



# The High Plains Drifter

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
NORTH PLATTE, NE



<http://www.weather.gov/northplatte>

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY AT  
NWS NORTH PLATTE DECEMBER 3RD  
BY SHAWN JACOBS  
WARNING COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST**

SKYWARN Recognition Day was developed in a joint effort with the National Weather Service (NWS) and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service.

The NWS and the ARRL both recognize the importance that amateur radio provides during severe weather. Many NWS offices acquire real time weather information from amateur radio operators in the field. These operators, for example, may report the position of a tornado, the height of flood waters, or damaging wind speeds during hurricanes.

All of this information is critical to the mission of the NWS which is to preserve life and property. This special event celebrates the contributions by amateur radio operators.

SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held this year on December 3th at 6:00 PM and will last for 24 hours. Interested in hearing more?

Please contact Shawn Jacobs at 308.532.4936 or email [shawn.jacobs@noaa.gov](mailto:shawn.jacobs@noaa.gov).

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## **Nebraska State Fair 2022 Outreach** **BY SAM MELTZER—METEOROLOGIST**

Each year, the three National Weather Service offices in Nebraska - North Platte, Hastings, and Omaha - host a booth at the Nebraska State Fair. Our booth was located in the Pinnacle Bank Expo Center this year, and was staffed each day by personnel from the weather offices along with several county emergency managers. Exhibits included a Van de Graaff generator to teach the public about lightning, a simulated-tornado machine, and current satellite and radar images of Nebraska and the world. We provided information and answered questions about how to be prepared for severe and winter weather, and held a raffle to give away weather radios and a rain gauge.



Pictured: Meteorologist Amanda Wekesser and Lead Forecaster Alan Hickford of Hastings who ran the booth with Sam Meltzer on Friday September 2.

## ***Nebraska State Fair 2022 Outreach*** ***(CONTINUED)***

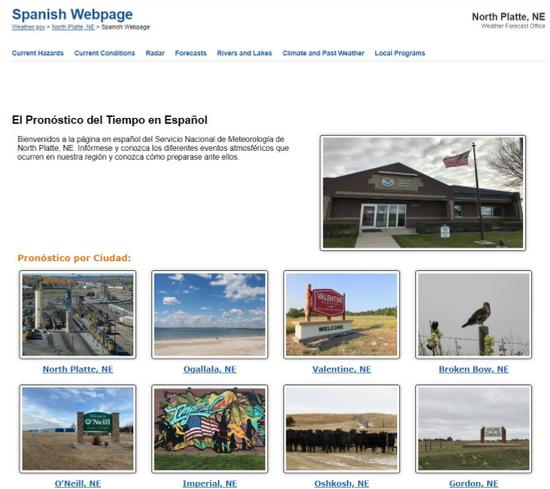
Fairgoers stopped by to talk to the meteorologists at the booth about the weather. They came from across Nebraska and enjoyed getting a chance to meet meteorologists from far away towns. Many asked us about our jobs and told their stories about interesting weather that they have experienced where they live. Children tried out the Van de Graaff generator, which is used to simulate lightning and also viewed the simulated tornado - which we called "the safest tornado you'll ever see." Oftentimes, people talked about the ongoing drought and asked whether there would be rainfall anytime soon in their corner of the state.

The Nebraska State Fair was an excellent opportunity for National Weather Service (NWS) staff to venture out of the office and interact with the public in a fun and educational way. Meteorologist Amanda Wekesser of NWS Hastings enjoyed meeting people from around the state and sharing her love of the weather. "I grew up going to the Nebraska State Fair, so getting to move back to Nebraska earlier in the year and now work several days at the fair, talking about weather, was a real treat." This was the first Nebraska State Fair for NWS Hastings lead forecaster Alan Hickford, who liked giving the public a chance to associate faces with the people who create the weather forecast, but also enjoyed trying the food and having his first "real state fair experience." It was also a first for meteorologist Amanda Viken from NWS North Platte, who found discussing safety with the public rewarding as well. "Continuing to accomplish the mission of protecting lives and property through raising awareness and what to do during extreme and impactful weather was the most rewarding aspect of the fair for me."

