

ESSEX JCT. TODAY

62°

Low 31° · Sunny and mild  
Monday: 56°, some clouds

The Morning Courier

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

WORLD SERIES

BREWERS 2, RAYS 0

Milwaukee wins Game 2, 5-4

Game 3 Monday, 8 p.m., Fox

VOL. I · NO. 32

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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 · THE WEEK AHEAD

# The Fed, Big Tech and \$100 Oil

A rate decision Wednesday, earnings from Alphabet, Microsoft and Amazon, and crude above \$100 make for one of the year's busiest weeks

THE WEEK BY THE NUMBERS

~92%

Odds the Fed holds Wed.

\$103

U.S. crude, Friday close

3

Tech giants reporting

5.00%

10-year Treasury yield

BY THE COURIER MARKETS DESK · SOURCES: CAPPNOTES, OPENING BELL DAILY

Wall Street heads into a crowded week with oil above \$100 a barrel and the 10-year Treasury yield at 5%. The Federal Reserve meets Tuesday and Wednesday, and traders put the odds of a hold near 92%.

Big Tech takes the stage, too. Alphabet and Microsoft report Wednesday and Amazon on Thursday, along with Visa on Tuesday, Mastercard, Eli Lilly and Intel on Thursday, and Exxon Mobil and Chevron on Friday, Opening Bell Daily says.

The Dow ended Friday down 653 points at 52,215 but posted a third straight weekly gain. U.S. crude closed at \$103.27 after new Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Overseas, Brazil votes today in a tight presidential runoff, and France saw a second weekend of mass protests.

The Big Board, Page 2.

ESSEX JUNCTION FORECAST



62°

Low tonight: 31°

Sunny and mild after a frosty start; light breeze.



CHANCE OF RAIN TODAY

0%

Dry until Thursday

THE WEEK AHEAD

MON



56°

15%

TUE



45°

5%

WED



52°

5%

THU



65°

20%

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

FORECASTER'S NOTE

Forecast data: a dry cold front Monday brings a chilly Tuesday in the mid-40s, then a warmup to the mid-60s by Thursday.

WORLD SERIES · GAME 2

## Brewers Rally Past Rays, 5-4

BY THE COURIER SPORTS DESK · SOURCE: SPORTRADAR

Tampa Bay scored four in the first, but Milwaukee chipped away and took the lead in the seventh. Sal Frelick homered, and Aaron Ashby got the save. The Brewers lead the series 2-0.

Game 3 is Monday at 8 p.m. on Fox in St. Petersburg, where SportRadar makes the Rays a slight favorite.

Also: the Bruins beat San Jose 6-4 with four third-period goals. Page 3.

INSIDE TODAY · IN BRIEF

NEW

"Across the USA": news from all 50 states. P. 14

ESSEX

The Essex Experience is for sale. P. 3

SERIAL

Chapter 24: "Focus, Tess." P. 8

CRIME

No. 20: the "Grim Sleeper." P. 11

WEATHER AROUND THE MAP

Sunday forecasts · NWS data · "Now" = overnight

MIDDLEBURY, VT



NOW 28° HI 61° LO 28° RAIN 0%

MT. WASHINGTON, NH



NOW 44° HI 56° LO 41° RAIN 0% summit

SNOWSHOE, WV



NOW 36° HI 57° LO 37° RAIN 0%

ROSEBURG, OR



NOW 44° HI 62° LO 40° RAIN 70%

E. DENNIS, MA · CAPE



NOW 42° HI 60° LO 42° RAIN 0%

CHARLOTTE, NC



NOW 49° HI 68° LO 45° RAIN 0%

WILMINGTON, NC



NOW 57° HI 74° LO 53° RAIN 0%

ST. PETERSBURG, FL



NOW 71° HI 81° LO 70° RAIN 0%

FULTON, MO



NOW 51° HI 80° LO 48° RAIN 10%

HOT SPOT · PHOENIX, AZ



NOW 61° HI 81° LO 55° RAIN 0%

INSIDE TODAY

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MARKETS & MONEY

Friday's close · Sunday, October 25

THE BIG BOARD — FRIDAY, OCT. 23

| INDEX / STOCK         | CLOSE     | CHANGE  | PCT    | DAY MOVE    |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------|--------|-------------|
| Dow Jones Industrials | 52,215.16 | -652.82 | -1.23% | <div></div> |
| S&P 500               | 7,623.68  | -39.75  | -0.52% | <div></div> |
| Nasdaq Composite      | 25,955.34 | -53.52  | -0.21% | <div></div> |
| Russell 2000          | 2,775.90  | -8.13   | -0.29% | <div></div> |
| JB'S WATCHLIST        |           |         |        |             |
| Nvidia (NVDA)         | 210.96    | -1.25   | -0.59% | <div></div> |
| Palantir (PLTR)       | 196.75    | +0.57   | +0.29% | <div></div> |
| Microsoft (MSFT)      | 524.51    | +3.44   | +0.66% | <div></div> |
| BIG NAMES             |           |         |        |             |
| Apple (AAPL)          | 347.73    | -0.49   | -0.14% | <div></div> |
| Amazon (AMZN)         | 248.00    | -2.38   | -0.95% | <div></div> |
| Alphabet (GOOGL)      | 320.21    | -4.02   | -1.24% | <div></div> |
| Meta (META)           | 642.62    | -6.23   | -0.96% | <div></div> |
| Tesla (TSLA)          | 372.22    | -2.36   | -0.63% | <div></div> |
| JPMorgan (JPM)        | 331.58    | -4.95   | -1.47% | <div></div> |
| Goldman Sachs (GS)    | 875.68    | -15.60  | -1.75% | <div></div> |

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

RATES · ENERGY · METALS

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

TUE. Visa; Fed meets

WED. Fed decision; Alphabet, Microsoft

THU.-FRI. Amazon; Exxon, Chevron

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

Earnings Parade Meets the Fed

BY THE COURIER MARKETS DESK · SOURCE: OPENING BELL DAILY

Ten big companies report this week: Visa on Tuesday; Alphabet and Microsoft on Wednesday; Mastercard, Eli Lilly, Amazon and Intel on Thursday; and Exxon Mobil, AbbVie and Chevron on Friday.

The Fed's rate decision lands Wednesday afternoon, right alongside Alphabet and Microsoft — a lot of news in one day.

STOCKS TO WATCH TODAY

On the Radar

Alphabet (GOOGL) — Reports Wednesday; closed at \$320.21.

Microsoft (MSFT) — Reports Wednesday; up 0.7% Friday.

Amazon (AMZN) — Reports Thursday; closed at \$248.00.

Visa (V) — Kicks off the week's big reports Tuesday.

Exxon (XOM) · Chevron (CVX) — Report Friday with crude over \$100.

Intel (INTC) — Reports Thursday after the close.

