ESSEX JCT. TODAY
58°
Low 36° · Sunny and mild
Near 60° Friday and Saturday

The Morning Courier

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

TONIGHT'S MOON
74% LIT
Waxing gibbous over Essex
Passes near Saturn Friday night

VOL. I · NO. 57 · FREE TO JB | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026 · ESSEX JCT., VT | SUNRISE 6:54 A.M. · SUNSET 4:20 P.M.

DOW 50,198 ▼−1.11% · **S&P 500** 7,324 ▼−0.23% · **NVDA** $150.96 ▼−2.89% · **PLTR** $156.67 ▲+0.07% · **MSFT** $508.29 ▲+0.40% · **GAS** $3.72

WORLD · SHENZHEN SUMMIT

Trump, Xi and Putin Meet at One Table

The first three-way summit of the U.S., China and Russia: talk of nuclear arms and Ukraine, but no deal announced.

BY THE NUMBERS

3	Leaders at one table, a first
13	Hours Shenzhen is ahead of us
Jan. 10	U.S.–China tariff truce expires
0	Deals announced at press time

BY THE COURIER WORLD DESK · SOURCES: FOX NEWS, ABC NEWS, ANI/THE TRIBUNE, THE STANDARD (HONG KONG)

President Trump, Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin sat down together in Shenzhen just after 3 a.m. our time Thursday — the first summit of the three powers. Trump said the three are "uniquely positioned to discuss how to reduce the number of nuclear weapons on Earth." Xi, the host, said "major powers bear special responsibility."

Putin said the three hold "joint responsibility for maintaining international peace and security." Trump also said, "We're not going to let Iran have a nuclear weapon." As of press time, no agreement or joint statement had been announced.

Earlier, Trump met Putin one-on-one about Ukraine — the Kremlin said Putin left in an "excellent mood" — and met Xi, calling it "an incredible meeting." "I think something will come out," he said.

ESSEX JUNCTION FORECAST

35°
Low tonight: 36°

Sunny and mild; patchy frost and valley fog early. Light wind. High 58°.

RAIN TODAY 0% | SNOW TODAY 0%
Near 60° Fri.–Sat.; rain Monday

THE WEEK AHEAD

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
60°	60°	57°	52°
R 5% S 0%	R 5% S 0%	R 30% S 0%	R 75% S 0%

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

FORECASTER'S NOTE

We called 59° Wednesday; Burlington hit 59° exactly. Beat the Forecaster: 12–6.

POLITICS · THE HOUSE

Democrats Pick Jeffries for Speaker

BY THE COURIER NATION DESK · SOURCES: ROLL CALL, YAHOO FINANCE

House Democrats nominated Hakeem Jeffries for speaker, 251–11, in a closed-door vote Wednesday. He would be the first Black speaker; the full House votes in January, and he needs 218. "He has the confidence of the caucus," said Rep. Steny Hoyer.

Also Wednesday: minutes of the Fed's October meeting showed "almost all" officials think further rate hikes "would likely be appropriate."

INSIDE TODAY · IN BRIEF

MARKETS	A record IPO at $83 a share.	2
VERMONT	Warm weather delays skiing.	3
SPORTS	Bruins win at Detroit.	3
SERIAL	Chapter 40 is coming.	8
CRIME	On This Day in Crime.	12
STARS	Your horoscope.	15

WEATHER AROUND THE MAP

Thursday forecasts · forecast data · "Now" = overnight

	NOW	HI	LO	RAIN	SNOW
MIDDLEBURY, VT	34°	58°	35°	0%	
MT. WASHINGTON, NH	37°	49°	38°	0%	0%
SNOWSHOE, WV	43°	62°	40°	0%	
ROSEBURG, OR	37°	46°	36°	—	
E. DENNIS, MA · CAPE	47°	61°	47°	0%	
CHARLOTTE, NC	34°	66°	35°	0%	
WILMINGTON, NC	47°	70°	48°	0%	
ST. PETERSBURG, FL	70°	74°	70°	45%	
FULTON, MO	48°	69°	45°	0%	
HOT SPOT · MIAMI, FL	75°	78°	72°	—	



THE DEEPEST WATER · A COURIER SERIAL
Chapter 40 is being written. Today on Page 8: a scene from Chapter 4.

INSIDE TODAY

2 Markets · World
3 Vermont · Sports
4 Bourbon · 5 Funnies · 6 Standings
8 Serial · 12 Crime · 13 Snow · 14–15 Fun

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MARKETS & MONEY

Before the bell · Anthropic prices at $83 — the largest IPO on record · Nvidia slips · Thursday, November 19*

WEDNESDAY'S CLOSES · THURSDAY FUTURES BELOW

INDEX / STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE	PCT
Dow Jones Industrials	50,198.17	−563.45	−1.11%
S&P 500	7,323.63	−16.88	−0.23%
Nasdaq Composite	24,429.89	+102.18	+0.42%
Russell 2000	2,714.31	+12.43	+0.46%
JB'S WATCHLIST			
Nvidia (NVDA)	150.96	−4.49	−2.89%
Palantir (PLTR)	156.67	+0.11	+0.07%
Microsoft (MSFT)	508.29	+2.03	+0.40%
BIG NAMES			
AMD (AMD)	530.14	+26.73	+5.31%

Closes via CappNotes, Reuters; futures ~4 a.m. ET. *Written with help from Claude, made by Anthropic.

RATES · ENERGY · METALS

S&P futures 4 a.m.	+1.03%
Nasdaq-100 fut. 4 a.m.	+1.84%
Anthropic* IPO prices	$83.00
Housing starts +9.9%	1.309M
Fed hike odds Kalshi	~91%
Taiex Thu.	−4.4%
Kospi Thu.	+1.4%
Hang Seng Thu.	−1.9%
STOXX 600 early	+0.3%

THE WEEK AHEAD **TODAY** Walmart; ANT trades; claims & Philly Fed 8:30 **FRI.** Options expiration **NEXT WK.** Thanksgiving; markets closed Thu.

Wednesday: Dow −561; health insurers sank on a Medicare proposal (UnitedHealth −10%); housing starts +9.9% to a 1.309M pace CappNotes, Reuters, Yahoo Finance, Census Bureau

BEFORE THE BELL

Anthropic Prices at $83 — the Largest IPO on Record

BY THE COURIER MARKETS DESK · SOURCES: ANTHROPIC, AP, CNBC

Anthropic* priced its stock at $83 a share Wednesday night, above its $70–$78 range, and sold 980 million shares — up from 825 million. AP and CNBC put the raise at about $81 billion, the largest IPO ever, and the company's value at about $1.5 trillion. Shares begin trading on Nasdaq today under ANT.