# NEW SPANISH WEBPAGE

## By Jaclyn Gomez—Meteorologist

The National Weather Service in North Platte has debuted a new addition to our webpage. We now have a Spanish webpage link to view the forecast in Spanish. The webpage can be found at [www.weather.gov/lbf/Spanishwebpage](http://www.weather.gov/lbf/Spanishwebpage) Once on the webpage you will see various cities listed (pictured to the right) click on one of the forecast cities to receive a detailed forecast in Spanish for the next 7 days.



**QUE NO LO TOMÉ DESPREVENIDO, PLANIFIQUE CON TIEMPO**

Aprenda más sobre tormentas y tiempo severo: [weather.gov/thunderstorm](http://weather.gov/thunderstorm)

**Las Tormentas Eléctricas** pueden escalar rápidamente.

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**El Tiempo Severo** puede escalar rápidamente.

El Tiempo Severo puede escalar rápidamente.

**Categorías de Riesgos de Tormentas Severas**

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**Peligros de Tormentas Severas**

Conozca los peligros que traen las tormentas severas.

**Seguridad del Tiempo EN EL LAGO**

Considere estos consejos de seguridad si desea pasar el tiempo en el lago.

**Aviso de Tormenta Severa** vs **Vigilancia de Tormentas Severas**

Diferencias entre Vigilancia y Aviso

**¿Listo Meteorológicamente para Actividades al Aire Libre?**

¿Listo meteorológicamente para actividades al aire libre?

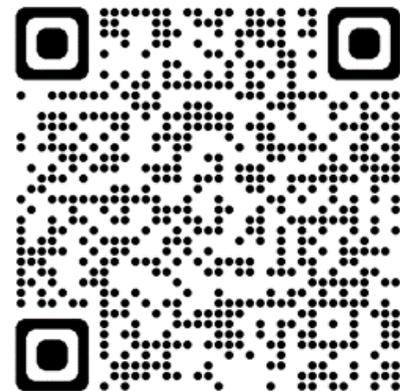
**Wireless Emergency Alerts**

Alertas Inalámbricas de Emergencias

¿Desea recibir los avisos una vez son emitidos? Cerciórese de que este servicio esté activado en su móvil por medio de su proveedor de telefonía.

Along with the forecast, when you visit the webpage you will also find various safety graphics provided in Spanish. There is information for severe thunderstorm safety, winter safety and heat safety (example pictured to the left).

You can also use the QR code to the right to view the website by simply opening your phone camera and holding it in front of the QR code. Then a link will pop up to open the webpage.

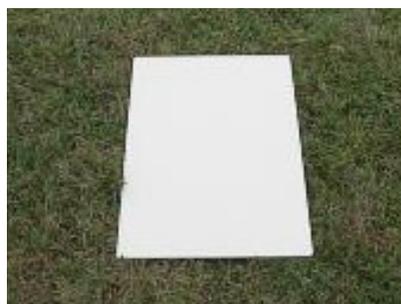


***VOLUNTEER COOPERATIVE WEATHER OBSERVERS NEEDED***  
***BY JACLYN GOMEZ-METEOROLOGIST***

We are looking for weather enthusiasts to volunteer to be cooperative weather observers. What does a cooperative weather observer do? Well, they take daily weather observations of either temperatures, precipitation or both. The weather service will provide the equipment to you free of charge. However, you will have to sign a contract that you will be willing to take daily observations at your site and in the event you are on vacation or sick, you will have your back-up weather observer fulfil the duty. Observation sites must also have access to internet as you will fill out your daily observation via webpage. Since the equipment is issued by the National Weather Service, local staff will also need to have access to your property to maintain the weather equipment.

What kind of equipment can you expect to be installed on your property? If you will be providing temperature observations, then the National Weather Service will install a Maximum Minimum Temperature Sensor (MMTS), which is sometimes referred to as the beehive, (pictured below center). For all sites, a standard 8 or 4 inch rain gauge (pictured below right) will be provided, along with a snowboard (pictured below left).