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 Still Over \$100

FOR THE JB WOODS DESK

U.S. crude ended the week at \$103.27 a barrel, and diesel averages \$6.32 a gallon, AAA says. Weather: sunny today; 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 · BRAZIL

Brazil Votes in a Dead Heat

BY THE COURIER NATION DESK · SOURCES: AL JAZEERA, THE RIO TIMES

Brazilians vote today in a presidential runoff between President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, the eldest son of former President Jair Bolsonaro. Bolsonaro led the first round on Oct. 4 with 47% to Lula's 45%.

The final polls show a toss-up. A CNT/MDA survey released Saturday had Bolsonaro at 46.3% and Lula at 45%, within the margin of error; a final Datafolha poll put it at 51% to 49% for Bolsonaro, counting only valid votes.

ELSEWHERE

France. Hundreds of thousands marched Saturday in a second weekend of protests over schools and the cost of living; about 1,000 were arrested. (Al Jazeera)

Oil. Brent crude ended the week at \$116.72 a barrel after more Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia. (CappNotes)

Space. A study says Van Gogh's "Starry Night" matches the pre-dawn sky over Saint-Rémy around July 22, 1889. (Good News Network)

Pumps. U.S. regular gas averages \$4.29, AAA says — \$1.22 more than a year ago.

VERMONT

Around the Green Mountain State

ESSEX JUNCTION · BUSINESS

Essex Experience Up for Sale

BY THE COURIER VERMONT DESK · SOURCE: WCAX

The Essex Experience, the shopping plaza home to Essex Cinemas, the Double E outdoor venue and Vermont Cider Lab, is listed for sale at nearly \$28 million, WCAX reports.

Owner Peter Edelmann, whose family has run the plaza for 33 years, confirmed the sale. He also owns the Essex Resort, which he plans to upgrade, and he hopes to open an entertainment center at the plaza; the sale would help pay for those projects.

More than 20 businesses operate there, and three new ones are set to move in. Edelmann says he wants a buyer who “loves Vermont,” and that leases are being written to protect current tenants if the property changes hands.

STATEWIDE · HOUSING

Free, Ready-to-Build Home Plans

Vermont is building the “802 Homes Catalog,” 10 home designs anyone can use for free to cut costs and speed building. It is now due in February 2027. Essex Junction is amending its bylaws so compatible 802 Homes designs can skip design review. (WCAX)

AROUND THE STATE

**BARRE** — **Rink may open after all.** Repairs and donations could keep the city’s ice rink open this season.

**BURLINGTON** — **Tech Jam.** Saturday’s free job fair connected job seekers with tech employers.

ESSEX JCT. · RUTLAND

Pumpkins and a Parade

There’s still time to see Pumpkin Palooza: 700 lit pumpkins in Essex Junction. In Rutland, thousands watched more than 80 floats in Saturday’s 65th Halloween Parade. (WCAX)

**PLATTSBURGH** — **A capsule for 2076.** Clinton County opened 10 boxes sealed in 1976 and packed a new time capsule.

FOLIAGE REPORT *Sunny Sunday, chilly Tuesday*

**Today:** sunny and mild, 62°, after a frosty start.

**Monday:** some clouds, 56°, as a dry cold front passes.

**Tuesday:** the chilly day, mid-40s; frost Wednesday morning.

**Thursday:** warming to the mid-60s; a slight shower chance.

**Halloween Saturday:** dry so far, near 58°.

THE WEEK IN VERMONT

**Today** Sunny and mild, 62°.

**Mon.** Some clouds, 56°.

**Tue.** Chilly sun, 45°.

**Wed.** Sunny, 52°.

Forecast data for Essex Junction; check before you go.

VERMONT BY THE NUMBERS

- ~\$28M Essex Experience price
- 33 Years under current owners
- 20+ Businesses at the plaza
- 700 Pumpkin Palooza pumpkins
- 10 Free 802 Homes designs

SPORTS

Brewers up 2–0 · Bruins top Sharks · NFL Sunday

WORLD SERIES GAME 2 · MILWAUKEE 5, TAMPA BAY 4

| TEAM | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | R | H  | E |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|
| TB   | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 7  | 1 |
| MIL  | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | X | 5 | 11 | 1 |

W: Uribe · L: Wells · S: Ashby · HR: Frelick (MIL), Hicks (TB) · Brewers lead series 2–0

WORLD SERIES · GAME 2

Brewers Come Back, 5–4

BY THE COURIER SPORTS DESK · SOURCE: SPORTRADAR

Tampa Bay jumped on Logan Henderson for four runs in the first, with Liam Hicks hitting a two-run homer. Milwaukee answered with two in the bottom half, then crept closer: a run in the fourth, the tying run in the sixth and the go-ahead run in the seventh. Sal Frelick homered and had two hits.

The bullpen blanked the Rays after the first. Abner Uribe got the win and Aaron Ashby struck out three for the save. **Game 3** is Monday at 8 on Fox in St. Petersburg; SportRadar gives the Rays a 52.5% edge.

NFL · TODAY (ET)

|            |          | Favorite’s win chance |
|------------|----------|-----------------------|
| PIT at NO  | 9:30a    | PIT 60%               |
| IND at MIN | 1:00     | MIN 73%               |
| MIA at NYJ | 1:00     | NYJ 66%               |
| CIN at BAL | 1:00     | CIN 58%               |
| CLE at TEN | 1:00     | CLE 55%               |
| TB at CAR  | 1:00     | CAR 59%               |
| SF at ATL  | 1:00     | SF 58%                |
| NYG at HOU | 1:00     | HOU 84%               |
| DEN at ARI | 4:05     | DEN 67%               |
| LA at LV   | 4:25     | LA 62%                |
| GB at DET  | 4:25     | —                     |
| KC at SEA  | 8:20     | —                     |
| DAL at PHI | Mon 8:15 | —                     |
| CAR at GB  | Thu 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 win odds. Patriots off this week; at Miami Nov. 1, 4:25 p.m.

NHL · BRUINS CORNER

Bruins 6, Sharks 4

Boston scored four in the third, capped by William Borgen’s empty-netter. Casey Mittelstadt and James Hagens each had a goal and an assist, and David Pastrnak scored. Now 9–2–1; at Carolina Tuesday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

College Saturday

**Late:** Texas 34, Ole Miss 27 · Wisconsin 24, USC 7 · Va. Tech 20, Clemson 16 · Syracuse 31, UNC 30.

**Also:** LSU 38, Auburn 17 · Okla. St. 57, Colorado 24.

MLB · FULL SCHEDULE (ET)

**WS G3** Brewers at Rays, Mon. 8:00

**WS G4** Brewers at Rays, Tue. 8:00

**WS G5\*** Brewers at Rays, Wed. 8:00

THE BOURBON PAGE

Bottled in bond from Bardstown · plus the Old Fashioned



**BOTTLED IN BOND · 7 YEARS OLD · BARDSTOWN, KY.**

## Heaven Hill Bottled-in-Bond

| PROOF | AGE     | STYLE  | MAKER       | PRICE    |
|-------|---------|--------|-------------|----------|
| 100   | 7 years | Bonded | Heaven Hill | ~\$40–50 |

Heaven Hill, the family-owned company in Bardstown, brought back its bottled-in-bond label in 2019 as a seven-year-old bourbon — older than the four years the bonded law requires.

