



Getting it right

staff photo by Eric Mitchell

Cory Schellhase, a Fort Worth biomedical science sophomore, takes extra care with her lab work.

Winter still chilling northeast, midwest

United Press International
Up to a half foot of snow in Pennsylvania and record-shattering lows in the Northern Plains made March a dead ringer for January in the Northeast and Midwest today. In Colorado, a warm front collided with the cold, sparking 95 mph winds.

At least 26 deaths have been blamed on the latest onslaught of snow, rain, ice and sub-zero temperatures since the weekend. Winter, which returned with a fury last week, has less than two weeks before its official demise.

An elderly Chicago woman was found dead in the kitchen of her unheated South Side home Tuesday. Authorities said the woman had asked officials of People's Gas to turn off the heat in her small frame dwelling for no apparent reason.

Dozens of children received minor injuries and at least one was hospitalized with a neck in-

jury in two separate school bus accidents on slippery western Pennsylvania roads.

One bus carrying 40 children collided with a car trying to make a turn on an icy part of Route 153 in Lawrence Township, police said. In the other accident, a bus carrying 34 children collided with a tractor-trailer rig on a snow-covered road in Beaver County.

Snow covered the Great Lakes from Indiana to north-central Pennsylvania and western New York, but a warming trend crept across the Rockies and the western edge of the Plains, creating ferocious winds through the Colorado foothills.

A 5-inch blanket of snow layered Du Bois, Pa., Tuesday from the storm that centered over southwest Ontario. About two inches of snow layered streets in the New York cities of Buffalo and Albany, setting off a rash of traffic accidents.

Four inches of snow fell in Detroit in six hours Monday night, bringing the city's total snow accumulation to 63.2 inches in the worst winter in 37 years. An average 39 inches of snow falls during a normal Detroit winter.

Bitter cold zeroed in on the Plains and the East Coast, once again hitting Minnesota the hardest.

Duluth, Minn., broke a record Tuesday for the third day this month with a reading minus 19. The temperature cracked the previous record of 15 below zero set in 1948. The mercury fell to minus 18 at International Falls, breaking the northern Minnesota town's record for the date by 3 degrees.

The nation's lowest temperature wasn't far away — in Hibbing, Minn., the temperature fell to 22 degrees below zero as the mercury never even made up to zero during the day.

Weather service cutbacks blasted

United Press International
FORT WORTH — The forecast is for a chance of administrative turbulence in response to the Reagan administration's plan to eliminate the National Weather Service's 10-state regional headquarters.

"I'm concerned about it," Walter Anderson, regional headquarters executive director said. "I think it's going to produce too much of a diversity of weather for a regional office to handle effectively."

"This is one of the most tornado-prone areas of country. Most of the tornado deaths that occur in the U.S. occur in the south and southwestern states, especially Arkansas, Mississippi and western Tennessee."

"Also, this part of country is where most of hurricanes that hit the United States happen. We have some rather peculiar weather problems in this region and over the years we have built up a certain expertise to handle them."

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, which oversees the NWS, estimates about \$1.2 million

would be saved by closing the 60-person regional office that oversees operations in 10 states from New Mexico to Florida and Puerto Rico.

"The plan as we know it now would call for a three-regional-office configuration for the continental U.S.," Anderson said. "In the changeover from four to three regional offices, about half the staff would be cut and the rest transferred to regional offices in Salt Lake City, Kansas City, Mo., and New York."

Anderson is concerned about the efficiency of the plan that would probably transfer many of the Fort Worth offices' duties to the Kansas City facility. Under the plan, the central region could stretch from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico.

"With this proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, we could have a hurricane going down here and a winter storm in the north," he said.

Anderson said he was not convinced the plan would save as much as the administration estimated.

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