Nvidia slipped 2.9% despite its strong report, on doubts about its leadership. Fed minutes showed almost all officials think more rate hikes "would likely be appropriate." Futures pointed higher before dawn.

STOCKS TO WATCH TODAY

On the Radar

Nvidia (NVDA) — $150.96, −2.9%; leadership doubts outweighed the beat.

Palantir (PLTR) — $156.67, +0.1%.

Microsoft (MSFT) — $508.29, +0.4%.

Target / Lowe's / TJX — All beat; TJX +8%, Target +4%.

Walmart — Reports before the open; $0.64 a share expected.

Anthropic (ANT)* — First trade today on Nasdaq at $83 IPO price.

WEDNESDAY'S BIG MOVERS

PANW	Palo Alto Networks	+9.90%
TJX	TJX Cos.	+8.05%
TGT	Target	+4.01%
UNH	UnitedHealth	−10.20%
HUM	Humana	−13.00%

Best of these: Palo Alto +9.9% Worst: Humana −13%

YEAR TO DATE

Russell 2000	+9.5%
S&P 500	+7.1%
Nasdaq	+5.0%
Dow	+4.4%

Approx., through Wednesday.

GAS PRICES

Regular, per gallon

AAA · national average Nov. 19, down 3¢ in a day; state figures from earlier this week

NATIONAL	VERMONT	HIGHEST	LOWEST
$3.72	$4.06	$5.60	$3.08
U.S. average	state average	Hawaii	North Carolina

NATION & WORLD

Washington, the courts & beyond

NATION · AIR TRAVEL

FAA Chief: "So, Blame Me"

BY THE COURIER NATION DESK · SOURCES: AP/PBS, ABC NEWS, THE NEXT WEB

FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford took the heat Wednesday for last week's nationwide ground stop. "I am the chief accountability officer. I take full responsibility for it," he said. "So, blame me." Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy kept faulting contractor L3Harris, but said, "the root cause of what happened, we don't have clarity yet."

Senate Democrats set a Nov. 23 deadline for answers. Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said, "There's no cyber threat that's taking place."

ELSEWHERE

Kuwait. Iran targeted a Kuwaiti air base that hosts U.S. forces, after a U.S. strike on an Iranian missile site Tuesday. Kuwait said it intercepted the drones; no damage was reported. (AP)

Israel. Lawmakers elected Matan Kahana, an ally of PM-elect Gadi Eisenkot, Knesset speaker, 66–52 — a defeat for Benjamin Netanyahu's camp. (Times of Israel)

Alaska. Sen. Dan Sullivan says he won't concede the Senate race "at least until the race is certified." (Democracy Docket)

VERMONT

Around the Green Mountain State

SKI SEASON · STATEWIDE

Too Warm to Open

BY THE COURIER VERMONT DESK · SOURCES: WCAX, MYNBC5

A mild November has pushed back Saturday's planned openings at Stowe, Okemo and Mount Snow; no new dates have been set. "The bad news is none of that snow has materialized at the base," Stowe said on social media. Sugarbush now aims for Black Friday or the following Saturday. "It's been a warm November," said Sugarbush's John Bleh.

Killington stays open, and World Cup race officials inspect the course today ahead of Thanksgiving weekend's races. Route 108 through Smugglers' Notch is officially closed for the winter. (WCAX, mynbc5)

STATEWIDE · PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Records System Offline

Valcour, the dispatch and records system used by nearly every Vermont police agency, has been down since Monday night after a "potential security threat." 911 calls are not affected; departments are using manual backups. Burlington, South Burlington and Williston say online reporting is down — watch for scams. (VTDigger, WCAX)

BARRE · MAYOR LAUZON

A Celebration of Life Sunday

The public is invited to remember Mayor Thom Lauzon Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Barre Auditorium. Instead of flowers, his family asks people to "serve the city of Barre however you can." (WCAX)

AROUND THE STATE

ESSEX — Open house tonight. Share ideas for the new municipal complex site on Upper Main Street at the Town Office, 81 Main St. "This is just a visioning session," said Deputy Town Manager Karen Adams. (Essex Reporter)

ESSEX CENTER — The No. 4 bus stays. Green Mountain Transit extended the No. 4 Essex Center route to June 2027. (Essex Reporter)

MONTPELIER — New VTrans chief. Gov. Scott named former Adjutant General Greg Knight interim transportation secretary. (VTDigger)

FOLIAGE REPORT

Mild now, colder next week

Wednesday: Burlington 59°; we called 59°.
Record: two in a row — 12–6.
Snow: still 0.0" in Burlington.
Today: sunny, 58°.
Fri.–Sat.: near 60°.
Monday: rain, near 50°.
Tue.–Wed.: mid-30s.
Sunset: 4:20 p.m.

THE WEEK IN VERMONT

Today Sunny, 58°.
Tonight Clear, 36°.
Fri. Sunny, 60°.
Sat. Sunny, 60°.
Sun. Clouds, 57°.

Forecast data for Essex Junction; check before you go.

VERMONT BY THE NUMBERS

4–1	Bruins at Detroit
14–7–1	Bruins' record
20	Swayman's saves
11–4	Celtics after Denver
12–6	Beat the Forecaster

SPORTS

Bruins end skid · Celtics fall at Denver · UVM loses at Yale · Colts at Texans tonight

BRUINS 4, RED WINGS 1 · DETROIT, WEDNESDAY

TEAM	1	2	3	F
BOS	0	2	2	4
DET	1	0	0	1

Goals: Raymond (DET); Peterka, Zacha (PP), Pastrnak, Mittelstadt (EN) for Boston · Swayman 20 saves

BRUINS

Boston Snaps Its Skid

BY THE COURIER SPORTS DESK · SOURCE: SPORTRADAR

Down 1–0 after one, Boston got a tying goal from JJ Peterka, a power-play goal from Pavel Zacha, David Pastrnak's 10th and an empty-netter from Casey Mittelstadt. Jeremy Swayman made 20 saves to end a three-game skid. Washington visits Saturday at 7. (NHL.com)

Tonight: Colts (3–7) at Texans (3–6), 8:15, Prime Video. Lions star Aidan Hutchinson, hurt sacking Drake Maye, is out for the season. (NFL Network)

NFL · WEEK 12

Patriots on bye · all times ET

IND at HOU	Thu. 8:15
MIA at BUF	Sun. 1:00
BAL at CAR	Sun. 1:00
PIT at PHI	Sun. 1:00
TB at DET	Sun. 1:00
NYJ at LAC	Sun. 4:05
LV at DEN	Sun. 4:25
MIN at SF	SNF
CIN at WAS	MNF

Win probabilities via SportRadar. Times are Eastern Standard Time.

AFC EAST STANDINGS

TEAM	W-L	GB
Buffalo	8-1	—
New England	5-5	3½
NY Jets	2-8	6½
Miami	1-8	7

Via SportRadar. Patriots off this week; next: at Chargers, Sun. Nov. 29.

