

El Nino To Remain Strong Into Next Spring

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Thanks to the El Nino weather system, look for cooler, wetter conditions than normal this winter. That's the word from both South Dakota and Illinois meteorologists.

El Nino will continue to play a significant role in North America's climate for the next several months, according to the latest temperature and precipitation outlooks, released Thursday by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"The current El Nino is forecast to increase in intensity through the winter season," said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist, in a news release. "As a result, this fall we will continue to see the impacts of the warm tropical Pacific Ocean on our climate in the U.S.," she said.

With a strong El Nino, expect warmer conditions in the coming months, Edwards said.

"NOAA's Climate Prediction Center's outlook for September and the season ahead indicate a typical El Nino pattern, with warmer than average conditions expected in the west and southeast," she said.

For South Dakota, Edwards said that this should mean near average tempera-

tures throughout the month of September.

"An area south of South Dakota - expanding from the Four Corners to the Great Lakes - is forecast to be cooler than average in September. This region just touches southern South Dakota in the updated maps."

Due to the projected El Nino, a large area of the nation is leaning toward wetter than average conditions in September, said South Dakota state climatologist Dennis Today in a news release.

The highest likelihood focused over the southwest, expanding eastward into the Great Plains, said Today, an SDSU Extension climate specialist.

"This area also reaches just into the southern counties of South Dakota," he said. "Based on historical data from recent decades, during historical El Nino events, September does not show a strong tendency toward either wetter or drier conditions."

Looking ahead to the months of September, October and November, the area forecast to be cooler than average is restricted to the Southern Plains, Today said.

"Much of the Northern Plains and Midwest region, including South Dakota, is projected to have equal chances of temperatures that are near above, below or near average," he said.

Looking down the line,

El Nino looks to create a warmer and drier winter, said Illinois state climatologist Jim Angel during a national conference call.

"El Nino will probably stay strong at the top of the charts all the way through December, January and February, and then taper off," he said. "But it still stays at about 70 percent chance in March, April and May."

That translates into a warmer, drier winter, Angel said.

"For December, January and February, during the core winter months, there is an increased chance of above average temperatures through the central United States," he said.

"El Nino tends to reduce winter snowfall in some cases, so that might be another side effect of El Nino this winter is decreased snow fall."

The effect looks to remain in the spring, Angel said.

"For the March, April, May forecast for us in the Central region, the key thing is slightly increased chances of above average temperatures across the northern tier (of states)," he said.

So what is the impact on the upcoming harvest?

The outlook for fall season precipitation continues to show wetter than average conditions from the Southwest to Mississippi River and Tennessee River valleys, Today said.

"This region includes South Dakota, which is representative of several long-range climate computer models," he said.

Overall, the chances of wetter than average conditions during corn and soybean harvest are increasing, particularly in southern South Dakota.

"It may be wise to consider marketing options and plans for logistics in fall harvest season if this long-range outlook verifies," Edwards said.

The outlook for winter 2015-2016 is projected to be warmer than average across the northern states. At this time, Edwards said there is no particular leaning wet or dry for South Dakota in the winter season outlook.

However, you can't assume one El Nino will act like another, Angel said. He pointed to two extreme examples where El Nino wasn't the whole story.

"We're looking at the wintertime departure during 1997-98, when the winter was so mild that people were playing golf in Chicago in January," he said. "Then, you had 2009-2010 that was much colder than average."

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Expenses For 4 State Tourneys Went Far Over The Budgeted Amounts

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – Expenses ran more than 30 percent over budget for the four state basketball and wrestling tournaments held in Sioux Falls and Rapid City this year.

Now directors for the South Dakota High School Activities Association want the staff to get better control over the contracts for the 2016 events.

Executive director Wayne Carney and assistant executive director John Krogstrand told the board Wednesday they are trying.

Several directors said they didn't understand why the costs for the 2015 events weren't better known in advance.

No other state athletic events during the 2014-2015 school year ran more than 10 percent over budget and most came in under budget.

Board chairman Jason Uttermark of Aberdeen Central said he could see the difficulty of predicting revenues. "But expenses should be relatively obvious up front – and we're missing it by a

bunch," Uttermark said.

