributed (FBI, courts). Suspected = confessions/estimates.

SCAM ALERT

The “Unpaid Toll” Text

A text says you owe a small unpaid toll and must pay today through a link or face fines. It isn’t your toll agency — it’s a scam to steal your card number.

Protect yourself: don’t click. Check your account directly on the real toll agency’s website or by phone, delete the text, and report it by forwarding it to 7726 (SPAM).

CRIME TRIVIA

Test Your Detective Skills

In police radio talk, what does “BOLO” stand for?

Answer: Be On the LookOut.

THE PRICE CHECK

What things cost — today, a year ago, five years ago, 1995 and 1980

ITEM	UNIT	TODAY Sept. 2026	1 YR AGO Sept. 2025	5 YRS AGO Sept. 2021	1995 Sept. 1995	1980 Sept. 1980	SINCE 1980 times the price
● Gasoline, regular	gallon	\$4.48	\$3.34	\$3.27	\$1.15	\$1.26	3.6×
● Eggs, Grade A large	dozen	\$2.27	\$3.49	\$1.83	96¢	90¢	2.5×
● Milk, whole*	gallon	\$4.11	\$4.13	\$3.58	\$2.46	\$1.06	—
● Coffee, ground	pound	\$9.33	\$9.14	\$4.73	\$4.00	\$3.16	3.0×
Potato chips	16 oz	\$6.67	\$6.97	\$5.06	\$2.97	\$2.04	3.3×
Strawberries	12 oz pint	\$2.84	\$2.57	\$2.45	\$1.35	—	—

Green dot = daily regular. Bureau of Labor Statistics average retail prices, U.S. city average, via FRED; September 2026 data, released Oct. 14. *1980 milk is a half-gallon price. — = no reliable figure for that month.

AT THE STORE THIS WEEK · USDA GROCERY-AD PRICES

	SIZE	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	VS. LAST WK	VS. YEAR AGO
Raspberries	1 pint	\$5.27	\$4.92	\$4.32	+7%	+22%
Strawberries	1 lb pkg.	\$3.01	\$3.23	\$3.17	-7%	-5%
Yellow onions	3 lb bag	\$3.15	\$2.27	\$2.21	+39%	+43%
Green bell pepper	each	\$0.84	\$0.86	\$0.80	-2%	+5%
Honeycrisp apples	pound	\$2.08	\$2.12	\$1.61	-2%	+29%
Pumpkin, large	each	\$6.71	\$5.37	\$5.95	+25%	+13%

National average advertised prices, USDA National Retail Report – Specialty Crops, week of Oct. 16. Updated Fridays.

PRICE OF THE DAY

Onions Jump 39% in a Week

BY THE COURIER PRICE DESK · SOURCE: USDA

A 3-pound bag of yellow onions averaged \$3.15 in grocery ads last week, the USDA says — up from \$2.27 the week before and \$2.21 a year ago.

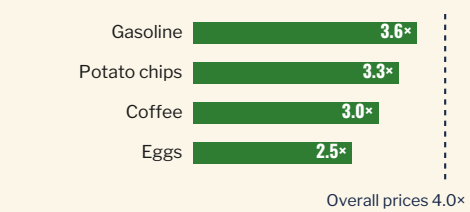
That’s a 39% jump in one week and 43% in a year. Raspberries rose too: \$5.27 a pint, up 22% from a year ago.

The bargains: green peppers at 84¢ each and strawberries at \$3.01 a pound, both cheaper than last week.

New this week: the “At the Store” box, with weekly grocery-ad prices from the USDA, alongside our long-run BLS table.

Tomorrow: new items rotate in. Got one you want checked? Tell JB.

SINCE 1980 VS. INFLATION



Red bars rose faster than prices overall since September 1980; green bars rose slower.

THE COURIER BASKET

Today	\$20.19
1 year ago	\$20.09
5 years ago	\$13.42

One each of the daily regulars (gas, eggs, milk, coffee).

WHAT \$1 WAS WORTH

\$4.01	today buys what \$1 bought in 1980
\$2.20	today buys what \$1 bought in 1995
\$1.23	today buys what \$1 bought in 2021
\$1.04	today buys what \$1 bought in 2025

What \$1 from each year buys in today’s money (CPI-U, Sept. 2026).

