

# Elton John to play Everblades Arena

■ Tickets for Feb. 26 performance on sale Jan. 16. LIFESTYLES / 1E

# **Legends on way to Hall of Fame**

■ Ryan, Brett, Yount make it on first ballot. SPORTS / 1C

**FORT MYERS EDITION** 

## WEATHER

■ WEATHER / 12A

## **INSIDE TODAY**

## **Kearse and James** to enter NFL draft

Two Southwest Florida products who dominated in college football last season are taking their games to the next level. Florida line-backer Jevon Kearse from North Fort Myers High School and Miami running back Edgerrin James from Immokalee High School announced Tuesday they are leaving school early to enter the NFL draft.

\*\*SPARTS./15\*\*

SPORTS / 1C



## Hill nominated for 10 Grammys

Hip-hop phenom Lauryn Hill received a leading 10 Grammy nominations Tuesday for her critically acclaimed debit solo album 'The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill. 'The 23-year-old Hill will compete against a nearly all-female field— including Madonna, Sheryl Crow, Shania Twain — for album of the year.

## 32-cent stamps not enough Sunday

Postal workers rushed Tuesday to keep 1-cent stamps in stock as demand shot up in advance of the first-class mail price increase Sunday. The cost of mailing a letter is rising to 32-cent stamps into insuffi-cient postage. Prices for Express, Priority and other mail also will rise an overall average of 2.9 percent.

■ LOCAL / 1B

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## CORRECTIONS



# Region's farmers fearful of freeze

Chill may set record, cut close on crops

News-Press staff

Southwest Florida farmers scrambiol Tuesday to protect their crops from record-breaking low temperatures predicted for this morning.

Meteorologists expected temperatures to shatter the previous record of 36 degrees set in 1956. Temperatures were expected to plunge into the high 20s inland, while they'll be near freezing west of Interstate 75, said meteorologist Rom Morales.

Monday's 40-degree temperatures clich't hurt crops, but tied a record set of the staff of

set in 1956.
Farmers were cautious Tuesday,
Farticularly since winds were
expected to stay calm.

See COLD / 12
Voices from the North / 12A
Tips for damaged plants / 12A

The National Weather Service, however, had not put out a freeze warning for Lee, Chardiot and Coller counties.

"We're pumping water in the ditches, just like everyone else. Most likely 10 be out here all night, said A.], had been seen and the service of the se

See COLD / 12A



CHILLY COMMUTE: Irene Nakitene uses her sweater as a hat to keep warm as she walks to work Tuesday moming along Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Fort Myers.

# Cold blankets nation

The Associated Press
Winter showed no mercy
across much of the nation on
Tuesday, bringing a record cold
reading of 36 degrees below
degrees below
of new snow to heavily blanketed upstate New York and rare
frigid conditions all the way
south to the Gull Crosst.
Many didn't have the buxury
of hiding indoors from subzero
temperatures.
Being outside in downtown
Milwaukee, where it was
minus 12 degrees Tuesday
morning, was "painfully cold,

like you got smacked," said construction worker Pat Provo, red-faced and bundled in layers of clothing: so that the said of th

Morthern weather / 4A

"The best and the brightest ideas do not come from the state capital but from the untapped human capital that resides in our diverse communities."

# Jeb Bush era launched briskly

Celebrities, crowds brave capital's chill for inauguration

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's new Republican era officially began Tuesday with a blast of frigid air and glowing promises for the future.

republication to a significant vegation received with a blast of frigid air functions with a blast of frigid air future.

Jeb Bush, the 45-year-old Miami developer who never had held elected office, became Florida's 43rd governor at 12:05 p.m., taking the oath of office on the steps of the Old Capitol Building in front of about 1,600 shivering dignitaries and supporters and supp

atures well below freezing, despite the sunny sky.

The celebrity factor outweighed the wind-chill factor for a group of Polk County residents who assembled before dawn for a ceremony that didn't start until 11 a.m.

"You have a president and two governors here in one spot at one



TAKING THE OATH: Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is sworn in by Florida Chief Justice Major Harding, right, as Bush's wife, Columba, holds the Bible and their son, George, left, looks on Tuesday in Tallahassee.

Bush's wife, Columba, holds the time; you can't beat that for history," said Kim Miller, a Haines City firefighter who brought his 10-year-old daughter, Jessica.

For state Republican Party Chairman Tom Slade, the day marked the culmination of years of work, and the launch of a new Republican era.