We are currently looking for observers in Hooker, McPherson, Thomas and Blaine counties, however not in Purdum as we already



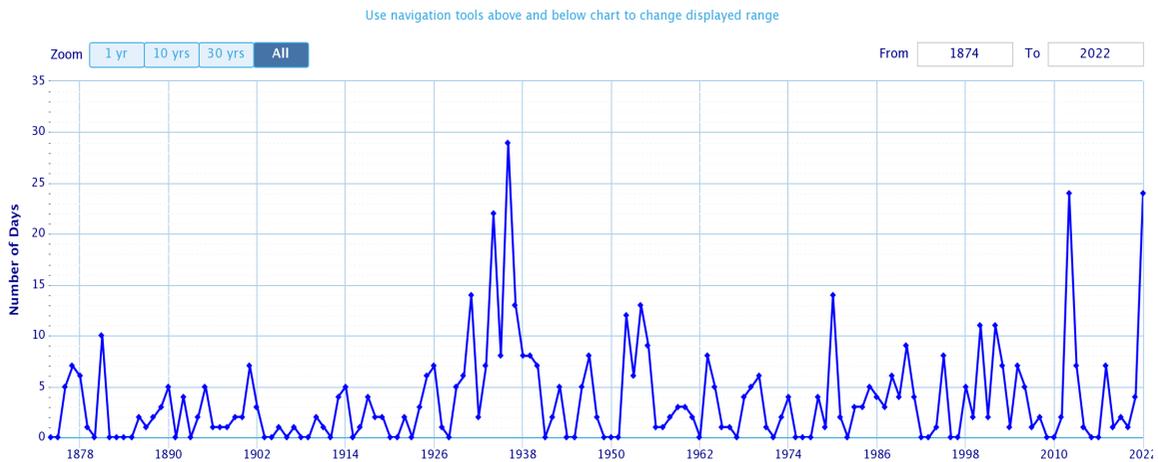
have an observer located there. If this sounds like something you may be interested in or would like to know more information, please contact us at [nws.northplatte@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.northplatte@noaa.gov)

# How Many Days Above 100° this Year?

**By JACLYN GOMEZ—METEOROLOGIST**

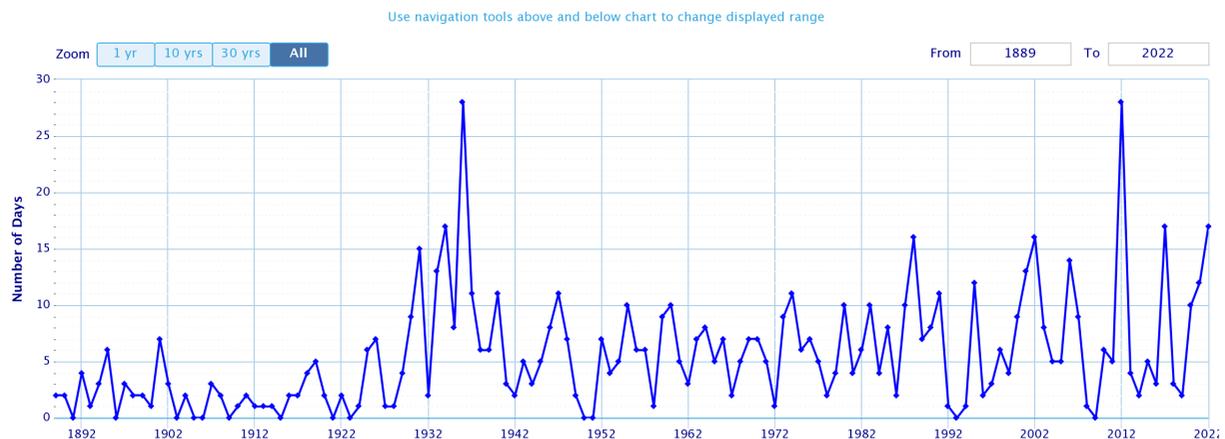
If you were thinking this summer there were a lot of hot days, you weren't wrong. North Platte tied for the second most 100 degree days in a calendar year. We saw a total of 24 days at 100 degrees or more, tying the 2012 record. The most days North Platte has ever seen at 100 degrees or more is 29 days, set in the year 1936, which is way back during the Dust Bowl era. Below is a graph of annual number of days of 100 degrees or greater.