NHL · BRUINS CORNER

Celtics Let a 17-Point Lead Slip

Nuggets 105, Celtics 101. Boston led 61–49 at the half before a 20–4 Denver run. Tatum scored 24 and Neemias Queta had 17 and 10; Jokic had 24. Boston (11–4) is at Sacramento Saturday. (ESPN)

AROUND THE COURTS & FIELDS

UVM Falls at Yale

Yale 76, UVM 74: Will Davies 25; Brown here Sat.

TONIGHT ON TV (ET)

NFL Colts at Texans, 8:15
NHL Canadiens at Hurricanes, 7:00
NBA Knicks at Wolves, 8:00

THE BOURBON & WINE PAGE

Elijah Craig Small Batch · Beaujolais Nouveau Day · chicken with bourbon-cherry pan sauce



BOURBON OF THE WEEK

HEAVEN HILL · BARDSTOWN, KY.

Elijah Craig Small Batch

PROOF	AGE	MASH	PRICE
94	8–12 yrs	78% corn	~$25–30

Named for the Rev. Elijah Craig, a Baptist preacher whom legend credits with aging whiskey in charred barrels — though little is known for sure. (Difford's Guide)

How it tastes: toasted oak, caramel, roasted hazelnut and vanilla, then chocolate, clove and black pepper, with a long, toasty finish. (Difford's Guide)

The missing number: it launched in 1986 as a 12-year-old. In 2016, short on old stock, Heaven Hill dropped the age statement rather than raise the price. (Breaking Bourbon)



WINE OF THE WEEK

GEORGES DUBOEUF · BEAUJOLAIS, FRANCE

Duboeuf Beaujolais Nouveau 2026

GRAPE	STYLE	SERVE	PRICE
Gamay	light red	slightly chilled	~$14

Released today. Beaujolais Nouveau comes from grapes picked only weeks ago, fermented as whole clusters for a light, fruity, low-tannin red meant to be drunk young. Since 1985 it has gone on sale the third Thursday of November: "Le Beaujolais Nouveau est arrivé!" (Decanter)

How it tastes: black cherry and blackberry, "light, fruity and smooth." (Total Wine)

A hard year: hailstorms in July and heat waves after cut this year's harvest across a large part of the region. (Vinetur)

TODAY'S RECIPE

Made to go with a glass

Chicken Thighs with Bourbon-Cherry Sauce

Serves 4 · about 45 minutes

THE CHICKEN

- 6 bone-in, skin-on thighs (2¼ lb)
- 1 tsp kosher salt, ½ tsp pepper
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 3 tbsp bourbon

THE SAUCE

- 1 large shallot, sliced
- ⅓ cup dried tart cherries
- ¾ cup chicken broth
- 1 tsp Dijon, 1 tsp thyme
- 1 tsp cider vinegar
- 1 tbsp cold butter

METHOD

1. Heat the oven to 425°F. Pat the chicken dry; season both sides.

2. Sear skin side down in oil in an oven-safe skillet, 8–10 minutes, until crisp. Flip; roast 15–20 minutes to 175°F. Set aside.

3. Pour off all but 1 tbsp fat. Cook the shallot 2 minutes; add the cherries.

4. Off the heat, add the bourbon; return to the heat and scrape up the browned bits. Add broth, mustard and thyme; simmer until reduced by half, 4–5 minutes.

5. Off the heat, stir in vinegar and swirl in the butter. Spoon the sauce around the chicken, not over, to keep the skin crisp.

Courier tip: Chill the Nouveau in the fridge about 20 minutes before dinner — it tastes fruitier slightly cool.

POUR WITH IT · BOURBON

Elijah Craig: caramel, vanilla and clove match the bourbon in the sauce. (Courier pick)

POUR WITH IT · WINE

Nouveau: wine writer Fiona Beckett files it with chicken and dried cherries; low tannin, bright cherry fruit. (Matching Food & Wine)

THIS WEEK'S POUR

Cocktail Corner

The Manhattan. Stir 2 oz bourbon (or rye), 1 oz sweet vermouth and 2 dashes Angostura bitters with ice; strain into a chilled coupe. Garnish with a cherry.

The story: Legend says it was made for Winston Churchill's mother at a Manhattan Club banquet in 1874 — but she was in England giving birth to Winston. It first appears in print in the early 1880s. (Difford's Guide, Whisky Advocate)

BOURBON & WINE NEWS

Buffalo Trace's 2026 Antique Collection

Buffalo Trace unveiled this year's Antique Collection Nov. 18: six bottlings including George T. Stagg (130.9 proof) and William Larue Weller, each with a suggested price of $154.99. Thomas H. Handy rye, in its 20th year, is now made only from barrels 12 years or older. (Fred Minnick)

Good luck finding one on the shelf.

THIS WEEK'S POUR PLAN

What to sip with what's on

TODAY · NOUVEAU DAY

Pick up a bottle on the way home.

TONIGHT · TNF 8:15

A Manhattan for Colts–Texans.

SATURDAY

Bruins host Washington, 7 p.m.

THE CELLAR & RICKHOUSE GLOSSARY

Nine wine words, nine bourbon words

Nouveau — "new" — this year's wine.
Gamay — Beaujolais' light red grape.
Carbonic maceration — whole grapes ferment inside.
Cru — a top named village.
Tannin — the drying grip in red wine.
Vintage — the year the grapes grew.

Primeur — wine sold very young.
Chill — light reds like 55°F.
Hail — a vineyard's worst summer storm.
Small batch — a blend of select barrels.
Age statement — the youngest whiskey's age.
Mash bill — the grain recipe.

Charred barrel — burned inside for color, flavor.
Proof — twice the alcohol percent.
Straight bourbon — 2+ years, nothing added.
Sweet vermouth — spiced, fortified wine.
Angostura — classic aromatic bitters.
Coupe — a shallow stemmed glass.

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 — Colts at Texans, Prime.
Tonight 7 — Canadiens at Hurricanes.
Tonight 8 — Knicks at Timberwolves.
Today 9:30 — Anthropic* (ANT) first trade.
Today — Walmart earnings.
Sat. 7 — Bruins vs. Capitals.

AROUND VERMONT

Today — Beaujolais Nouveau Day.
Tonight — Essex complex open house.
Fri. 8 — Joe Something, Foam.
Sat. — Toy Swap, Brownell.
Sun. 9–noon — Lauzon celebration, Barre.

WEATHER AT A GLANCE

Thu. — Sunny, 58°.
Fri. — Sunny, 60°.
Sat. — Sunny, 60°.
Sun. — Clouds, 57°.
Mon. — Rain, 52°.
Tue. — Colder, 36°.

GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Kindness, critters & comebacks

BURLINGTON

Socks for Cold Feet

Jason Fitzgerald has collected about 16,000 pairs of socks for people living on the street, with help from about 30 businesses, and hands them out himself. "Everybody can relate to having cold feet," he said. The drive runs through Dec. 12. (WCAX)

ANTARCTICA

Blue Whales Bounce Back

Antarctic blue whales, hunted down to about 418 by 1973, now number an estimated 4,018 — growing about 4.5% a year, a University of Washington-led study found. (UW, Good News Network)

SAN FRANCISCO

Hope Against a Brain Tumor

UCSF scientists engineered immune cells that cured a deadly childhood brain cancer in mice; human trials could begin in 2027. "Mice with DMG are being cured," said Dr. Sabine Mueller. (UCSF)

CHINA

430 Steps for Mom

Five siblings built a 430-step stone staircase up a mountainside so their 86-year-old mother, who won't move to the city, can get home safely. (South China Morning Post)

MARSHALL ISLANDS

A World Before People

Scientists surveying two remote atolls found 15 breeding seabird species, more than 260 kinds of reef fish and two fish that may be new to science. (Euronews)

MALLORCA

A Waterfall of Fog

A sea of fog spilling over Mallorca's mountains won the 2026 Weather Photographer of the Year; an American took third with a Nebraska supercell. (Royal Meteorological Society)

MEET THE CAST

The Deepest Water



Darla Foster

Josh's sister · the Idle Hour

"So you tell me, Frank Halloran's girl. Where is my brother?"
— Chapter 6

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

SPORTS & STANDINGS

Every team in the NFL, NHL and NBA

NFL through Monday night · NHL and NBA through Wednesday · via SportRadar *Highlighted: the Patriots, Bruins and Celtics*

NFL · DIVISION STANDINGS

AFC EAST	W	L	T	PCT
Buffalo	8	1	0	.889
New England	5	5	0	.500
N.Y. Jets	2	8	0	.200
Miami	1	8	0	.111

AFC NORTH	W	L	T	PCT
Cincinnati	7	2	0	.778
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667
Cleveland	6	4	0	.600
Baltimore	4	6	0	.400

AFC SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT
Jacksonville	7	2	0	.778
Houston	3	6	0	.333
Indianapolis	3	7	0	.300
Tennessee	1	8	0	.111

AFC WEST	W	L	T	PCT
Kansas City	7	2	0	.778
Denver	7	2	0	.778
Las Vegas	4	6	0	.400
L.A. Chargers	1	8	0	.111

NFC EAST	W	L	T	PCT
N.Y. Giants	5	3	1	.611
Dallas	4	6	0	.400
Washington	3	5	1	.389
Philadelphia	2	7	0	.222

NFC NORTH	W	L	T	PCT
Detroit	7	2	0	.778
Minnesota	7	2	0	.778
Chicago	7	2	0	.778
Green Bay	6	4	0	.600

NFC SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT
Carolina	4	5	0	.444
Tampa Bay	3	6	0	.333
New Orleans	3	6	0	.333
Atlanta	3	7	0	.300

NFC WEST	W	L	T	PCT
San Francisco	8	1	0	.889
L.A. Rams	6	4	0	.600
Seattle	6	4	0	.600
Arizona	3	7	0	.300

NHL · DIVISION STANDINGS

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Tampa Bay	21	14	5	2	30
Ottawa	22	14	6	2	30
Montreal	22	13	5	4	30
Boston	22	14	7	1	29
Florida	23	12	8	3	27
Buffalo	21	8	9	4	20
Detroit	22	8	11	3	19
Toronto	23	8	13	2	18

METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Carolina	21	16	3	2	34
New Jersey	22	15	7	0	30
N.Y. Rangers	22	13	8	1	27
N.Y. Islanders	20	10	6	4	24
Washington	19	10	9	0	20
Philadelphia	24	7	11	6	20
Pittsburgh	20	7	11	2	16
Columbus	19	7	12	0	14

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Minnesota	23	16	3	4	36
Dallas	21	13	6	2	28
Colorado	22	12	7	3	27
Nashville	22	11	6	5	27
Utah	23	11	9	3	25
Winnipeg	22	10	9	3	23
St. Louis	21	10	9	2	22
Chicago	21	6	13	2	14

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS
Edmonton	23	17	3	3	37
Vegas	23	13	6	4	30
Anaheim	22	11	10	1	23
San Jose	24	10	12	2	22
Calgary	22	10	11	1	21
Seattle	18	9	8	1	19
Los Angeles	19	6	11	2	14
Vancouver	23	5	17	1	11

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	13	3	.812	—
Boston	11	4	.733	1.5
New York	8	6	.571	4
Toronto	5	10	.333	7.5
Brooklyn	3	11	.214	9

CENTRAL · EAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Detroit	10	4	.714	—
Cleveland	8	8	.500	3
Indiana	5	10	.333	5.5
Chicago	4	10	.286	6
Milwaukee	1	14	.067	9.5

SOUTHEAST · EAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	9	6	.600	—
Atlanta	9	6	.600	—
Orlando	6	8	.429	2.5
Washington	5	11	.312	4.5
Charlotte	4	10	.286	4.5

NORTHWEST · WEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Minnesota	11	4	.733	—
Portland	9	5	.643	1.5
Denver	8	5	.615	2
Oklahoma City	9	6	.600	2
Utah	3	13	.188	8.5

PACIFIC · WEST	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Lakers	13	3	.812	—
Golden State	8	7	.533	4.5
Phoenix	7	7	.500	5
LA Clippers	4	9	.308	7.5
Sacramento	1	13	.071	11

SOUTHWEST · WEST	W	L	PCT	GB
San Antonio	12	3	.800	—
Houston	12	4	.750	0.5
Memphis	11	4	.733	1
Dallas	8	7	.533	4
New Orleans	5	11	.312	7.5

NEW ENGLAND WATCH

Where our teams stand

Bruins (14–7–1) Snapped a three-game skid with Wednesday's 4–1 win at Detroit. Washington visits Saturday at 7.

Celtics (11–4) Lost 105–101 at Denver to open a four-game western trip. At Sacramento Saturday, 10 p.m.

Patriots (5–5) Second in the AFC East, 3½ games behind Buffalo. Bye this week; at the Chargers Sun., Nov. 29.

Around the NBA Philadelphia and the Lakers share the NBA's best record at 13–3; Milwaukee (1–14) has the worst.

THE WEATHER DESK

Forecasts, almanac, mountains & Snow Watch 2026–27

THE FORECASTER'S TAKE

Two in a Row — and a White Thanksgiving?

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

We called 59° Wednesday and Burlington hit exactly 59° — our second straight bull's-eye. Beat the Forecaster improves to 12–6. Today's call: 58°.