Bush is the last Republican government of the state of t

vidual wisdom of the people of our

vidual wisdom of the people of our state."

To many Republican legislators, that means tax rebates. Legislative leaders already are studying \$800 million in tax breaks for corporations and individuals at a time when the \$45 billion state budget is expected to have \$1.3 billion in new revenues.

expected to have \$1.3 billion in new revenues.

Bush only hinted at tax relief in his speech. "I want to protect peo-ple, not bureaucracies," he said. "I want state government to be more respectful of the earnings of Florida's families, not more desirous."

See BUSH / 6A

■ Capital's face changes / 6A ■ Local lawmakers happy / 6A



PRESSING THE FLESH: Gov. Jeb Bush shakes hands along the inaugur-al parade route Tuesday after taking

# Arrest to land vour car in jail

City lets police confiscate autos

By NADINE SLIMAK

News-Press staff writer
People arrested for drug and
prostitution crimes in Fort
Myers won't just face criminal
penalties anymore.
A new city ordinance passed
by the city council Monday
night allows police to confiscate suspects' cars and force
them to pay a civil penalty for
the crime — and that's before
any conviction.

the crime — and that's before any conviction.

"It's really meant to clean up our city and make it a safer place for our citizens." said Councilwoman Brenda Brewer, who spearheaded the effort modeled after a similar Tampa ordinance.

Not everyone agrees. Howard Simon, executive director of the Florida American Civil Liberties Union, called such efforts' outrageous."

# Lee drops early school start

But district may try to move up date in the future

By KIMBERLY MILLER

The Lee County School District has given up the push for an earlier school start date for this fall.

Instead, a committee will meet Thursday to consider a new proposal that closely resembles the current schedule.

resembles the current some resembles the district's cal-endar committee disagreed on a calendar that would maintain a 180-day year, but start school earlier over the next two years. This year, teachers returned

to school Aug. 17, with students starting Aug. 24.

The biggest problem was the district wanted to come up with a new early starting date without any real statistics on what the advantage of it was, "said Louis Roos, a teacher at Cape Coral High. Chool and the Committee.

The failure of the committee to committee the committee to the calendar committee.

The failure of the committee and the committee to the committee to the committee to district of the committee and the committee to the committ

## WHAT'S NEXT

■ The Lee County School District's calendar committee discusses the new plan Thursday. ■ If an agreement is reached Thursday, the calendar will go to the Lee County School Board for final approval. A vote could come as early as next week.

# 'You have mail,' so **AOL** loses exclusivity

\*\*ALEXANDRIA, Va.—A federal judge turned down America Online's request that he make AT&T stop telling email users You have mail.

AT&T maintains that it's a common't used English phrase and AOL cannot claim as the state of the



of the Earth, Mod		T	Next	Next a.m.		
Englewood	2:48a	10:37a	5:14p	10:17p	3:44a	11:14a
Punta Gorda	4:51a	12:44p	7:17p		12:24a	5:47a
Boca Grande	2:33a	9:21a	4:59p	9:01p	3:29a	9:58a
Bokeelia	3:37a	11:39a	6:03p	11:19p	4:33a	
Pineland Matlacha	3:26a 4:28a	11:43a 12:45p	5:52p 6:54p	11:23p	4:22a 12:25a	5:24a
Redfish Pass	2:50a	10:03a	5:16p	9:43p	3:46a	10:40a
Captiva	2:59a	10:57a	5:25p	10:37p	3:55a	11:34a
St. James City	3:15a	10:33a	5:41p	10:13p	4:11a	11:10a
Edison Bridge	12:37a	5:53a	2:01p	8:19p	1:41a	6:49a
Cape Coral	5:00a	1:19p	7:26p	9:380	12:59a	5:56a
Punta Rassa	2:44a	9:58a	5:10p		3:40a	10:35a
Point Ybel	1:55a	10:05a	4:21p	9:45p	2:51a	10:42a
Ft. Myers Beach	2:35a	9:43a	5:01p	9:23p	3:31a	10:20a
Big Carlos Pass	2:37a	9:49a	5:03p	9:29p	3:33a	10:26a
Bonita Beach	2:47a	10:12a	5:13p	9:52p	3:43a	10:49a
Naples	2:00a	8:50a	3:23p	9:00p	2:46a	9:23a
Marco Island	2:55a	9:46a	4:18p	9:560	3:41a	10:19a
Cape Romano	2:42a	9:51a	4:05p	10:01p	3:28a	10:24a
Everglades	4:22a	12:12p	5:45p		12:22a	5:08a

In the sky

# On the beach

UV scale	Fair skin	Dark skin
0-2	30. min	Up to 2 hrs
3-4	15-20 min.	75-90 min.
5-6	10-12 min.	50-60 min.
7-9	7-81/2 min.	33-40 min.
10+	4-6 min.	20-30 min.