The state tournaments for Class AA boys basketball and Class AA and Class A girls basketball produced less revenue than anticipated.

For the Class A boys basketball tournament at the Rapid City civic center, the combined cost for rent, facilities fee and custodial service was \$41,021.86, when \$15,000 was budgeted.

For the Class AA boys basketball tournament in Sioux Falls at the Sanford Premier Center, the total cost for rent, facilities fee and custodial service was \$70,215.09, when \$40,000 was budgeted.

The Class B wrestling tournament in Rapid City ran \$11,438.89 over budget, with rent, facilities fee, custodial service, set-up and 5 percent gross costing \$22,629.56 and ticket handling \$5,007.97.

The Class A wrestling tournament in Sioux Falls went \$16,465.94 over budget, with rent, facilities fee, custodial service and set-up costing \$31,143.66 and ticket handling costing \$12,585.52.

The 2016 boys basketball tournaments will be Class AA in Sioux Falls and Class A in Rapid City. Class B will

again be in Aberdeen. Both 2016 wrestling tournaments will be in Rapid City.

By comparison, the 2015 Class B boys basketball tournament in Aberdeen at Northern State University ran \$287 over the \$4,000 budgeted cost for rent, facility fee and custodial service.

The various venues also received management fees that differed somewhat. They were \$8,000 at Aberdeen and \$8,500 each at Sioux Falls and Rapid City. The management fees for the wrestling tournaments were \$7,500 each. The three girls basketball tournaments were a uniform \$5,500.

SDHSAA staff members said two of the challenges in Sioux Falls and Rapid City are the additional ticket charges and the higher number of personnel needed at the large arenas.

Director Sandy Klatt of Brandon suggested that if Sioux Falls and the Premier Center want to continue hosting South Dakota state championship events there should be some flexibility in contracts.

"That's what we're working on," SDHSAA executive director Wayne Carney replied.

Officer

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instill that in kids at a young age so hopefully it will carry through their lives so they remember that cops aren't bad and that we want them to come to us when they have problems."

Voss hopes to counteract the bad publicity law enforcement has received in recent times.

"The last couple of years have been brutal," he said. "The media has not helped at all with that. If you can write a story on a law enforcement topic you're front page. Not every cop is a bad cop. Some of those guys definitely made some stupid decisions. They get all the attention. There's so much that goes unseen. There are officers that do amazing things every day and they get overlooked."

Voss looks forward to being able to share his knowledge with the kids, especially for the DARE program which begins for all fifth and sixth graders in January and lasts for 10 weeks.

Voss himself attended an 80-hour course in preparation.

"Officer Peterson and I will split up the classes because there's so many fifth and sixth grade classes," he said. "He'll take a couple and I'll take a couple. We're taught to teach from teenager to senior in high

school. We have the material and the knowledge we need to do that."

Instruction will be slightly different for the younger kids at Austin.

"These classes are only meant to last five to ten minutes," he said, showing posters used in the lessons. "This one you would walk them through and explain what 911 is for, who responds, why you would call 911. Then we go over signs, what they mean and what you do when you see them. The dangers at home. They used to have Mr. Poison when I was a kid."

Other safety talks include how to cross streets, get off the bus and stranger danger.

Some lessons even deal with social skills.

"These identify emotions," Voss said showing a few posters. "What is this kid feeling? Once you've identified the feeling what do you do next? You think about what your options are and how did it work out? It's all part of the DARE decision making model. It comes in handy even for adults."

According to Voss, the DARE decision model includes:

- Decide what are you faced with;
- Analyze what your options are and the consequences;
- Respond after you've weighed your options; and,
- Evaluate how well it worked out.

As far as an actual drug problem, Voss said it is always a concern.

"My argument is if it's here it's a problem no matter the quantity," Voss said. "Marijuana is obviously a pretty common thing now that other states are legalizing it. It's not seen as dangerous as it should be. But then there's the prescription medication abuse which is pretty huge."

Parents can help, Voss said mostly by being involved and paying attention.

"I think the biggest thing parents can do when it comes to safety and reinforcing it is just communicating with their kids," he said. "Be involved and talk to your kids. They'll tell you."