Mild and mostly dry through Saturday, near 60° Friday — about 15 degrees above normal. Showers arrive Sunday, then a soaking rain Monday (75%).

Then the big change: highs only in the mid-30s Tuesday and Wednesday, lows near 22°, and a 70% chance of snow on Thanksgiving Day. Too early to say how much — but the season's first measurable snow in Essex Junction may come with the turkey.

ESSEX JCT. ALMANAC

YESTERDAY	High 59° · Low 31°
SUNRISE	6:54 a.m.
SUNSET	4:20 p.m.
DAYLIGHT	9 hr 26 min
CHANGE	-2.2 min vs. yesterday
SINCE JUNE 21	6 hr 5 min less light
MOON	Waxing gibbous

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

ESSEX JUNCTION · THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS

TODAY	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
58° / 36°	60° / 36°	60° / 36°	57° / 45°	52° / 33°	36° / 22°	35° / 22°
HIGH / LOW	HIGH / LOW	HIGH / LOW	HIGH / LOW	HIGH / LOW	HIGH / LOW	HIGH / LOW
					FREEZE	FREEZE
RAIN 10%	RAIN 5%	RAIN 0%	RAIN 30%	RAIN 75%	RAIN 10%	RAIN 10%
SNOW 0%	SNOW 0%	SNOW 0%	SNOW 0%	SNOW 0%	SNOW 0%	SNOW 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

SUGARBUSH
Washington County
55° / 33° · 10%
Thanksgiving snow chance 75%.

BRATTLEBORO
Windham County
59° / 30° · 5%
Near 63° Friday.

ISLAND POND
Essex County
54° / 29° · 10%
Lows near 16° next week.

MANCHESTER
Bennington County
56° / 33° · 0%
Rain Monday, 85%.

BARRE
Washington County
56° / 28° · 10%
Highs near 34° by Tuesday.

SNOW WATCH 2026–27

Day 19

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

ESSEX JCT.	MIDDLEBURY	STOWE	SNOWSHOE, WV
0.0"	0.0"	4.0"	1.7"
Burlington (BTV)	Addison County	Mt. Mansfield	Highland House · Rimfire

SEVERE & NATIONAL

Warm South, Wet Weekend

Miami tops out near 78° today and 82° Sunday. Wilmington, N.C., reaches 74° Friday; Charlotte 72° Monday.

Fulton, Mo., hits 71° Friday before a Sunday cold front knocks highs into the 40s. Roseburg, Ore., stays chilly in the mid-40s, with rain returning next week.

BEAT THE FORECASTER

We Called It

Wednesday: we said 59°; Burlington hit 59° (right on). Within 2° counts as a win.

Season record: 12–6 (67%)

Recent: Sat 39/39 W · Sun 42/45 L · Mon 44/46 W · Tue 53/53 W · Wed 59/59 W

Today's call: 58° in Essex Junction. Check back tomorrow.

WEATHER WORD

Nor'easter

A strong coastal storm named for the northeast winds it drives in off the ocean, bringing heavy snow or rain and fierce gusts to New England. (NWS)

THIS WEEK IN WEATHER

Nov. 26–27, 1898: The Portland Gale. Two storms merged off New England over Thanksgiving weekend, with gusts near 90 mph and heavy snow. More than 400 vessels were wrecked and more than 450 people died, including all of the estimated 192 aboard the steamer Portland. (NOAA)

THE DEEPEST WATER *New reader? Tap here to read from Chapter 1 ›*



Scenes from The Deepest Water · Chapter 4, "Forty Dollars a Plate" · image by J.B. Woods

CHAPTER 40

Chapter Still Being Written

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

WHERE WE LEFT OFF · CHAPTER 39: EIGHTY-SEVEN

On Thursday morning a hiker on a closed trail spotted a body on a rock ledge at the Crater Lake shoreline. Dental records confirmed it was Harlan Voss, stabbed eighty-seven times. Deputies told Tiffany, alone; Trent Pryce had been gone since the night before the knife hit her door. Tess heard it first from a source at the Klamath Falls medical examiner's office and saw the 1987 link. At the FBI news conference she asked whether Owen and Karen Marsh were suspects. Myers said, "Next question." Walt shouted, "That's my girl!" Sheriff Coyle and Deputy Walters watched without expression.

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 1–27

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.

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?"

THE DEEPEST WATER · READER'S GUIDE

The Story So Far · Chapters 28–39 (continued)

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

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.

CHAPTER 34

Who Came for the Wallet

Myers pulled the team off Room 118. At Seven Feathers, security chief Kevin Chase showed the tape: the wheelchair was placed so the retiree had to stop, a man from the bushes took his car in 30 seconds, and the "elderly" woman stood up and walked off — clearly in disguise. The boot prints turned out to match standard-issue Danners worn by deputies from Medford to Portland. At the Rice Hill truck stop, Mason learned Sheriff Coyle had picked up Harlan's wallet himself and asked if anything else had been left behind. At the Ranch Motel, the registration card was signed "H. VOSS" in careful block letters.

CHAPTER 35

Not His Hand

At the Voss house, Trent Pryce tried to send Mason to the family lawyer, but Tiffany came down and said the H. VOSS card was not Harlan's writing — and Harlan never left his wallet anywhere. Mason scolded Tess for her Crater Lake story and warned her to be careful. Kally and Teresa told Tess that Karen Marsh had arrests in Rutland, Vermont. Myers' lab matched the wheelchair prints to Karen. Then Deputy Walters called Myers alone: a back-side Seven Feathers camera showed the driver of the stolen car. It was Harlan Voss.

CHAPTER 36

Every Hand in That Car

The FBI went over the stolen Toyota in a Roseburg police garage and found a plain Crater Lake tourist map — and the fingerprints of both Owen and Karen Marsh. Karen skipped work and vanished; Myers put out an alert for her, and Owen couldn't be found either. Walters quietly told Tess that Harlan Voss had been driving, and Walt ordered the story onto Monday's front page. That night a stranger called Tiffany Voss: get them what they're looking for, or Harlan dies, and she's next. Then a 1987 county knife hit her door. Tess and Kally reminded the FBI about Freddy's murder, and Myers sent Mason to Cannon Beach to look for Owen.

CHAPTER 37

Where the Rock Should Be

Deputy Walters turned in a last-minute vacation slip, and Gloria Bordiam, at the sheriff's office to drop off a found handbag, heard where he was going: Cannon Beach, Haystack Rock and the Screw and Brew. She told Tess right away. The next afternoon Agent Mason walked into the Screw and Brew and found Walters on a stool. Myers called with one bar of service; all she caught was something like "Tic Tac" before the call died in a heavy fog that hid Haystack Rock completely. She checked into the Waves and left Myers messages. That night she watched Walters leave the Screw and Brew in a car driven by a man she couldn't see. Night bartender Tammy Stevens told her Freddy Dunn had always watched his back, as if someone was out to get him — and had written down his pastrami recipe step by step, almost as if he knew his time was coming.

