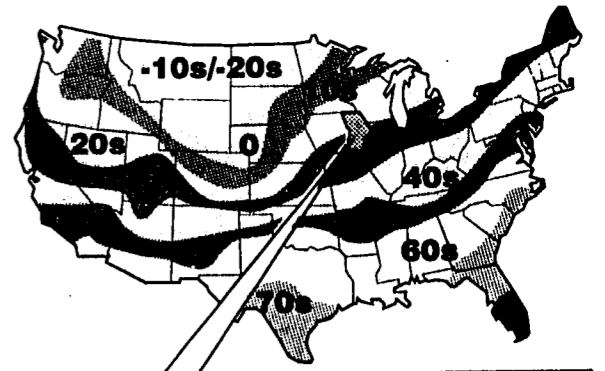




The Gazette

A regional newspaper serving Eastern Iowa



FORECAST: Mostly cloudy skies across state today. Highs 28-32; lows 20-24. Today's daylight: 9 hrs., 8 min. See 16C.

WEDNESDAY Dec. 19, 1990

IOWA TODAY, FINAL EDITION
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
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INSIDE...



MONEY
What to do if you're laid off
Bondy on Money, page 6C

IOWA TODAY
North Pole?
No, it's Margaret Morgan's house
Page 1B

BRIEFLY

More free parking?

Ban time limit, merchants say
The two-hour free parking plan on Saturday isn't a bad idea, some merchants in downtown Cedar Rapids say, but it'd be better if people could park free all day. Details on page 1B.

Another win

Iowa just misses 100 points
The Hawkeyes posted 93 points to Chicago State's 70 last night in Iowa City. Details on page 1C.

Busy days

Rockwell gets big contract
Rockwell International will announce today how many salaried employees have decided to voluntarily leave the company. And its Avionics and Communications Division won two contracts — for \$4 million — to put communications systems and voice-privacy units in 41 FAA aircraft. Details on page 6C.

Where's the buck?

Raises won't add up to much
Can't wait for that raise next year so you can give your significant other something special, right? Well, not quite. Economists say the average pay boost will be eclipsed slightly by the expected inflation rate. And workers aren't happy about it. Details on page 9C.

A GOP win

Slife fills Corning's seat
Harry Slife defeated Rose Angel, 4,714 votes to 3,308 votes, in Tuesday's special election in state Senate District 12.
The election was held to fill the seat vacated by Joy Corning, who was elected lieutenant governor in November.
Slife, 67, a Republican from Cedar Falls, retired as president of Black Hawk Broadcasting Co. in 1985. Democrat Angel, 50, has been a Waterloo city councilwoman for the past five years.
Senate Democrats retain their edge, 28-22. About 25 percent of Black Hawk County's registered voters showed up at the polls, the County Auditor's Office said.

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TODAY'S CHUCKLE

Intelligence is knowing the difference between temptation and opportunity.

Grinch steals into East Iowa yards

By Ed Barrett
Gazette staff writer
... He slunk to the icebox, he took the Who's feast.
He took the Who pudding, he took the roast beast.
He cleaned out that icebox as quick as a flash.
Why that Grinch even took the last can of Who hash.

— from "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas."
Footprints have been found, but there's no conclusive evidence that the "foul and nasty slug" himself is responsible for the theft of Christmas displays in Eastern Iowa. But Grinch or not, the victims say part of Christmas has been stolen.

"It's not the value of the thing," said Galen Luke, 6212 First Ave. NW. A \$27 lighted Santa Claus was stolen earlier this month from the family's yard. "I had to explain to a 9-year-old why somebody would want to do this."
His daughter had begged him for weeks to buy the 4-foot-tall Santa. "I suppose it's a prank, but it's kind of a sick one," he said of the theft.

Margo Stewart, 1103 35th St. NE, woke up one Sunday this month and found nothing left of her Christmas display but "some hooks and some wire." She lost four strings of lights valued at more than \$100.
"It's kind of depressing because you know (the thieves) aren't going to use them," said Stewart.

Cedar Rapids police have reports of almost 20 such incidents. Other towns also have seen petty thefts. A rash of thefts of Christmas tree lights in Tipton prompted residents to ask the City Council on Monday to toughen enforcement of the curfew for those under 18.

Cedar Rapids police Lt. Frank Engrav also said most of these annual thefts look like "kids' stuff."

For Keith Westercamp, 3207 Timber Valley Ct. NE, who lost Christmas lights, candles and figurines, the notion that the culprits might be kids doesn't mean he is less angry.

