ESSEX JCT. TODAY
68°
Low 52° · Showers, then clearing
Saturday: only 49°

The Morning Courier

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

WEDNESDAY IN BURLINGTON
73°
Tied the record
Nov. 4 record, set in 1982

VOL. I · NO. 43 · FREE TO JB · THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2026 · ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT · SUNRISE 6:35 A.M. · SUNSET 4:35 P.M.

DOW 53,356 ▲+3.03% · S&P 500 7,689 ▲+1.58% · NASDAQ 25,737 ▲+1.44% · MSFT $555.80 ▲+6.68% · NVDA $200.13 ▼-3.17% · 10-YR 4.89% · WTI $88.12 ▼-8.3%

THE MIDTERMS · DAY TWO

Democrats Reach 54 Senate Seats

Mississippi's race is 43 votes apart and Alaska's is still counting; Gina Hinojosa unseats Gov. Abbott in Texas, the AP says

THE COUNT, DAY TWO

54	Democratic Senate seats (CBS, ABC)
43	Votes separating Mississippi's race
2	Senate races still uncalled
Jan. 3	New Congress convenes

BY THE COURIER NATIONAL DESK · SOURCES: AP, CBS NEWS, ABC NEWS, NPR, WLBT

Democrats will hold at least 54 Senate seats in January, CBS News and ABC News projected Wednesday, with two races still uncalled.

Mississippi: with about 96% counted, Democrat Scott Colom led Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith by 43 votes — 462,821 to 462,778 — with roughly 15,000 affidavit ballots left (WLBT, CBS). **Alaska:** Mary Peltola led Sen. Dan Sullivan 48.2% to 47.9%; ranked-choice counting could decide it Nov. 18.

Republicans held Montana (Kurt Alme) and Nebraska (Pete Ricketts), the AP said. In South Carolina, Democrat Annie Andrews unseated Sen. Darline Graham, who conceded. In Texas, the AP called the governor's race for Democrat Gina Hinojosa over Gov. Greg Abbott.

In the House, Speaker Mike Johnson won't run for minority leader, the AP reported, and Hakeem Jeffries launched his bid for speaker. President Trump said he would accept the results: "Yes, sure."

ESSEX JUNCTION FORECAST

68°
Low tonight: 52°

Showers this morning, then clearing and still mild.

CHANCE OF RAIN TODAY 35%
Showers early; drier this afternoon

THE WEEK AHEAD

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
64°	49°	47°	47°
10%	15%	15%	15%

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

FORECASTER'S NOTE

Wednesday's 73° at Burlington tied the Nov. 4 record from 1982. The cold front arrives in stages: 64° Friday, 49° Saturday. Sunset 4:36 p.m.

NBA · WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Celtics Hold Off the Bucks

BY THE COURIER SPORTS DESK · SOURCES: AP, SPORTRADAR

Boston 109, Milwaukee 102. The Celtics (6–2) led by 22, then held on after a Bucks rally; Derrick White scored 24 and Paul George 25 with Jayson Tatum resting.

Tonight: Bruins at Pittsburgh, 7. **Standings, Page 6.**

ON THIS DATE 1605
Guy Fawkes was caught beneath England's Parliament with about 20 barrels of gunpowder — the Gunpowder Plot Britons still mark with bonfires every Nov. 5.

INSIDE TODAY · IN BRIEF

VERMONT	Democrats win supermajorities.	3
MARKETS	Dow jumps 1,569 points.	2
STANDINGS	Every team, every league.	6
WEATHER	A record, then the 40s.	7
SERIAL	Chapter 32 is coming.	8
CRIME	A Vermont cold case.	12

WEATHER AROUND THE MAP

Thursday forecasts · forecast data · "Now" = overnight

	NOW	HI	LO	RAIN
MIDDLEBURY, VT	61°	66°	52°	67%
MT. WASHINGTON, NH	52°	55°	46°	78% summit
SNOWSHOE, WV	56°	62°	46°	40%
ROSEBURG, OR	49°	61°	45°	20%
E. DENNIS, MA · CAPE	61°	69°	62°	40%
CHARLOTTE, NC	66°	75°	66°	40%
WILMINGTON, NC	63°	81°	64°	20%
ST. PETERSBURG, FL	74°	82°	74°	40%
FULTON, MO	43°	56°	43°	10%
HOT SPOT · McALLEN, TX	68°	88°	70°	25%



THE DEEPEST WATER · A COURIER SERIAL
Chapter 32 is coming. Catch up on Chapters 1–31 in the Reader's Guide.

INSIDE TODAY

2 Markets · World
3 Vermont · Sports
4 Bourbon · 5 Funnies · 6 Standings
8 Serial · 12 Crime · 13 Snow · 14 Games

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MARKETS & MONEY

Wednesday's closes · the election rally · Thursday, November 5

THE BIG BOARD — WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4

INDEX / STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE	PCT	DAY MOVE
Dow Jones Industrials	53,356.12	+1,569.40	+3.03%	
S&P 500	7,688.62	+119.70	+1.58%	
Nasdaq Composite	25,736.51	+364.50	+1.44%	
Russell 2000	2,856.95	+44.50	+1.58%	
JB'S WATCHLIST				
Nvidia (NVDA)	200.13	−6.56	−3.17%	
Palantir (PLTR)	171.70	−3.70	−2.11%	
Microsoft (MSFT)	555.80	+34.81	+6.68%	
BIG NAMES				
AMD (AMD)	488.78	+4.88	+1.00%	

Closes via AP, CappNotes and MarketBeat. Bars scaled to percent change.

RATES · ENERGY · METALS

10-yr Treasury −6 bp	4.89%
2-yr Treasury −3 bp	4.58%
Gold +3.3%	$4,070
Silver +5.4%	$52.29
WTI crude −8.3%	$88.12
Brent crude −8.7%	$94.62
Bitcoin Wednesday	~$80,200
VIX −20%	16.61
ADP jobs October	+86,000

TODAY & THIS WEEK **THU.** Bank of England 7 a.m.; jobless claims 8:30 **THU.** Airbnb, Cloudflare report tonight **FRI.** October jobs report 8:30 (+65,000 expected)

Wednesday: Dow +3.0%, S&P +1.6%, Nasdaq +1.4% · Early Thursday: Dow futures up, Nasdaq futures down about 0.9%

Closes via AP and CappNotes

THE ELECTION RALLY

Dow Jumps 1,569

BY THE COURIER MARKETS DESK · SOURCES: AP, CAPPNOTES, CNBC, MARKETBEAT

Stocks surged Wednesday in the first full session after Democrats won both houses of Congress. The Dow gained 3%, its best day since April 2025; the S&P; 500 rose 1.6%.

Traders read divided government — a Democratic Congress facing President Trump's veto — as gridlock that makes sweeping tax or spending laws unlikely. Oil fell about 8%, pulling yields lower.

Money rotated into Microsoft (+6.7%), health insurers like Centene and solar stocks, and out of chips (—3.1%), defense and AI data-center plays. Nvidia fell 3.2%; Palantir slid for a seventh day.

STOCKS TO WATCH TODAY

On the Radar

Microsoft (MSFT) — Up 6.7% to $555.80, the day's Big Tech leader.

Nvidia (NVDA) — Down 3.2% to $200.13 as chip stocks fell.

Palantir (PLTR) — Down 2.1%; a seventh straight loss on defense-spending worries.

AppLovin — Beat and raised; up about 20% after hours.

Qualcomm — Beat, but a soft outlook; down about 7% after hours.

CVS Health — Down 12.5% after announcing a split into two companies by 2028.

Oil — WTI fell 8.3% to $88.12.