## **Boating forecast**

From Cape Sable to Tarpon Springs TODAY AND TONIGHT: Wind NE, 10-15 knc as hailding 2 feet near shore and 4 feet w

		Rises		Sets
	Sun	7:17 a.m.	5:	50 p.m.
	Moon	11:26 p.m.	- 11	:17 a.m.
	Moon pha	ises		
	Last	New	First	Full
	1	-	1	0
s;				0
	Jan. 9	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31

5:50 p.m. 10:40 a.m.

## TUESDAY'S WEATHER

Aroun	d Lee C	ounty	Temperatures pro	ovided by loa	al observers	
	Bonita	Cape	Fort Myers	Lehigh	Fort	Sanibel
	Springs	Coral	Beach	Acres	Myers	Island
High	56°	55°	55°	52°	54°	58°
Low	42°	41°	42°	41°	40°	39°
Rainfall	0.0"	0.0*	0.0"	0.0*	0.0°	0.0"

Low	42°	41°	42°	41°	40°	3
Rainfall	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0*	0.0°	0.
Rainfa	all alma	nac			January	y
		None as of	5 p.m. i2% at 1 p.m.			7-1
Highest si		nd: 20 mph (N				-1

Relative hum Highest sust Lake Okeech	ained w	rind: 20			p.m.	794		-1
	'99	'98	Avg.	Rec.	Yr.	Average		1
January	1.01	2.85	1.84	7.95	' '91	1.84"_	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	3
February	0.00	8.47	2.23	10.82	'83	Total		5-
March	0.00	5.02	3.07	18.58	70	1.01"	Year to date	
April	0.00	1.21	1:06	7.66	'41			
May	0.00	2.56	3.87	10.32	'68			7
June	0.00	6.52	9.52	20.10	'74			F
July	0.00	10.01	8.26	15.28	'41			T.
August	0.00	8.43	9.66	16.73	'81		700	1
September		13.59	7.82	16.60	'69	100	-0- E	H
October	0.00	0.59	2.94	12.04	'59	Total		t
November	0.00	7.58	1.57	8.06	'87	1.01"_ Average	-	5
December	0.00	1.06	1.53	5.48	'97	0.15"		D

