



# Here Comes The Cold

## Polar Vortex' To Blast Frigid Air Over Much Of US

**BY CARSON WALKER**  
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS — The weather warnings are dire: Life threatening wind chills. Historic cold outbreak. Bitter cold temperatures.

Winter is normally cold, but starting Sunday tundra-like temperatures are poised to deliver a rare and potentially dangerous sledgehammer blow to much of the Midwest, driving temperatures so far below zero that records will shatter.

One reason? A "polar vortex," as one meteorologist calls it, which will send cold air piled up at the North Pole down to the U.S., funneling it as far south as the Gulf Coast.

The temperature predictions are startling: 25 below zero in Fargo, N.D., minus 31 in International Falls, Minn., and 15 below in Indianapolis

and Chicago. At those temperatures, exposed skin can get frostbitten in minutes and hypothermia can quickly set in because wind chills could hit 50, 60 or even 70 below zero.

Temperature records will likely be broken during the short, yet forceful deep freeze that will begin in many places on Sunday and extend into early next week. That's thanks to a perfect combination of the jet stream, cold surface temperatures and the polar vortex — a counterclockwise-rotating pool of cold, dense air, said Ryan Maue, of Tallahassee, Fla., a meteorologist for Weather Bell.

"All the ingredients are there for a near-record or historic cold outbreak," he said. "If you're under 40 (years old), you've not seen this stuff before."



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## Dealing With The Chill

**BY DEREK BARTOS**  
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With the Yankton area predicted to feel the bite of a cold front sweeping across the northern Great Plains this weekend, officials are advising residents to take necessary precautions to endure the conditions.

According to the National Weather Service in Sioux Falls, temperatures around Yankton will begin falling today (Saturday), with a high of 18 degrees. Temperatures will continue to drop tonight, with a low of -4 and a high Sunday of -1.

"The coldest air is going to be moving in during the day Sunday and Sunday night," said NWS meteorologist Marc Chenard. "Sunday night we're forecasting a low temperature of -16, and a high Monday of only -9. Wind chills Sunday night into Monday morning are expected to get down to -40."

The frigid temperatures are expected to last through Monday night, with a low of -13, before rebounding Tuesday.

Since prolonged exposure to such low temperatures can result in cold-related injuries from frostbite and hypothermia, the best course of action to remain safe is to stay indoors whenever possible, said Laurie Edwards, SDSU Extension climate field specialist.

"You really want to limit the time outdoors and bundle up as much as you can if you are outside," she said. "The wind chills we're expecting are really dangerous. When you get to 35 or 40 below, you can get frostbite within 10 minutes outdoors if you don't have your skin covered."

To dress appropriately in cold weather, the Extension suggests wearing several layers of loose-fitting clothing to insulate the body by trapping warm, dry air inside. Since the head and neck lose heat faster than other parts of the body and the face and ears are most prone to frostbite, hats and scarves should be worn to protect those areas.

If a person begins to exhibit signs of cold-related injuries, the Extension recommends the following steps:

- Get the victim out of the cold and to a warm place immediately.

## Minn. Diocese Releases List Of Accused Clergy

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (AP) — The Diocese of St. Cloud joined other Roman Catholic dioceses around Minnesota Friday in releasing lists of clergy credibly accused of sexually abusing minors.

The St. Cloud diocese released a list of 33 names. Twenty-one people on the list are dead.

On Thursday, a man who says he was sexually abused by a priest in the mid-1960s held a news conference with his attorneys to demand the list's release.

But Jane Marrin, communications consultant for the diocese, told the *St. Cloud Times* the diocese already had been working on the list.

"We've been working on this for a couple of weeks, so the lawsuit that was filed was done in the middle of compiling this information," Marrin said.

The list has seven more names on it than the man and his attorneys demanded.

"An investigation was done in each case, in some instances by the civil authorities and in some instances by the church authorities," Marrin said.

In 2003, the St. Cloud diocese said there were 26 priests who had been accused of sexually molesting minors, but they had remained unnamed.

Bishop Donald Kettler said in a statement Friday that when he became bishop of the St. Cloud diocese in November, he reviewed files of claims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy in the diocese.

"I am struck by the courage and strength of the victims of abuse who have come forward. And I am impressed with the pastoral responses of my predecessors. So in mid-December, I decided to release the names of those clergy," Kettler said.