BIG MOVERS

CNC	Centene	+12.60%
MMM	3M	+9.60%
MSFT	Microsoft	+6.68%
CRWV	CoreWeave	−9.90%
CVS	CVS Health	−12.50%
FIS	Fidelity National	−23.70%
DJT	Trump Media	−24.50%

Best of these: Centene +12.6%Worst: Trump Media −24.5%

YEAR TO DATE

Russell 2000	+15.1%
S&P 500	+12.3%
Dow	+11.0%
Nasdaq	+10.7%

Through Wednesday, via AP.

THE LUMBER DESK

Oil Drops, Yields Ease

FOR THE JB WOODS DESK

Crude fell more than 8% and the 10-year yield slipped to 4.89% — good news for diesel and mortgages. ADP says private employers added 86,000 jobs in October.

HOUSING STARTS · SEPT.

1.22M −5.2% from Aug. · −7.4% from a year ago · Permits 1.40M · Single-family 859K

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

NATION & WORLD

Washington, the courts & beyond

WORLD · UKRAINE

Toll From Strike on Aid Site Rises to 40

BY THE COURIER NATION DESK · SOURCES: AL JAZEERA, AP

Russian bombs hit a school building where aid was being handed out in the front-line village of Komyshuvakha, in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, on Monday; a follow-up strike hit a shelter full of people.

Ukrainian officials raised the death toll to 40 on Wednesday, including four police officers and two rescuers. President Zelenskyy said more than 30 people may still be under the rubble and called it a "vile terrorist strike." The U.N. human rights mission said the bombing likely violated international law.

U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff says Ukrainian and Russian delegations will meet in Abu Dhabi Nov. 10–11.

ELSEWHERE

Iran. Tehran called Washington's reply on reopening the Strait of Hormuz "not convincing." President Trump called the U.S. strike on an Iranian air-defense site a "minor attack." (Al Jazeera)

Israel. Officials certified last week's election and rejected fraud claims; no bloc has the 61 seats needed to govern. (Al Jazeera)

South Africa. A record 29.2 million people registered for Wednesday's local elections; results are expected Sunday. (Al Jazeera)

Australia. The government defended its under-16 social media ban in the High Court; a ruling is months away. (Al Jazeera)

VERMONT

Around the Green Mountain State

THE LEGISLATURE

Democrats Win Back Veto-Proof Majorities

BY THE COURIER VERMONT DESK · SOURCES: VERMONT PUBLIC, SEVEN DAYS, VTDIGGER, WCAX

Democrats regained two-thirds majorities in both chambers Tuesday, enough to override Gov. Phil Scott's vetoes without Republican votes, according to unofficial results.

In the 150-seat House, Democrats grow to 102 seats, Progressives to 7 and independents hold 3; Republicans fall to 38, losing 18 seats. In the Senate, Democrats hold 20 of 30 seats, plus one Progressive and one independent; Republicans drop to 8 (Vermont Public, Seven Days).

House Majority Leader Lori Houghton of Essex Junction, a candidate for speaker, said the margin "gives us a lot of leeway" but that she prefers bipartisan bills. In Chittenden North, Democrat Irene Wrenner of Essex beat Rep. Ashley Bartley for the Senate.

Some races remain razor-close: a Hardwick House seat is separated by 8 votes, and one in southern Franklin County by 2.

ESSEX · LOCAL OPTION TAXES

Essex: Rooms Tax Passes

Town of Essex voters approved a 1% rooms tax and rejected the 1% meals-and-alcohol and 1% sales taxes. Because the vote was warned late, the rooms tax must pass again at Town Meeting in March. Hinesburg rejected all of its local option taxes. (Vermont Public)

TURNOUT

About 61% Voted

Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas called it a record for a midterm: about 311,000 of 506,451 registered voters, per WCAX. Victory led at 82% and Andover 81%; Burlington was 59%. Lunenburg was lowest, at 38%.

AROUND THE STATE

BARRE — Fourth time's the charm. Voters passed the $56.6 million school budget, 59% to 41%. (Vermont Public, VTDigger)

DORSET — Housing plan rejected. Raptor Lane, up to 35 homes on town land, lost 661–545. (VTDigger)

BARRE — Career center count today. The $54.9 million career center bond is tallied today at 9 a.m.; results this afternoon.

FOLIAGE REPORT

From a record to the 40s

Record: Burlington hit 73° Wednesday, tying 1982.

Today: showers early, 68°.

Friday: 64°, partly sunny.

Weekend: 49° Saturday, 47° Sunday.

Sunset: 4:36 p.m.

Next week: a chance of flakes by Thursday.

Mild night: Wednesday's low was 59°, 23 above normal.

Snow so far: none; normal by now is 0.6 inch.

THE WEEK IN VERMONT

Today Showers early, 68°.
Tonight Clearing, 52°.
Fri. Partly sunny, 64°.
Sat. Cloudy, cooler, 49°.
Sun. Cloudy, 47°.

Forecast data for Essex Junction; check before you go.

VERMONT BY THE NUMBERS

102	Democratic House seats of 150
20	Democratic Senate seats of 30
~61%	Turnout
59%	Yes, Barre budget
73°	Burlington, Wednesday

SPORTS

Celtics beat Bucks · Bruins at Pittsburgh tonight · Jaguars at Ravens

NBA · BOSTON 109, MILWAUKEE 102

TEAM	1	2	3	4	PTS	FG%	3PT
MIL	14	27	38	23	102	41%	19-47
BOS	28	34	25	22	109	41%	16-39

George 25, White 24 (9-9 FT, 7 ast) · Queta 12 reb · Scheierman 11 reb · MIL: Herro 25, Jaquez 18

NFL · TONIGHT

Jaguars at Ravens

BY THE COURIER SPORTS DESK · SOURCE: SPORTRADAR

Jacksonville (5–2) at Baltimore (4–4), 8:15; SportRadar gives the Jaguars an 82% chance. Sunday: Packers at Patriots, 4:25.

Celtics: at Charlotte Friday at 7, then at Milwaukee Sunday.

Every standing: Page 6.

NFL · WEEK 10

Schedule with win chances

JAX at BAL	Thu. 8:15	JAX 82%
CIN at ATL	Sun. 9:30	CIN 60%
DAL at IND	Sun. 1:00	DAL 70%
LA at WAS	Sun. 1:00	LA 68%
NYJ at KC	Sun. 1:00	KC 81%
DET at MIA	Sun. 1:00	DET 74%
DEN at CAR	Sun. 1:00	DEN 58%
NYG at PHI	Sun. 1:00	NYG 62%
CLE at NO	Sun. 1:00	NO 53%
HOU at LAC	Sun. 4:05	HOU 67%
LV at SF	Sun. 4:25	
GB at NE	Sun. 4:25	
ARI at SEA	Sun. 4:25	
TB at CHI	SNF 8:20	
BUF at MIN	MNF 8:15	

Win probabilities via SportRadar. Times are Eastern Standard Time.

AFC EAST STANDINGS

TEAM	W-L	GB
Buffalo	6-1	—
New England	5-3	1½
NY Jets	2-6	4½
Miami	1-6	5

Via SportRadar. Patriots host Green Bay Sunday, 4:25 p.m.

NHL · BRUINS CORNER

At Pittsburgh Tonight

Boston (11–4–1) leads the Atlantic; SportRadar calls tonight a coin flip. Matt Poitras, who broke his nose Monday, is a game-time decision. (Boston Globe)

UVM · THIS WEEK

Catamounts on the Move

Field hockey: Beat UMass Lowell 3–2; at UAlbany Fri. 2 p.m.

Men's hoops: At Fairfield tonight, 7 (ESPN+).