According to Voss, parents should not shy away from going further if needed.

"Don't be afraid to get into their business," he said. "Find out who they're talking to, find out what they're talking about. There's nothing wrong with taking your kid's cell phone and reading through their snap chats, text messages or whatever social media the kid's using. That's where the things that end up hurting the kids and other kids is being missed. The parents aren't picking up on that quickly enough. So, if they're able to do that we can hopefully get ahead of and prevent a lot of problems like cyberbullying."

Parents can also help

keep their kids safe by preparing them for the trip to and from school.

"It all goes back to the parent communicating with the child and knowing if the child is mature enough to handle getting on and off the bus and responsible enough to know which bus they need to get on, where they need to get off, what their home address is, what mom or dad's phone number is, where mom and dad work," Voss said. "You child should be able to answer all those questions before, in my opinion, they're able to ride the bus and walk home on their own. Kids make mistakes, get distracted, might miss their drop off point if they're talking to a friend. They need to know what to do if that happens. Don't just drop off your kids at school and wish them luck. Talk to your kids. Prepare them for it. They need to be able to know what to do."

Vermillion Schools Superintendent Mark Froke agrees that communication is the best way to avoid missing children after school.

"There are times when children don't arrive at home at the expected time after school," he said. "This obviously causes concern and often requires school and law enforcement personnel to search for these children."

According to Froke, children are usually found at a friend's house, sleeping

in the back of the bus or simply have forgotten to get off at the right stop.

"I'd recommend parents instruct their children to always come home at the specified time and not take any detours or get off the bus at a different location," Froke said. "Students should be taught what to do if something changes at home. Also, students should be taught the safest and most direct routes home after school. If a child is visiting at your home after school I'd advise determining if the parents know their child is there."

Officer Voss looks forward to a great year in Vermillion schools.

"It has it's own unique

set of challenges," he said. "I really enjoy being around the kids. It's different than going around in a patrol car enforcing traffic laws and responding to complaints. This gives me the opportunity to be more personal. I'm here if you've got any questions on law enforcement or safety, whatever you might have I'm willing to talk. I like it when kids pop in between classes or when they're finished with their lunch. They'll stop in and we'll just talk. We'll talk about football or about what they did over the weekend. It's nice being perceived as a person in a uniform rather than a disciplinarian."



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A Look Back...

LOOKING BACK ... IN THE WORDS OF THE DAKOTA REPUBLICAN

Addition To U.S.D. Museum

MANAGER BUCHANAN OF THE YANKEE ROBINSON CIRCUS, DONATES MAMMOTH TORTOISE TO THE U.

DAKOTA REPUBLICAN – MAY 6, 1915

The University Museum is richer by two fine specimens of the Testudines order as a result of the visit of the Yankee Robinson circus to Vermillion this week. The large tortoise which has been heralded as one of the big attractions of the show for this season, and which had proven a big drawing card as long as the show had been on the road this year, died on Saturday night. On Monday, it was seen that it would be impossible to carry this mammoth tortoise with them any longer, and that some disposition would have to be made of it. It occurred to Chief of Police Brown that it would make a good addition to the University museum, and he immediately got into touch with the University authorities. Professor Ward came down to look after the matter and was pleased at the prospect of adding so fine a specimen to the museum. Mr. Buchanan was interviewed in regard to the matter, and without any delay he wrote an order for the big tortoise to be turned over to the University museum. And in addition to this gift he also turned over another large turtle which was used for the sake of comparison with the larger one. These specimens were immediately taken in charge by the museum authorities and will be suitably mounted and prepared for exhibition and placed in the museum. This is one of the most valuable additions made to the museum in some time. The large tortoise weighs 360 pounds. Both were captured in the Sandwich Islands, and represent a portion of the country that it is very unlikely would never have found its way into the University museum had it not been for the circumstances above mentioned. "Buck" Buchanan remembers his early days at the University, and was pleased to be able to do something for the institution of learning where his younger days were spent, and where the articles then contained in the museum afforded splendid ammunition for some of the pranks that occasionally were pulled off by him and his associates in those early days.

Information Compiled by Tom Thaden
Past President Clay County Historical Society