



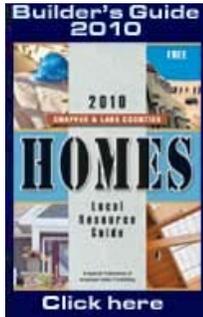
The Chaffee County Times

Weather for Buena Vista
Sunny
Time: 11:30 am
Temp: 46
RealFeel Temp: @52
Humidity: 16
Winds: SSE at 6 mph
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Tuesday, February 15, 2011

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February brings record low temperatures to BV

Kathy Davis
Times Reporter

An Arctic front that passed through Buena Vista Feb. 1-3 resulted in record low temperatures, frozen water lines and a one-day cancellation of school. Most businesses were open.

A second front with snow and temperatures not quite as cold arrived Feb. 7 and 8. The snow amount recorded at Central Colorado Regional Airport on Feb. 7 was 1.3 inches. By the end Feb. 8, a total of 4 to 5 inches of snow were expected in town. Schools were open Feb. 7 and 8.

No weather-related car accidents were reported Feb. 1-3, Buena Vista Police Chief Jim Tidwell said. As of 2 p.m., Feb. 8, none were reported, he said.

"The last surge of Arctic air is one of the coldest that Buena Vista has ever experienced," said retired meteorologist and weather recorder Mal Sillars.

Sillars said records are kept of daily highs and lows, the lowest high and the highest low as well as temperatures for the coldest and warmest days that are the average temperature for the entire day. The weather station is at the airport.

The coldest day on record was Feb. 2 with a temperature of minus 13.5, Sillars said.

"This is the lowest daily average on record going back to 1948," Sillars said. The same day, the average high of 1, the average low of minus 28 and the new daily average of minus 13.5, all set new records. A record low of minus 23 was set on Feb. 3.

On Feb. 1, new records set were for the average high of 3 and a daily average of minus 2.7. The average low temperature of minus 11 was not a record. The record average low was minus 30 in 1951, Sillars said.

On Feb. 7, the low was zero and the snow total was 1.3 inches. By the end of the day Feb. 8, the total amount of snow for in town should be 4 to 5 inches, Sillars said. The low temperature was anticipated to be in the teens.

Darren Patterson Christian Academy and Buena Vista School District R-31 cancelled school Feb. 2.

"It was dangerous for the kids to be outside because of the cold," Kathy Akers of DPCA said Feb. 7. The diesel fuel in the bus gelled and the bus would not run, she said. When DPCA reopened on Feb. 3, the number of students absent was not more than on a usual day, she said.



The temperature was minus 20 at 7:55 a.m. at High Country Bank Feb. 2. Photo by Mary Lee Bensman



Buena Vista School District R-31 superintendent Robert Crowther said school was cancelled Feb. 2 because of the extreme cold and concerns about safety of the students. Because of the extreme cold and wind chill, diesel fuel in the busses gelled and some busses did not run the morning of Feb. 3. Once the temperature rose, all busses ran in the afternoon. Crowther said the district might try a diesel fuel additive in the future to prevent gelling. When schools reopened Feb. 3, 70 students were absent at Avery-Parsons Elementary School, 40 at McGinnis Middle School and 50 at Buena Vista High School.

Buena Vista Public Works Director Roy Gertson said he had six work orders for repair of frozen water pipes on Feb. 3, and the "plumbers were busy" with additional frozen pipes throughout the area. He recommended that people run a small stream of water and keep cabinet doors open when plumbing is on the outside wall to help keep pipes from freezing.

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