THIS WEEK ON TV (ET)

NHL Bruins at Penguins, Thu. 7:00
NFL Jaguars at Ravens, Thu. 8:15
NBA Celtics at Hornets, Fri. 7:00

THE BOURBON PAGE

A bottle shaped like a still · plus D.C.'s own cocktail



BOTTLE OF THE WEEK

WILLETT DISTILLERY · BARDSTOWN, KY.

Willett Pot Still Reserve

PROOF	AGE	BATCH	SINCE	PRICE
94	NAS	~12 bbls	2008	~$40–60

You know it by the bottle: a copper-colored decanter shaped like a pot still. Inside is a small batch of about a dozen barrels at 94 proof, no age statement.

The fib in the name: reviewers report it's mostly made on a column still, with a pot still only for the second "doubler" run. The company doesn't publish its mash bill.

How it tastes: Breaking Bourbon found "summer fruits highlighted by ripe cherry," then honey and caramel and "a surge of rye spice." The Whiskey Wash: it "will not disappoint."

The family: A. Lambert Willett and his sons founded the distillery in 1936. Thompson Willett's daughter Martha and her husband, Even Kulsveen of Norway bought it in 1984 and began distilling again in 2012. Their children Britt and Drew run it today.

BOURBON 101

The Angel's Share

BY THE COURIER SPIRITS DESK

As whiskey ages, some evaporates through the barrel. Distillers call it the angel's share.

Scotch loses about 2% a year. Kentucky, hotter, loses about 4% — up to 10% the first year. Over its life a barrel can lose 30–40%.

In hot Kentucky rickhouses more water escapes than alcohol, so bourbon's proof climbs. In cool, damp Scotland it's the reverse.

Floors matter: barrels high in a tall rickhouse get hotter and climb in proof; on cool bottom floors proof can drift down toward 110.

Devil's cut: the whiskey soaked into the wood. Jim Beam named a 90-proof bourbon for it in 2011.

BOURBON NEWS

Aging at the Opry

Dierks Bentley's ROW 94 brand announced Trespasser's Proof, a bourbon distilled in Owensboro, Ky. Four barrels will finish aging in a restricted area inside the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. (The Whiskey Wash)

Also: Diageo's Orphan Barrel released Latverian Cask, a 20-year-old American light whiskey tied to the next Avengers film, at $200 — light whiskey, not bourbon. Woodford Reserve is bringing its Double Oaked finish to a rye.

Willett news: a cask-strength Pot Still Reserve debuted in September. (The Whiskey Wash)

Shopping tip: "Pot Still" on a label is a name, not a legal term.

THIS WEEK'S POUR

Cocktail Corner

The Bourbon Rickey. Squeeze half a lime into a highball glass and drop the shell in. Add 2 oz bourbon, fill with ice, stir, and top with sparkling water. No sugar — it's meant to be tart.

The story: born in the 1880s at Shoomaker's saloon in Washington and named for lobbyist Col. Joe Rickey. The gin version got famous; D.C. made the Rickey its official cocktail in 2011.

TASTING LAB

Try it with Willett: the fruit and rye spice stand up to the lime.

Gin or bourbon? The original was bourbon, ice and Apollinaris sparkling water; the lime came later.

THIS WEEK'S POUR PLAN

What to sip with what's on

TONIGHT · BRUINS AT PITTSBURGH
Willett Pot Still Reserve neat at puck drop, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY · THE LAST MILD EVENING
A Bourbon Rickey — tart, dry and fizzy — at 64°.

SUNDAY · PACKERS AT PATRIOTS
Willett over one big cube at kickoff, 4:25.

THE BOURBON GLOSSARY

Label terms, decoded

Angel's share — whiskey lost to evaporation.

Devil's cut — whiskey soaked into the wood.

Rickhouse — the warehouse where barrels age.

Entry proof — strength going into the barrel.

Diffusion — vapor moving out through the wood.

Pot still — a batch still, like a big kettle.

Column still — a tall still that runs nonstop.

Doubler — the second distillation.

NAS — no age statement on the label.

Small batch — a few barrels blended; not legal.

Single barrel — bottled from one barrel.

Highball — a tall glass for mixed drinks.

Rickey — spirit, lime, soda, no sugar.

Mash bill — the grain recipe; at least 51% corn.

Proof — twice the alcohol percentage.

Neat — straight from the bottle, no ice.

Finish — the flavor that lingers after a sip.

Straight — at least two years old, no additives.

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

Monday, Nov. 2 – Sunday, Nov. 8

ON THE TUBE (ET)

Tonight 7:00 — Bruins at Pittsburgh.
Tonight 7:00 — UVM men at Fairfield (ESPN+).
Tonight 8:15 — Jaguars at Ravens.
Fri. 7:00 — Celtics at Charlotte.
Fri. 7:30 — Pianist Gabriela Martinez, UVM.
Sun. 1:00 — Panthers at Bruins.
Sun. 4:25 — Packers at Patriots.

AROUND VERMONT

Today — Career center bond count, Barre, 9 a.m.
Today — Jobless claims, 8:30 a.m.
Fri. — October jobs report, 8:30 a.m.
Fri. — UVM field hockey at UAlbany, 2 p.m.
Daily — Crossword & word search, Page 14.

WEATHER AT A GLANCE

Thu. — Showers early, 68°.
Fri. — Partly sunny, 64°.
Sat. — Cooler, 49°.
Sun. — Cloudy, 47°.
Mon. — Cloudy, 47°.
Tue. — Showers, 54°.

GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Kindness, critters & comebacks

ITALY

Safer Than Ever

Italy now has the EU's third-lowest homicide rate once its older population is accounted for, a new Eurispes study finds. Mafia killings fell 80% between 1985 and 2024. (Good News Network)

BRAZIL

A Bigger Pantanal Park

Brazil enlarged Pantanal Matogrossense National Park by 185 square miles, more than a quarter, protecting habitat in the world's largest tropical flooded grassland — home to the densest jaguar population on Earth. (Good News Network)

NEW JERSEY

A Field Full of Food

Students covered the Howell High School football field, end zone to end zone, with more than 250,000 pounds of groceries for 30 food banks — the biggest drive yet for the nonprofit Dermer Dreams. (Good News Network)

UKRAINE

A Truce for the Hungry

A rare ceasefire around occupied Oleshky, which faced famine conditions, let about 750 civilians leave — along with dogs, cats, parrots and a raccoon. (Good News Network)

NORTHERN IRELAND

A Wedding Trip for Strangers

When Bridget Devaney's wedding was called off, she posted an invitation online and took 11 strangers on the week-long trip she'd planned for her elopement. (Sunny Skyz/BBC)

AUSTRALIA

From Bakery to Leading Lady

Olivia Hargroder, 27, a dancer with Down syndrome who was told to get a bakery job, stars in Boss Cat, the first feature from Bus Stop Films, opening Dec. 3. (Sunny Skyz)

THE THURSDAY KITCHEN

A SEASONAL RECIPE

Chicken Cacciatore

Serves 6 · 25 min. active, about 2½ hours total

THE CHICKEN & VEGETABLES ¼ cup olive oil, divided · 6 drumsticks + 6 thighs · Salt and pepper · 4 oz pancetta, diced · 2 small carrots, diced · 1 celery stalk, diced · 1 yellow onion, diced

THE SAUCE 4 cloves garlic, chopped · 1 tbsp fresh oregano · 1 cup dry red wine · 1 can (28 oz) whole tomatoes, crushed · 2 tbsp chopped parsley

METHOD

1. Brown the seasoned chicken in 2 tbsp oil in a Dutch oven, 5–6 minutes a side; set aside.

2. Pour off the fat; crisp the pancetta in the rest of the oil. Soften the vegetables 10 minutes; add garlic and oregano.

