ESSEX JCT. TODAY
49°
Low 41° · Showers possible
Tuesday: showers likely, 51°

The Morning Courier

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

VETERANS DAY
WED.
Burlington honors vets at 11
Battery Park · Page 3

VOL. I · NO. 47 · FREE TO JB | MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026 · ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT | SUNRISE 6:41 A.M. · SUNSET 4:30 P.M.

DOW FUT. +0.6% ▲ pre-mkt · **S&P FUT.** +0.2% ▲ pre-mkt · **NASDAQ FUT.** −0.1% ▼ pre-mkt · **NVDA** ~−4% ▼ pre-mkt · **PLTR** $160.38 Fri. · **MSFT** $530.61 Fri. · **GAS** $4.02

BUSINESS · ON JB'S WATCH LIST

Nvidia Opens Probe of Its Own CEO

The chipmaker's board orders an independent investigation into reports that Jensen Huang was targeted by a foreign intelligence effort; the stock slides before the open

NVIDIA BY THE NUMBERS

~4–5%	Drop in early premarket trading
$186.64	Friday's close
1993	Year Huang co-founded Nvidia
Nov. 17	Next earnings report

BY THE COURIER BUSINESS DESK · SOURCES: INVESTING.COM, YAHOO FINANCE, CNBC, BENZINGA

Nvidia's board said Sunday it has opened an independent investigation into reports that chief executive Jensen Huang was the target of a foreign intelligence effort. The board said it has no reason to believe national security or confidential company information was compromised, and Huang said he will cooperate.

In a memo to employees, Huang acknowledged a personal relationship with a former executive of Megaspeed, a Singapore data-center company; U.S. officials suspect she was recruited by Chinese intelligence, The New York Times first reported last month. "I am deeply sorry," he wrote. China's embassy has called the spying claims unfounded.

The company said Huang will remain CEO "without interruption." President Trump called him "an honorable guy" and said he should stay; Sen. John Cornyn called for a congressional look.

Nvidia shares fell roughly 4% to 5% in premarket trading. Wedbush's Dan Ives called it a "black eye moment."

Investors were split. Tesla investor Gary Black doubted Huang would stay, noting there is "no natural successor," while Bill Ackman and Elon Musk defended him. Nvidia, the world's most valuable chipmaker, reports earnings Nov. 17. Page 2.

ESSEX JUNCTION FORECAST

49°
Low tonight: 41°

Gray, with on-and-off showers; highs near 49°.

RAIN TODAY 35% | SNOW TODAY 0%
Rain here; snow showers on Mt. Washington

THE WEEK AHEAD

TUE	WED	THU	FRI
51°	47°	44°	39°
R 45% S 0%	R 15% S 0%	R 10% S 0%	R 0% S 15%

R = rain, S = snow chance. Forecast data, Monday a.m.

FORECASTER'S NOTE

Burlington hit 52° Sunday; we called 49°, so Beat the Forecaster slips to 3–5. Valley flakes possible Friday. Sunset 4:30 p.m.

ARGENTINA · A PAPAL HOMECOMING

Pope Leo Lands in Buenos Aires

BY THE COURIER WORLD DESK · SOURCES: OSV NEWS, AP, BUENOS AIRES TIMES

Pope Leo XIV arrived Sunday from Uruguay and was greeted on the tarmac by President Javier Milei; the city gave him its keys. "My arrival in this land is personally meaningful," he said.

He celebrates an outdoor Mass in Buenos Aires today; organizers expect some 7 million people across the visit — the trip Argentines long hoped Pope Francis would make. He goes on to Peru Wednesday.

Next: Córdoba Tuesday, Luján Wednesday.

INSIDE TODAY · IN BRIEF

MARKETS	Futures, CPI week.	2
VERMONT	Lake search resumes.	3
SPORTS	Bruins win 4th straight.	6
WEATHER	3–5 vs. the forecaster.	7
SERIAL	Chapter 34 is coming.	8
CRIME	A 1981 Brattleboro fire.	12

WEATHER AROUND THE MAP

Monday forecasts · forecast data · "Now" = overnight

	Now	Hi	Lo	Rain	Snow
Middlebury, VT	46°	51°	40°	41%	0%
Mt. Washington, NH	33°	35°	28°	0%	40%
Snowshoe, WV	38°	47°	37°	5%	0%
Roseburg, OR	51°	60°	50°	75%	0%
E. Dennis, MA · Cape	49°	55°	46°	20%	0%
Charlotte, NC	42°	74°	42°	0%	0%
Wilmington, NC	50°	74°	45°	0%	0%
St. Petersburg, FL	66°	80°	67°	10%	0%
Fulton, MO	37°	71°	38°	0%	0%
Hot spot · Phoenix, AZ	61°	82°	57°	0%	0%



THE DEEPEST WATER · A COURIER SERIAL
Chapter 34 is coming. Catch up on Chapters 1–33 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

Futures firm, Nvidia slips · CPI week · Monday, November 9

LAST CLOSE — FRIDAY, NOV. 6

INDEX / STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE	PCT
Dow Jones Industrials	51,285.73	−237.33	−0.46%
S&P 500	7,376.86	+23.13	+0.31%
Nasdaq Composite	24,579.42	+264.43	+1.09%
Russell 2000	2,754.11	+24.22	+0.89%
JB'S WATCHLIST			
Nvidia (NVDA)	186.64	+5.04	+2.78%
Palantir (PLTR)	160.38	+5.39	+3.48%
Microsoft (MSFT)	530.61	−5.32	−0.99%
BIG NAMES			
AMD (AMD)	449.05	+44.65	+11.04%

Friday closes via AP. *The Courier is written with help from Claude, made by Anthropic.

