

## High temperature in Las Cruces breaks century-old daily record

<https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/local/community/2022/06/13/weekend-temperatures-broke-record-highs-heres-what-we-know-week-weather-nws-monsoon-season-heat-nm/7609933001/>

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Las Cruces Sun-News

LAS CRUCES – The high temperature Saturday broke a daily record from over 100 years ago.

Meteorologist Jason Grzywacz of the El Paso National Weather Service said temperatures reported at New Mexico State University on Saturday reached 107 degrees Fahrenheit. The sweltering heat broke the existing daily high temperature record of 106 degrees set on June 11, 1906.

Grzywacz said Monday's high will likely reach around 105 degrees. Monday evening, thunderstorms are possible in the southern New Mexico, which means high outflow winds are likely. However, little rain is expected.

Las Cruces high temperatures are expected to remain between 98 and 102 degrees for the rest of the week.

Thursday and Friday are expected to bring precipitation to the area which may also mean even slightly cooler temperatures. Grzywacz said the moisture will move into the area Thursday before heading toward Deming and then farther west. There is currently about a 20% chance of precipitation for the area for the end of the week.

Aside from outflow gusts from storms, winds are forecast to be light for most of the week ranging between 5 and 15 miles per hour.

The North American monsoon season officially begins June 15 and lasts through Sept. 30, but weather changes are not typically full fledged until early to mid-July in this area.

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Yes, it is hot, darn hot in Las Cruces these days, especially since we are in a “Pacific-Decadal-Oscillation cold” regime and a little on the cool, La Nina side of the “ENSO” scale in terms of Pacific Ocean Temperatures. Both of these weather regimes tend to bring hot and dry temperatures to southern New Mexico.

But a new record? Only if you use the scientifically compromised set of instruments at NMSU.

Why do is say “scientifically compromised?”

Because NMSU's temperatures are not measured according to the World Meteorological Organization standard of "Ground covered with natural and low vegetation (< 10 cm) representative of the region."

NMSU's thermometers are over bare dirt! Barefoot kids and farmers know that bare dirt gets a lot hotter than low grass. I heard that the thermometers used to be on the Horseshoe at NMSU but were subsequently moved to the present location near the NMSU Police Station. I asked Dr Dave Dubois when that move happened, but he did not answer my email.

Another reason why NMSU's temperatures get so hot is because the location of the instruments is very near the center of Las Cruces' Urban Heat Island. There is much more information on this at the post:

<https://casf.me/another-false-climate-alarm/>. Figure 9 shows NMSU's instrument field and the bare dirt surface, and Figure 11 show Las Cruces' Urban Heat Island, measured at 4F hotter than the surrounding areas in 2013.

There is more information on this subject not often mentioned by Sun News writers.

Again, I refer to my post, <https://casf.me/another-false-climate-alarm/>

where some of the figures are from data plots from the area taken from the archives at the Western Regional Climate Center

We have over 100 years of temperature and rainfall data from many stations in southern New Mexico. The site at Jornada Experimental Range is probably one of the best to examine, because it is quite the distance from NMSU, unaffected by Las Cruces' Urban Heat Island, and the site for the National Weather Service's US Climate Reference Network "Las Cruces\_20N" instrument set.

Note this: With CO2 increasing and cries of "climate emergency," temperatures at Jornada Range have been falling since measurements began in 1925.

Temperatures have been falling at Socorro NM since 1898, and temperatures have been falling at Bosque Del Apache since 1894.

And despite all the cries of more CO2 leading to more drought, Rainfall has been increasing since records began at Jornada Range in 1917, at NMSU, where rainfall records began in 1892, and at Socorro, Los Lunas, and Bosque del Apache NWR.

If you look at Figure 10 of my post you can see very clearly that the temperatures at NMSU, near the center of Las Cruces' Urban Heat Island, parallel the growth of Las Cruces from Territorial days to the present day.

Some writers use the observed water capacity of Elephant Butte Reservoir as a figure of merit for rainfall and drought. A month ago, Elephant Butte was 13.5% full, but since the irrigation season has begun, yesterday's data was 10.4% full as water in the reservoir is used for irrigation.

In 2018, Sun-News writer Laura Paskus wrote, "Elephant Butte is at 3 percent capacity; what happens next?" Another of my posts, <https://casf.me/drought-climate-elephant-butte-water-storage/> talks about this notion, and points out that in the 1950s drought, the minimum water level at Elephant Butte on 6 August 1954 was 0.1%.

The message here is that the water levels of Elephant Butte reflect the rainfall and drought cycles here brought about by the El Nino-La Nina cycle and the 60-year-long weather event we call the Pacific Decadal Oscillation.

Many who decry the present drought as a consequence of our use of fossil fuels are quite ignorant of the climate we have, and weather records available with Internet Search.

My presentations and posts at <https://casf.me/> attempt to bring some sense of order, scholarship, and critical thinking to the often-ignorant stories in the media.

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