



SHOPPING - PRINT ADS
Print ads, inserts and special sections all searchable online.
*New Feature: COUPONS



County News

search site Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

Home > News > Boulder & County News

La Nina may herald an extreme spring for Boulder

Climate experts say event may bring surprises in weather

By Vanessa Miller (Contact)
Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Windblown

Boulder-area residents braced against heavy winds early Monday, with some gusts topping 60 mph, according to meteorologist Matt Kelsch.

The strongest winds in Boulder reached 63 mph before sunrise near the National Center for Atmospheric Research facility, Kelsch said. Some weather reports showed gusts reaching 70 mph in Superior.

Boulder police said they didn't receive many calls about wind damage, although firefighters responded at 6:11 a.m. to a blaze at a condominium complex that started after a recently used charcoal grill blew over and caught some bushes on fire.

Kelsch said this is Boulder's windy time of year, and this week will continue to be gusty.

Today's high temperature is forecast to reach 44; Wednesday is expected to top 50; and Thursday is expected to be colder, with a high of 31, according to the National Weather Service.

There's a good chance of snow Wednesday night and Thursday.

The hefty winds that whipped through Boulder County early Monday pale in comparison to some of the extreme weather that's blasted, buried and frozen many parts of the world so far this winter.

Still, the "very strong La Niña event" that meteorologists are blaming for unusually strong storms elsewhere could have some surprises in store for the Front Range, said Boulder-area weather experts.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we see some pretty extreme weather going into the spring -- hail, snow, tornadoes," said Klaus Wolter, a researcher at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Diagnostics Center.

Many spots around the globe already have felt La Niña's presence.

The deadliest tornado outbreak in 20 years swept through the Mississippi Valley last week, killing 55 people in the Southeast and destroying an estimated 1,000 homes in Tennessee.

China was blasted by its worst snowstorm in a century last month, leaving millions of travelers stranded in airports, train stations and on clogged highways.

Wisconsin and northern Illinois had tornadoes in January, an extremely rare weather event.

More than 750 people have died from severe cold and heavy snow across Afghanistan.

And last week in Alaska, a near-record low was recorded at 72 degrees below zero.

Boulder County so far this season has seen about average conditions, but Wolter warned that anything can happen.

"That's part of the whole increased variability of La

Edible Arrangements
Touch their heart & their sweet tooth

Berry Chocolate Bouquet

303-499-9222
Boulder
www.ediblearrangements.com

MOST EMAILED

MOST COMMENTED

The most e-mailed stories

- Forbes names Boulder 'smartest city' in U.S.
- Rough waters: Local housing market took a hit in '07
- Boulder Chili's to close
- Feeling the healing at Lafayette YMCA
- Boulder City Council ponders resolution on calling to impeach Bush
- Crocs sued for \$7M over escalator accident
- La Nina may herald an extreme spring for Boulder


STORY TOOLS

- E-mail story
- Comments
- iPod friendly
- Printer friendly

MORE BOULDER & COUNTY NEWS

- Impact Awards: Educators at head of class
- Water fixes in the city pipeline
- Obama, McCain triple winners

Obama, McCain triple winners

 **SHARE AND ENJOY [?]**

ShareThis

Share your video, photos and news tips.

Niña," he said.

La Niña is a weather event that occurs when cooler sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean impact global weather patterns.

Although many of this year's weather extremes are consistent with La Niña activity, Wolter said

researchers also are considering whether climate change is partly to blame for the temperature extremes and unusual storms.

"As these things happen, you have to get perspective before making big statements about it," Wolter said. "But the outbreak in Wisconsin is highly unlikely, the snow in China is unusual and the cold in Alaska is unusual."

Meteorologist Matt Kelsch said the nation's thunderstorms and tornadoes might be a sign there's more warmth and moisture in the air.

"The significant tornado outbreaks this winter are a climate-change signal," he said. "So that is one thing that will definitely be studied and looked at."

Denver had a "thunder snow" a couple of weeks ago, which Kelsch said is a rare occurrence for Colorado in midwinter and a sign that "Something is going on." He said it could mean there's more heat lower in the atmosphere.

"We always have to ask about climate when stuff like this happens," he said.

Contact Camera Staff Writer Vanessa Miller at 303-473-1329 or millerv@dailycamera.com.

<u>Refinance and Save \$1,000s</u> \$150,000 Mortgage for \$483/month. Compare up to 4 free www.pickamortgage.com	<u>Refinance \$300,000 for Only</u> \$300,000 Mortgage for only \$965/month. Save \$1,000's - No www.HomeLoanHelpLine.c	<u>Fed Cuts Interest Rates Again</u> Mortgage Rates Hit 26 Month Lows. Calculate Your New www.LowerMyBills.com
---	--	---

Ads by Yahoo!

Comments

Posted by meatpieandtatters on February 12, 2008 at 3:34 a.m. (Suggest removal)
What the hail is going on?

Posted by john_notbush on February 12, 2008 at 6:37 a.m. (Suggest removal)
The sky is changing! The sky is changing! Run for your lives!

Posted by Yerba on February 12, 2008 at 8:03 a.m. (Suggest removal)
Yeah, but what are we supposed to do?!?! They didn't tell us that part! Now I'm freaked out. Why didn't they tell us what we're supposed to do?! I need to prepare! I need to build a shelter or something. How much time do I have?! They can't leave us hanging like that ...

Posted by edwizer26 on February 12, 2008 at 8:13 a.m. (Suggest removal)
Umm yeah, the same professional weather guessers also told us this would be a dry winter, yeahh.

Posted by ewilson on February 12, 2008 at 8:27 a.m. (Suggest removal)
"researchers also are considering whether climate change is partly to blame for the temperature extremes and unusual storms."
Ok researchers, try to figure this one out:
How does Climate Change (aka Global Warming) cause a La Nina affect, which is defined as unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean.
If one of them can explain how "warming" causes "cooling", maybe they could try their hand at predicting earthquakes!