RATES · ENERGY · METALS

10-yr Treasury Mon. a.m.	4.86%
2-yr Treasury Fri.	4.51%
30-yr Treasury Fri.	5.26%
Gold +0.7%	~$4,104
WTI crude −0.4%	~$90.45
Brent crude Fri.	~$98
Bitcoin −2.1%	~$74,250
Ether Sat.	~$2,237
VIX Fri.	25.64

THE WEEK AHEAD — **MON.** KKR, Barrick; Take-Two late · **TUE.** October CPI (+0.2–0.3% exp.) · **WED.** Veterans Day: bonds closed · **THU.** Cisco, Applied Materials

Friday: producer prices · Retail sales moves to Tuesday, Nov. 17 · Nvidia reports Nov. 17

Yahoo Finance, CMC Markets

BEFORE THE BELL

A Bounce Try, With Nvidia Lagging

BY THE COURIER MARKETS DESK · SOURCES: YAHOO FINANCE, CNBC, FXSTREET, REUTERS

Stock futures pointed to a modest rebound from last week's selloff: Dow futures were up about 0.6% and S&P futures 0.2% early Monday, helped by lower oil prices. Nasdaq futures were flat as Nvidia slid on news of its board's probe of CEO Jensen Huang (Page 1).

China said consumer prices rose 0.7% from a year earlier in October, while factory prices jumped 5.7%.

Tuesday's CPI is the week's big test: forecasters expect prices up 0.2% to 0.3% for the month.

STOCKS TO WATCH TODAY

On the Radar

Nvidia (NVDA) — Down about 4% premarket after its board opened a probe of CEO Jensen Huang.

Palantir (PLTR) — No new weekend news; down about 13% last week.

Microsoft (MSFT) — No new weekend news; up 1.7% last week.

Anthropic IPO* — Roadshow could start as soon as Tuesday; a Nasdaq debut as ANT is possible the week of Nov. 16.

Monday earnings — KKR, Barrick early; Take-Two, Rocket Lab late.

China — Factory prices up 5.7%, the fastest since June 2022; trade data Tuesday.

BEFORE THE BELL · MONDAY, ~4 A.M.

DOW	Dow futures	+0.60%
SPX	S&P futures	+0.20%
NDX	Nasdaq-100 fut.	−0.10%
RTY	Russell 2000 fut.	+0.95%
N225	Nikkei (Japan)	+1.00%
KOSPI	Kospi (Korea)	+1.00%
NVDA	Nvidia pre-mkt	−4.20%

Best of these: Russell +0.95% Worst: NVDA −4%

YEAR TO DATE

Russell 2000	+11.0%
S&P 500	+7.8%
Dow	+6.7%
Nasdaq	+5.8%

Through Friday, via AP. Week: S&P −2.7%, its worst since April 2025.

THE LUMBER DESK

China Prices Jump

FOR THE JB WOODS DESK

China's factory prices rose 5.7% in October, the fastest since 2022 — imported materials may cost more. The 10-year yield sits near 4.86%.

GAS PRICES · REGULAR, PER GALLON

NATIONAL	VERMONT	HIGHEST	LOWEST
$4.02	$4.27	$5.75	$3.27
U.S. average	state average	California	North Carolina

AAA, Nov. 8 · U.S. down 15¢ in a week

NATION & WORLD

Washington, the courts & beyond

WASHINGTON · LAME DUCK

Congress Returns to a Changed Capitol

BY THE COURIER NATION DESK · SOURCES: THE HILL, AP, AFP, MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS

Lawmakers return today with five weeks before government funding runs out Dec. 11; the House has passed 3 of 12 spending bills, and most expect a stopgap. Stephen Miller starts today as White House chief of staff.

House Republicans pick new leaders Tuesday: Steve Scalise or Jim Jordan for minority leader, and Tom Emmer or August Pfluger for whip. Rep. Thomas Massie plans to file impeachment articles against Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth this week.

Still counting: Scott Colom leads Mississippi Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith by 2,574 votes; mail ballots must arrive by Tuesday and counties certify by Friday. In Alaska, Mary Peltola leads Sen. Dan Sullivan by 637; President Trump posted that "The Alaska Race is OVER" though the count continues. Neither race has been called.

ELSEWHERE

South Africa. Final results: the Democratic Alliance won Johannesburg with 34.8% to the ANC's 20.3%, short of a majority; coalition talks are next. (The Citizen)

Ukraine. European officials will join this week's U.S.-led talks in Abu Dhabi. "No one will speak in our name," said France's foreign minister. (Euronews)

Iran. Tehran defended its new peace proposal after Washington rejected its conditions; the U.S. Navy says it has turned back 147 vessels. (Reuters, Fox News)

Japan. A magnitude 5.7 quake shook central Japan early Sunday, injuring at least 22 people. (AP)

VERMONT

Around the Green Mountain State

FERRISBURGH · LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Search for Missing Boater Resumes Today

BY THE COURIER VERMONT DESK · SOURCES: WCAX, VERMONT STATE POLICE

Searchers return to Kingsland Bay this morning for a 48-year-old Burlington man who fell from a small fishing boat Saturday afternoon. His companion told police he was not wearing a life jacket and tried, without success, to pull him back aboard.

Sunday's search brought out the Vermont State Police underwater recovery team, the U.S. Coast Guard, a U.S. Border Patrol aircraft crew, Fish & Wildlife wardens and the Ferrisburgh Fire Department. The man was not found. Police have not released his name and say there are no signs of foul play.

With the lake in the 40s, state officials remind boaters that life jackets matter most in the cold months. Anyone with information can call the New Haven barracks at 802-388-4919.