It is the same house behind Evan Williams, Elijah Craig, Larceny and Henry McKenna, all featured here before. Bonded means one distilling season, one distillery and exactly 100 proof.

**How to drink it:** neat or with a single ice cube. Expect caramel, vanilla, a little peanut and oak, and a warm, peppery finish. Plan on \$40 to \$50.

**BOTTLE OF THE WEEK**

**BOURBON SCIENCE 101**

### What “Bonded” Means

BY THE COURIER SPIRITS DESK

The Bottled-in-Bond Act of 1897 was one of America’s first consumer-protection laws, passed to stop rectifiers from passing off doctored whiskey as the real thing.

A bonded spirit must come from one distillery and one distilling season, age at least four years in a federally bonded warehouse and be bottled at exactly 100 proof.

**Label tip:** the label must say where it was distilled and, if different, where it was bottled.

**THE BONDED SHELF**

### Bonds Worth Knowing

**Heaven Hill 7** — this week’s bottle.

**Henry McKenna 10** — same house, aged longer; featured here before.

**Old Grand-Dad Bonded** — high-rye and spicy; also featured before.

**Evan Williams Bottled-in-Bond** — the white label, a bargain.

**Old Fitzgerald** — Heaven Hill’s decanter series of older bonds.

**Hunting tip:** look for “Bottled-in-Bond” and a DSP number on the label.

**THIS WEEK’S POUR**

### Cocktail Corner

**The Old Fashioned.** The classic, and 100 proof stands up to it.

In a rocks glass, stir 1 sugar cube (or 1 tsp simple syrup) with 2 dashes Angostura bitters and a splash of water. Add 2 oz bonded bourbon and a big ice cube; stir. Express an orange peel over the top.

**Vermont twist:** ¼ oz maple syrup instead of sugar.

**TASTING LAB**

Pour Heaven Hill 7 beside Henry McKenna 10: same house, same proof, three years apart.

**THIS WEEK’S POUR PLAN**

**TODAY · A 62° SUNDAY**

An Old Fashioned on the porch while the sun lasts.

**MONDAY · WORLD SERIES GAME 3**

The bonded bourbon, neat — Brewers up 2–0.

*What to sip with what’s on*

**WEDNESDAY · FED DAY**

Bonded beside Henry McKenna 10: same house, both 100 proof.

THE BOURBON GLOSSARY

Label terms, decoded

**Bottled-in-Bond** — one distillery, one season, 4+ yrs, 100 proof.

**Bonded warehouse** — aging under federal oversight.

**Distilling season** — Jan.–June or July–Dec.

**Age statement** — the youngest whiskey in the bottle.

**Straight** — aged at least two years.

**Old Fashioned** — spirit, sugar, bitters and water.

**Bitters** — concentrated herbal flavoring, used by the dash.

**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.

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

Sunday, Oct. 25 — Wednesday, Oct. 28

ON THE TUBE (ET)

**Today 1:00** — NFL Sunday (Patriots off).  
**Tonight 8:20** — SNF: Chiefs at Seahawks.  
**Mon. 8:00** — World Series Game 3, Fox.  
**Tue. 8:00** — WS Game 4; Bruins at Carolina.  
**Wed. 2:00** — Fed decision; WS Game 5\* at 8.

AROUND VERMONT

**Today** — Pumpkin Palooza's 700 lit pumpkins, Essex Jct.  
**Through Nov. 3** — Early voting at your town clerk's office.  
**Tue.** — The chilly day: mid-40s.

WEATHER AT A GLANCE

**Sun.** — Sunny and mild, 62°.  
**Mon.** — Some clouds, 56°.  
**Tue.** — Chilly sun, 45°.  
**Wed.** — Sunny, 52°.

GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Kindness, critters & comebacks

MINNESOTA

A Hero Hops the Bus

When a St. Paul school-bus driver had a seizure behind the wheel, 27-year-old Ebro Ahmed ran after the rolling bus, jumped through the open doors and pulled the brake. All 18 students were safe; he stayed with the driver until help came. (Good News Network)

FRANCE

Van Gogh's Real Sky

Researchers in South Korea say the stars in "The Starry Night" match the pre-dawn sky over Saint-Rémy around July 22, 1889 — including the Hyades star cluster. (Good News Network)

THE TROPICS

Seabirds Build Islands

Reefs around islands full of seabirds grew up to 2.5 times faster than those on rat-infested atolls, a Lancaster University study of 28 islands found — good news for low islands facing rising seas. (Positive News)

BRITAIN

Run, Then Help

Volunteers who combined exercise with good deeds through the charity GoodGym had significantly better mental health than a comparison group, a King's College London study of 2,800 people found. (Positive News)

BANGLADESH

A Factory Wins a Prize

A rug factory in Rangpur, cooled naturally by plants and gardens and complete with a daycare and medical center, won the RIBA International Prize for architecture. (Positive News)

LONDON

Homes Take the Top Prize

Lion Green Road, 157 homes set in a green landscape in Croydon, won the Stirling Prize for Britain's best new building. (Positive News)

THE SUNDAY KITCHEN

A SEASONAL RECIPE

Sunday Pot Roast

Serves 6 · 20 min prep · 3½ hours in the oven

**THE ROAST** 3–4 lb boneless chuck roast · 2 Tbsp oil; salt and pepper · 1 onion, sliced; 4 garlic cloves · 2 cups beef broth, 1 Tbsp tomato paste · 2 sprigs thyme, 1 bay leaf

**THE VEGETABLES** 1½ lb small potatoes, halved · 4 carrots, in chunks · 2 celery ribs, in chunks · 2 Tbsp flour + 2 Tbsp butter · Chopped parsley

METHOD

1. Heat the oven to 300°F. Season the roast well and brown it on all sides in oil in a Dutch oven; set aside.
2. Soften the onion and garlic, stir in tomato paste, then add broth, thyme and bay leaf. Return the roast, cover and bake 2½ hours.
3. Add the potatoes, carrots and celery around the meat; cover and bake another hour, until fork-tender.
4. Lift out meat and vegetables. Whisk the flour-butter paste into the simmering juices for gravy; slice and serve.

**Courier tip:** Chuck is the cut you want — the fat and connective tissue melt into tenderness. Leftovers make Monday's sandwiches.

THE TRAVEL DESK

Destinations, drives & the airport board



Courier illustration: mountains at sunset

DESTINATION OF THE WEEK · ACROSS THE LAKE

## Saratoga Springs, New York

Mineral springs, a famous racetrack and the battlefield that turned the Revolution — about two and a half hours from home

**Why go:** Saratoga Springs grew rich on its mineral waters in the 1800s, and you can still taste them from public springs in Congress Park. The racecourse, opened in 1863, is one of the oldest in the country; its season is summer, but Broadway’s shops, cafés and Victorian streets are lively year-round. This week looks sunny, low 60s by day and near freezing at night.