3. Reduce the wine by two-thirds. Add tomatoes and pancetta; simmer 35–40 minutes. Heat oven to 350°F.

4. Nestle in the chicken, skin side up. Cover and bake 35–40 minutes.

5. Skim the fat, stir in the parsley, and spoon the sauce over the chicken.

Courier tip: Serve over creamy polenta; stick with dark meat. (Recipe: Food Network Kitchen)

SPORTS & STANDINGS

Every team in the NFL, NHL and NBA

NFL through Week 9 · NHL and NBA through Wednesday · via SportRadar

Highlighted: the Patriots, Bruins and Celtics

NFL · DIVISION STANDINGS

AFC EAST	W	L	T	PCT
Buffalo	6	1	0	.857
New England	5	3	0	.625
N.Y. Jets	2	6	0	.250
Miami	1	6	0	.143

AFC NORTH	W	L	T	PCT
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750
Cincinnati	5	2	0	.714
Cleveland	5	3	0	.625
Baltimore	4	4	0	.500

AFC SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT
Jacksonville	5	2	0	.714
Houston	2	5	0	.286
Indianapolis	2	6	0	.250
Tennessee	1	7	0	.125

AFC WEST	W	L	T	PCT
Denver	6	2	0	.750
Kansas City	5	2	0	.714
Las Vegas	4	4	0	.500
L.A. Chargers	0	7	0	.000

NFC EAST	W	L	T	PCT
N.Y. Giants	4	2	0	.667
Dallas	3	5	0	.375
Washington	2	4	0	.333
Philadelphia	2	6	0	.250

NFC NORTH	W	L	T	PCT
Minnesota	6	1	0	.857
Chicago	6	2	0	.750
Detroit	5	2	0	.714
Green Bay	5	3	0	.625

NFC SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT
Carolina	3	4	0	.429
Tampa Bay	3	5	0	.375
Atlanta	3	5	0	.375
New Orleans	2	5	0	.286

NFC WEST	W	L	T	PCT
San Francisco	6	1	0	.857
Seattle	4	4	0	.500
L.A. Rams	4	4	0	.500
Arizona	3	5	0	.375

NHL · DIVISION STANDINGS

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Boston	16	11	4	1	23
Montreal	15	9	3	3	21
Ottawa	17	10	6	1	21
Tampa Bay	14	9	3	2	20
Florida	16	9	5	2	20
Toronto	17	8	7	2	18
Buffalo	15	7	5	3	17
Detroit	16	7	6	3	17

METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Carolina	17	12	3	2	26
New Jersey	15	10	5	0	20
N.Y. Rangers	16	8	7	1	17
Washington	14	8	6	0	16
N.Y. Islanders	14	7	5	2	16
Columbus	13	6	7	0	12
Pittsburgh	15	5	8	2	12
Philadelphia	17	4	9	4	12

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Minnesota	17	11	3	3	25
Utah	16	10	6	0	20
Dallas	15	9	5	1	19
Colorado	16	9	6	1	19
Nashville	15	6	4	5	17
St. Louis	15	7	7	1	15
Winnipeg	16	5	8	3	13
Chicago	16	4	11	1	9

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Edmonton	16	11	2	3	25
Vegas	17	10	5	2	22
Seattle	15	9	5	1	19
Anaheim	15	7	7	1	15
Calgary	16	7	8	1	15
San Jose	17	7	9	1	15
Los Angeles	14	5	7	2	12
Vancouver	17	3	13	1	7

Atlantic and Metropolitan: Eastern Conference · Central and Pacific: Western · PTS = 2 per win, 1 per overtime or shootout loss

NBA · DIVISION STANDINGS

ATLANTIC · EAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	8	1	.889	—
Boston	6	2	.750	1.5
Toronto	4	4	.500	3.5
New York	4	4	.500	3.5
Brooklyn	2	6	.250	5.5

CENTRAL · EAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Detroit	6	2	.750	—
Cleveland	4	4	.500	2
Indiana	3	6	.333	3.5
Chicago	1	7	.125	5
Milwaukee	1	7	.125	5

SOUTHEAST · EAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	5	4	.556	—
Washington	4	4	.500	0.5
Miami	3	5	.375	1.5
Charlotte	3	6	.333	2
Orlando	2	5	.286	2

NORTHWEST · WEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Portland	6	1	.857	—
Oklahoma City	6	2	.750	0.5
Minnesota	6	3	.667	1
Denver	4	3	.571	2
Utah	1	7	.125	5.5

PACIFIC · WEST	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Lakers	7	2	.778	—
Golden State	5	3	.625	1.5
Phoenix	1	5	.167	4.5
LA Clippers	1	7	.125	5.5
Sacramento	1	7	.125	5.5

SOUTHWEST · WEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Houston	7	2	.778	—
San Antonio	6	2	.750	0.5
Memphis	6	2	.750	0.5
New Orleans	4	4	.500	2.5
Dallas	4	4	.500	2.5

NEW ENGLAND WATCH

Where our teams stand

Celtics (6–2) Beat Milwaukee 109–102 Wednesday; third in the East behind Philadelphia (8–1) and Detroit. At Charlotte Friday at 7.

Bruins (11–4–1) First in the Atlantic with 23 points. At Pittsburgh tonight at 7 — SportRadar calls it a coin flip. Florida visits Sunday.

Patriots (5–3) A game and a half behind Buffalo (6–1) in the AFC East. Green Bay (5–3) visits Sunday at 4:25.

Tonight Jacksonville (5–2) at Baltimore (4–4), 8:15. The Jaguars are 82% favorites.

THE WEATHER DESK

Forecasts, almanac, mountains & Snow Watch 2026–27

THE FORECASTER'S TAKE

A Record Tied — and We Nailed It

BY THE COURIER WEATHER DESK · SOURCE: FORECAST DATA · NWS BURLINGTON · WCAX

Burlington reached 73° Wednesday, tying the Nov. 4 record set in 1982, and the low was 59°, 23 degrees above normal. Our call was 73°: a direct hit, and Beat the Forecaster climbs to 2–2.

Now the pattern turns. A cold front brings showers this morning; Essex Junction still reaches about 68° before drier air arrives. Friday stays mild at 64°.

The weekend is a different season: 49° Saturday and 47° Sunday and Monday, with lows in the upper 30s. Showers return Tuesday (35%).

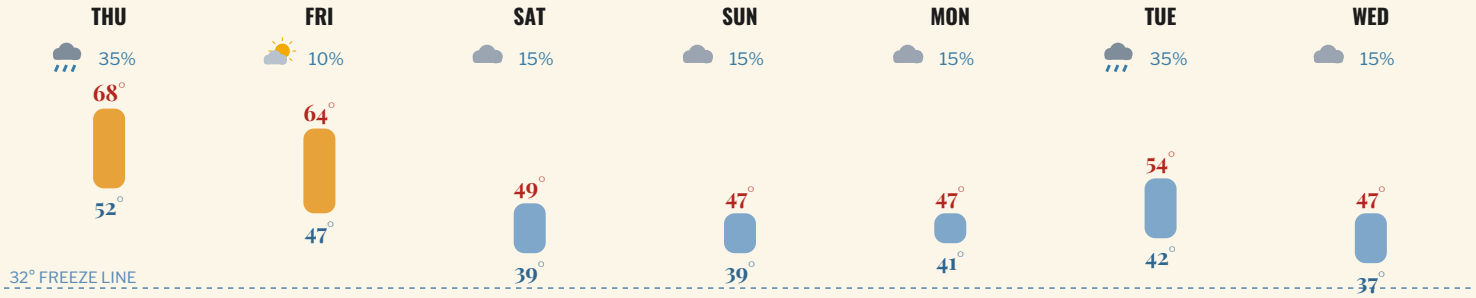
By next Thursday, highs only in the low 40s, and the mountains could see their first real flakes.