BURLINGTON

Council Votes Tonight on a New Police Chief

The City Council takes up Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak's pick, Anthony Geraci, former police chief in Newburgh, N.Y. If confirmed, he starts Tuesday; interim chief Shawn Burke stays through March. "I look forward to listening, learning, earning your trust," Geraci said. (WCAX, Seven Days)

VETERANS DAY · WEDNESDAY

Where to Say Thank You

Burlington's commemoration is at 11 a.m. at Battery Park; Williston-Richmond Rotary gathers 9 a.m. at Williston's War Memorial Park; Colchester honors veterans at noon at the Rec Center; and Milton's ceremony is 10 a.m. at R.R. Charlebois. (Vermont Public)

AROUND THE STATE

HARDWICK — No recount. Audrey Grant conceded the Caledonia-2 House race, which she lost by eight votes: "I know that 8 votes is close enough." (Vermont Daily Chronicle)

STATEWIDE — Warmer winters. UVM's new climate assessment finds Vermont winters 4.6° warmer since 1900 and snowfall falling faster in recent decades. (VTDigger)

WASHINGTON — Sanders to chair again. Sen. Bernie Sanders is poised to lead the Senate health and labor committee again in a Democratic Senate. (VTDigger)

FOLIAGE REPORT

Damp now, wintry later

Sunday: Burlington 52°; we called 49°.

Record: Beat the Forecaster is 3–5.

Today: gray, on-and-off showers, 49°.

Rain: only a couple of tenths through Tuesday. (WCAX)

Sunset: 4:30 p.m. — 9 hr 49 min of daylight.

Late week: some snow possible above 1,000 feet. (WCAX)

Mt. Washington: light snow showers this morning.

Moon: new moon — dark skies tonight.

THE WEEK IN VERMONT

Today Showers possible, 49°.

Tonight Cloudy, 41°.

Tue. Showers likely, 51°.

Wed. Cloudy, 47°.

Thu. Cooler, 44°.

Forecast data for Essex Junction; check before you go.

VERMONT BY THE NUMBERS

4 Straight Bruins wins

4.6° How much warmer Vt. winters are

Tue. New Burlington chief could start

14–5 UVM field hockey record

40 Saves by Swayman

SPORTS

Bruins win four straight · Packers rout the Patriots · UVM field hockey heads to the NCAAs

NHL · BRUINS 4, PANTHERS 1 · TD GARDEN

TEAM	1	2	3	G	SOG	PPG
FLA	1	0	0	1	41	1
BOS	3	0	1	4	36	1

BOS: Lindholm, Eyssimont, Geekie (PP), Peterka · Pastrnak 2 A, Zacha 2 A · Swayman 40 saves · FLA: Verhaeghe (PP)

ROUGH SUNDAY IN FOXBOROUGH

Packers 45, Patriots 27

BY THE COURIER SPORTS DESK · SOURCE: SPORTRADAR

Jordan Love threw for 372 yards and three touchdowns and ran for another as Green Bay led 24–14 at the half and pulled away; New England turned it over four times without A.J. Brown and TreVeyon Henderson. The Patriots (5–4) lost at home for the first time and play at Detroit Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Also: Celtics 117, Bucks 97 — Jayson Tatum 21 points. **UVM:** field hockey (14–5) makes the NCAA tournament and meets Saint Joseph's Wednesday at 3 in Evanston, Ill. (NCAA.com, WCAX, SportRadar)

NFL · WEEK 10

Sunday's finals and tonight's game

JAX 33, BAL 10	Thu.	F
CIN 34, ATL 17	Sun.	F
DAL 27, IND 23	Sun.	F
LA 20, WAS 13	Sun.	F
KC 35, NYJ 12	Sun.	F
DET 19, MIA 9	Sun.	F
DEN 26, CAR 21	Sun.	F
NYG 19, PHI 11	Sun.	F
NO 23, CLE 22	Sun.	F
HOU 44, LAC 22	Sun.	F
SF 38, LV 17	Sun.	F
GB 45, NE 27	Sun.	F
SEA 17, ARI 3	Sun.	F
CHI 27, TB 24	SNF	F
BUF at MIN	MNF 8:15	BUF 62%

Win probabilities via SportRadar. Times are Eastern Standard Time.

AFC EAST STANDINGS

TEAM	W-L	GB
Buffalo	6-1	—
New England	5-4	2
NY Jets	2-7	5
Miami	1-7	5½

Via SportRadar. Buffalo plays at Minnesota tonight; Patriots at Detroit Sunday, 9

NHL · BRUINS CORNER

Four in a Row

Boston scored three times in the first period — Elias Lindholm, Michael Eyssimont (just recalled from Providence) and Morgan Geekie on a 5-on-3 — and Jeremy Swayman stopped 40 shots. The Bruins (13–4–1) are 8–1 at home. (NHL.com)

UVM · THIS WEEK

A Close One

Men's basketball: Quinnipiac 79, UVM 76; Yalden 28.

Next: SUNY Plattsburgh, Sat., 1 p.m.

TONIGHT ON TV (ET)

NFL Bills at Vikings, 8:15
NHL Rangers at Oilers, 8:00
NHL Flyers at Canucks, 9:30

THE BOURBON & WINE PAGE

A seven-year Beam single barrel · a Rioja for Monday steak night



BOURBON OF THE WEEK

JAMES B. BEAM DISTILLING CO. · CLERMONT, KY.