CHAPTER 38

Over His Shoulder

Myers called Mason at the Waves: an anonymous, slurring caller claimed Josh "Tic Tac" Foster had been seen drinking alone at a speakeasy club in Medford; Medford police would check. Mason mentioned that Walters was in Cannon Beach on vacation. The Cannon Beach police had no breakthrough on Freddy Dunn's murder, but the night before, someone had torn apart Freddy's empty house — walls opened, closets gutted, nothing stolen. His sister, Samantha Dunn, found it. Mason walked the alley where Freddy died and learned he cut through it every night. At the Screw and Brew, manager Sally Lindgren said Freddy was always looking over his shoulder, loved his sister, and had two friends: Owen, and one he called Tic Tac, who came in once shortly after Freddy died and hasn't been seen since. Walters didn't answer Mason's call, and she drove back to Roseburg to tell Myers.

CHAPTER 39

Eighty-Seven

On Thursday morning a hiker on a closed trail spotted a body on a rock ledge at the Crater Lake shoreline. Ranger Montgomery Smith brought the FBI in and called it a homicide. Myers told Mason the victim had been stabbed eighty-seven times; dental records confirmed it was Harlan Voss, and the bureau put Myers and Mason in charge. Deputies told Tiffany, who was alone — Trent Pryce had been gone since the night before the knife hit her door. Driving to the lake with Kally and Teresa, Tess got a call from an old Portland acquaintance at the Klamath Falls medical examiner's office: it was Harlan, stabbed eighty-seven times. Tess connected the number to the 1987 knives and key. At Rim Village, Smith showed Myers where the body lay; Myers told Tess, "Seven o'clock. Like everybody else." At the news conference Tess asked whether Owen and Karen Marsh were suspects. Myers said, "Next question," and that there were no suspects. Back in Roseburg, Walt shouted, "That's my girl!" Sheriff Coyle and Deputy Walters, in Cannon Beach, watched without expression.

THE CASE BOARD

Where things stand through Chapter 39

THE DEAD

Gordon Pryce — lumber baron. Found stabbed off Little River Road with a 1987 county knife (Ch. 24).

Freddy Dunn — Owen's prison friend and alibi. Stabbed in a Cannon Beach alley (Ch. 16, 38).

Harlan Voss — found on the Crater Lake shore, stabbed 87 times (Ch. 39).

MISSING · ON THE RUN

Josh "Tic Tac" Foster — gone since October; a tipster puts him at a Medford speakeasy.

Owen Marsh — can't be found.

Karen Marsh — skipped work; FBI alert out.

Trent Pryce — gone since the night before the knife hit Tiffany's door.

PERSONS OF INTEREST

Owen & Karen Marsh — prints in the stolen car. Tess asked the FBI if they're suspects: "Next question."

Sheriff Coyle — picked up Harlan's wallet himself.

THE CLUES

Four knives engraved DOUGLAS COUNTY ROADS · 1987.

A key stamped 1987; a box gone from Room 118's wall.

"Ask them about August 1987."

Harlan: 87 stab wounds.

OPEN QUESTIONS

Who killed Gordon, Freddy and Harlan — the same hand?

Who tore apart Freddy's empty house?

What are "they" looking for?

Where are Tic Tac and Trent?

What happened in August 1987?

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 · This day in history · Scams · Trivia

COLD CASE FILE

Manchester, Vermont · 1980

Earl Greene Jr.: Found in the River

On Saturday, Aug. 9, 1980, the body of Earl Joseph Greene Jr., 56, was found in a river in Manchester, near Routes 11 and 30.

The medical examiner ruled his death a homicide; accidental causes were ruled out.

More than 46 years later, no one has been charged, and police have not said publicly how he died.

The Vermont State Police still want to hear from anyone who knew Greene or remembers that August weekend in Manchester.

Tips: Major Crime Unit, 802-244-8727 (case 15C301907); vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit (anonymous); or text VTIPS to 274637. (Vermont State Police, Crime Solvers Central)

CASE FACTS

NAME
Earl J. Greene Jr.
AGE
56
FOUND
Aug. 9, 1980
WHERE
Manchester
CASE
15C301907
STATUS
Unsolved
TIPS
802-244-8727

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

VERMONT POLICE BLOTTER

FAYSTON — John Gaboury, 39, of Fayston is charged with aggravated domestic assault, criminal threatening, reckless endangerment and other counts after an incident early Monday on Center Fayston Road. (Vermont State Police)

WOODBURY — Allen Farnham, 34, of Woodbury is charged with domestic assault after an incident Monday night on Ainsworth Road. (Vermont State Police)

ST. JOHNSBURY — Jonathan Rutledge, 48, was arrested on a probation-violation warrant and charged with giving false information to police Tuesday night. (Vermont State Police)

Tips: vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit

COURT WATCH

St. Albans — Darren Martell Jr., 25, pleaded guilty Wednesday to second-degree murder and other charges in the 2024 death of Roberta Martin, 82, of Enosburgh. The deal calls for at least 27 years to serve; sentencing is Jan. 13. "The family reluctantly supports this resolution," a prosecutor said. (VTDigger)

Burlington — Lawyers for Jason Eaton, convicted in September of shooting three Palestinian American students in 2023, are asking for a new trial, arguing media coverage influenced jurors. Sentencing is set for Jan. 13. (WCAX)

CASE CLOSED · HOW IT WAS CRACKED

GOLDEN STATE KILLER

Beginning in 1976 near Sacramento, a masked intruder terrorized California for a decade, committing dozens of assaults and 12 murders; his last known killing was in May 1986. The trail went cold for 32 years. In 2018 investigators uploaded crime-scene DNA to a public genealogy database and built family trees until they narrowed in on Joseph James DeAngelo, a former police officer. They collected DNA from something he threw away, got a match and arrested him in April 2018. He pleaded guilty to 13 murders in 2020 and was sentenced to life without parole. (ABC7 News)

ON THIS DAY IN CRIME HISTORY

November 19

1915 — Joe Hill Executed
Labor organizer and songwriter Joe Hill was executed by firing squad in Utah after his conviction for murdering a Salt Lake City grocer, John Morrison, and his son.

2003 — A Warrant for Michael Jackson
Santa Barbara County authorities obtained a warrant for the singer's arrest on child-abuse allegations. He was later charged on 10 counts — and acquitted of all of them on June 13, 2005.

2004 — "Malice at the Palace"
With 45 seconds left in a Pacers–Pistons game near Detroit, a fan threw a beer at Indiana's Ron Artest and players charged into the stands. Artest was suspended 86 games; five players and five fans were later charged.

