

Enjoy the warmth while you can — we could still get blizzards

E-MAIL

FACEBOOK

TWITTER



LINKEDIN



STAN GROSSFELD/GLOBE STA

Plowed snow and blizzard conditions during one of last year's many storms.

By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF DECEMBER 11, 2015

Anyone who stepped out of the office for a pleasant lunch Friday can confirm it: It's been unusually

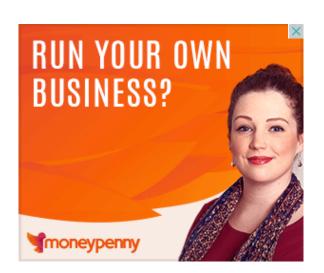
dry and warm recently in Boston.

At an average temperature of 48.6 degrees, last month ranked as the ninth-warmest November the city has had since recordkeeping began in 1872, according to data from the National Weather Service.

It was <u>just the 15th November</u> in all those years without even a trace of snowfall.

And the recent dry spell has parts of Massachusetts in a moderate drought.

Forecasters expect the pattern to continue for at least a few more weeks, creating the potential that some <u>local</u> communities could break records for the <u>latest date</u> of measurable snowfall. (Boston's record is Jan. 13, set in 2000.)



A white Christmas? Good luck

Long-range forecasters expect the recent balmy weather to continue into January.

But Boston could still see big snowstorms, forecasters say.

Remember: Winter has not even begun yet, and last year's first meaningful snowfall didn't come until late January.

The main factor behind the warm weather now is a <u>strong</u> <u>El Niño</u>, an area with unusually warm sea surface



temperature in the equatorial Pacific Ocean that can dictate long-term weather patterns for much of the country.

"We're not surprised this winter has gotten off to a slow start, given the strong El Niño," said Joseph D'Aleo, chief forecaster for WeatherBELL Analytics. Providing You With Support

Exactly When You Need It. Take

A Free Trial

But even during a strong El Niño, snow and cold, while less likely, cannot be ruled out.

"It doesn't mean it can't snow," said Brett Anderson, a senior meteorologist for AccuWeather.com.

And, forecasters expect El Niño to start to weaken at some point, possibly during a month that residents know all too well as generally miserable.

"If you're looking for snow and cold, you're probably going to have to wait until February," Anderson said.

The timing of when El Niño weakens could be crucial in determining how much snow we get this winter. If it doesn't weaken until spring, that could mean less snow. If it weakens sooner, we could have a snowy finale to winter, experts say.

<u>Numerous forecasters</u> have said in <u>recent weeks</u> that <u>they doubt</u> this winter will see snowfall totals anywhere close to last year's record-breaker, nor do they expect the sustained cold that froze the region last year.

But don't throw away your boots and shovels just yet. Precipitation and freezing cold are likely on the way, and that can be a woeful mix.

"We do think it is eventually going to get cold enough so that some of these storms are snow," D'Aleo said.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau @globe.com. Follow him on Twitter @mrochele.

Get Today's Headlines from the Globe in your inbox:

Privacy Policy

SHOW 16 COMMENTS

Top 10 Trending Articles

Most Viewed	Most Commented		Most Shared
Dan Shaughnessy: It feels like the Patriots didn	i't try to win t		
How feds gained an inner look at Mass. drug running			
The Globe's Here			
Ben Volin: Were Patriots really going for it?			
Saudi Arabia cuts ties with Iran			
Nick Cafardo: Baseball's big hitters aren't conn	ecting on fre		
MY ACCOUNT		CONTACT	
${\color{red}\textbf{Boston}}. {\color{red}\textbf{Sand}}, {\color{red}\textbf{and}}. {\color{red}\textbf{Gravel}} \ and \ the \ northbound \ tr$	rain	HELP	
DOWNLOAD CUSTOMER SERVICE APP		FAQS	
Church allowed abuse by priest for years		GLOBE NEWSROOM	
		ADVERTISE	
Globe reporters, editors mobilize to aid home d	lelivery teams		
EACEBOOK	3	MORE EPAPER	
BentVolin: Were the Patriots playing for No. 1 s	seed or health?	NEWS IN EDUCATION	
GOOGLE+		ARCHIVES	
		PRIVACY POLICY	
		TERMS OF SERVICE	
		TERMS OF PURCHASE	
		YOUR AD CHOICES	
		WORK AT BOSTON GLOBE	MEDIA
© 20	015 BOSTON GLOB	E MEDIA PARTNERS, LLC	