Baker's 7 Year Single Barrel

PROOF	MASH	AGE	PRICE
107	77/13/10	7 years	~$55–60

Named for Baker Beam, a longtime Clermont master distiller, it launched in 1992 in Beam's Small Batch collection beside Booker's, Knob Creek and Basil Hayden. (The Whiskey Wash)

How it tastes: baking spice, cinnamon bark and vanilla up front; aged oak, leather and brown sugar on the palate; a long, dry, warm finish. (Breaking Bourbon)

Now one barrel at a time: in late 2019 Beam turned Baker's into a single-barrel bourbon, keeping the seven years and 107 proof; the neck tag lists each barrel's details. (Distiller)



WINE OF THE WEEK

MARQUÉS DE CÁCERES · CENICERO, RIOJA, SPAIN

Marqués de Cáceres Rioja Crianza

GRAPES	FROM	ABV	PRICE
Tempranillo	Rioja	13.5%	~$15

About 85% Tempranillo with Graciano and Garnacha, aged in French and American oak. By Rioja law, a red Crianza ages two years, at least one in barrel. (Wine Folly)

How it tastes: ripe plum and raspberry, licorice and leather, with vanilla and tobacco and gentle tannins. (Liquor Barn)

Bordeaux roots: Enrique Forner, who had run Bordeaux estates, founded it in 1970 with famed enologist Émile Peynaud; the first reds came out in 1975. (Marqués de Cáceres)

TODAY'S RECIPE

Made to go with a glass

Peppercorn Steaks, Bourbon Pan Sauce

Serves 4 · about 40 minutes

THE STEAKS

- 4 strip or tenderloin steaks (6–8 oz)
- 1 tbsp crushed black peppercorns
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 lb small potatoes, halved
- 2 tbsp olive oil

THE SAUCE

- ½ cup bourbon
- ¼ cup minced shallot
- ⅔ cup beef stock
- 4 tbsp cold butter, cubed
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley

METHOD

1. Toss the potatoes with the olive oil and a pinch of salt; roast at 425°F for 25–30 minutes.

2. Salt the steaks and press the crushed pepper into both sides.

3. Sear in the hot oil in a heavy skillet, about 3 minutes a side for medium-rare; rest under foil.

4. Off the heat, add the bourbon; back on the heat, add the shallot and 1 tbsp butter for 2 minutes, then the stock; reduce by half.

5. Off the heat, whisk in the rest of the butter a piece at a time. Spoon over the steaks; add parsley.

Courier tip: Always pour bourbon into the pan off the flame — it can flare up. (GoBourbon)

POUR WITH IT · BOURBON

Baker's: the same bourbon that's in the sauce; at 107 proof its spice and oak stand up to the peppercorn crust.

POUR WITH IT · WINE

Rioja Crianza: "Riojas don't get enough love" with steak, says chef Matthew Kreider — its tannins balance the beef and its dark fruit meets the crust. (Tasting Table)

THIS WEEK'S POUR

Cocktail Corner

Kentucky Buck. Muddle a strawberry; shake with 2 oz bourbon, ¾ oz lemon juice, ¼ oz rich simple syrup and 2 dashes Angostura. Strain over ice in a tall glass; top with ginger beer.

The story: Bartender Erick Castro created it in 2009 at Bourbon & Branch in San Francisco. A "buck" is any spirit with citrus and ginger ale or ginger beer. (Difford's Guide, Punch)

BOURBON & WINE NEWS

Aged at the Opry

ROW 94, the whiskey brand co-founded by country star Dierks Bentley, is finishing barrels of its Trespasser's Proof bourbon in a secret spot inside the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. (The Whiskey Wash, Nov. 4)

Also: 15 STARS launched "First West," a single-barrel program of cask-proof Kentucky bourbons aged 6 to 10 years. (The Whiskey Wash, Nov. 5)

THIS WEEK'S POUR PLAN

What to sip with what's on

TONIGHT · MONDAY DINNER

Peppercorn steaks with the Rioja.

TONIGHT · BILLS AT VIKINGS, 8:15

Baker's, neat, with a drop of water.

WEDNESDAY · VETERANS DAY

A Kentucky Buck to toast those who served.

THE CELLAR & RICKHOUSE GLOSSARY

Nine wine words, nine bourbon words

Crianza — Spanish red aged 2 years, 1 in oak.
Punt — the dimple in a bottle's base.
Brix — a measure of sugar in grape juice.
Meritage — U.S. name for Bordeaux-style blends.
Phylloxera — root louse that ravaged 1800s vines.
Corked — a musty fault caused by TCA.

Sur lie — aged on spent yeast for richness.
Fortified — wine boosted with spirit, like port.
Appellation — a legally defined wine region.
Doubler — a second still that refines spirit.
Backset — spent mash added to a new batch.
Distiller's beer — fermented mash before distilling.

Congeners — flavor compounds besides ethanol.
Honey barrel — an exceptional single cask.
Chill filtration — cooling to remove haze.
Entry proof — strength when spirit enters barrel.
Age statement — label line giving minimum age.
Heads — the first, harsh part of the run.

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. 9 – Sunday, Nov. 15

ON THE TUBE (ET)

Tonight 8:15 — Bills at Vikings.
Tue. 7:00 — Wild at Canadiens.
Thu. 8:15 — Commanders at Giants.
Sun. 9:30 a.m. — Patriots at Lions.
Sun. 1:00 — Bills at Jets.
Sun. 8:20 — Steelers at Bengals.

AROUND VERMONT

Today — Congress returns.
Tue. — October inflation (CPI).
Tue. — House GOP picks a leader.
Wed. — Veterans Day.
Thu. — Essex Jct. council on the cannabis grow.

WEATHER AT A GLANCE

Mon. — Showers possible, 49°.
Tue. — Showers likely, 51°.
Wed. — Cloudy, 47°.
Thu. — Cooler, 44°.
Fri. — Flakes possible, 39°.
Sat. — Snow chance, 42°.

GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Kindness, critters & comebacks

JAPAN

A Coat Returned After 30 Years

A Korean schoolgirl whose hanbok was slashed in a racist attack kept the coat a Japanese teen, Norihisa Koyama, gave her to cover it. Decades later she spotted his name in a newspaper and returned it. (Good News Network)

GERMANY

Dogs on Weed Patrol

In a PLOS ONE study, 11 of 12 volunteer dog-and-owner teams passed field tests sniffing out invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed and ragweed, with 75% success. (Good News Network)

SCOTLAND

Beavers for Loch Ness

NatureScot approved releasing up to 15 beaver families into the River Ness area over three years — about 500 years after beavers were last recorded there. (Good News Network)

ENGLAND

Terns Come Home

Sandwich terns at Pagham Harbour went from zero after bird flu in 2022 to 756 birds, thanks to predator fencing and habitat work by the RSPB. (Good News Network)

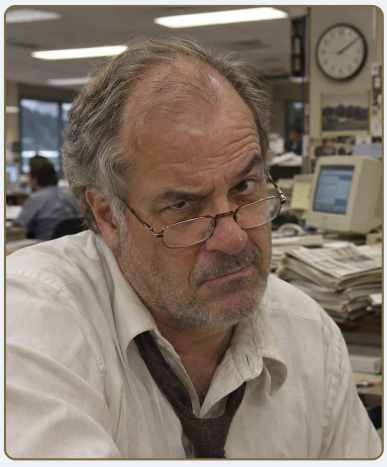
ITALY

Venice's Flood Rescue, Online

Sixty years after the 1966 "Acqua Granda" flood, UNESCO and Venice's Fondazione Giorgio Cini began putting about 110,000 documents and 6,000 photos from the rescue campaign online. (Devdiscourse, Positive News)

MEET THE CAST

The Deepest Water



Walt Brenner

Editor, the Umpqua Ledger

"That's the worst sentence in the English language."
— Chapter 32

A new face every day · catch up on Pages 9–11

SPORTS & STANDINGS

Every team in the NFL, NHL and NBA

NFL through Sunday · NHL and NBA through Sunday · 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	4	0	.556
N.Y. Jets	2	7	0	.222
Miami	1	7	0	.125

AFC NORTH	W	L	T	PCT
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	.750
Cincinnati	6	2	0	.750
Cleveland	5	4	0	.556
Baltimore	4	5	0	.444

AFC SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT
Jacksonville	6	2	0	.750
Houston	3	5	0	.375
Indianapolis	2	7	0	.222
Tennessee	1	7	0	.125

AFC WEST	W	L	T	PCT
Denver	7	2	0	.778
Kansas City	6	2	0	.750
Las Vegas	4	5	0	.444
L.A. Chargers	0	8	0	.000

NFC EAST	W	L	T	PCT
N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714
Dallas	4	5	0	.444
Washington	2	5	0	.286
Philadelphia	2	7	0	.222

NFC NORTH	W	L	T	PCT
Minnesota	6	1	0	.857
Chicago	7	2	0	.778
Detroit	6	2	0	.750
Green Bay	6	3	0	.667

NFC SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT
Carolina	3	5	0	.375
Tampa Bay	3	6	0	.333
Atlanta	3	6	0	.333
New Orleans	3	5	0	.375

NFC WEST	W	L	T	PCT
San Francisco	7	1	0	.875
Seattle	5	4	0	.556
L.A. Rams	5	4	0	.556
Arizona	3	6	0	.333

NHL · DIVISION STANDINGS

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Boston	18	13	4	1	27
Montreal	17	11	3	3	25
Tampa Bay	17	11	4	2	24
Ottawa	18	11	6	1	23
Florida	18	9	7	2	20
Buffalo	17	8	6	3	19
Toronto	19	8	9	2	18
Detroit	18	7	8	3	17

METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Carolina	19	14	3	2	30
New Jersey	18	13	5	0	26
N.Y. Rangers	18	10	7	1	21
Washington	15	9	6	0	18
N.Y. Islanders	16	7	6	3	17
Columbus	15	7	8	0	14
Pittsburgh	18	6	10	2	14
Philadelphia	19	4	10	5	13

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Minnesota	19	12	3	4	28
Dallas	17	10	5	2	22
Colorado	18	10	6	2	22
Nashville	17	8	4	5	21
Utah	18	10	7	1	21
St. Louis	17	7	8	2	16
Winnipeg	18	7	8	3	17
Chicago	18	4	13	1	9

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Edmonton	18	12	3	3	27
Vegas	19	12	5	2	26
Seattle	16	9	6	1	19
Anaheim	18	10	7	1	21
Calgary	18	8	9	1	17
San Jose	19	7	11	1	15
Los Angeles	15	5	8	2	12
Vancouver	19	3	15	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	9	2	.818	—
Boston	8	2	.800	0.5
New York	5	4	.556	3
Toronto	5	4	.556	3
Brooklyn	2	8	.200	6.5

CENTRAL · EAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Detroit	6	3	.667	—
Cleveland	5	5	.500	1.5
Indiana	3	7	.300	3.5
Chicago	1	7	.125	4.5
Milwaukee	1	9	.100	5.5

SOUTHEAST · EAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	7	4	.636	—
Washington	4	6	.400	2.5
Miami	4	6	.400	2.5
Charlotte	3	7	.300	3.5
Orlando	2	7	.222	4

NORTHWEST · WEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Oklahoma City	8	2	.800	—
Minnesota	8	3	.727	0.5
Portland	6	3	.667	1.5
Denver	5	3	.625	2
Utah	1	9	.100	7

PACIFIC · WEST	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Lakers	9	2	.818	—
Golden State	7	3	.700	1.5
Phoenix	3	5	.375	4.5
LA Clippers	2	7	.222	6
Sacramento	1	9	.100	7.5

SOUTHWEST · WEST	W	L	PCT	GB
San Antonio	8	2	.800	—
Houston	7	3	.700	1
Memphis	6	3	.667	1.5
Dallas	6	4	.600	2
New Orleans	4	6	.400	4

NEW ENGLAND WATCH

Where our teams stand

Bruins (13–4–1) Four straight wins after beating Florida 4–1; Swayman made 40 saves. First in the Atlantic, ahead of Montreal (11–3–3).

Patriots (5–4) Lost 45–27 to Green Bay — their first home loss. At Detroit (6–2) Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Celtics (8–2) Beat Milwaukee 117–97. A half game behind Philadelphia (9–2); at the 76ers Tuesday.