# Weathe



## **NATIONAL TEMPERATURES**

	Tue.	Today	Thu.		Tue.	Today	Thu.
	Hi/Lo	Hi/Lo/Sky	Hi/Lo/Sky		Hi/Lo	Hi/Lo/Sky	Hi/Lo/Sky
Albany, N.Y.	24/14	26/5/c	28/21/c	Juneau	23/20	25/18/c	21/14/1
Albuquerque	57/23	56/26/1	54/30/c	Kansas City	33/-4	35/27/c	27/11/c
Amarillo	60/21	62/27/1	54/25/c	Knoxville	25/15	37/21/c	38/31/c
Anchorage	7/-5	12/-5/c	14/-2/c	Las Vegas	60/35	61/37/1	62/39/1
Asheville	25/11	34/12/c	38/25/c	Little Rock	43/15	54/34/c	48/34/c
Atlanta	31/14	40/19/c	50/35/c	Los Angeles	76/52	74/51/1	71/54/1
Atlantic City	29/12	36/22/c	40/31/c	Louisville	22/4	34/20/sn	27/18/c
Austin	56/28	70/42/c	70/46/f	Memphis	36/13	47/32/c	43/35/c
Baltimore	26/15	32/9/c	38/25/c	Milwaukee	2/-10	13/4/c	9/-5/c
Billings	47/33	28/26/sn	33/20/c	Mpls-St Paul	7/-14	6/2/1	6/-10/c
Birmingham	32/13	48/22/c	47/38/c	Nashville	27/14	43/25/sn	40/32/c
Bismarck	20/1	8/3/1	12/-10/c	New Orleans	46/28	67/38/c	64/48/c
Boise	43/23	45/27/c	44/28/c	New York City	29/18	35/19/c	35/31/c
Boston	28/19	30/19/c	34/30/c	Norfolk.Va.	29/26	42/19/c	48/34/c
Buffalo	17/13	30/10/sn	18/15/f	Oklahoma City	47/24	56/30/c	46/29/c
Burlington.Vt.	18/3	22/5/c	22/18/sn	Omaha	28/-10	26/19/sn	20/-3/sn
Charleston.S.C.	38/24	44/22/c	54/32/c	Philadelphia	27/14	33/15/c	34/28/c
Charleston, W.Va.	19/7	32/11/sn	31/21/c	Phoenix	68/40	69/42/c	68/46/c
Charlotte.N.C.	31/12	37/15/c	44/30/c	Pittsburgh	11/-1	27/6/sn	23/15/c
Cheyenne	40/32	42/31/1	43/23/1	Portland, Maine	23/10	26/8/c	30/24/sn
Chicago	5/-15	24/2/sn	5/-13/1	Portland, Ore.	44/29	47/30/c	47/35/c
Cincinnati	16/-7	33/11/sn	27/18/c	Providence	29/18	30/14/c	34/30/c
Cleveland	8/-3	30/9/sn	19/14/c	Raleigh-Durham	31/16	39/15/c	46/32/c
Columbia.S.C.	34/18	42/17/c	53/32/c	Reno Reno	52/22	52/22/c	50/26/c
Columbus,Ohio	11/-2 23/6	31/9/sn	24/17/c	Richmond	29/16	38/11/c	44/30/c
Concord,N.H.		23/1/c	29/18/sn	Rochester	20/11	29/10/sn	17/15/f
Dallas-Ft Worth	53/26	65/42/c	65/41/c	Sacramento	39/34	49/33/c	51/32/c
Dayton	10/-7	31/7/sn	24/15/c	St Louis	24/-5	35/22/c	28/12/c
Denver	45/26	52/29/c	42/27/c	Salt Lake City	50/27	47/27/c	41/32/c
Des Moines	17/-14	23/16/sn	15/1/c	San Antonio	56/23	72/44/c	71/46/c
Detroit	0/-8	26/5/sn	15/10/c	San Diego	75/48	68/48/c	66/50/c
Duluth	13/-14	3/-6/c	0/-18/c	San Francisco	52/40	56/42fc	56/43/f
El Paso	60/24	61/30/f	62/28/f	Santa Fe	53/20	51/20/f	49/24/c
Evansville	25/3	38/20/sn	30/21/c	St Ste Marie *	17/8	17/10/sn	10/0/sn
Fairbanks	-21/-31	-25/-35/f	-15/-30/f	Seattle	50/39	47/41/r	45/41/r
Fargo	8/-11	-3/-7/1	5/-17/1	Shreveport	52/20	62/39/c	56/42/c
Flagstaff	57/20	53/16/c	49/22/c	Sioux Falls	18/-13	14/9/c	10/-12/c
Fort Wayne	5/-14	28/7/sn	14/-1/pc	Spokane	33/29	36/29/r	32/28/sn
Grand Rapids	2/2	23/5/sn	13/6/c	Syracuse	21/15	26/11/sn	22/18/sn
Greensboro.N.C.	28/13	36/14/c	44/29/c	Toledo	m/5	29/9/sn	19/13/pc
Harrisburg	25/11	29/9/sn	30/21/sn	Topeka	36/2	40/25/c	29/13/c
Hartford Spofld	26/15	25/9/c	30/25/c	Tucson	70/34	74/35/c	73/38/c
Helena	47/37	25/20/sn	25/15/sn	Tulsa	40/18	54/30/c	42/25/c
Honolulu	77/67	80/69/c	80/70/c	Washington, D.C.	27/18	35/17/c	38/28/c
Houston	57/26	68/48/c	73/55/c	Wichita	40/16	47/28/c	31/20/c
Indianapolis	14/-9	31/16/sn	18/1/c	Wilkes-Barre	20/9	24/8/sn	24/21/sn
Jackson, Miss.	43/15	54/30/c	57/40/c	Wilmington, Del.	27/16	33/14/c	35/28/c

nation's low: -36° Congerville, III.

# **Advanced** weather prediction not easy

Over the past week, people have been making all kinds of predictions about what to expect in 1999. Now it is my turn. The weather in Southwest Florida will be closer to normal, which is not presessari.

Recent cold temperatures may not be the coldest of the winter. Another arctic blast will move down in February, setting record low temperatures. However, most of January and February will be mild with near normal rainfall.

In March, expect temperatures to be average, but rainfall to be below normal. This dry weather will last through April, when brush fires will become a problem.