Posted by 123456 on February 12, 2008 at 8:45 a.m. (Suggest removal)
So what I am hearing is that because there has been a lot of extreme weather in various places around the world, we can count on the weather in Boulder this spring to be unpredictable. We are not sure what to expect, but it could be extreme... I wish I were a weather forecaster.

Posted by Diff on February 12, 2008 at 9:12 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Ewilson,edwiser,
Go to CU, and audit a class or two or at least read a book! Get some realistic understanding about basic earth science and meteorology before you go spouting off about how wrong these predictions are ...
Oh Sorry, that word – realistic, guess that would expect too much ...

Posted by rburg on February 12, 2008 at 9:33 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

The La Nina "may" herald and extreme spring. Or it may not. It may also mean there'll be snow tomorrow, or maybe not, or it may mean we'll have rain in June, or maybe not. Basically the headline said nothing of value. Of just as much interest and equally connected is Obama in the headlines wanting to bury Hillary. Every candidate wants to bury his/her opponent. Just as wanting doesn't make things happen, neither does La Nina have any predictable influence on spring.

Posted by glaciator on February 12, 2008 at 9:42 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

The Climate Diagnostics Center is part of CIRES, not NOAA. Get it right DC!

Posted by moorek on February 12, 2008 at 9:51 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

How does climate control, such as cloud seeding fit into this? Think the ski areas seeding the clouds to create great conditions a couple of years ago, changed anything? The military also playing with climate control as a tactical ploy? When we mess with nature, nature will mess us up.

Posted by dont on February 12, 2008 at 10:42 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Actually it was Karl Rove who was messing with the climate control knob. It has been widely speculated, but I can say with certainty that Karl's playing is what brought Hurricane Katrina to our shores.

I thought that we were not to confabulate between "weather" and "climate". It seems that this article is doing just that.

And before anyone tells me I need to take some classes: Back off man, I'm a Scientist (in statistics and modeling!).

Posted by Sea_Bass on February 12, 2008 at 11:29 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Can La Nina be deported?

Posted by slehan on February 12, 2008 at 12:02 p.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

I oppose Non-Global Pacific Cooling.

Posted by driveby_poster on February 12, 2008 at 6:17 p.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

"Wolter said researchers also are considering whether climate change is partly to blame for the temperature extremes and unusual storms."

Deep consideration is what drives the gubmit grants that pay to advance this Global Warming croc. No doubt even more tax money will be now needed to create the latest 'the debate is over and the science is in' theory.

Posted by channelc44 on February 12, 2008 at 6:28 p.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

"Deep consideration is what drives the gubmit grants that pay to advance this Global Warming croc. No doubt even more tax money will be now needed to create the latest 'the debate is over and the science is in' theory."

Just because this article is really poorly written, it doesn't mean that Climate Change isn't happening :)

Posted by PCR on February 12, 2008 at 8:08 p.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

I was in Wichita this weekend and at 4 am we had a thunderstorm while the air temp was about 20 degrees. It rained, sleeted and hailed. I have never seen anything like that in 25 years in Kansas.

Posted by FrictionSoul on February 13, 2008 at 6:37 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

I've experienced lighting snowstorms on 5 occasions, all but this one, in the 70's. I don't think they're that big of a deal nor do they portend anything about climate change.

Overall, the DC sucks like everyone else when it comes to climate change. They have a special section about murder, but nothing about the biggest issue this society and planet faces. When it comes to communications, most scientists are poor communicators. Cold in Alaska? You are kidding me! But I think what he meant was for this time of the year, or relative to other area temperatures?

To me, it's fascinating that we have all this technology and zero control over weather. I wouldn't change a thing about it. But for skeptics to marginalize global warming/climate change takes no effort, no leap of faith, no work, no study, nothing at all and then to turn around and call their nothingness as something worth paying attention to?

Maybe I should just shut up and set up a climate change blog and blog about the weather, and maybe get Klaus to blog about it too? I mean, every time he says the word "dry" we get wet. That has some value, doesn't it?

Posted by rapwithtom on February 13, 2008 at 7:55 a.m. ([Suggest removal](#))

Anybody else think that they should just close up NCAR/NIST/NOAA? Those organizations could just go *poof* and nobody on the planet earth would ever notice their absence!

Post your comment

Comments are the sole responsibility of the person posting them. You agree not to post comments that are off topic, defamatory, obscene, abusive, threatening or an invasion of privacy. Violators may be banned. [Click here for our full user agreement.](#)

Camera staff does not actively monitor comments. If you believe a comment breaks the [user agreement](#), please flag the comment and someone will take a look at it.

Username: calvord ([Log out](#))

Your Turn:



Scripps Newspaper Group — Online
© 2008 The E.W. Scripps Co.
[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#)



Camera & [dailycamera.com](#) | 1048 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO 80302 | (303) 442-1202 | [Contact Us](#) | [Staff](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Job Openings](#) | [Advertising Information](#)
Visit our other websites: [DailyCamera.com](#) | [ColoradoDaily.com](#) | [BroomfieldEnterprise.com](#) | [EPTrail.com](#) | [LamarLedger.com](#) | [FortMorganTimes.com](#) | [BrushTribune.com](#) | [Journal-Advocate.com](#) | [Boulder Womens Magazine](#) | [WheelsColorado.com](#) | [Buffzone.com](#)

Comparison shop at [Shopzilla](#) and [BizRate](#) | [uSwitch.com](#) compares [gas & electricity](#), [home phone](#), [mobile phones](#), [broadband](#), [credit cards](#), [loans](#) and [car insurance](#)