2017 — Charles Manson Dies
The cult leader behind the 1969 Tate–LaBianca murders died of natural causes at 83 while serving a life sentence. His death sentence had been commuted after California struck down the death penalty in 1972.

Sources: AP Today in History, History.com, WDIV.

SCAM ALERT

"Grandpa, I Need Your Help!"

With holiday travel coming, the FTC warns of the "grandkid scam": a caller posing as a grandchild in trouble needs money fast and begs you to keep it secret. Some clone a relative's voice. (FTC, Nov. 18)

Red flags: urgency, secrecy, and demands for wire transfers, crypto, payment apps or gift cards.

Protect yourself: hang up and call your relative at a number you know. **Local:** fake Venmo accounts are posing as the Vernon, Vt., Fire Department; give only through vernonvtfire.org. (WCAX)

CRIME TRIVIA

Test Your Detective Skills

In 1892 in Necochea, Argentina, a bloody fingerprint at the scene identified a mother as the killer of her two sons — the first murder solved by fingerprint. Which police official made the match?

Answer: Juan Vucetich. (National Library of Medicine)

THE SNOW DESK

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

Day 19 OF 152

Totals through Wednesday, Nov. 18

NOV · DEC · JAN · FEB · MAR · APR 1

MOST SNOW IN THE U.S. · LAST 24 HOURS

9.3" · Austin #2, NV

ESSEX JCT.

LAST 24 HRS	SEASON
0.0"	0.0"

Official: Burlington airport (BTV)
Normal to date: 2.3" · 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"	4.0"

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

SNOWSHOE, WV

LAST 24 HRS	SEASON
0.0"	1.7"

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	2.3	−2.3	0.0
Boston	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	−0.2	0
Portland, Maine					report not available	
Caribou, Maine	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6	−4.6	0.0
Concord, N.H.					report not available	
Albany, N.Y.	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.9	−0.6	0.0
Syracuse, N.Y.	0.0	0.3	0.3	3.9	−3.6	0.0
Buffalo, N.Y.	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	−3.3	0.0
New York City	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	−0.2	0.0
Erie, Pa.	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.3	−4.3	0.0
Detroit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	−0.7	0.0
Chicago	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	−0.6	0.0
Minneapolis	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	−3.2	0.0
Denver	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.0
Salt Lake City	0.0	0.7	0.7	3.2	−2.5	0.0
Anchorage, Alaska					report not available	

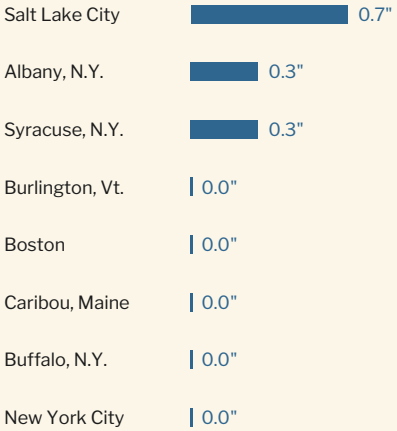
NWS Daily Climate Reports. Season and normal count from Nov. 1. T = trace. Depth = snow on the ground, inches.

MOST SNOW IN THE U.S.

Biggest 24-hour totals reported to the NWS

1	Austin #2, NV Elev. 6762 ft	9.3"
2	Eureka, NV Elev. 6440 ft	5.0"
3	Alta, UT Elev. 8684 ft	4.9"
4	Virginia City, MT Elev. 5781 ft	4.4"
5	Jarbidge, NV Elev. 6201 ft	4.3"
6	Alyeska Weather Top, AK Elev. 2707 ft	4.0"
7	Mccall 3.6 WNW, ID Elev. 5095 ft	4.0"
8	Lindbergh Lake, MT Elev. 4370 ft	3.6"
9	Mccall, ID Elev. 5007 ft	3.5"

SEASON LEADERS · CITIES



SNOWSHOE MOUNTAIN REPORT

Opening day in 6 days — Wed., Nov. 25 (target, weather permitting)

Now: Clear and 43° this morning.

Today: Sunny, 62° — the warmest day.

Sunday: Rain likely (70%), 53°.

Monday: Colder: 48°, low near 31°.

Tuesday: High 41°, low 28° — snowmaking cold.

Opening day: Snow likely Wednesday, Nov. 25 (75%), high 33°.

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

SNOW NOTES

Day 19 — still zero. Burlington reached 59° Wednesday; no snow has been measured there this season. Stowe's season total stands at 4.0" (WCAX).

Thanksgiving watch. Forecasts give Essex Junction a 70% chance of snow on Thanksgiving Day, with highs in the mid-30s.

Mountains turn cold. Sugarbush and Island Pond highs near 30° next Tuesday and Wednesday, lows in the upper teens — snowmaking weather.

Until then, mild. Upper 50s to 60° through Saturday; rain Sunday night and Monday.

PUZZLES & GAMES

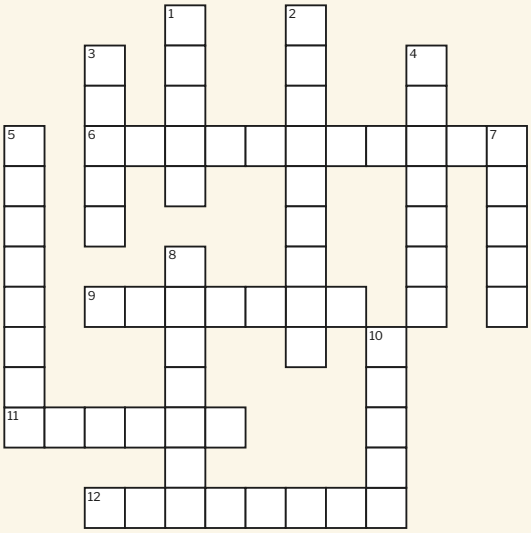
Grab a pencil and your coffee

THE DAILY SUDOKU

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

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

THE DAILY CROSSWORD · NOUVEAU & SHENZHEN



ACROSS

6 Heaven Hill's Small Batch (11)
9 Beaujolais released today (7)
11 "The Boys of Summer" singer (6)
12 Democrats' speaker pick (8)

DOWN

1 Third man at the table (5)
2 Bourbon, vermouth, bitters (9)
3 Celtics center, 17 and 10 (5)
4 Bruins goalie, 20 saves (7)
5 Fingerprint pioneer (8)
7 Beaujolais grape (5)
8 Beaujolais' best-known house (7)
10 The Beefeaters' new name (5)

WORD SEARCH · THANKSGIVING TABLE

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

FIND 12 WORDS

CIDER
CRANBERRY
FOOTBALL
GRAVY
PECAN
PIE
PUMPKIN
ROLLS
SQUASH
STUFFING
TURKEY
YAMS

Across, down, diagonal — some backward.