Number of Days Max Temperature  $\geq$  100 - Jan through Dec - North Platte Area, NE (ThreadEx)



Valentine also saw quite a few days at 100 degrees or greater this year. They were in a three-way tie for 3rd most 100 degree days in a calendar year, with 17 days this year. 2017 and 1934 also had 17 days at 100 degrees or more. The most days Valentine has seen is 28 days in the record years of 2012 and 1936. A graph of 100 degree or more days for Valentine is seen below.

Number of Days Max Temperature  $\geq$  100 - Jan through Dec - Valentine Area, NE (ThreadEx)



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Amanda Viken**-I have had an interest in weather since I was young. As my parents always tell stories about me watching The Weather Channel when I was a toddler. It took me until I was in high school to realize that meteorology is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I attended Iowa State University and graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Atmospheric Sciences and a minor in Geographic Information System (GIS) in May of 2022. During the summer of 2021 I had the opportunity to work as a Pathways Student Intern at the National Weather Service - Weather Forecasting Office in Medford, OR. Through this internship I worked alongside forecasters, launched weather balloons, researched criteria that lead to coastal flooding, learned about fire weather, and so much more. My time at the office in Medford, OR solidified my decision to pursue another internship at the WFO in Des Moines, IA and work towards a full-time career within the NWS. Through my time at Des Moines I was able to experience winter weather and severe weather operations and gain even more experience with forecasting. Once I graduated from college in May 2022, I was able to convert from an intern to a full time meteorologist. This has led me to be where I am now as the newest meteorologist at NWS North Platte. I am extremely excited to continue to gain experience as a meteorologist in order to best serve our partners and community. In my free time I enjoy watching movies, storm chasing, sunsets, and spending time with friends, family, and my new dog Bolt!



**James Arnold**-I'm originally from Delaware on the east coast. I have a B.S. in Information Technology Management and a B.S. in Business Administration, and over 20 years' experience with electrical installation, electronics/communication maintenance, and information technology solutions. I served in the United States Army for 11 years, I worked in an electronics maintenance shop dealing with night vision equipment, military communication security (COMSEC) radios and various other electronic equipment in Hawaii, Texas, Colorado, and Virginia. This included two combat support missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Previous to the National Weather Service, I worked for the Bureau of Reclamation maintaining electronic monitoring systems for federal dams, reservoirs, weather stations, and water management for various state entities for the last three and half years in Utah. In my spare time, I like to travel, play guitar, and disc golf, motorcycle riding, mountain biking, snowboarding, storm chasing and learning new technology. Also, I've always been fascinated with weather and weather patterns. Fun fact: I've flown around the world once within a year; Hawaii > Guam > Thailand > Germany > Iceland > Maine > San Francisco > Hawaii.



**National Weather Service Office North Platte, NE**

**Senior Meteorologist**

Chris Buttler                      Cliff Cole  
Kenny Roberg                      Darren Snively  
Mike Sporer

**Meteorologist**

Rachel Kulik                      Bill Taylor  
Jaclyn Gomez                      Nathan Jurgensen  
Sam Meltzer                      Caleb Brown  
Amanda Viken

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**Meteorologist in Charge**

Teresa Keck

**Warning Coordination Meteorologist**

Shawn Jacobs

**Science & Operations Officer**

John Stoppkotte

**Electronics Systems Analyst**

David Doze

**Information Technology Officer**

Eric Winter

**Administrative Support Assistant**

Lisa Johnson

**Observation Program Leader**

Richard Lamb

**Electronic Technician**

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Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Your feedback is very important to us!

<http://www.weather.gov/northplatte>