ESSEX JCT. ALMANAC

YESTERDAY	High 73° · Low 59°
SUNRISE	6:35 a.m.
SUNSET	4:35 p.m.
DAYLIGHT	10 hr 0 min
CHANGE	−2.6 min vs. yesterday
SINCE JUNE 21	5 hr 32 min less light
MOON	Waning crescent

Sun & moon computed for Essex Jct.; temps from forecast data.

ESSEX JUNCTION · THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS



Bars run from the low to the high; * = freezing night. Percent = chance of rain or snow. Forecast data.

MOUNTAINS, VALLEYS & THE PLACES WE WATCH

BRATTLEBORO
Windham County
64° / 57° · 73%
Showers likely today.

MAD RIVER GLEN
Mad River Valley
63° / 49° · 69%
Snow chance Tuesday (30%).

SARANAC LAKE
Adirondacks
64° / 47° · 28%
Only 40° Monday.

BARRE
Washington County
62° / 50° · 69%
Down to 46° by Sunday.

HANOVER, N.H.
Upper Valley
62° / 49° · 80%
Wettest spot today (80%).

SNOW WATCH 2026–27

Day 5

Season totals, Nov. 1 – Apr. 1 · The Snow Desk, Page 13

ESSEX JCT.	MIDDLEBURY	STOWE	SNOWSHOE, WV
0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"
Burlington (BTV)	Addison County	Mt. Mansfield	Highland House · Rimfire

SEVERE & NATIONAL

Warm South, Wet Cape

Cape Cod turns soggy Friday (85%) and Saturday (75%). The Carolinas stay warm: 81° in Wilmington and 75° in Charlotte today.

Deep South Texas is the hot spot — McAllen near 88° — before rain arrives Friday and Saturday (75%).

BEAT THE FORECASTER

We Called It

Wednesday: we said 73°; Burlington hit 73° (right on). Within 2° counts as a win.

Season record: 2–2 (50%)

Recent: Sun 57/57 W · Mon 65/68 L · Tue 60/65 L · Wed 73/73 W

Today's call: 68° in Essex Junction. Check back tomorrow.

WEATHER WORD

Cold Front

The boundary where cooler, denser air advances and replaces warmer air (NWS). The cold air wedges underneath, lifting the warm air into clouds and showers.

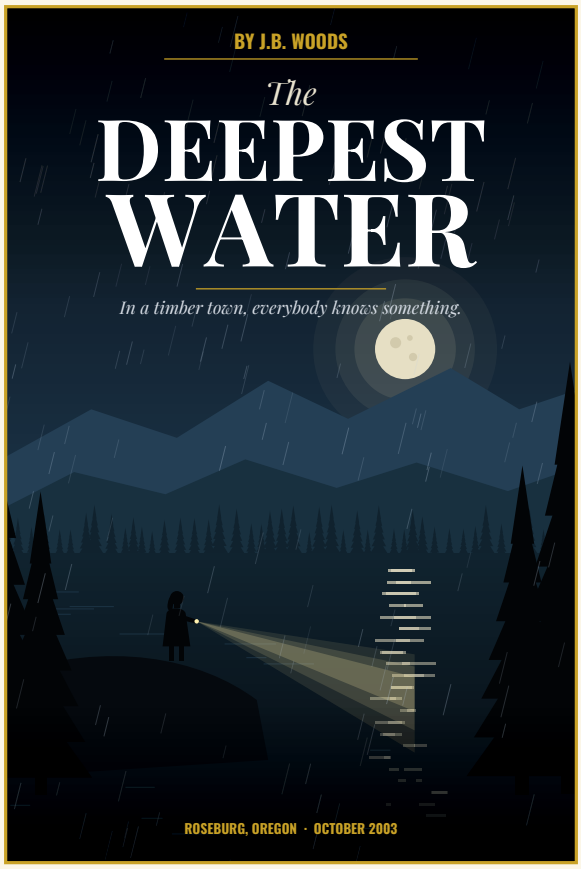
Today: behind it, winds turn west and temperatures fall.

THIS DAY IN WEATHER

Nov. 5–6, 2022: a freak November heat wave. Burlington's low of 60° on Nov. 5 tied its warmest November night, and on Nov. 6 it hit 76° — the warmest November reading on record. Montpelier and St. Johnsbury set records both days.

THE DEEPEST WATER

New reader? Tap here to read from Chapter 1 ›



CHAPTER 32

Chapter Still Being Written

The author is still at work. The story picks up again soon.

WHERE WE LEFT OFF · CHAPTER 31: OVER THE RIM

The stolen blue car turned up abandoned at Crater Lake. At the rim, Ranger Montgomery Smith spotted two hikers below the rim, where no one is allowed: Owen and Karen Marsh. That night Tess's room at the Rogue Regency was 118. By morning, a note on the old typewriter read: 1987.

CATCH UP ON THE WHOLE STORY — THE READER'S GUIDE IS ON PAGES 9 TO 11

A work of fiction: characters and events are invented; places are real. · The Deepest Water returns soon.

THE DEEPEST WATER · READER'S GUIDE

The Story So Far · Chapters 1–17

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

On a rainy Monday night at the Umpqua Ledger, editor Walt Brenner put Tess Halloran on a quiet story: Gordon Pryce, owner of the shuttered Pryce Lumber mill, left the Elks Lodge Friday and never got home. Then the police scanner crackled: a dark Lincoln, abandoned on Highway 138, keys in it.

CHAPTER 2

Whoever Left It There

At a pullout past Glide near Toketee Falls, a deputy turned Tess away from Pryce's Lincoln, its door open and wheels turned neatly toward the river. After pie at Del's Riverside Diner, she was on Sheriff Ray Coyle's porch at seven. The wallet held $200, he said. Whoever left the car wanted it found.

CHAPTER 3

The Sister at the Bar

Del told Tess nobody stops at that pullout by accident. At the Idle Hour, Big Dave said Gordon had been scared all summer and pointed her to "Tic Tac." A woman drank Tess's whiskey and told her to leave him alone. She was his sister — and her brother had told Coyle what he saw Friday night.

CHAPTER 4

Forty Dollars a Plate

Coyle still wasn't talking, and the Pryces had hired a Eugene lawyer. Over dinner at Brix Grill, PI friends Kally and Teresa of Eye Spy named Tic Tac in unison: "Oh, Josh Foster?" Outside, Kally added that Josh had called their office Monday asking what it costs to run a license plate.

CHAPTER 5

If I End Up in the River

Trent Pryce said he was home watching the game with his mother. At Abby's Pizza, Josh Foster told Tess he saw Pryce's Lincoln heading up the canyon Friday with a dark pickup behind it, no lights, and got part of a plate. As he walked away, a dark pickup idling at the curb pulled out and followed.

CHAPTER 6

Patient as the Rain

At Fred Meyer, Tess ran into old neighbor Buck, who had worked for Gordon and tipped her to his hidden fishing hole at Cavitt Creek and Little River. She asked Eye Spy to search it. At home, a message from Darla Foster: Josh never showed, his truck and gear were gone. Where was her brother?

CHAPTER 7

The Third Time Today

With Big Dave beside her, Tess went back to the Idle Hour on Friday, where Darla blamed her for Josh's disappearance. Roseburg police came looking for Josh over a coin-shop break-in. Then a dark pickup roared past with no lights, and the cruiser lost it. Darla said it was the third time today.

