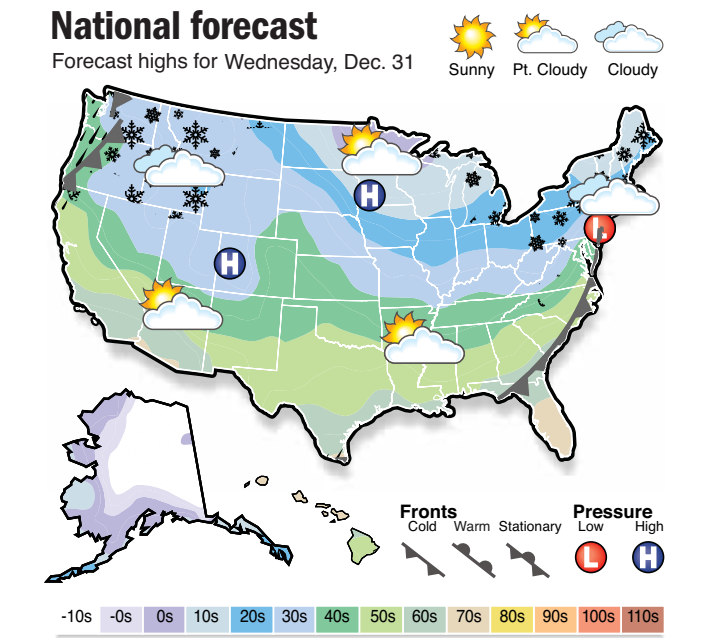


SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

WETM 18 Storm Team
Meteorologist Nick Bannin
Meteorologist Joe Pasquarelli
Meteorologist Vanessa Richards

Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Heavy snow early, then lighter, windy	Mostly sunny and cold	Cloudy, light snow or flurries	Occ. snow, windy	M. cloudy, possible light snow showers	Partly sunny	Partly sunny, light snow later
High 26 Low 22	High 25 Low 9	High 33 Low 13	High 29 Low 18	High 32 Low 16	High 31 Low 18	High 28 Low 10



	YESTERDAY			TODAY			TOMORROW		
	Hi	Lo	Prc	Hi	Lo	Otlk	Hi	Lo	Otlk
Albany	34	24	.02	23	21	Snow	16	4	Clr
Boston	40	32	.01	29	27	Snow	21	11	Clr
Buffalo	29	28		21	19	Snow	26	11	PCldy
Chicago	40	28		22	15	Clr	32	12	Clcy
Cincinnati	54	26		32	29	Snow	39	15	PCldy
Cleveland	38	28		26	23	Snow	33	17	PCldy
Columbus, Ohio	46	30		27	27	Snow	3	15	Clr
Denver	58	40		52	17	PCldy	47	23	PCldy
Detroit	34	28		23	23	Snow	28	11	Clcy
Honolulu	78	72		81	68	PCldy	79	67	Clcy
Juneau	19	12		16	1	Clr	14	6	Clr
Los Angeles	76	54		74	52	Clr	68	52	Clr
New Orleans	70	42		63	53	PCldy	62	45	PCldy
New York City	42	41		35	31	Snow	28	16	Clr
Orlando	76	53		73	48	PCldy	67	49	PCldy
Philadelphia	47	34		41	33	Clcy	34	21	Clr
Phoenix	73	46		74	44	Clr	71	46	Clr
Pittsburgh	40	31		31	29	Snow	29	14	PCldy
Portland, Ore.	43	38		43	39	Rain	46	37	Rain
Providence	40	28	.01	31	23	Snow	22	11	Clr
Richmond	57	40		52	39	Clr	41	20	Clr
Sacramento	51	40		55	35	PCldy	54	39	PCldy
St. Louis	66	29		32	24	Clr	47	22	PCldy
St. Petersburg	71	63		69	57	PCldy	70	54	PCldy
Salt Lake City	37	20		38	21	PCldy	40	25	Clcy
San Antonio	75	34		64	45	Clr	64	39	Clcy
San Diego	67	47		62	49	Clr	61	50	Clr
San Francisco	55	44	.01	55	42	PCldy	54	42	PCldy
San Juan, P.R.	82	72	.01	83	70	Clr	82	69	PCldy
Santa Fe	51	20		44	22	Clr	45	22	Clr
St. Ste. Marie	18	18	.03	12	1	Clr	23	3	Snow
Seattle	43	36		m	m	mm	m	m	mm
Shreveport	65	31		55	40	Clr	56	30	Clr
Sioux Falls	26	23		19	2	Clr	34	17	Clcy
Spokane	30	22		32	28	Snow	31	22	Snow
Syracuse	31	30	.04	21	20	Snow	20	5	Snow
Tampa	74	63		72	56	PCldy	72	50	PCldy

NEW YORK
Today will see now in the morning with a chance of snow showers in the afternoon; total snow accumulation of 3-6 inches. Highs in the mid-20s.