Bills (6–1) At Minnesota tonight, 8:15; the Vikings start Carson Wentz with Kyler Murray out. Chicago (7–2) won on a last-second field goal.

THE WEATHER DESK

Forecasts, almanac, mountains & Snow Watch 2026–27

THE FORECASTER'S TAKE

Three Degrees Shy, Again

BY THE COURIER WEATHER DESK · SOURCE: FORECAST DATA · BURLINGTON CLIMATE REPORT (NWS)

We called 49° for Sunday; Burlington reached 52°, two above normal. Three degrees off is a loss, so Beat the Forecaster slips to 3–5. Today's call: 49°.

Another gray, damp start to the week: a high near 49° with a 35% chance of showers, and a 45% chance Tuesday. Up high it's already winter — Mount Washington has light snow showers and a 40% chance of snow today.

The real cooldown starts midweek: 47° Wednesday, 44° Thursday and just 39° Friday, with lows sliding to 33° to 35° by week's end.

Friday and Saturday carry small chances of snow in the valley (15% and 20%). Newport and Stowe see snow chances as early as Tuesday.

ESSEX JCT. ALMANAC

YESTERDAY	High 52° · Low 39°
SUNRISE	6:41 a.m.
SUNSET	4:30 p.m.
DAYLIGHT	9 hr 49 min
CHANGE	-2.5 min vs. yesterday
SINCE JUNE 21	5 hr 42 min less light
MOON	New moon

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

ESSEX JUNCTION · THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

	TODAY	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
HIGH	49°	51°	47°	44°	39°	42°	44°
LOW	41°	40°	35°	33°	33°	35°	35°
RAIN	35%	45%	15%	10%	0%	0%	15%
SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	20%	0%

High in red, low in blue · FREEZE = low at or below 32° · bars show the chance of rain and of snow. Forecast data.

MOUNTAINS, VALLEYS & THE PLACES WE WATCH

NEWPORT
Orleans County
45° / 38° · 25%
Snow chance 40% Tuesday.

STOWE
Lamoille County
39° / 32° · 45%
Light rain now; flakes by Tuesday.

BRATTLEBORO
Windham County
53° / 41° · 35%
Mildest of the five.

MONTPELIER
Washington County
47° / 38° · 25%
Snow chances from Wednesday.

PLATTSBURGH
Clinton County, N.Y.
50° / 40° · 20%
Across the lake: 50° today.

SNOW WATCH 2026–27

Day 9

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

Desert Warmth, Oregon Rain

Phoenix runs in the low 80s all week, 84° by Thursday. Charlotte and Wilmington, N.C., reach 74° today, and Fulton, Mo., jumps from a frosty 38° start to 71°.

Roseburg, Ore., has a 75% chance of rain today, and an 85% chance Friday. Snowshoe, W.Va., turns sharply colder Thursday night, with a high of only 30° on Friday.

BEAT THE FORECASTER

Nature Wins This One

Sunday: we said 49°; Burlington hit 52° (3° warmer). More than 2° off counts as a loss.

Season record: 3–5 (38%)

Recent: Wed 73/73 W · Thu 68/68 W · Fri 64/67 L · Sat 48/52 L · Sun 49/52 L

Today's call: 49° in Essex Junction. Check back tomorrow.

WEATHER WORD

Lake-Effect Snow

When frigid air crosses a warmer lake, it picks up heat and moisture and drops it as narrow bands of snow downwind (NWS).

Close to home: Lake Champlain can do it too — rare, small bands that can whiten one Champlain Valley town and leave the next one bare.

THIS WEEK IN WEATHER

Nov. 10, 1975: A November gale on Lake Superior — winds near 55 mph, seas over 25 feet — sank the ore carrier Edmund Fitzgerald with all 29 aboard. Tuesday is the 51st anniversary. (AccuWeather)

THE DEEPEST WATER

New reader? Tap here to read from Chapter 1 ›



Scenes from The Deepest Water · Chapter 1, "Lights On Till Eleven" · image by J.B. Woods

CHAPTER 34

Chapter Still Being Written

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

WHERE WE LEFT OFF · CHAPTER 33: ABOVE THE FOLD

At the Rogue Regency, clerk Kyle told Kally and Teresa the woman who asked for Room 118 called from a pay phone, a man talking beside her — and she didn't sound old. A back-door lock had been busted. Mason and Myers quietly began checking the sheriff's boots. Walt ordered Tess to write; her story, "Harlan Voss Spotted Near Crater Lake," was the talk of the town. Then Seven Feathers called Walters: the cameras had caught something.

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 1–18

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."

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.

THE DEEPEST WATER · READER'S GUIDE

The Story So Far · Chapters 19–33 (continued)

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

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.

CHAPTER 32

By Request

Tess drove the note straight to Roseburg. At checkout, the clerk said a woman had called asking for Room 118 in Tess's name. The stolen car's owner lost it at Seven Feathers, helping a woman in a wheelchair. In his office, Sheriff Coyle had his boots up on the desk — and Myers and Mason saw the tread.

CHAPTER 33

Above the Fold

At the Rogue Regency, clerk Kyle told Kally and Teresa the woman who asked for Room 118 called from a pay phone, a man talking beside her — and she didn't sound old. A back-door lock had been busted. Mason and Myers quietly began checking the sheriff's boots. Walt ordered Tess to write; her story, "Harlan Voss Spotted Near Crater Lake," was the talk of the town. Then Seven Feathers called Walters: the cameras had caught something.

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 — Under Rogue Regency Room 118's door, same typewriter: "1987 — You were standing in the right place today." Now with the FBI.

The request call — A woman phoned the Rogue Regency as "Tess" and asked for Room 118 (Ch. 32).

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

Brattleboro, Vermont · 1981

Donald Norcia: The Fire on Elliott Street

Brattleboro firefighters answering a house fire on Elliott Street found a man dead inside. An autopsy identified him as Donald Norcia, 39.