CHAPTER 8

Your Case, Not Ours

Deputy Cal Walters got a tip that the dark pickup had been parked at the Holiday Inn by the river. A dog walker then brought in a stag-handled knife found below the decks, engraved DOUGLAS COUNTY ROADS · 1987. Coyle had it logged as found property, then dialed a number twice. Nobody answered.

CHAPTER 9

Up Little River

Kally and Teresa searched Cavitt Creek and Little River. At a hidden pool off a gravel spur, Kally found a rusted tackle box with "G.P." carved in the lid — and a torn mayonnaise packet sitting on top of the silt. They called Tess. "Don't tell anyone else you found it," she said. "Bring it to me."

CHAPTER 10

August 1987

Kally delivered the tackle box to the Ledger — "No, Tess. Mayonnaise!" — and it went back to Eye Spy under lock. Channel 9 reported Commissioner Harlan Voss missing since Sunday, his wife Tiffany pleading for him to come home. At six, a typed note waited on Tess's desk: "Ask them about August 1987."

CHAPTER 11

Behind the Hedge

Tiffany Voss let Tess into the plain, dusty house behind the hedge. Sunday evening, she said, Harlan took a call from Josh Foster, said "Don't wait up" and left, scared. Then Walters phoned: Harlan's wallet had turned up at a truck stop on I-5 at Rice Hill. Harlan never goes north, Tiffany said.

CHAPTER 12

The Tin in the Gravel

FBI profiler Christine Mason arrived and faced down Coyle. Harlan's wallet held cash receipts from the K&R Drive-In and the Ranch Motel; somebody wanted them looking north, she said. An anonymous caller sent Tess to Rice Hill, where she found Josh's dented mint tin behind the motel.

CHAPTER 13

The Brass Key

Inside the tin was a brass key stamped 1987. Tess gave it to Mason at Carlos in Winston. At the Idle Hour, Darla broke down: Josh had said Gordon and Harlan were in danger. Next morning at Del's, Del told Tess that Owen Marsh was out of prison, back in town and asking around about Harlan Voss.

CHAPTER 14

The Twin Knife

On a day off at Seven Feathers in Canyonville, Tess pulled old neighbor Owen Marsh out of a fight with casino security. He said he spent the Pryce weekend at the Screw and Brew in Cannon Beach. At the Holiday Inn, Marisol Reyes found a second 1987 knife in Room 118. The guest two doors down: Marsh.

CHAPTER 15

The Door That Wasn't Locked

Walters found that 118's deck door looked locked but wasn't. Owen Marsh said he liked that room, then drove off in a dark blue pickup. Coyle ordered the knife brought to him. Walters called Tess from a pay phone, and she sent Kally and Teresa to Cannon Beach to visit the Screw and Brew.

CHAPTER 16

The Screw and Brew

Kally and Teresa drove I-5 to the coast, stopping at rest areas and plotting how to bring up Owen Marsh with Freddy, the Screw and Brew's pastrami cook. But the sign said no pastrami today. Waitress Sally whispered why: Freddy had been found stabbed to death in an alley the night before.

CHAPTER 17

Alive a Minute Ago

Kally phoned Tess with the news. Heather said Owen had checked out of the Holiday Inn three days earlier. That night at the Idle Hour, Josh whispered to Darla by phone that Pryce and Harlan were alive — then came a gunshot and silence. Darla called Tess: "My brother's alive. Or he was a minute ago."

THE DEEPEST WATER · READER'S GUIDE

The Story So Far · Chapters 18–31 (continued)

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

CHAPTER 18

The Phone Didn't Ring

Tess hurried to the Idle Hour and called Mason, who arrived with Walters and Coyle. Coyle detained Darla for questioning; Josh was now a suspect, to be named armed and dangerous at a press conference in the morning. Darla told them to arrest her or get out. They left, and the phone never rang again.

CHAPTER 19

Room 118

At City Hall, Coyle said there were no suspects and never named Josh. Buck heckled him. A dark pickup flashed through an intersection, and a figure in black slipped away from behind a maple as Darla cried, "Josh!" Coyle took no questions. Tess phoned the Holiday Inn and reserved Room 118.

CHAPTER 20

Not a One-Glass Night

Home on Pine Street with wine, cheese and the late news, Tess traded thoughts with Teresa by phone, then dozed. After ten, a heavy thud hit her front door. Nobody was there — only a third 1987 knife driven into the wood, with a pencil note: "STOP DIGGING OR YOU'LL GO FOR A SWIM TOO."

CHAPTER 21

Rubber Gloves and White Wine

Walters bagged the knife, and Mason cast a shoe print in Tess's yard. Next day Tess checked into Room 118, with Kally and Teresa next door in 116. After white wine, chips and Kally's own bedsheets, Tess bolted the deck door and slept. At 3:08 a figure stood at the foot of her bed. "It's you!"

CHAPTER 22

Pale as Chalk

Kally and Teresa heard the scream and got Heather's master key, but 118 was empty, the deck door open. Tess was gone. Police, Coyle, Walters and Mason arrived as a motorboat droned downriver. At dawn Mason cast a fresh shoe print below the deck, almost sure it matched the one from Tess's yard.

CHAPTER 23

Count to a Hundred

Hooded and tied, Tess was taken by boat and truck to a hillside log bunker, stocked with mayonnaise packets. Her captor said his hotel source had failed him, that he was hunted, and that the mill shipped more than lumber. At dusk he left her by I-5 near Rice Hill. She said his name: Gordon Pryce.

CHAPTER 24

Focus, Tess

From Rice Hill, Tess called Eye Spy, then told Coyle that Gordon Pryce was alive, probably near his Little River fishing hole. Coyle sent Walters to search at first light and called a press conference to name Pryce armed and dangerous. Instead he announced Pryce had been found stabbed to death.

CHAPTER 25

Under the Lab Lights

Mason told Coyle the two shoe casts didn't match after all and more agents were coming; Coyle left town. Near where Pryce died, she found a print matching the cast from Tess's yard. Karen Marsh at the Holiday Inn said Coyle had let 118 be rented again. Karen, Walters said, is Owen Marsh's cousin.

CHAPTER 26

65 Alder Brook Road

Mason and Walters questioned maintenance man Hollis Tate at 65 Alder Brook Road. He was "sure" he fixed 118's deck door, and he named Harlan Voss and Josh Foster as missing without being asked. Doubling back, lights off, Walters found Tate's pickup parked and Tate at his window on the phone.

CHAPTER 27

Behind the Boulders

FBI agent Dan Myers arrived, and the lab matched the creek print to the one from Tess's yard. Guided by Tess, agents found Pryce's bunker behind mossy boulders, swept bare except for a pile of mayonnaise packets. Walters called Coyle from Glide. The sheriff asked: "Was there anything left inside?"

CHAPTER 28

Something in the Wall

Marisol Reyes told Myers and Mason that Josh Foster, on the renovation crew, found a heavy metal box inside 118's wall. Karen Marsh admitted Tiffany Voss had requested 118 the night before. Coyle returned, and Myers sealed the room. Next stop: Mrs. Voss — and the agents still had to find Tic Tac.

CHAPTER 29

The Silent Partner

Driving up the hill, Mason bet Myers a slice of Abby's that the brass 1987 key from Josh's mint tin opens the safe from Room 118. Tiffany Voss said Harlan told her to retrieve a hidden compartment in 118's closet if he vanished; she found nothing. Harlan, she said, was Gordon's silent partner.

CHAPTER 30

Road Trip to the Running Y

The FBI found nothing in Room 118 and set up secret surveillance from across the river. On Highway 140 at dusk, in the first flurries, a blue car raced past and Tess swore the driver was Harlan Voss. Mason told her Harlan was Gordon's silent partner; Walters found the car was stolen.