THE COURIER QUIZ

Five Questions

1. Which three leaders met together in Shenzhen?

2. At what price did Anthropic's IPO price?

3. Who did House Democrats nominate for speaker?

4. What did the Bruins beat Detroit by?

5. What grape makes Beaujolais Nouveau?

NAME THAT YEAR

Three Clues

- A president's 272 words at a cemetery.
- A proclamation: "forever free."
- London's first underground railway.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

9	2	5	4	3	7	6	1	8
3	4	7	1	8	6	5	2	9
8	1	6	2	9	5	7	4	3
2	7	3	6	4	8	9	5	1
1	5	9	7	2	3	8	6	4
4	6	8	5	1	9	3	7	2
6	9	1	3	5	2	4	8	7
7	8	4	9	6	1	2	3	5
5	3	2	8	7	4	1	9	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 19 BIRTHDAYS

This Day in Music

1960 — Matt Sorum of Guns N' Roses — 66.
1971 — Tony Rich — 55.
1973 — Billy Currington — 53.
1984 — Cam — 42.
1989 — Tyga — 37.

Also today: in 1990, Milli Vanilli became the first act ever stripped of a Grammy.



SPIN THIS

Building the Perfect Beast

Don Henley · November 19, 1984

Forty-two years ago today, the Eagles drummer released his second solo album — and his biggest, going triple platinum.

"The Boys of Summer," co-written with Mike Campbell of Tom Petty's band, hit No. 5 and won a Grammy; "All She Wants to Do Is Dance" reached No. 9. (Ultimate Classic Rock)

Best with: a Manhattan.

LIVE IN VERMONT

Shows Near Home

Fri. Nov. 20 · Joe Something (album release), Foam Brewers

Sat. Nov. 28 · Lara Cwass Band, Foam Brewers

Fri. Dec. 4 · lespecial, Higher Ground

Wed. Dec. 16 · Piebald, Higher Ground

Listings via Songkick; check venues for tickets.

MUSIC TRIVIA

On Nov. 19, 1964, a Los Angeles folk-rock band called the Beefeaters changed its name to a misspelled bird. What did they become?

ANSWERS — Quiz: 1. Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin. 2. $83 a share. 3. Hakeem Jeffries. 4. 4–1. 5. Gamay. Name That Year: 1863. Music trivia: The Byrds. **Yesterday's crossword:** 5A HAMMETT · 7A BOUDLEVARDIER · 8A BRINKS · 9A SYRAH · 10A JEFFREYS · 1D PELTOLA · 2D CAMPARI · 3D KUEMPER · 4D FOURROSES · 6D GUIGAL

THE STARS

Your daily horoscope · written by the Courier, just for fun

Born today? You're a Scorpio — and today's readings are for entertainment only.

★ ARIES — Mar. 21 – Apr. 19

Patience is not your favorite word, but today it pays. Let a plan sit one more day before you push the button. Someone older has good advice — ask for it.

LUCKY NUMBER 18 **COLOR** CRIMSON

★ TAURUS — Apr. 20 – May 20

A small pleasure turns a long day around: a good meal, a favorite song, a call from an old friend. Say yes to the invitation you were going to skip.

LUCKY NUMBER 6 **COLOR** MOSS GREEN

★ GEMINI — May 21 – June 20

Two conversations that seem unrelated turn out to fit together. Connect the dots and share what you see. A short walk sharpens your thinking.

LUCKY NUMBER 29 **COLOR** LEMON

★ CANCER — June 21 – July 22

Home is where you recharge today. Tidy one corner and start a holiday list. A note from someone far away brings a smile.

LUCKY NUMBER 2 **COLOR** PEARL

★ LEO — July 23 – Aug. 22

Your enthusiasm is contagious, so point it at something worthwhile. A team effort goes better with you cheering. Take a bow, then pass the credit around.

LUCKY NUMBER 41 **COLOR** COPPER

★ VIRGO — Aug. 23 – Sept. 22

You finish what others start today. A tidy desk, a balanced budget, a promise kept. Reward yourself with something cozy tonight.

LUCKY NUMBER 15 **COLOR** SLATE BLUE

★ LIBRA — Sept. 23 – Oct. 22

Fairness is your strength. Help two friends see each other's side, and you'll earn a thank-you from both. Wear something that makes you feel good.

LUCKY NUMBER 8 **COLOR** LAVENDER

★ SCORPIO — Oct. 23 – Nov. 21

Your birthday season wraps up Saturday, so finish strong. A private goal is closer than you think. Trust the quiet voice that says "keep going."

LUCKY NUMBER 27 **COLOR** BLACK CHERRY

★ SAGITTARIUS — Nov. 22 – Dec. 21

Your season starts Sunday, and the itch to wander is real. Map out a weekend adventure, even a small one. Laughter comes easily today.

LUCKY NUMBER 3 **COLOR** ROYAL PURPLE

★ CAPRICORN — Dec. 22 – Jan. 19

Someone notices how hard you've been working. Accept the compliment without brushing it off. A practical gift idea pops into your head — write it down.

LUCKY NUMBER 34 **COLOR** ESPRESSO

★ AQUARIUS — Jan. 20 – Feb. 18

A fresh idea needs a partner to grow. Bounce it off someone you trust. An unexpected message changes your evening plans for the better.

LUCKY NUMBER 12 **COLOR** ELECTRIC BLUE

★ PISCES — Feb. 19 – Mar. 20

Creativity flows, so make something — a meal, a sketch, a playlist. A friend needs a little encouragement; you're the right person to give it.

LUCKY NUMBER 9 **COLOR** AQUA

TONIGHT'S SKY

Sun, moon and what to look for over Essex Junction

SUNRISE	**6:54 a.m.**
SUNSET	**4:20 p.m.**
DAYLIGHT	**9 hr 26 min**
CHANGE	**-2.2 min vs. yesterday**
MOON	**Waxing gibbous**

Times for Essex Junction, Vt.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Moon and Saturn. Tonight the moon is about three-quarters lit, high in the southeast after dark, with Saturn — the only bright evening planet — to its lower left. Friday night is the best pairing of the week: the moon slides within about 6° of Saturn, close enough to share a binocular view. (When the Curves Line Up)

Friday before dawn: Mercury is at its best for this morning appearance — look low in the east-southeast 45 minutes to an hour before sunrise. (Farmers' Almanac)

Saturday before dawn: four planets at once — bright Jupiter high in the south with red Mars just above it, Venus low in the southeast, and Mercury lower still.

Coming up: the full Beaver Moon, a supermoon, rises Tuesday, Nov. 24. The Leonids have faded to a few an hour.