Then came the finding that turned a fire call into a murder case: the medical examiner concluded Norcia was already dead before the fire started, and that the fire did not cause or contribute to his death. It was ruled a homicide.

Brattleboro police and the Vermont State Police Major Crime Unit investigated. More than four decades later, no one has been charged.

The State Police lists the case under Feb. 23, 1981. Investigators say even small details — who visited the house, who was seen on Elliott Street that day — can still matter.

Tips: vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit (anonymous), text VTIPS to 274637, or call 802-244-8727 weekdays. Case 579-658. (Vermont State Police)

CASE FACTS

NAME
Donald Norcia
AGE
39
DATE (VSP)
Feb. 23, 1981
PLACE
Elliott Street, Brattleboro
FINDING
Dead before the fire
STATUS
Unsolved
AGENCY
VSP Major Crime Unit

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

VERMONT POLICE BLOTTER

BRIDGEWATER — A 41-year-old driver crossed into the eastbound lane of Route 4 about 9:20 a.m. Sunday, left the road and went into the river. He wasn't hurt and was cited for driving under the influence of drugs. (Vermont State Police)

SHAFTSBURY — A 23-year-old Dorset man was clocked at 98 mph in a 55-mph zone on Route 7, troopers said. (Vermont State Police)

GEORGIA — A Shelburne driver who crossed the center line on Highbridge Road and wasn't wearing a seat belt escaped with minor injuries. (Vermont State Police)

Tips: vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit

COURT WATCH

Seattle — Judge Jamal Whitehead temporarily barred the Justice Department from pressing Washington officials to set aside ballots of voters on a federal "noncitizen" list. (Washington State Standard)

Philadelphia — Judge Chad Kenney threw out the Justice Department's suit against the city's limits on honoring ICE detainers. (Philadelphia Inquirer)

Concord, N.H. — A federal judge ruled two Bow fathers had a First Amendment right to wear "XX" wristbands at a girls' soccer game; the settlement pays each $17.91 — the year the First Amendment was ratified. (AP)

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.
Christy Mirack	Lancaster, Pa.	1992	2018	Genealogy led to DJ Raymond Rowe; he pleaded guilty.
Michella Welch	Tacoma, Wash.	1986	2018	Genealogy and a discarded napkin led to Gary Hartman.
Bear Brook	Allenstown, N.H.	1985	2017	Genealogy tied the bodies found in barrels to Terry Rasmussen.
"Buckskin Girl"	Near Troy, Ohio	1981	2018	Genealogy named her Marcia King; her killer is still unknown.
Carla Walker	Fort Worth, Texas	1974	2020	New DNA tests on her clothing led to Glen McCurley; he pleaded guilty.
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.
"J.N. Chandler"	Eastlake, Ohio	1978	2018	Identity solved: genealogy showed the man was Robert Nichols of Indiana.
Lisa Ziegert	Agawam, Mass.	1992	2018	Retested DNA led to Gary Schara's arrest.

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

CASE CLOSED · HOW IT WAS CRACKED

OKLAHOMA CITY, 1995

On the morning of April 19, 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, killing 168 people, including 19 children. About 90 minutes later, Oklahoma Trooper Charlie Hanger stopped Timothy McVeigh for a missing license plate, found a concealed gun and arrested him. Meanwhile, FBI agents read a vehicle number off the truck's mangled rear axle and traced it to a Ryder rental in Kansas; a composite sketch and a motel clerk led to McVeigh's name. McVeigh was convicted and executed in 2001; Terry Nichols got life in prison. (FBI, NLEOMF)

SCAM ALERT

Calendar & Text Traps

Three phone scams are making the rounds: a pop-up that subscribes you to a spam calendar flooding you with fake virus or prize alerts; "delivery suspended" texts asking a small redelivery fee; and group texts from strangers with a link. (Fast Company)

Protect yourself: delete unknown calendar subscriptions in your phone's settings, type tracking numbers into the real carrier's site yourself, and leave and report spam group texts — never click.

Report it: ReportFraud.ftc.gov or Vermont's Consumer Assistance Program, 800-649-2424.

CRIME TRIVIA

Test Your Detective Skills

What chemical, sprayed at crime scenes, glows blue when it meets even tiny traces of blood?

Answer: Luminol — iron in blood sets off the glow.

THE SNOW DESK

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

Day 9 OF 152

Totals through Sunday, Nov. 8

NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR 1

MOST SNOW IN THE U.S. · LAST 24 HOURS

2.5" · Harding Lake 1 S, AK

ESSEX JCT.

LAST 24 HRS	SEASON
0.0"	0.0"

Official: Burlington airport (BTV)
Normal to date: 0.7" · 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	0.7	−0.7	0.0
Boston	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	−0.1	0
Portland, Maine	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	−0.3	0.0
Caribou, Maine	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	−1.6	0.0
Concord, N.H.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	−0.3	0.0
Albany, N.Y.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	−0.3	0.0
Syracuse, N.Y.	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	−1.2	0.0
Buffalo, N.Y.	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	−1.0	0.0
New York City	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	−0.1	0.0
Erie, Pa.	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	−1.5	0.0
Detroit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	−0.2	0.0
Chicago	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	−0.1	0.0
Minneapolis	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	−1.1	0.0
Denver	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.0
Salt Lake City	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	−1.0	0.0
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	Harding Lake 1 S, AK Elev. 919 ft	2.5"
2	Glennallen Kcam, AK Elev. 1381 ft	1.4"
3	Eagle, AK Elev. 892 ft	1.2"
4	Chicken, AK Elev. 1781 ft	1.0"
5	Herman, MI Elev. 1837 ft	1.0"
6	Ralph M Calhoun Memorial Arpt Elev. 207 ft	1.0"
7	Circle Hot Springs, AK Elev. 853 ft	0.9"
8	Tok #2, AK Elev. 1660 ft	1.4"
9	Bettles Arpt Elev. 633 ft	0.7"
10	Aurora, AK Elev. 440 ft	0.6"

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 16 days — Wed., Nov. 25 (target, weather permitting)

Today: Partly cloudy, 47°, low 37°.