CHAPTER 31

Over the Rim

The stolen blue car turned up abandoned at Crater Lake. At the rim, Ranger Montgomery Smith spotted two hikers below the rim, where no one is allowed: Owen and Karen Marsh. That night Tess's room at the Rogue Regency was 118. By morning, a note on the old typewriter read: 1987.

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; vanished. Called Darla (Ch. 17); a gunshot. Worked the hotel renovation.

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; nobody knows her real name. Flashy in public, plain at home. Says Harlan was Gordon's silent partner.

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.

Dan Myers — Mason's FBI boss, late 50s, triathlete. All business; unimpressed by Coyle.

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 — Hotel housekeeper; found the 118 knife.

Hollis Tate — Holiday Inn maintenance chief, nearly 16 years; 65 Alder Brook Road.

Karen Marsh — Holiday Inn desk clerk; Owen Marsh's cousin. Climbed out of the Crater Lake caldera with Owen (Ch. 31).

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. 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.

Montgomery Smith — Crater Lake park ranger; caught Owen and Karen below the rim (Ch. 31).

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."

The second note — Slipped under Rogue Regency Room 118's door, same typewriter: "1987 — You were standing in the right place today."

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.

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

Lyndonville, Vermont · 1998

Eugene McDonough: A Firefighter's Last Call

Late on the night of Sept. 4, 1998, fire broke out in the PMI building in Lyndonville, a late-1800s brick warehouse full of bales of recycled paper. The first call came at 11:32 p.m.

Eugene "Geno" McDonough, 54, a St. Johnsbury firefighter with some 35 years on the job, was off duty but rode along with Engine 3 on the mutual-aid call.

He forced open a set of self-closing doors so hose streams could reach inside. When they swung shut, he went back to prop them open — and at about 12:30 a.m. the brick wall above collapsed on him. He died at Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital (federal NIOSH report).

Investigators ruled the fire arson, which made his death a homicide. No one has ever been charged.

Firefighters from across New England, Boston and New York City came to his funeral. A memorial golf tournament and a scholarship carry his name.

Tips: vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit, text VTIPS to 274637, or call 802-244-8727.

CASE FACTS

NAME
Eugene P. McDonough
AGE
54
DATE
Sept. 4–5, 1998
WHERE
PMI building, Lyndonville
RULING
Arson; homicide
STATUS
Unsolved
AGENCY
VSP Major Crime Unit

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

VERMONT POLICE BLOTTER

MONTPELIER — Police say Seth Hepburn, 29, highly intoxicated, left an infant in a stroller near Main and State streets Monday afternoon; witnesses cared for the baby. At booking, police say, he pulled a hidden knife on officers before surrendering it. He faces felony assault and abandonment charges. (WCAX, Fox44)

QUECHEE — Two people died when a Ford Mustang and a Kia Sorento collided and caught fire on a curve of Route 4 Monday night; the Kia's driver was seriously hurt. Hartford police are investigating. (WCAX, Valley News)

Tips: vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit

COURT WATCH

Washington — Judge Tanya Chutkan temporarily barred the Justice Department and Homeland Security from sending states lists of voters the administration says may not be citizens, saying the data may be unreliable. (Reuters)

Boston — A federal judge ruled for Harvard in ex-professor Francesca Gino's tenure lawsuit: "no reasonable jury" could find the university acted dishonestly. (GBH)

Supreme Court — On Monday the justices hear Nielsen v. Watanabe, a prison paramedic's bid to end most damages suits against federal officers. (SCOTUSblog)

CASE CLOSED · HOW IT WAS CRACKED

GRIM SLEEPER

Starting in 1985, young women were found shot and dumped in alleys in South Los Angeles; several early killings were tied to the same .25-caliber handgun. The killings seemed to stop in 1988, then resumed in 2002 — a long gap that gave the killer his nickname, the Grim Sleeper. DNA linked the cases but matched no one, until a familial search of California's offender database found a partial match: the son of Lonnie Franklin Jr. An undercover officer collected Franklin's pizza crust, its DNA matched, and in May 2016 a jury convicted him of 10 murders.

SOLVED AFTER DECADES

Cold cases cracked by DNA

VICTIM / CASE	WHERE	CRIME	SOLVED	HOW DNA CRACKED IT
Rita Curran	Burlington, Vt.	1971	2023	Cigarette-butt DNA and genealogy named her neighbor, William DeRoos, who died in 1986.
Sherri Rasmussen	Los Angeles	1986	2009	DNA from a bite mark led to LAPD detective Stephanie Lazarus.
Bear Brook	Allenstown, N.H.	1985	2017	Genealogy tied the bodies found in barrels to Terry Rasmussen.
Lisa Ziegert	Agawam, Mass.	1992	2018	Retested DNA led to Gary Schara's arrest.
Phoenix Canal	Phoenix	1992	2015	Genealogy led to Bryan Patrick Miller, convicted in 2022.
Golden State Killer	California	1974	2018	Genealogy led to Joseph DeAngelo, a former police officer.
Angie Dodge	Idaho Falls	1996	2019	Genealogy named Brian Dripps and helped free Christopher Tapp.
Christy Mirack	Lancaster, Pa.	1992	2018	Genealogy led to DJ Raymond Rowe.
Michella Welch	Tacoma, Wash.	1986	2018	A napkin Gary Hartman discarded at a diner matched crime-scene DNA.
Christine Jessop	Queensville, Ont.	1984	2020	Genealogy named Calvin Hoover (d. 2015); Guy Paul Morin had been wrongly convicted.

Genetic genealogy compares crime-scene DNA with public family-tree databases to find relatives, then builds the family tree.

SCAM ALERT

The "Wrong Number" Text

A friendly text from a stranger seems meant for someone else. Reply to say they have the wrong number, and the sender apologizes and keeps chatting — until, days or weeks later, the talk turns to romance, a job or an "investment," the Better Business Bureau warns.

Protect yourself: don't reply to texts from unknown numbers. Block the number and forward the text to 7726 (SPAM).

Report it: BBB Scam Tracker (bbb.org/scamtracker), ReportFraud.ftc.gov, or the Vermont AG's Consumer Assistance Program, 800-649-2424.

CRIME TRIVIA

Test Your Detective Skills

In 1910, what new technology helped catch Dr. Hawley Crippen as he fled London across the Atlantic?

Answer: Wireless telegraphy — his ship's captain radioed Scotland Yard.

THE SNOW DESK

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

Day 5 OF 152

Totals through Wednesday, Nov. 4

NOV · DEC · JAN · FEB · MAR · APR 1

MOST SNOW IN THE U.S. · LAST 24 HOURS

9.9" · Chicago Midway Ap 3 SW, IL

ESSEX JCT.

LAST 24 HRS	SEASON
0.0"	0.0"

Official: Burlington airport (BTV)
Normal to date: 0.3" · Depth: 0"

MIDDLEBURY

LAST 24 HRS	SEASON
—	0.0"

Nearest observer reports
No report = no observer reading that day

STOWE

LAST 24 HRS	SEASON
0.0"	0.0"

Mt. Mansfield / Stowe observers
No report = no observer reading that day

SNOWSHOE, WV

LAST 24 HRS	SEASON
0.0"	0.0"

Snowshoe observer (4,780 ft)
No report = no observer reading that day

THE CITY SNOW BOARD · OFFICIAL NWS TOTALS

CITY	LAST 24 HRS	MONTH	SEASON	NORMAL	+/-	DEPTH
Burlington, Vt.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	−0.3	0.0
Boston	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
Portland, Maine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	−0.1	0
Caribou, Maine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	−0.7	0.0
Concord, N.H.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	−0.1	0
Albany, N.Y.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	−0.1	0.0
Syracuse, N.Y.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	−0.5	0.0
Buffalo, N.Y.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	−0.4	0.0
New York City	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Erie, Pa.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	−0.7	0.0
Detroit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	−0.1	0.0
Chicago	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	−0.1	0.0
Minneapolis	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	−0.5	0.0
Denver	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.0
Salt Lake City	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	−0.5	0
Anchorage, Alaska	report not available					

NWS Daily Climate Reports. Season and normal count from Nov. 1. T = trace. Depth = snow on the ground, inches.

