

...Freezing Temperatures Further South This Week...

Breezy northwesterly winds have been bringing colder drier air into the region today behind a cold front that moved through last night. These winds combined with the cold air moving across the Gulf has led to abundant clouds from the Tampa Bay area southward and there could be a few sprinkles later this afternoon and evening, especially near the coast.

During tonight the winds will shift to a more northerly direction and this will help push the clouds back out over the Gulf. However, winds are expected to remain between 5 and 15 mph, with the highest occurring near the coast and in the vicinity of lakes, which will continue to bring in more cold air. This will lead to another potential advective freeze across much of the Nature Coast southward across the interior of Central Florida. Also, with the winds expected to continue overnight into early Wednesday, the wind chill values will drop into teens and 20s across much of the area.

On Wednesday, high pressure will be moving east across the Gulf bringing mostly sunny skies. However, with the cold air firmly entrenched the temperatures will once again struggle into the 50s, but will be above the record low maximums for the date that range from the lower 40s to lower 50s.

Northerly winds during Wednesday will continue to bring the cold dry air into West Central and Southwest Florida causing dew points to fall into the teens and 20s. This will set us up for another cold night Wednesday night as high pressure over the Gulf moves east and settles over the Florida peninsula causing winds to become light under mainly clear skies. Temperatures Wednesday night into Thursday morning are expected to fall into the upper teens to mid 20s across much of the Nature Coast with mid 20s to lower 30s stretching southward into inland portions of Southwest Florida. These low temperatures, if they occur, would be similar to what happen last winter on January 3, 2008.

On Thursday the high pressure is not expected to move very much, but the airmass will begin to modify with daytime high temperatures climbing back into the 60s across most of the area. However, it will remain very dry and with the high still in the vicinity, winds will be rather light once again Thursday night allowing for good radiational cooling to occur. Low temperatures Thursday night into Friday morning are forecast to fall into the mid to upper 20s across much of the Nature Coast,

with lower to mid 30s extending southward into inland portions of Southwest Florida. These conditions will also favor frost across much of the area.

The cold temperatures could approach record values in a couple of locations each morning, but for most sites they are not expected to be anywhere near the record temperatures for the dates, many of which occurred in 1985.

Residents of West Central and Southwest Florida, especially those away from the coast, should be prepared to protect vegetation and pets each night through Thursday. Prolonged temperatures near or below freezing may severely damage sensitive vegetation, and can be harmful to pets. In addition, if you plan on being outdoors late each night into the early morning hours be sure to bundle up and dress in layers. If you plan on using space heaters please remember they can be a fire hazard, and you should keep linens, blankets, curtains, and other flammables away from the heater at all times.

Below are tables of the record low temperatures at sites around the area for January 21, 22, and 23, along with the all-time record lows for the month of January.

RECORDS FOR JANUARY 21:

LOCATION		RECORD LOWS FOR JAN 21	NORMAL LOW	RECORDS BEGAN
ARCADIA	:ARCF1	20 IN 1971	48	1899
ARCHBOLD	:ACHF1	23 IN 1977	46	1969
AVON PARK 2 W	:AVPF1	21 IN 1985	48	1901
BARTOW	:BARF1	22 IN 1985	51	1892
BROOKSVILLE CHIN HILL	:BROF1	*13 IN 1985	48	1892
BUSHNELL 2 E	:BSHF1	*12 IN 1985	46	1948
CHIEFLAND 5 SE	:CHIF1	10 IN 1985	44	1956
FORT MYERS/PAGE FIELD	:FMY	32 IN 1985	54	1902
		& 1971		
INVERNESS 3 SE	:INVF1	*15 IN 1985	44	1948
LAKELAND LINDER FIELD	:LLDF1	*20 IN 1985	51	1948
MOUNTAIN LAKE	:LWLF1	17 IN 1985	49	1935
MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK	:MKCF1	22 IN 1971	49	1956
PARRISH	:PARF1	24 IN 1971	49	1957
PLANT CITY	:PLCF1	21 IN 1985	49	1892
PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE	:PNTF1	27 IN 1985	52	1965
		& 1971		
SARASOTA-BRADENTON	:SRQ	*23 IN 1971	51	1948
ST LEO	:STLF1	*18 IN 1985	48	1895
ST PETE/ALBERT WHITTED	:SPG	*27 IN 1985	54	1914
TAMPA INTERNATIONAL APT	:TPA	*21 IN 1985	52	1890
TARPON SPRINGS	:TRPF1	22 IN 1985	50	1892
VENICE	:VNCF1	27 IN 1985	52	1955
		& 1971		
WAUCHULA 2 N	:WAUF1	22 IN 1971	48	1933
WEEKI WACHEE	:WEEF1	17 IN 1985	45	1969
WINTER HAVEN	:WHNF1	*19 IN 1985	51	1941

* RECORD LOW FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY (SEE COMPLETE TABLE BELOW)

RECORDS FOR JANUARY 22:

LOCATION		RECORD LOWS FOR JAN 22	NORMAL LOW	RECORDS BEGAN
ARCADIA	:ARCF1	23 IN 1985	48	1899
ARCHBOLD	:ACHF1	19 IN 1985	46	1969
AVON PARK 2 W	:AVPF1	21 IN 1985	48	1901
BARTOW	:BARF1	21 IN 1985	51	1892
BROOKSVILLE CHIN HILL	:BROF1	14 IN 1985	48	1892
BUSHNELL 2 E	:BSHF1	14 IN 1985	47	1948
CHIEFLAND 5 SE	:CHIF1	*9 IN 1985	44	1956
FORT MYERS/PAGE FIELD	:FMY	30 IN 1985	54	1902
INVERNESS 3 SE	:INVF1	16 IN 1985	44	1948
LAKELAND LINDER FIELD	:LLDF1	*20 IN 1985	51	1948
MOUNTAIN LAKE	:LWLF1	*16 IN 1985	49	1935
MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK	:MKCF1	24 IN 1985	49	1956
PARRISH	:PARF1	25 IN 1985	49	1957
		& 1961		
PLANT CITY	:PLCF1	22 IN 1985	49	1892
PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE	:PNTF1	26 IN 1985	52	1965
SARASOTA-BRADENTON	:SRQ	27 IN 1985	51	1948
ST LEO	:STLF1	20 IN 1985	48	1895
ST PETE/ALBERT WHITTED	:SPG	29 IN 1985	54	1914
TAMPA INTERNATIONAL APT	:TPA	25 IN 1985	52	1890
TARPON SPRINGS	:TRPF1	30 IN 1985	50	1892
		& 1961		
VENICE	:VNCF1	27 IN 1985	52	1955
WAUCHULA 2 N	:WAUF1	23 IN 1985	48	1933
WEEKI WACHEE	:WEEF1	18 IN 1985	45	1969
WINTER HAVEN	:WHNF1	20 IN 1985	51	1941

* RECORD LOW FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY (SEE COMPLETE TABLE BELOW)

RECORDS FOR JANUARY 23:

LOCATION		RECORD LOWS FOR JAN 23	NORMAL LOW	RECORDS BEGAN
ARCADIA	:ARCF1	26 IN 1985	48	1899
ARCHBOLD	:ACHF1	18 IN 1985	46	1969
AVON PARK 2 W	:AVPF1	21 IN 1985	48	1901
BARTOW	:BARF1	28 IN 1910	51	1892
BROOKSVILLE CHIN HILL	:BROF1	27 IN 1960	48	1892
BUSHNELL 2 E	:BSHF1	20 IN 1985	47	1948
CHIEFLAND 5 SE	:CHIF1	23 IN 1960	44	1956
FORT MYERS/PAGE FIELD	:FMY	33 IN 1985	54	1902
INVERNESS 3 SE	:INVF1	17 IN 1985	44	1948
LAKELAND LINDER FIELD	:LLDF1	29 IN 1985	51	1948
MOUNTAIN LAKE	:LWLF1	18 IN 1985	49	1935
MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK	:MKCF1	26 IN 1985	49	1956
PARRISH	:PARF1	28 IN 1961	49	1957
PLANT CITY	:PLCF1	28 IN 1931	49	1892
		& 1902		
PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE	:PNTF1	30 IN 1985	52	1965
SARASOTA-BRADENTON	:SRQ	28 IN 1985	51	1948
ST LEO	:STLF1	30 IN 1960	48	1895
		& 1910		
ST PETE/ALBERT WHITTED	:SPG	36 IN 1960	54	1914
TAMPA INTERNATIONAL APT	:TPA	31 IN 1985	52	1890
TARPON SPRINGS	:TRPF1	31 IN 1960	50	1892
VENICE	:VNCF1	27 IN 1985	52	1955
WAUCHULA 2 N	:WAUF1	26 IN 1985	48	1933
WEEKI WACHEE	:WEEF1	22 IN 1985	45	1969
WINTER HAVEN	:WHNF1	20 IN 1985	51	1941

RECORDS FOR JANUARY:

LOCATION		ALL-TIME RECORD LOWS FOR JANUARY	RECORDS BEGAN
ARCADIA	:ARCF1	18 ON 01/12/1982 & 01/13/1981	1899
ARCHBOLD	:ACHF1	13 ON 01/05/2001 & 01/12/1982	1969
AVON PARK 2 W	:AVPF1	18 ON 01/14/1981	1901
BARTOW	:BARF1	18 ON 01/03/1898	1892
BROOKSVILLE CHIN HILL	:BROF1	13 ON 01/21/1985	1892
BUSHNELL 2 E	:BSHF1	12 ON 01/21/1985 & 01/13/1981	1948
CHIEFLAND 5 SE	:CHIF1	9 ON 01/22/1985	1956
FORT MYERS/PAGE FIELD	:FMY	27 ON 01/26/1905	1902
INVERNESS 3 SE	:INVF1	15 ON 01/21/1985	1948
MOUNTAIN LAKE	:LWLF1	16 ON 01/22/1985	1935
LAKELAND LINDER FIELD	:LLDF1	20 ON 01/22/1985 & 01/21/1985	1948
MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK	:MKCF1	18 ON 01/13/1981	1956
PARRISH	:PARF1	18 ON 01/13/1981	1957
PLANT CITY	:PLCF1	15 ON 01/27/1905	1892
PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE	:PNTF1	23 ON 01/12/1982	1965
SARASOTA-BRADENTON	:SRQ	23 ON 01/13/1981 & 01/21/1971	1948
ST LEO	:STLF1	18 ON 01/21/1985	1895
ST PETE/ALBERT WHITTED	:SPG	27 ON 01/21/1985	1914
TAMPA INTERNATIONAL APT	:TPA	21 ON 01/21/1985	1890
TARPON SPRINGS	:TRPF1	19 ON 01/13/1981	1892
VENICE	:VNCF1	23 ON 01/13/1981	1955
WAUCHULA 2 N	:WAUF1	20 ON 01/12/1982	1933
WEEKI WACHEE	:WEEF1	13 ON 01/13/1981	1969
WINTER HAVEN	:WHNF1	19 ON 01/21/1985	1941

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