Tonight will be mostly cloudy with lows around 5.

Thursday will be partly sunny with highs in the lower 20s.

Thursday night will be mostly cloudy with lows near 15.

WEATHER HISTORY
In 1929, Greenland Ranch, in Death Valley, Calif., went the entire year without measurable precipitation.

CONSUMERS

Continued from 1A

Those claiming business conditions are “bad” increased to 46 percent in December from 40.6 percent in November. Consumer spending is likely to keep dropping well into next year, Saporta said, meaning the recession will last at least into the first half of 2009.

The conditions that began the recession persist, especially deflating home prices. A measure of October home prices dropped by the sharpest annual rate on record. The Standard & Poor’s/Case-Shiller 20-city housing index fell by 18 percent from October 2007, the largest drop since its inception in 2000. The 10-city index tumbled 19.1 percent, its biggest decline in its 21-year history.

“The numbers are getting worse. And I think they will get quite a bit worse over the next two months because housing demand has plunged since the market went into turmoil,” said Patrick Newport, an economist at IHS Global Insight.

The Federal Reserve said Tuesday it will begin purchasing up to \$500 billion in mortgage-backed securities early next month in an effort to bolster the housing market. The Fed first announced that it would purchase the securities in late November but did not say when they would begin. The central bank will buy securities guaranteed by the government-backed home loan giants Fannie Mae,

Freddie Mac and Ginnie Mae. Consumers have been whipsawed by home prices, the deteriorating job market and shrinking nest eggs. According to preliminary data from SpendingPulse, which tracks purchases paid for by credit cards, checks or cash, retail sales fell between 5.5 and 8 percent during the holiday season compared with last year. Excluding auto and gas sales, they fell 2 to 4 percent.

“This year is the roughest year we’ve had,” said 35-year-old Anah Meeks, who was at Crabtree Valley Mall in north Raleigh, N.C., before Christmas mainly to get a picture of her 8-month-old son sitting on Santa’s lap. “We were wondering how we were going to do it.”

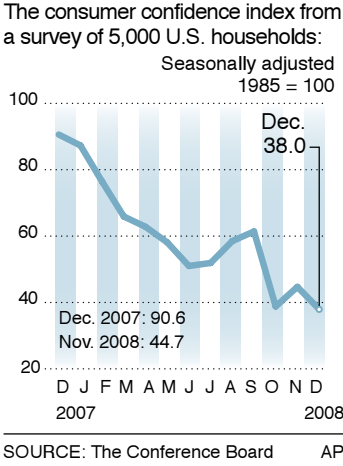
Meeks, who moved from Michigan in November after losing her job at a McDonald’s Corp. restaurant, said she was buying her two older daughters one main present for the holidays and a few smaller items.

Major retailers are expected to report sharply lower sales than last year when they release those figures Jan. 8. Analysts expect a rash of store closings and bankruptcies from both retailers and their suppliers.

A number of stores didn’t even make it to Christmas. Circuit City Stores Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection last month. It plans to keep operating, but toy seller KB Toys, which filed for bankruptcy earlier this month, is liquidating its stores and will shut down.

With credit tight and even steep discounts failing to spur

Confidence slips



spending from tapped-out consumers, economists are looking to government spending to restart the economy. Aides to President-elect Barack Obama are discussing a new stimulus package that could be as large as \$775 billion.

Stocks rose despite the reading, taking heart after General Motors Corp.’s troubled financing arm received \$5 billion of financing. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 184.46 to 8,668.39, while broader indexes also gained. The stock market has seen its worst year since Herbert Hoover was president, with the Dow down roughly 36 percent.

The Conference Board’s Present Situation index, which measures how respondents feel about current business conditions and employment prospects, fell to 29.4 in December from 42.3 in November. It is now close to levels last seen after the 1990-1991 recession.

CHANGING

Continued from 1A

“A lot had to do with name recognition,” Massa said. “When I started, nobody knew who I was. I built upon initial name recognition. I offered a viable, plain-spoken alternative to what they were seeing in Washington.”