MOST SNOW IN THE U.S.

Biggest 24-hour totals reported to the NWS

1	Chicago Midway Ap 3 SW, IL Elev. 623 ft	9.9"
2	Alyeska Weather Top, AK Elev. 2707 ft	7.0"
3	Mills 12.8 SSE, WY Elev. 7943 ft	4.5"
4	Mills 12.8 SSE, WY Elev. 7943 ft	4.5"
5	Elk Mountain 0.3 SW, WY Elev. 7280 ft	3.4"
6	Rock River 9.6 WSW, WY Elev. 7218 ft	3.3"
7	Bosler 8.0 NE, WY Elev. 7238 ft	3.0"
8	Co St Forest St Park, CO Elev. 9075 ft	3.0"
9	Bosler 8.0 NE, WY Elev. 7238 ft	3.0"
10	Laramie 1.6 ENE, WY Elev. 7300 ft	2.2"

SEASON LEADERS · CITIES

Burlington, Vt.	0.0"
Boston	0.0"
Portland, Maine	0.0"
Caribou, Maine	0.0"
Concord, N.H.	0.0"
Albany, N.Y.	0.0"
Syracuse, N.Y.	0.0"
Buffalo, N.Y.	0.0"

SNOWSHOE MOUNTAIN REPORT

Opening day in 20 days — Wed., Nov. 25 (target, weather permitting)

Today: Drizzle early, 62°, low 46°; showers likely (40%).

Friday: 56°, then a hard drop to 33° overnight.

Saturday: Raw and cold: high 37°, low 32°, a 15% chance of snow showers.

Sun.–Tue.: Milder again: 47°, 51°, 56°.

Next week: Colder air returns: next Thursday 40°, low 29° — the closest yet to snowmaking weather.

Snowmaking: Crews want the mid-20s or colder for a solid run; not yet in the forecast.

Countdown: Twenty days to the Nov. 25 opening target and the new Shavers Center day lodge.

SNOW NOTES

Day 5 — and a record. Burlington hit 73° Wednesday, tying the Nov. 4 record set in 1982. The low, 59°, was 23 degrees above normal. Still no snow this season; normal by now is 0.6 inch.

The turn. Showers today, 68°, then 64° Friday before the cold front clears. Essex Junction drops to 49° Saturday and the upper 40s Sunday and Monday.

Mountain flakes. Mad River Glen shows a 30% chance of snow showers Tuesday. Mount Washington stays below freezing from Sunday on, down to 29° by next Thursday.

Valley watch. Next Thursday's forecast for Essex Junction: 42°, low 34°, with a small chance of the first flakes.

PUZZLES & GAMES

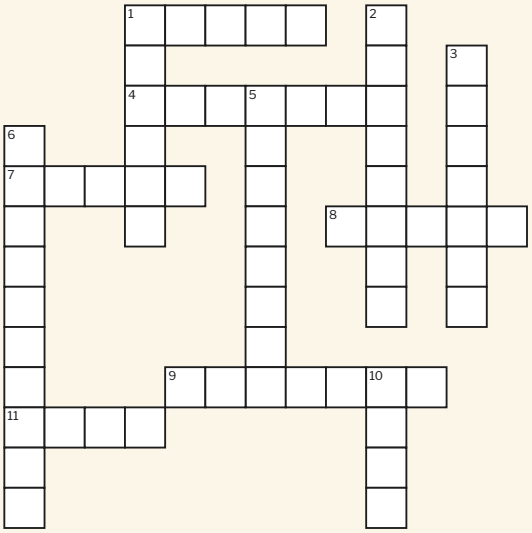
Grab a pencil and your coffee

THE DAILY SUDOKU

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

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD · COUNTING CONTINUES



ACROSS

1 Essex's tax that passed (5)
4 Doctor caught by wireless, 1910 (7)
7 Whiskey lost to the ___'s share (5)
8 Mississippi Senate hopeful Scott (5)
9 Pot Still Reserve distillery (7)
11 Where ROW 94 barrels will age (4)

DOWN

1 D.C.'s official cocktail (6)
2 Texas governor-elect Gina (8)
3 About 61% in Vermont (7)
5 Brazil's newly enlarged park (8)
6 Today's hunter-style chicken (10)
10 What Burlington's 73° did to a record (4)

WORD SEARCH · COLD FRONT

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

FIND 12 WORDS

CHILL
CUMULUS
DEWPOINT
DRIZZLE
FLURRY
FROST
GUSTY
NORTHWEST
OVERCAST
PRESSURE
SLEET
SQUALL

Across, down, diagonal — some backward.

THE COURIER QUIZ

Five Questions

1. What D.C. cocktail started as bourbon, lime and fizzy water?

2. What do distillers call whiskey lost to evaporation?

3. Which country star's bourbon is aging at the Opry?

4. Brazil's Pantanal has the densest population of what big cat?

5. What plot against Parliament do Britons remember every Nov. 5?

NAME THAT YEAR

Three Clues

- The miniseries Roots begins on ABC.
- A blackout darkens New York City for 25 hours.
- NASA launches both Voyager probes.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's sudoku. Crossword answers are upside down at the bottom of the page.

THE JUKEBOX

Music history, a record to spin and shows near home

NOVEMBER 5 BIRTHDAYS

This Day in Music

1911 — Roy Rogers, the singing "King of the Cowboys."

1941 — Art Garfunkel of Simon & Garfunkel — 85 today.

1946 — Gram Parsons, country-rock pioneer.

1947 — Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits.

1959 — Bryan Adams, born in Kingston, Ontario.

Also on this day: in 1966 the Monkees hit No. 1 with "Last Train to Clarksville."



SPIN THIS

Unchained

Johnny Cash · 1996

Released 30 years ago today, the second album of Cash's comeback with producer Rick Rubin traded the bare voice-and-guitar sound for a full band: Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

He made songs by Beck ("Rowboat"), Soundgarden ("Rusty Cage") and Petty ("Southern Accents") sound like his own.

Country radio mostly ignored it; it won a Grammy anyway.

Best with: a Willett neat and a pot of cacciatore.

LIVE IN VERMONT

Shows Near Home

Fri. Nov. 6 · Gabriela Martinez, piano, UVM Recital Hall

Sat. Nov. 14 · Judy Collins & the VSO, Paramount, Rutland

Fri. Nov. 20 · "Hug Your Farmer", The Flynn

Sat. Nov. 28 · Chin Ho! & The Eyetraps, Higher Ground

Listings via Songkick; check venues for tickets.

MUSIC TRIVIA

Before Simon & Garfunkel, birthday boy Art Garfunkel and Paul Simon recorded "Hey Schoolgirl" (1957) under what name?

ANSWERS — Quiz: 1. The Rickey. 2. The angel's share. 3. Dierks Bentley's (ROW 94). 4. The jaguar. 5. The Gunpowder Plot, 1605. Name That Year: 1977. Music trivia: Tom & Jerry. **Yesterday's crossword:** 1A SCOTT · 4A TALARICO · 5A BARRE · 8A BEAVER · 10A HERTL · 11A STROGANOFF · 12A JUAN · 2D CARTER · 3D SEELBACH · 6D ADVECTION · 7D PELTOLA · 9D RECORD