DON'T MISS

- Congress Park.** Sample the mineral springs and see the old casino.
- Saratoga Spa State Park.** Bathhouses, pine woods and more springs.

- Saratoga National Historical Park.** The 1777 battlefield that turned the Revolution, about 15 miles away.
- Broadway.** Downtown shops, bookstores and restaurants.

Saratoga Springs: sunny, 61° today and 65° Monday; 51° Tuesday; nights near 28°.  
From Essex Junction: about 2½ hours — U.S. 7 south through Rutland, then across into New York. Sources: forecast data; Courier travel desk.

ROAD TRIP FROM ESSEX JUNCTION

## St. Albans and the Missisquoi Refuge

About 80 miles round trip · an easy afternoon

- 1 Essex → St. Albans.** I-89 north about 35 minutes.
- 2 Taylor Park.** The green in the middle of downtown St. Albans.
- 3 Missisquoi refuge.** Marsh and river trails near Swanton, on the lake.
- 4 Back.** Home on I-89 before dark.
- 5 Why today.** Sunny, 62° — one more mild drive.

WEEK-AHEAD OUTLOOK

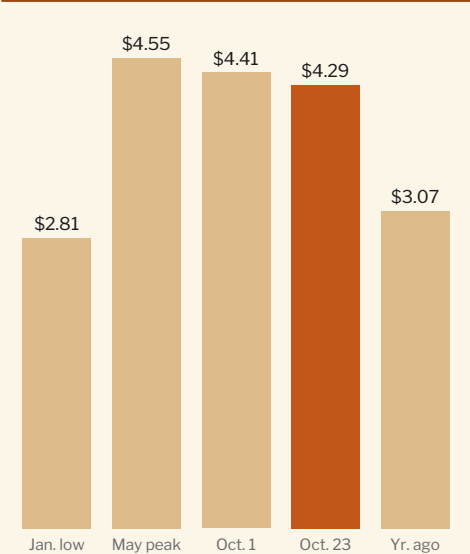
|                    | SUN     | MON     | TUE     |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Essex Jct., VT     | 62° 0%  | 56° 15% | 45° 5%  |
| Saratoga Spr., NY  | 61° 0%  | 65° 10% | 51° 5%  |
| Snowshoe, WV       | 57° 0%  | 61° 0%  | 64° 10% |
| St. Petersburg, FL | 81° 0%  | 80° 15% | 81° 0%  |
| Charlotte, NC      | 68° 0%  | 69° 0%  | 73° 0%  |
| Cape Cod, MA       | 60° 0%  | 64° 5%  | 53° 10% |
| Roseburg, OR       | 62° 70% | 56° 30% | 54° 55% |
| Milwaukee, WI      | 74° 10% | 56° 10% | 58° 10% |

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

AIRPORT BOARD · TRAVEL ALERTS

- Tampa Bay:** World Series Games 3–5, Monday–Wednesday.
- Washington:** Marine Corps Marathon road closures today.
- Northeast:** Dry skies; a smooth travel day.

REGULAR GAS IN 2026 (AAA)



TRAVELER'S TOOLKIT

## Before You Go

- Saratoga:** Low 60s; frosty nights.
- Springs:** Bring a cup for the park’s mineral springs.
- World Series:** Game 3 Monday in St. Petersburg.
- Gas:** U.S. regular \$4.29, AAA says.
- Battlefield:** Check visitor-center hours before you go.
- Bring:** A jacket for the evening chill.