Massa said a big part of his winning formula was a dedicated group of volunteers and campaign staff.

“It was a team effort,” Massa said. “The majority of our team was made up of very committed, hard working vol-

unteers. We broke the mold. Most political campaigns are made up of very dedicated young people. On our campaign we had a certain element of mature volunteers.”

It didn’t hurt Massa’s chances that his opponent made a number of missteps during the campaign. Kuhl did not return to his district to campaign during Congress’ summer recess, instead deciding to stay in Washington to join other House Republicans in protesting Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s position on domestic drilling.

At the time, it looked like Republicans, including Kuhl, might get some traction out of the issue. Gas prices continue to rise over the summer, hitting record levels on a seemingly daily basis.

A failing economy and falling gas prices, however, largely blunted domestic drilling as an issue for Republicans.

Perhaps Kuhl’s biggest public relations blunder was his decision not to debate Massa in public. Although the two did meet in several debates without a studio audience, many thought Kuhl’s decision made him appear out of touch and afraid to answer questions from district residents.

Since the election, repeated attempts to solicit comment from Kuhl have been unsuccessful.

“I don’t think critiquing (Kuhl’s) distancing himself from voters is speaking ill,”

Massa said. “When you are a public person in a public job, what you do publicly is part of the discussion. All I can do is offer a significant difference in how I conduct myself. My number one goal is to reach out to people who voted against me and earn their confidence, trust and respect.”

Massa also took advantage of a political climate which greatly favored Democrats. Democrats picked up seven seats in the Senate and 20 in the House. They also gained control of the New York State Senate for the first time since 1965.

Massa admitted, however, that his election does not represent a sea of change in the political alignment of the 29th Congressional District. He knows he’s on probation and it wouldn’t take too much for him to become a one-term Congressman.

“I’m an FDR Democrat in a Herbert Hoover district,” Massa said. “I have to be very aware of putting the word representation into the title of representative. I have to wake up every morning and work hard and take nothing for granted. I can speak not only for myself, but for every member of Congress I’ve met since the election. There is a tremendous sense of urgency in Washington. The nation is facing unprecedented challenges. I have a sense of incredible responsibility I’ve not had since commanding military personnel in hostile environments.”

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EVENTS

Continued from 1A

There will be a champagne toast and hors d’oeuvres at midnight, along with a viewing of the ball drop in New York City’s Times Square. Also included is breakfast for two in the hotel’s Grill 125, and a late checkout of 3 p.m. on New Year’s Day. The cost is \$189 per couple, plus tax. To make reservations, call 962-5000.

Market Street
The Cellar on Corning’s Market Street is hosting a private cocktail and wine party with appetizers, desserts, live music, champagne toasts and more. The cost is \$75 per person. The Cellar is located at 21 W. Market St. For more details, call 377-5552.

There will also be music and New Year’s Eve festivities at a number of downtown Corning nightspots: Virgil Cain at The Snooty Pig; Brian Hughes, Joe Schusler and Loveberger at Maley’s; an over/under dance party with two DJs at Lando’s, to name a few.

First Arena
Elmira’s First Arena will host a New Year’s Eve “Rock and Skate” for teenagers from 9:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. in the arena’s recreation rink. A DJ from 94 Rock will be playing music. Admission is \$10, which includes skate rental. For more details, call 734-PUCK.

Green Pastures
Green Pastures, a jazz club in Elmira, will present a New Year’s Eve celebration from 7:30 to 12:30 p.m. Local jazz guitarist John Manfredi has assembled a band to play throughout the evening, and Green Pastures owner Howard Coleman will prepare a buffet dinner and snacks, featuring some of his family soul food recipes. There will also be a champagne toast at midnight. Green Pastures is located at 732 Madison Ave., on the east side of Elmira. Admission is \$25 or \$40 per couple. For details, call 732-5870.

Elmira Holiday Inn
For the 21st year, The Sam Pallet Band will play at the New Year’s Eve bash at The Holiday Inn in downtown Elmira.

Doors open at 8:30 p.m. The party starts at 9 p.m., and will feature rock and blues by Sam Pallet, a Corning-based band led by guitarist and vocalist Mike Giannone.

There will also be a buffet prepared by Chef Bill Winnie, and an open bar with beer, wine, well drinks and soda from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. On New Year’s Day, there will be a breakfast buffet, and a 3 p.m. checkout.

The cost is \$225 per couple, and reservations are required. Holiday Inn is located on East Water Street. For details, call 734-0402.