Tue.–Wed.: Mild: 54° and 57°.

Thursday: A front: 42°, a 45% chance of rain, low 29°.

Friday: High 30°, low 26°, a 30% chance of snow.

Saturday: High 29°, low 26°.

Snowmaking: Thursday night through Monday morning stays in the mid-20s — the longest cold stretch yet.

Countdown: Sixteen days to the Nov. 25 opening target.

SNOW NOTES

Day 9 — still zero. Burlington hit 52° Sunday and has measured no snow this season. Normal through Sunday is 1.0 inch, so the valley runs an inch behind.

Summit snow. Light snow showers are falling on Mount Washington early today, with a 40% chance of snow and a high near 35°.

Stowe watch. Stowe has light rain this morning, but its forecast turns to snow chances Tuesday (35%) and stays below freezing most nights from Wednesday.

Valley turn. Essex Junction falls to 39° Friday with lows near 33°, and the type flips to snow Friday and Saturday — 15% and 20%. No accumulation is forecast yet.

PUZZLES & GAMES

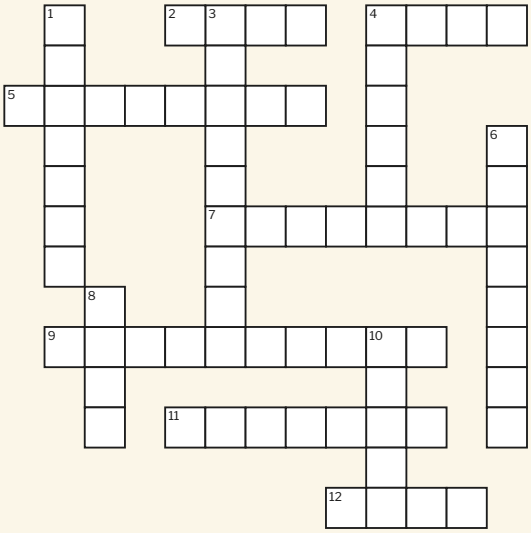
Grab a pencil and your coffee

THE DAILY SUDOKU

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

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD · PIANO MAN & PEPPERCORNS



ACROSS

2 Tess's editor (4)
4 Kentucky ___, a ginger beer drink (4)
5 Billy Joel album, out Nov. 9, 1973 (8)
7 Susan, blues singer born Nov. 9, 1970 (8)
9 Today's steak crust (10)
11 It glows blue at crime scenes (7)
12 ___-effect snow (4)

DOWN

1 Rioja aged two years (7)
3 Nov. 11 was first ___ Day (9)
4 Beam's 107-proof single barrel (6)
6 1940 Armistice Day storm (8)
8 Brown the steak hard (4)
10 Spanish region of today's red (5)

WORD SEARCH · STEAK NIGHT

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

FIND 12 WORDS

BOURBON
BUTTER
PARSLEY
PEPPER
POTATOES
RIOJA
SAUCE
SEAR
SHALLOT
SKILLET
STEAK
STOCK

Across, down, diagonal — some backward.

THE COURIER QUIZ

Five Questions

1. Baker's bourbon is named for which member of the Beam family?

2. What did Rolling Stone's first issue, Nov. 9, 1967, show on its cover?

3. What chemical makes traces of blood glow blue?

4. What was Veterans Day called before 1954?

5. Which Billy Joel album came out 53 years ago today?

NAME THAT YEAR

Three Clues

- Fleetwood Mac releases "Rumours."
- "Star Wars" opens in theaters on May 25.
- Elvis Presley dies at Graceland on Aug. 16.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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 9 BIRTHDAYS

This Day in Music

1936 — Mary Travers, Peter, Paul and Mary.

1941 — Tom Fogerty, Creedence Clearwater Revival.

1970 — Susan Tedeschi, Tedeschi Trucks Band — 56.

1973 — Nick Lachey, 98 Degrees — 53.

1978 — Sisqó, Dru Hill — 48.

Also on this day: in 1961, Brian Epstein first saw the Beatles at Liverpool's Cavern Club.



SPIN THIS

Piano Man

Billy Joel · 1973

Released 53 years ago today, Joel's Columbia debut grew out of six months playing a Los Angeles lounge as "Bill Martin" while lawyers freed him from a bad contract.

The album reached No. 27 and the title song No. 25 — yet "Piano Man" became his signature, entering the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2013. (Dave's Music Database)

Best with: a Baker's and a quiet Monday night.

LIVE IN VERMONT

Shows Near Home

Mon. Nov. 30 · Bonobo, Higher Ground

Sat. Dec. 5 · Karina Rykman, Higher Ground

Sun. Dec. 6 · VSO Holiday Pops, The Flynn

Wed. Dec. 9 · The Bouncing Souls, Higher Ground

Listings via Songkick; check venues for tickets.

MUSIC TRIVIA

Billy Joel played a Los Angeles piano bar under what stage name?

ANSWERS — Quiz: 1. Baker Beam. 2. John Lennon. 3. Luminol. 4. Armistice Day. 5. "Piano Man." Name That Year: 1977. Music trivia: Bill Martin — Martin is his middle name. The bar was the Executive Room on Wilshire Boulevard. **Yesterday's crossword:** 4A RAITT · 6A BRAISE · 7A TESS · 9A LONGBRANCH · 11A RENEWAL · 12A ZEPPELIN · 1D BUSHBY · 2D THYME · 3D FITZGERALD · 4D RIBS · 5D GUIGAL · 8D SNOW · 10D CASSIS