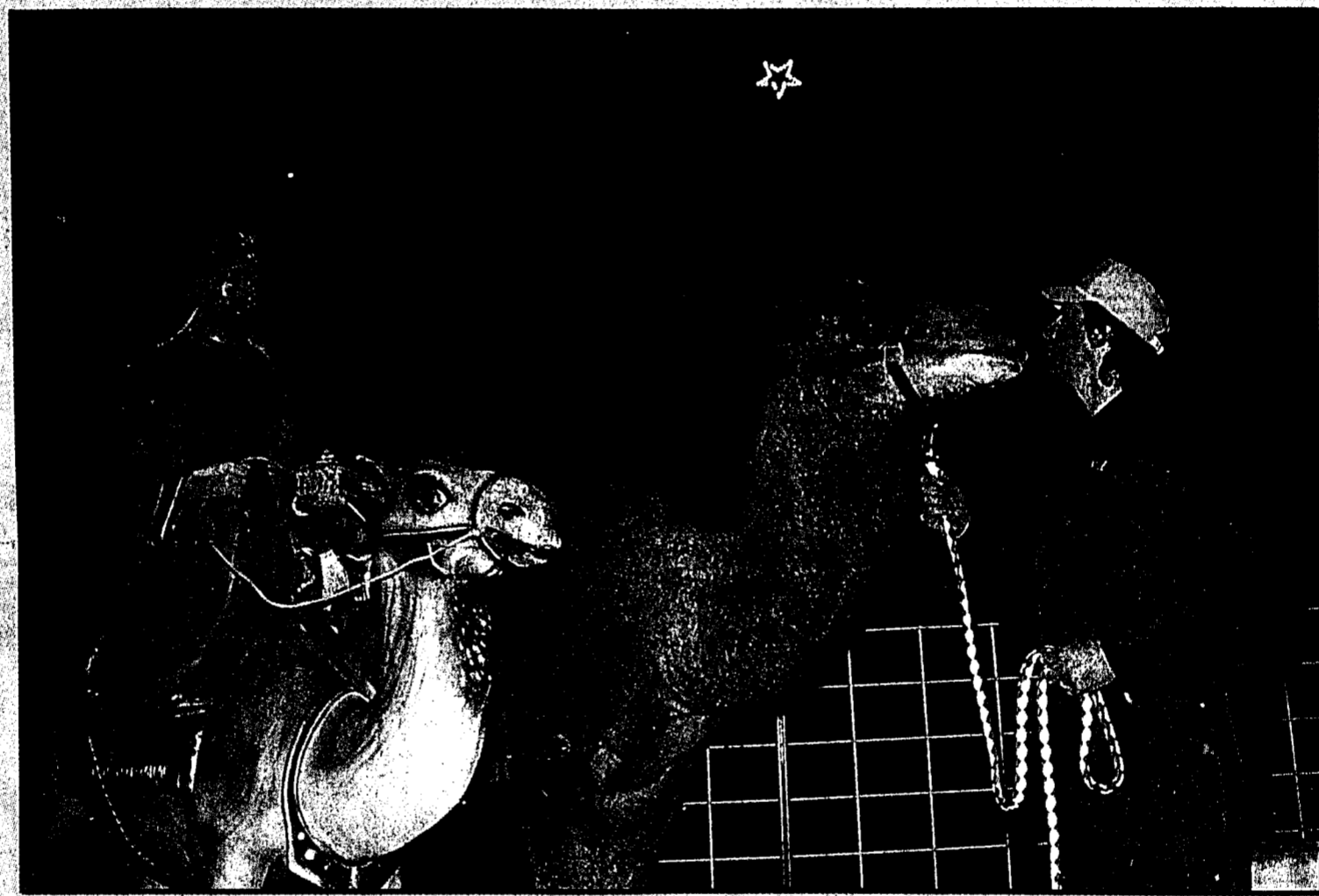
"I know they're doing it as a prank," he said. "But it's not quite the spirit of Christmas."



Gazette graphic by Chad Willenborg

Fed steps in to aid economy

Putting life into Nativity scene



Gazette photo by L.W. Ward

Craig Perry poses with Herman, his 3-year-old dromedary camel, part of the living Nativity scene at Cedar Memorial, 4200 First Ave. NE. Next to them is a figure of a wise man on a camel. Perry is the operator of Perry's Wilderness Ranch in Walker.

Other live animals in the display are two llamas, two goats, two lambs, two calves and a burro. It's the first time the ranch has set up a Nativity scene. The Nativity scene is open from 6 to 9 p.m. through Christmas.

Rate cut follows slower inflation, wider trade gap

From the Associated Press and Gazette staff reports

The Federal Reserve cut a key lending rate by one-half percentage point Tuesday, sending its strongest signal to date that it intends to battle the growing weakness in the American economy with easier credit.