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

7 DAYS UNTIL SNOW SEASON OPENS

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

NOV

DEC

JAN

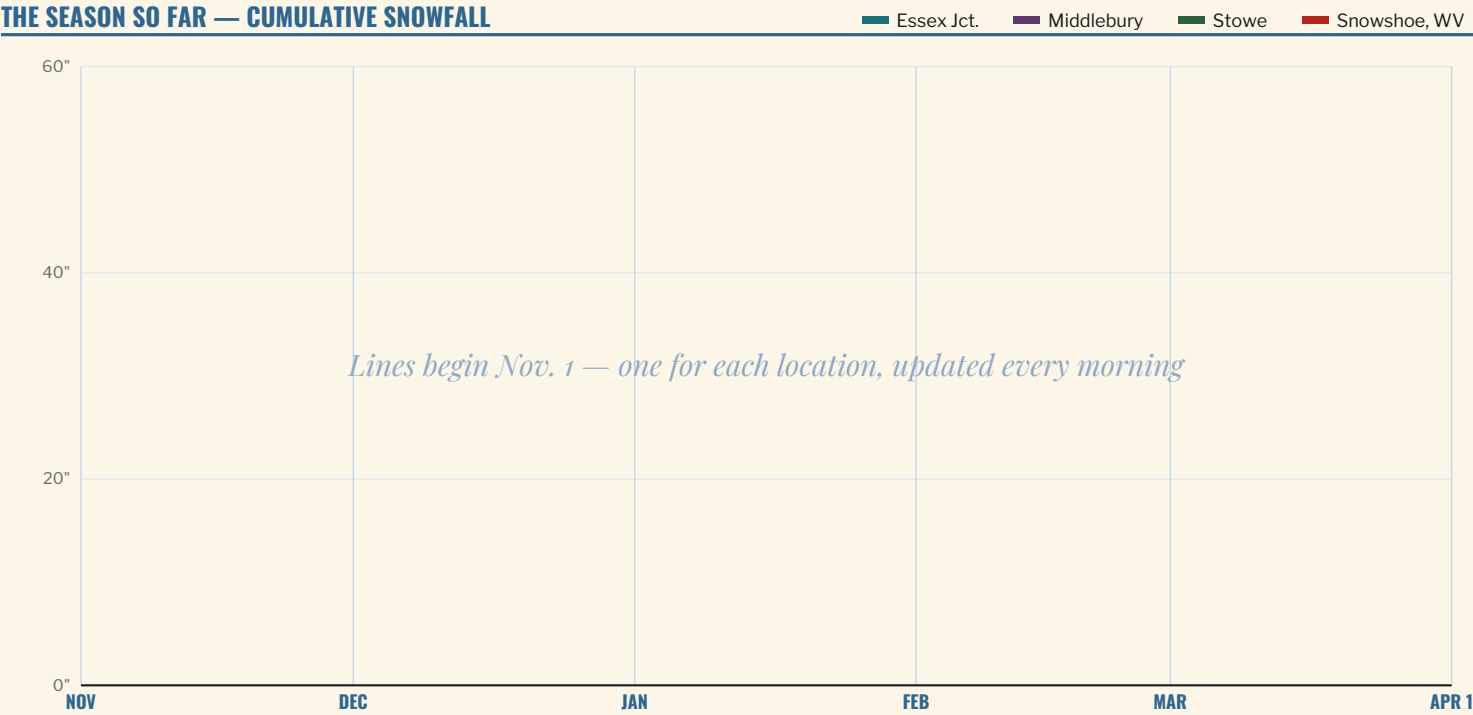
FEB

MAR

APR 1

PRESEASON

|                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>ESSEX JCT. ❄️</div> <div>Burlington (BTV)</div> <div>NEXT 24 HRS</div> <div>LAST 24 HRS</div> <div>SEASON TO DATE</div> <div>0.0"</div> <div>Tracking starts Nov. 1</div> | <div>MIDDLEBURY ❄️</div> <div>Addison County</div> <div>NEXT 24 HRS</div> <div>LAST 24 HRS</div> <div>SEASON TO DATE</div> <div>0.0"</div> <div>Tracking starts Nov. 1</div> | <div>STOWE ❄️</div> <div>Mt. Mansfield</div> <div>NEXT 24 HRS</div> <div>LAST 24 HRS</div> <div>SEASON TO DATE</div> <div>0.0"</div> <div>Tracking starts Nov. 1</div> | <div>SNOWSHOE, WV ❄️</div> <div>Highland House · Rimfire</div> <div>NEXT 24 HRS</div> <div>LAST 24 HRS</div> <div>SEASON TO DATE</div> <div>0.0"</div> <div>Tracking starts Nov. 1</div> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



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

Still Too Warm

Snowshoe stays in the upper 50s and low 60s through Tuesday, with nights in the upper 30s, forecast data show — no snowmaking weather yet.

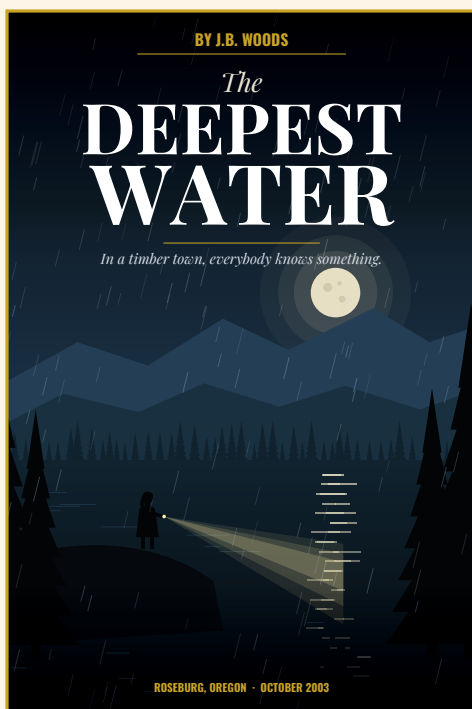
MOUNTAIN WATCH

Snow Tuesday Up Top

Mount Washington’s summit tops out near 56° today, then forecast data call for a high near 33° Tuesday, lows in the low 20s and snow.

Snow tracking begins Nov. 1 — 7 days from today.

## THE DEEPEST WATER

*New reader? Tap here to read from Chapter 1 >*

## CHAPTER 24

## Focus, Tess

*Roseburg · October 2003*

*Previously: Gordon Pryce — alive — held Tess for a day at a hidden shelter in the woods, then left her at dusk beside I-5, a quarter mile from the Rice Hill truck stop.*

*“Sheriff, you won’t believe this. Gordon Pryce is alive.”*

TESS RAN THE quarter mile without feeling her feet.

At the Rice Hill truck stop she pushed through the glass doors and stopped dead in the middle of the floor, breathing hard, with no idea what to do next.

A big trucker in a Peterbilt cap looked up from the coffee counter. “Excuse me, ma’am. Are you okay?”

“No.” Then: “I mean — yes. Can you tell me where the pay phones are?”

He pointed down the hallway past the restrooms, and kept watching her until she got there.

She stood with the receiver in her hand and her mind spinning. *Who do I even call?* There was no police department in Rice Hill — out here it was the county, and the county was Ray Coyle.

And what would she tell him? She didn’t know where she had been. She didn’t know where Gordon was now. Was he back at the shelter? Was someone hunting him right now? How well hidden was that place, if even Eye Spy had walked past it?

“Focus, Tess,” she said out loud.

She would call Kally and Teresa first. They had to be going out of their minds. Then the sheriff’s office. She would tell them Gordon Pryce was alive.

And she would say nothing about the mill. Nothing about what had been hidden in the lumber. *Not yet. Not until I know more. Not with lives at stake.*

Kally answered on the first ring. Tess had barely said her name when both of them were screaming into the phone. “*You’re alive!* Where are you? We’re coming!”

“Rice Hill truck stop. Come get me, and take me straight to the sheriff’s office. Call Coyle and tell him I’m safe and on my way. Call Mason, too.”

They made it in thirty-five minutes. Hugs and tears in the parking lot, and then they were racing south on I-5 toward Roseburg.

\* \* \*

Everyone was waiting at the sheriff’s office. Deputy Walters reached her first. Christine Mason stood by the window with her arms folded. And in the corner, rumped and red-eyed, was Walt Brenner.

Walt hugged her hard. “Welcome back,” he said gruffly. “Nobody at the Ledger has been able to do a lick of work.”

Sheriff Coyle quieted the room. “Tess. Who took you, and where did you go?”

She took a breath. “Sheriff, you won’t believe this. Gordon Pryce is alive.”

Coyle’s eyes froze wide open. For a long moment nobody spoke.

“Where is he?” “I don’t know.” “You must know.”

“I don’t know,” she said again. “I was blindfolded most of the time. My best guess is somewhere near his old fishing hole — the spot on Little River where Kally and Teresa found his tackle box with his initials carved in the lid.”

“And a mayonnaise packet,” Kally put in. Mason rolled her eyes.

“There were the same packets in his hideout,” Tess said. “I guarantee it. The very same.”

Coyle had Kally describe the spot and wrote it down. “I know that stretch of creek,” he said. “Fished it myself years ago. Never saw any kind of hideout. Could be something new.” He turned to Walters. “Put a team together. You head out there at first light. Ladies, you show my deputy the path — then you get out of there. I don’t want you anywhere near a nutcase in the woods.”

Then he looked back at Tess. “Why is Pryce hiding? And what was he doing in Room 118 of the Holiday Inn?”

“I have no idea why he was at the hotel, Sheriff. He told me people want him dead. He said the more people who think he’s dead, the better off

he is.”

Coyle leaned out the door. “Monica!”

His secretary, Monica Jones, appeared with her notepad.

“Tell the press we’re holding a press conference tomorrow, one o’clock, out front. We’re going to let everyone know Gordon Pryce is alive — and armed and dangerous.”

“Sheriff,” Tess said, “I don’t know that he’s armed and dangerous.”

“He kidnapped you, didn’t he?” “Yes, sir.”