Jeff Anderson, one of the attorneys for the man who pressed for the list's release, called it "a very good first step."

"We brought disclosure and exposure of long-kept secrets. However there is still a lot to be disclosed, and we're looking forward to either getting them to do it voluntarily or requiring the courts to do it," Anderson said.

Anderson has sued other dioceses in the state. Lists of names were released in December by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Winona and Duluth dioceses, and by St. John's Abbey.

## A Face In The Window



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

**A firefighter removes a pane of glass from an upstairs window of a Yankton home that sustained fire damage Friday afternoon. The fire was reported at 4:09 p.m. and caused smoke damage to the upper floor. Two people living at the residence were displaced, and Red Cross found accommodations for them. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.**

## Library Program Helps Infants



**BY LORETTA SORENSEN**  
P&D Correspondent

**LORETTA SORENSEN/P&D**  
**Yankton Community Library Children's Librarian and Assistant Director, Becky Pittenger, directs several children's reading programs that will resume for the 2014 season on Jan. 6. The programs are designed to provide reading and education experiences for children from birth through age 5.**

What's going on behind that adorable little infant's smile? Scientists and psychologists say, "A lot!"

That's why the Yankton Community Library offers the Library Lapsit Program to parents of children from newborn to 12 months. Children's Librarian and Assistant Director Becky Pittenger says the program accomplishes many things, including introducing new parents to free library resources.

"During the lapsit, parents hold their child while library staff guide parents, caregivers or grandparents in one-on-one interactions with the child that stimulate brain development while strengthening the parent/child bond," Pittenger says. "The program exposes babies to language, songs and literature. The program is also designed to support parents in their role as

their baby's first teacher. Through the activities, parents learn about books their child will enjoy and discover the range of library resources for young children."

One reward Pittenger enjoys through the program is opportunity to watch the development and growth of children who participate in the program.

"It's interesting to note how quickly infants begin to focus on the board books used in the program," she says. "My role in the program is a facilitator, assisting parents as they do everything one-on-one with their child. It's socialization, reinforcement and bonding time as much as anything."

The Lapsit Program, Baby & Me, will resume Monday, January 6 and be held each Monday from 11:30-11:55 a.m. through Feb. 24 in the Library Meeting Room.

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## Mo. River Exhibit To Hit The Road

**BY RANDY DOCKENDORF**  
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If you live in southeast South Dakota or northeast Nebraska, Dugan Smith is bringing the Missouri River to a location near you.

The National Park Service (NPS) ranger is converting a trailer into a mobile ranger station, with the assistance of local sign and electrical companies. The trailer, set to hit the road this spring, will offer free programs featuring educational and interactive panels about the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR).

"We'll even have a painting of the river on the floor," the ranger said.

Park rangers, headquartered in Yankton, will take the vehicle to area schools,

festivals and community events, Smith said. The trailer will also make stops at national and state parks in South Dakota and Nebraska.

"This station is unique nationwide because it's both mobile and interactive," he said. "There is one other national park that has a trailer, but it's not interpretive."

The MNRR consists of two free-flowing stretches of wild and scenic river. The 39-mile reach runs from just below Fort Randall Dam at Pickstown to Running Water. The 59-mile reach runs from just below Gavins Point Dam near Yankton to Ponca State Park in northeast Nebraska.

Upon entering the MNRR mobile ranger station, visitors will find each glass-covered display dedicated to an as-

pect of the river and its life. The panels cover topics such as fish and wildlife, American Indian culture, scenic and recreational opportunities, and geological and ecological changes.

The fish and wildlife section includes endangered, threatened and protected species, Smith said. The species featured on the panel include the least tern, piping plover, pallid sturgeon and bald eagle.

The cultural section tells the story of the Native people along the river, he said.

"There are three panels for the Yankton Sioux, Santee Sioux and Ponca tribes. We will have a short story about each of those tribes," he said. "We will also display buffalo hides and skulls, and visitors can use

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RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

**National Park Service (NPS) Ranger Dugan Smith points to features on the exterior of the mobile ranger station that will hit the road this spring, telling the story of the Missouri National Recreational River (MNRR). Work is nearly complete on the trailer's interior, which will offer interpretive displays.**