The Fed announced that it was lowering its discount rate, the interest it charges to make loans to banks, from 7 percent to 6.5 percent.

Cedar Rapids bankers contacted by The Gazette had a mixed reaction to the announcement.

The cut in the discount rate was the first reduction in more than four years. Analysts predicted the cut would prompt a reduction in a variety of business and consumer loan rates, including banks' benchmark prime lending rate.

The announcement came hours after the release of two government reports showing that consumer prices rose a moderate 0.3 percent in November and that America's trade deficit soared in October to \$11.6 billion, its highest level in 2½ years.

Analysts said the good news on inflation gave the Fed room to lower interest rates while the trade report showed the urgent need to do so by raising the possibility that the recession could be more severe than previously expected.

The Fed took the unusual step of announcing its action 30 minutes before New York financial markets closed. The move prompted an immediate rally on Wall Street, with the Dow Jones industrial average rising 33.41 points to 2,626.73.

Henry Royer, chairman and president of Merchants National Bank in Cedar Rapids, predicted the discount rate cut won't have an immediate effect on consumer loan rates.

"I think it's more of a reaction to what's already taken place," Royer said.

"They're pushing liquidity

■ Please turn to 9A: Economy

Iraq strike at Israel won't split allies: U.S.

From Gazette wire services

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration said Tuesday that it had reached an arrangement with its allies in the Persian Gulf to keep the coalition against Iraq from falling apart if Baghdad attacks Israel and draws that country into fighting in the Middle East.

That coalition also reaffirmed its solidarity Tuesday. European Community foreign ministers, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, refused to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq

Aziz unless he first goes to Washington for talks.

Aziz had been tentatively set to go to Washington on Monday, but the visit was canceled after the United States and Iraq were unable to agree on a date for subsequent talks in Baghdad between Secretary of State James Baker and Saddam Hussein.

The specter of an attack on Israel has been especially troubling to U.S. policy-makers as they prepare for the possibility of war with Iraq.

Washington's concern has been that the historic enmity between Israel and its Arab neighbors would resurface and break apart the international coalition if Israel were involved.

Tuesday, the administration appeared to go out of its way to leave the impression that this was no longer a problem.

But officials refused to provide any details and it was not clear if there had been some specific agreement among the allies on this score or whether

the administration was simply anxious to set aside the issue before the Jan. 15 deadline set by the United Nations for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

When asked at a news conference with newspaper editors about the possibility of an attack by Iraq on Israel, President Bush said he was "convinced the coalition would not fall apart."

"I can't give you the specifics on that," he said. "You can assume ... that we've inquired about that."

Racist faces 3rd trial in rights leader's death

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A segregationist who has stood trial twice in the 1963 ambush slaying of civil rights leader Medgar Evers faces a third trial after being indicted on new evidence.

Byron De La Beckwith, 70, of Signal Mountain, Tenn., is charged with murder in the shooting death of Evers, who was field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

"Justice can be only served if there is a final conclusion, once and for all," District Attorney Ed Peters said Tuesday. Peters said the indictment was is-

sued Friday by a grand jury in Jackson.

Beckwith, who is in poor health and advancing years, still espouses white supremacy and flies the Confederate flag outside his home.

He was arrested Monday at his house on a fugitive warrant issued by the state of Mississippi.

Beckwith was released on \$15,000 bond after a court appearance in Chattanooga, Tenn. His next court appearance was set for Feb. 22.

Beckwith said he intends to fight extradition. "I'm going to resist tooth, nail and claw



AP photo

Byron De La Beckwith appears Tuesday at a bond hearing. He is charged with the 1963 murder of civil rights leader Medgar Evers. At right is Beckwith's wife, Thelma.

■ Please turn to 9A: Evers

Kids often outgrow high cholesterol, study finds

By Lyle Muller
Gazette Johnson County Bureau

IOWA CITY — Children with high blood cholesterol levels often outgrow the condition to have levels considered normal as adults, a University of Iowa study says.

In the study, published in today's Journal of the American Medical Association, most of the children with high cholesterol levels saw their levels drop in adulthood. It is expected to generate controversy among physicians who consider childhood testing a good indicator of who may be at risk for future heart disease, the study's co-authors said.

"I don't know that it will be universally accepted by all physicians in this country (or) all pediatricians," William Clarke, professor of preventive medicine and environmental health, said Tuesday.

However, "the conclusions of the paper are going to be

■ Please turn to 9A: Cholesterol

COMING TOMORROW/ C.R. woman talks about her plight with AIDS