“Then he’s dangerous. And I’d bet my badge he was carrying.” Coyle’s jaw set. “When we nab him, he goes away for a very long time. He’ll pay for what he did to you.”

Tess said nothing. She thought of a gray-bearded man in lantern light saying *I could never hurt you*, and she wasn’t sure of anything at all.

\* \* \*

By one o’clock the next afternoon, half of Roseburg was standing on the lawn in front of the sheriff’s office. Tess stood near the back with Kally and Teresa, waiting to hear the words *alive* and *manhunt*.

Coyle came out late. His face was gray. Walters walked behind him, still in muddy boots, and wouldn’t look at anyone.

Coyle stepped to the microphones and cleared his throat.

“This morning,” he said, “deputies searching a remote area off Little River Road found the body of Gordon Pryce.”

A sound went through the crowd, half gasp, half groan.

“Mr. Pryce was stabbed to death. We are treating this as a homicide.”

The lawn began to spin. Tess grabbed Teresa’s arm.

*Last night he was alive. Last night I told them where to look.*

Behind the sheriff, Walters finally raised his eyes and found hers in the crowd. He gave one small shake of his head — as if to say, *there’s more, and I can’t tell you here.*

THE DEEPEST WATER · READER'S GUIDE

The Story So Far · Chapters 1–24

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 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

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. At Abby's, Josh says 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

Back at the Idle Hour, police come looking for Josh. 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

At Gordon's fishing spot, Eye Spy finds an old 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. 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.

CHAPTER 24

Focus, Tess

Tess tells Coyle, Walters and Mason that Pryce is alive. At the next day's press conference, Coyle announces Pryce has been found stabbed to death.

OPEN QUESTIONS

• Who killed Gordon Pryce — and who knew where he was hiding?

• 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. Faked his disappearance and hid in the woods; found stabbed to death.

**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

Barnet, Vermont · 1972

# Vincent Palmieri: A Name 35 Years Late

On June 1, 1972, a man’s body was found in the Passumpsic River in Barnet, in Caledonia County. Investigators could not tell who he was, but they ruled his death a homicide.

For 35 years he had no name. Then, in 2007, a review of the case and its evidence identified him as Vincent Palmieri, who was 36 when he died.

Who killed him, and why, is still unknown. The Vermont State Police Major Crime Unit lists the case among the state’s unsolved homicides.

Someone who lived along the Passumpsic in the spring of 1972, or who knew Vincent Palmieri, may remember a face, a car or a story. Even a small detail could help.

## CASE FACTS

NAME  
Vincent Palmieri

AGE  
36

FOUND  
June 1, 1972

WHERE  
Passumpsic River, Barnet

NAMED  
2007, after case review

STATUS  
Open, unsolved

CASE NO.  
05B104569

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

## VERMONT POLICE BLOTTER

**SWANTON** — Police are searching for a car and driver after a hit-and-run sent an 81-year-old pedestrian to the hospital.

**LANDGROVE** — A driver was cited after striking a traffic flagger in a construction zone, WCAX reports.

Tips: vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit

## COURT WATCH

**Burlington** — No charges will be filed against a Burlington police officer in a standoff shooting, WCAX reports.

## INSIDE THE CASE · TOP 20 · NO. 20

### Lonnie Franklin Jr.

Franklin, a former city garage attendant and sanitation worker, killed nine women and a teenage girl in South Los Angeles in two sprees, 1985–1988 and 2002–2007. The years of quiet in between earned him the name “Grim Sleeper.” In 2010, a new state familial-DNA search matched crime-scene DNA to his son, Christopher, who was in the database for a felony. Police then tailed Franklin; an undercover officer posing as a busboy collected leftover pizza crust and utensils, and the DNA matched. Convicted in 2016 and sentenced to death, he died at San Quentin in 2020.

## 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                          | Lonnie Franklin Jr. | Grim Sleeper          | 10        | —              | 1985–2007 |

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

## SCAM ALERT

### The “Missed Jury Duty” Call

A caller claiming to be a deputy or court officer says you missed jury duty and a warrant is out — unless you pay a fine right now by gift card, wire or payment app.

**Protect yourself:** courts don’t collect fines by phone or gift card. Hang up, call the court clerk at a number you look up yourself, and report the call to police or the FTC.

## CRIME TRIVIA

### Test Your Detective Skills

DNA caught the “Grim Sleeper.” What does DNA stand for?

Answer: Deoxyribonucleic acid.

THE PRICE CHECK

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

| ITEM                  | UNIT   | TODAY<br>Sept. 2026 | 1 YR AGO<br>Sept. 2025 | 5 YRS AGO<br>Sept. 2021 | 1995<br>Sept. 1995 | 1980<br>Sept. 1980 | SINCE 1980<br>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×                          |
| Flour, all-purpose    | pound  | 55¢                 | 56¢                    | 38¢                     | 26¢                | 21¢                | 2.5×                          |
| Sugar, white          | pound  | \$1.02              | \$1.04                 | 69¢                     | 40¢                | 48¢                | 2.1×                          |
| White bread           | pound  | \$1.83              | \$1.87                 | \$1.58                  | 81¢                | 51¢                | 3.6×                          |

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 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|--------------|
| Cranberries       | 12 oz bag | \$2.29    | \$2.23    | \$2.45   | +3%         | -7%          |
| Sweet potatoes    | pound     | \$1.21    | \$1.32    | \$1.10   | -8%         | +10%         |
| Tomatoes          | pound     | \$1.95    | \$1.73    | \$1.30   | +13%        | +50%         |
| Mushrooms, white  | 8 oz      | \$2.27    | \$1.35    | \$1.96   | +68%        | +16%         |
| Green bell pepper | each      | \$1.01    | \$0.84    | \$0.85   | +20%        | +19%         |
| Raspberries       | 6 oz      | \$2.74    | \$3.22    | \$2.75   | -15%        | even         |

National average advertised prices, USDA National Retail Report – Specialty Crops, released Oct. 23. Updated Fridays.

PRICE OF THE DAY

Sunday Baking Costs a Bit Less

BY THE COURIER PRICE DESK · SOURCE: BLS VIA FRED, USDA

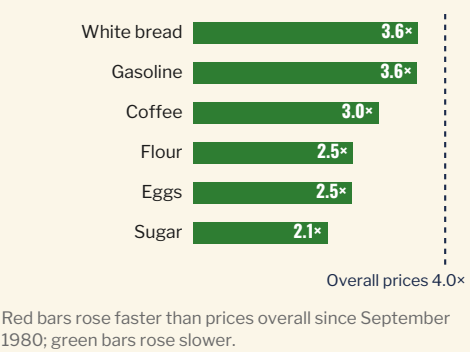
A pound of all-purpose flour averaged 55¢ in September, white sugar \$1.02 and a pound of white bread \$1.83, Bureau of Labor Statistics data show — each a little cheaper than a year ago.