Plants killed by the February cold snap coupled with dry windy April weather will create a brief, but intense brush fire season. May showers will put an end to our fire worries.

Overall, May will be a little warmer and wetter than average and mosquito control will be busy by the end of the month. The summer rainy season pattern will set in early this year, the first or second week of Jundon, as usual, but no record highs will be broken.

Afternoon summer thunderstorms will be more regular in 1999, compared to last summer. Expect more lightning and water spouts than in 1998. The 1999 hurricane season will also get off to an early start, with the first tropical storm developing in June. By late August, the first tropical storm developing in June. By late the season will have a direct impact on Southwest Florida.

The hurricane season will remain very active through September, but firzle out in Oxovember storms.

Fall will arrive abruptly in mid October. November and December will be a little cooler than average.

Of course, predicting the weather a year in advance is impossible, so don't take any of this seriously.

However, if these predictions are accurate, tell my boss to give me a raise.

### **TUESDAY'S TEMPERATURES**



World			
	Hi/Lo/Sky		Hi/Lo/Sky
Amsterdam	55/48/c	Madrid	48/32/1
Athens	55/46/c	Moscow	27/25/sn
Barbados	84/72/c	Nairobi	79/59/c
Barcelona	61/45/f	Osaka	54/39/f
Beijing	32/21/c	Oslo	34/32/c
Berlin	54/45/r	Paris	57/55/c
Bermuda	77/70/c	Rio	91/66/pc
Budapest	36/25/r	Rome	61/41/f
Cairo	70/52/f	San Juan	82/73/pc
Dhahran	77/48/pc	Sapporo	37/23/c

# COLD: Region's growers busy, but beaches aren't

"Some people complain about the price of tomatoes at the supermarket," Levine said. "If they saw what we stand to lose in the field tonight, maybe they'd feel differently, Growers in this area could lose tens of millions of dollars." Workers at Country Boys Growers north of Avla were covering their cucumber and squash plantering some young plants with dirt and covering some vity plantering the saw the saw of the sa

News-Press staff writers Andrea Stetson, dine Slimak, Laura Ruane and Sheldon ldan contributed to this report.



GETTING READY: Carlos Hernandez, a worker at Country Boys Growers north of Alva, puts palmetto fronds and soil over small squash plants in an effort to protect the plants from a pos-sible freeze Tuesday night.

Tips to follow if your plants were damaged by cold

■ Don't prune any frozen or dead branches on trees and shrubs until March.
■ Dead parts will protect living parts of the tree should another freeze occur.

# JANUARY LOWS

Record low temperatures in January

■ 28 DEGREES: Jan. 31, 1966; Jan. 13, 1981 ■ 29 DEGREES: Jan. 12, 1982 ■ 30 DEGREES: Jan. 20 1971; Jan. 19, 1981;

## WHAT THEY SAID

■ "It is cold. It's about 2 degrees, I think. We just had a weekend of ice and snow. We keep the cars running and try to not get out too much."
— SGT. JOHN LOWMAN, Hudson (Ohio) Police Department

"" a great here and we are anticipating more snow, like three more inches. We already have 13 inches. Last I heard, it was 32 degrees below zero."

— RHONDA JOHNSON, information clerk, St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital

"It is cold and snowy, and people are going crazy when it gets cold like this. They are all just scared to death they are not going to be able to get their milk and bread. It think it's 4 (degrees) out there."

— DONNA STEWART,
— OTHOR STEWART,
— OFFICE employee,
Kroger No. J-20, Indianapolis

Kroger No. J-20, Indianapolis "We are full here, and it is cold. It's below zero, but the kids are doing pretty good here because we have a lot of activities for them. Outside it is provided in ties for them. Outside it is provided in and the public transportation." — J.R. WINSTON, shelter worker, Salvation Army, Chicago

"It is pretty bad here, but we are finally moving again all points west and to the south. It's 17 degrees, and the snow is blowing all around. It is not a good time to visit."

— RALPH BEATHLEY, ticket salesman.

# CARS: Pay or walk

From Page 1A

From Page 1A

The city has up to 45 days after the seizure to schedule the full hearing and, in the meantime, owners on the full hearing and, in the meantime, owners on the full hearing and the meantime of the court of the purpose of the full hearing and the fu

through with a court challenge, on a said.

The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the law after challenges coming from other states. 'It was challenged in Michigan about three years ago and the law was upheld' the ACLU's Simon said. 'Anybody with an ounce of concern about civil rights ought to be outraged by this.'







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