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# Wintry brew probably being concocted

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KEITH BEDFORD/GLOBE STAFF

**A man removed snow along Boylston in Boston.**

**By Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF JANUARY 14, 2016

Is winter finally here?

Forecasters expect our recent stretch of relatively warm, flake-free weather to subside at the end of

this month as conditions will trend closer to New England normal — meaning cold and snow.

“If we look at the overall pattern, there is likely to be a major storm or two with a chance at bringing substantial accumulating snow” to portions of southern New England during the third and fourth week of the month, said Paul Pastelok, AccuWeather.com’s chief long-range meteorologist.

The general trend unfolding may give some people unpleasant flashbacks to last winter. Last winter began quietly, with virtually no snowfall, before the floodgates opened in late January and the region was walloped by an onslaught of snow unlike anything seen before.

The exact timing and track of the potential storms in the next few weeks will be key, of course, in determining whether the region gets snow, rain, or no precipitation at all. But forecasters say that, in general, the pattern favors more snow opportunities during late January.

“We expect temperatures to settle near average during late January,” which would be cold enough for snow, said Pastelok. “You don’t need bitterly cold air for it to snow, just cold enough, within a few degrees of freezing.”

One of the reasons meteorologists are predicting the region will fall into a colder pattern is that a wave of arctic air is expected to sweep southeastward by the end of the holiday weekend. Highs will be limited to the 20s or lower over much of New England starting on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

“For much of the Northeast it will be coldest of the season so far,” said Brett Anderson, a senior meteorologist at AccuWeather.

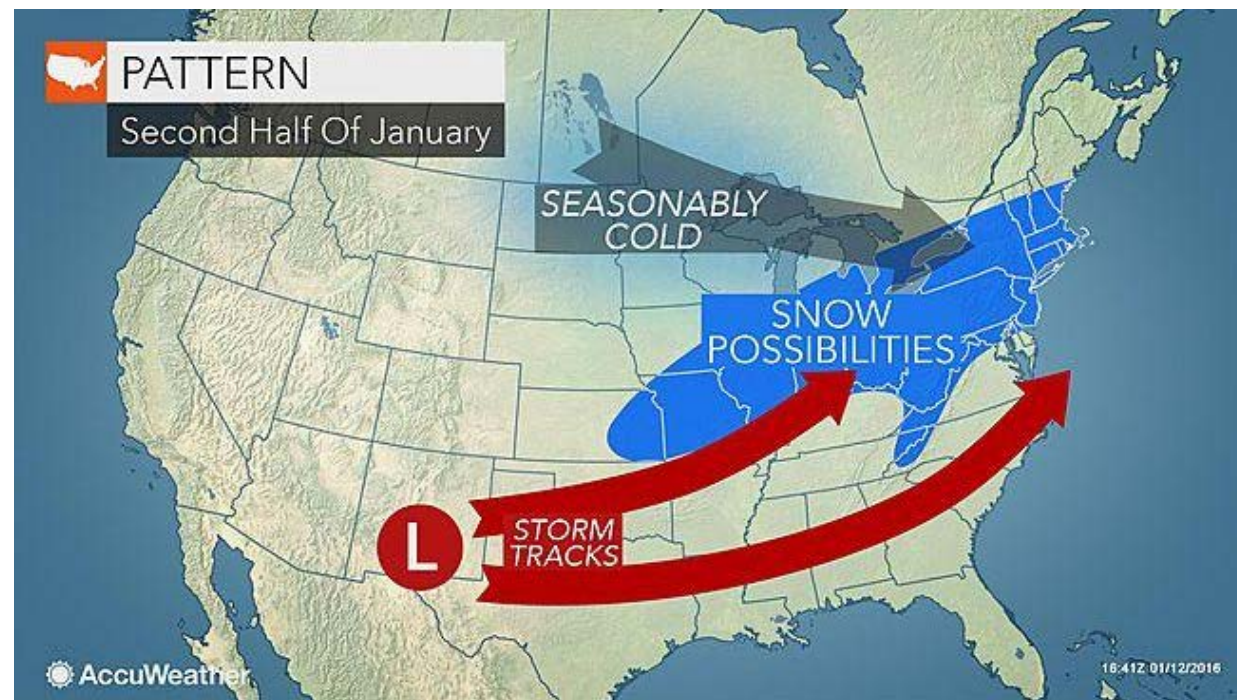
The core of that arctic air will settle off the coast, but forecasters expect enough cold to remain behind to create



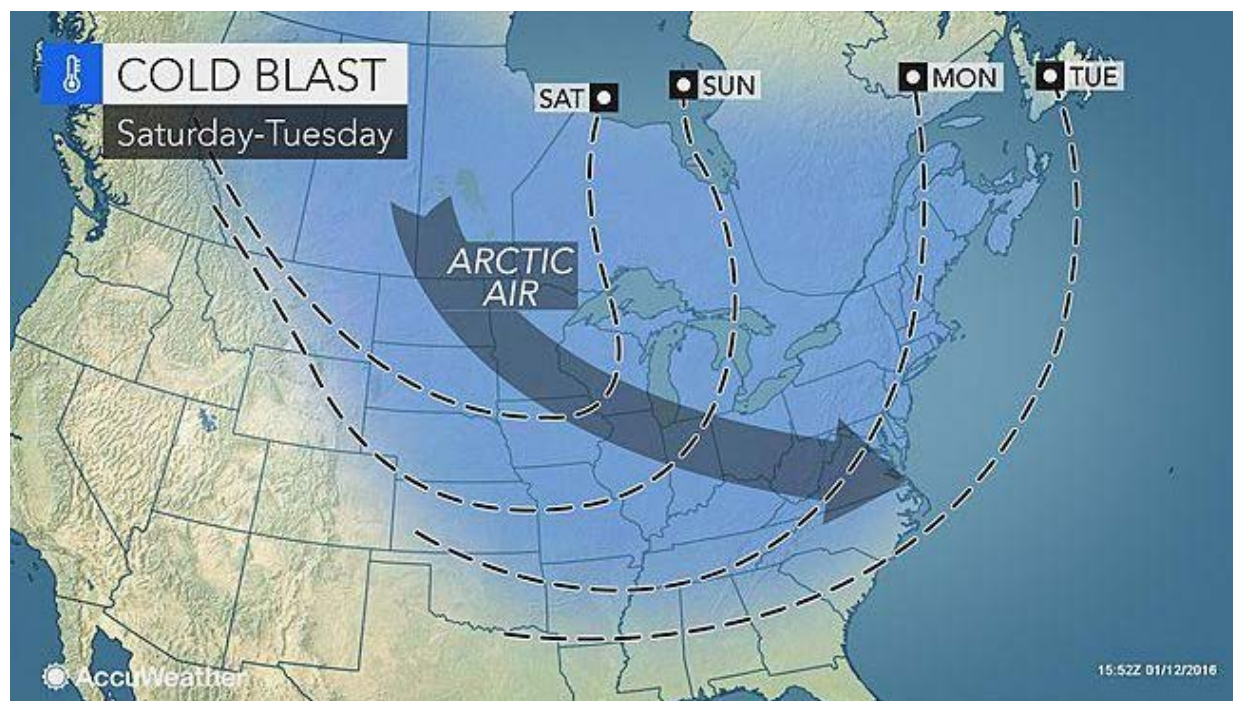


better chances for wintry weather.

Long-range forecasters have consistently said they expect this winter to be milder and less snowy than last year's recordbreaking winter. They've said cold and snow are likely to hit later in the season, particularly during February. The end result is expected to be a season that is near the historical averages in terms of both cold and snow.



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