HOURS OF WORK

Today	2.8 hrs
1 year ago	2.8 hrs
5 years ago	1.9 hrs

Time at the \$7.25 federal minimum wage to buy the Courier Basket.

PUZZLES & GAMES

Grab a pencil and your coffee

THE DAILY SUDOKU

4			5	6			1	
	1	3			7	6		
				2		4		7
			3	5		1	7	
			7	1		8		4
	7	2				5		
		1		9			2	5
9						7		1
		5	4				6	8

Fill every row, column and 3×3 box with 1–9.

WORD SEARCH · FALL IN VERMONT

F	U	U	L	O	R	C	H	A	R	D	G	F
D	Y	Y	F	B	W	L	J	R	V	B	S	J
K	H	Y	O	T	C	Y	C	I	D	E	R	E
M	A	M	L	E	R	I	F	N	O	B	L	I
E	Y	M	I	F	D	N	M	A	A	P	N	P
I	R	C	A	L	W	V	L	B	A	I	V	H
F	I	A	G	H	A	A	H	M	K	A	G	T
R	D	W	E	C	F	A	E	P	E	N	D	E
O	E	O	O	P	R	T	M	I	B	D	T	T
S	W	R	B	V	S	U	F	B	R	U	A	J
T	N	N	E	T	P	S	W	E	A	T	E	R
V	L	S	I	O	N	Y	A	U	C	G	E	G
K	T	O	E	N	I	A	L	P	M	A	H	C

FIND THESE 12 WORDS

- ACORN
BONFIRE
CHAMPLAIN
CIDER
FOLIAGE
FROST
HARVEST
HAYRIDE
MAPLE
ORCHARD
PUMPKIN
SWEATER
- Words run across, down, diagonally — and some backward.

THE COURIER QUIZ

Five Questions, No Peeking

1. What is the smallest U.S. state capital by population?
2. In what year did the Red Sox end their 86-year World Series drought?
3. What is the minimum proof for bourbon at bottling?
4. What is Vermont’s state tree?
5. How many stocks are in the Dow Jones Industrial Average?

NAME THAT YEAR

Three Clues, One Year

- Michael Jackson’s “Bad” hits No. 1 on Oct. 24.
- The stock market crashes on “Black Monday,” Oct. 19.
- The Minnesota Twins win their first World Series.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Today’s solution runs in tomorrow’s Courier.

THE JUKEBOX

Music history, a record to spin and shows near home

OCTOBER 24 IN MUSIC

This Day in Music

- 1955 — Elvis’s manager Col. Tom Parker asks Sun Records what it would take to buy out Elvis’s contract. The price: \$40,000.
- 1962 — James Brown records *Live at the Apollo*, an album he paid for himself. It sells over a million copies.
- 1970 — Santana’s *Abraxas* knocks Creedence’s *Cosmo’s Factory* out of the No. 1 album spot.
- 1971 — Don McLean’s *American Pie* album is released.
- 1987 — Michael Jackson’s “Bad” reaches No. 1 on the Billboard singles chart.
- 2005 — Cream opens a sold-out reunion run at Madison Square Garden.

Born today: Bill Wyman of the Rolling Stones (1936).



SPIN THIS
American Pie
Don McLean · 1971

Released 55 years ago today, this is the album built around McLean’s eight-and-a-half-minute title song, a rolling, riddle-filled look back at rock ’n’ roll that went to No. 1 in early 1972.

Flip it over for “Vincent,” his gentle tribute to Vincent van Gogh, which went to No. 1 in Britain.

Best with: a Sunday drive and a pour of something easy.

LIVE IN VERMONT

Shows Near Home

- Sun. Oct. 25 · Carsie Blanton, Higher Ground
- Tue. Oct. 27 · Allison Russell, Higher Ground
- Tue. Nov. 3 · Clutch, Higher Ground
- Sat. Nov. 14 · Phillip Phillips, Higher Ground
- Wed. Nov. 18 · John Scofield, Flynn, Burlington
- Mon. Nov. 30 · Bonobo, Higher Ground
- Listings via Songkick; check venues for tickets.

MUSIC TRIVIA

Which Rolling Stones bassist, born on this date, played with the band for about 30 years?