All three have risen far less than prices overall since 1980: flour about 2½ times, sugar about twice and bread about 3½ times, while the overall cost of living has roughly quadrupled.

At the store this week: mushrooms jumped 68% in grocery ads, to \$2.27 for 8 ounces, and tomatoes are up 50% from a year ago, the USDA says. Raspberries got cheaper.

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

SINCE 1980 VS. INFLATION



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

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

WORD SEARCH · WORLD SERIES

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

FIND THESE 12 WORDS

BREWERS  
BULLPEN  
CATCHER  
DUGOUT  
HOMERUN  
INNING  
OUTFIELD  
PENNANT  
PITCHER  
RAY  
SHORTSTOP  
STRIKEOUT

Words run across, down, diagonally — and some backward.

THE COURIER QUIZ

Five Questions, No Peeking

- How many U.S. states border Vermont?
- Before 2026, when did the Brewers last play in a World Series?
- Which president was born on Oct. 27, 1858?
- What is the only U.S. state with a one-syllable name?
- What spirit goes into a Moscow Mule?

NAME THAT YEAR

Three Clues, One Year

- The Brewers lose the World Series in seven.
- “Thriller” is released.
- “E.T.” rules the box office.

YESTERDAY’S SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Solutions run the next day.

THE JUKEBOX

Music history, a record to spin and shows near home

OCTOBER 25 IN MUSIC

This Day in Music

**1964** — The Rolling Stones make their first appearance on “The Ed Sullivan Show.”

**1968** — Jimmy Page’s new band plays its first show under the name Led Zeppelin.

**1975** — Paul Simon releases *Still Crazy After All These Years*.

**1975** — Elton John plays the first of two sold-out shows at Dodger Stadium.

**1986** — Cyndi Lauper’s “True Colors” hits No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100.

**1991** — Concert promoter Bill Graham, of the Fillmore, dies in a helicopter crash.

Born today: *Helen Reddy (1941), Jon Anderson of Yes (1944) and Chad Smith of the Red Hot Chili Peppers (1962).*



SPIN THIS

Still Crazy ...

Paul Simon · 1975

*Still Crazy After All These Years*, released 51 years ago today, won the Grammy for Album of the Year and gave him his only solo No. 1 single, “50 Ways to Leave Your Lover.”

It also holds “My Little Town,” a one-time reunion with Art Garfunkel, and the warm, jazzy title song.

**Best with:** a slow Sunday and the newspaper spread across the table.

LIVE IN VERMONT

Shows Near Home

**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 Red Hot Chili Peppers drummer, born on this date, is famously mistaken for actor Will Ferrell?

## ACROSS THE USA

*A light look at news from every state**Compiled by the Courier from local newspapers, TV stations and websites over the past week or so; sources in parentheses.*

**ALABAMA Wetumpka:** The fifth annual Wetumpka Wildlife Arts Festival filled the historic downtown Saturday with art galleries, live painting, animal encounters and DockDogs, where dogs leap off a dock into a pool for distance. Admission was free. (WSFA)

**ALASKA Wasilla:** Marianne Burke was walking her dog when a moose calf got separated from its mother. She called to the frightened calf until it found its mom — then a bull moose bolted past within feet of her. (Alaska's News Source)

**ARIZONA Yavapai County:** Deputies used a helicopter to find a hiker who spent seven days in the wilderness near Sheeps Bridge after flooded creeks swept away his supplies. He was exhausted and scratched up, but healthy. (azfamily)

**ARKANSAS Murfreesboro:** Navy reservist Jack Pearadin found a 6.03-carat diamond he named the “American Dream” at Crater of Diamonds State Park. He hopes it’s worth \$1 million; one appraiser guessed about a quarter of that. (KATV)

**CALIFORNIA Morro Bay:** Rescuers freed three common dolphins that had become stranded on the mudflats of Morro Bay, the Marine Mammal Center reports. The center also rescues seals, sea lions and sea otters along the coast. (Marine Mammal Center)

**COLORADO Denver:** Six Asian elephants at the Denver Zoo stomped, knelt on and devoured giant pumpkins at Friday’s Squish the Squash. One ate about 200 pounds of pumpkin. The elephants range from 12 to nearly 57 years old. (Colorado Public Radio)

**CONNECTICUT Ivoryton:** The Ivoryton Village Pumpkin Festival lit up the village green Saturday evening with glowing jack-o’-lanterns, trunk-or-treating, live music and hayrides. New Haven’s Shubert hosts a free family day today with the Grinch. (WFSB)

**DELAWARE Rehoboth Beach:** Hilda the Sea Witch — a giant, green, wart-covered parade balloon named for an 1840s ship — floats over Rehoboth Avenue through today, with costume contests, mermaids and a broom-tossing contest. (Spotlight Delaware)

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Washington:** Baltimore rock band Turnstile played a free, all-ages benefit show at the Washington Monument on Saturday afternoon, closing out its tour, with donations going to humanitarian relief. (NBC4 Washington)

**FLORIDA Melbourne:** Three orphaned manatees — Redrock, Rosalyn and Erie — flew home from the Columbus Zoo to finish rehab at Brevard Zoo. Rescued as calves at about 50 to 110 pounds, they now top 500. (Space Coast Daily)

**GEORGIA Savannah:** Costumed dogs filled Pulaski Square and the Starland District for Wag-O-Ween, with doggie trick-or-treating and wiener-dog races. It began as a small parade in 2006; proceeds help local animal rescues. (WTOG)

**HAWAII Kailua:** Students at Malama Honua Public Charter School named a famously noisy Hawaiian monk seal pup Makanaleo — “gift of voice.” The pup was born on the Mokulua Islets off Lanikai Beach. (Hawaii News Now)

**IDAHO Boise:** Boise Potato Days reclaimed a world record: about 50 workers at six fryers turned 1,700 pounds of Idaho potatoes into more than 1,400 pounds of fresh-cut fries — then handed them out free. (RFD-TV)

**ILLINOIS Chicago:** Lincoln Park Zoo welcomed a baby boy colobus monkey, born in the early-morning hours of Sept. 24. Colobus babies are born snow-white and turn black and white as they grow. (Lincoln Park Zoo)

**INDIANA South Bend:** More than 4,000 guests turned out for the first weekend of Zoo Boo at the Potawatomi Zoo, with costumed characters, skeletons and animatronics. This weekend’s theme: villains and miscreants. (WNDU)

**IOWA Anamosa:** A giant pumpkin weighing nearly 2,500 pounds set a new record at Anamosa’s Pumpkinfest, home of the annual weigh-off that crowns the state’s biggest gourds. (Radio Iowa)

**KANSAS Lawrence:** The Marine Corps is offering free tours today of an MV-22B Osprey, the tiltrotor aircraft that takes off like a helicopter and flies like an airplane. (WIBW)

**KENTUCKY Bowling Green:** More than 25 vendors, most of them local, poured Kentucky bourbon and craft beer at Saturday’s Bourbon and Brew Fest, with live music. Organizers say it will be back next year. (WBKO)

**LOUISIANA Baton Rouge:** Benny’s Car Wash ran its sixth annual haunted car wash — spooks and all — with the proceeds going to Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Health. (WAFB)

**MAINE Damariscotta:** Elroy Morgan’s 1,847-pound giant took top honors at the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest weigh-off — Maine’s biggest pumpkin of the year and nearly one of the heaviest ever grown in the state. (WDEA)

**MARYLAND Baltimore:** Businessman Martin Knott Jr. has turned his 8,800-square-foot Mount Vernon rowhouse into a shrine to the Grateful Dead — posters, backstage passes and a music room — after more than 200 shows. (Baltimore Sun)

**MASSACHUSETTS Salem:** Salem drew 136,500 visitors on a single October Saturday, up 12% from a year ago — about three times the city’s population. The MBTA is running 30 extra trains each October weekend. (CBS Boston)

**MICHIGAN Mount Morris:** Growers hauled in pumpkins weighing hundreds of pounds for the fourth annual Great Pumpkin Contest, the state’s last weigh-in of the season. A big plant needs about 100 gallons of water a day. (Mid-Michigan NOW)

**MINNESOTA St. Paul:** Ebro Ahmed, 27, chased a runaway school bus whose driver was having a seizure, jumped through the open doors and pulled the parking brake — saving 18 middle-school students. (Good News Network)

**MISSISSIPPI Jackson:** About 514,000 people visited the 167th Mississippi State Fair, up from last year, with no security incidents. New this year: free brisket biscuits for veterans and active military. (SuperTalk Mississippi)

**MISSOURI Springfield:** Pets in costume paraded around the downtown square at the 17th annual Pets and Pumpkins festival, with prizes for best pet, best human and best family costume. Proceeds help Ozarks charities. (KY3)

**MONTANA Missoula:** Griz football players joined C.S. Porter students to plant trees for a school project three years in the making. (Montana Right Now)

**NEBRASKA Gordon:** The Covered Wagon Drive-In is celebrating 55 years of serving customers in the northwest Nebraska town of Gordon. (WOWT)

**NEVADA Reno:** The Reno Arch turns 100. The downtown landmark went up in 1926 for a highway exposition; its famous “Biggest Little City in the World” slogan came a few years later. (KOLO)

**NEW HAMPSHIRE Rumney:** End of an era: the mysterious hanging rock at Polar Caves Park fell on the park’s last day of the season. Officials will study the site over the winter. (WCAX)

**NEW JERSEY Point Pleasant Beach:** Jenkinson’s Boardwalk hosts Boo at the Boardwalk today, noon to 4, with trick-or-treating, half-price rides and underwater pumpkin carving at the aquarium. (Get Outside NJ)

**NEW MEXICO Alcalde:** Hot-air balloons rise at 7:15 a.m. today at the third Rio Grande Sky Fiesta at Los Luceros Historic Site; Saturday brought a car show and a balloon glow. Kids 12 and under get in free. (Albuquerque Journal)

**NEW YORK Plattsburgh:** Clinton County opened its 1976 time capsule and found 10 boxes instead of one. Beekmantown sixth graders wrote letters for a new capsule, to be opened in 2076. (WCAX)

**NORTH CAROLINA Banner Elk:** Wally won the 49th Woolly Worm Festival race, and his 13 fuzzy bands predict a mostly mild winter, with a cold, snowy first week. His Louisiana owners took home \$1,000. (Parade)

**NORTH DAKOTA Bismarck:** Four days after a C-section, Shayla Beckler shot her once-in-a-lifetime moose on rifle opening day while husband Jacob kept newborn Stella warm in the truck. (Alaska’s News Source)

**OHIO Circleville:** Troy Vanarsdalen’s 2,455-pound pumpkin is the biggest in the history of the Circleville Pumpkin Show, the “Greatest Free Show on Earth,” shattering the old show record. (Scioto Post)

**OKLAHOMA Oklahoma City:** Haunt the Zoo is back at the Oklahoma City Zoo for its 43rd year, with trick-or-treating among the animals on Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 31. (News 9)

**OREGON Portland:** Sea otters at the Oregon Zoo celebrated fall — and the start of NBA season — by slam-dunking mini pumpkins like basketballs. (CTV News)

**PENNSYLVANIA State College:** Hundreds of jack-o’-lanterns, many carved by neighbors, lit the Arboretum at Penn State for its 15th Pumpkin Fest, with puppet shows, live carving and free admission. (Altoona Mirror)

**RHODE ISLAND Providence:** Roger Williams Park Zoo’s Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular lines a 1.5-mile trail with about 5,000 carved pumpkins. This year’s theme is puns: “The Great Pun-Kin Trail,” through Nov. 1. (Hoodline)

**SOUTH CAROLINA Columbia:** The South Carolina State Fair rolled through its second week with a beef show, scholarship winners, rides and live music from the Dennis Lee Band. (WIS)

**SOUTH DAKOTA Rapid City:** Rapid City plans a free Halloween Spooky Skate with free skate rentals, pizza, prizes and a costume contest — just as slushy snow may visit the Black Hills on Monday. (KOTA)

**TENNESSEE Franklin:** PumpkinFest takes over downtown Franklin again today, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., in its first two-day run. A \$1 shuttle runs from the Park at Harlinsdale Farm. (FOX 17)

**TEXAS Dallas:** The State Fair of Texas drew about 2.1 million visitors and sold some 450,000 Fletcher’s corny dogs. The grand champion steer sold for a record \$227,000. (KERA)

**UTAH Salt Lake City:** Neva, Hogle Zoo’s 822-pound polar bear, has gone into her den for the season, leaving mate Nikita topside. Keepers can’t tell yet whether cubs are coming. (Hoodline)

**VERMONT Essex Junction:** There’s still time to see Pumpkin Palooza: 700 lit-up pumpkins glowing in Essex Junction this weekend. (WCAX)

**VIRGINIA Roanoke:** Two bobcat kittens, days old with eyes still closed, are being raised at the Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center after a construction crew disturbed their den. They should go free next spring. (WDBJ)

**WASHINGTON Woodinville:** The Seattle Thrillers lead a group dance to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” this weekend, while Seattle’s Coffee Festival at Magnuson Park promises “endless coffee” and live music. (Northwest Knowledge)

**WEST VIRGINIA Institute:** West Virginia State University turned its campus into a fall celebration at Yellow Jackets Fall Fest, with trick-or-treating, games, crafts and music. “Fall is really my vibe,” one organizer said. (WSAZ)

**WISCONSIN Clinton:** A Clinton accordionist will play the seventh-inning stretch at the Brewers’ World Series games in Milwaukee. (WMTV)

**WYOMING Hulett:** After 54 years of wind, ice and mud, a Hulett ranch family is retiring from its 66-mile rural mail route. (Cowboy State Daily)