

UW-Marathon County Library Restroom Reader

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Brrr... It's been cold! In fact, it was the 2nd coldest climatological winter (Dec-Jan-Feb) on record in Wausau with an average temperature of 7.7 degrees. It's been over 100 years since we've seen temps that low (record was set in 1903/04)!



And all that snow... Wausau broke the record for snowfall in the climatological winter recording 64.5 inches.



Also, a Farmer's Almanac predicts that there will be a massive snowstorm at the end of March. Let's keep our fingers crossed that it steers clear of us... unless we want to go for the "cold season" record (which is the season from the first snowflake to the last) where the record is a little over 103 inches of snow.

Source: Meteorologist Justin Loew @ WAOW.com




Businesses benefitting from the cold







Salt Producers
Ice Fishing
Natural Gas
Plumbers
Supermarkets



You Know It's Seriously Cold When...

1. **You can freeze eggs outside** — Ten bucks says this is the same guy who's always out there frying eggs in a heat wave 
2. **Even ski resorts are staying closed** — Ski resorts, ice rinks, and sledding hills were closed down because it was officially too cold to have fun
3. **Escaped prisoners think jail is better than being outside** — A prisoner serving a six year sentence for burglary escaped from prison wearing only khaki pants, a shirt and a jacket and later turned himself back in to escape the cold 
4. **You're praying for a Martian winter** — Temps plunged below -50F with wind chill, which is comparable to temps on Mars... in fact -50F would be a cold day on the Red Planet 
5. **Firefighters are battling ice as well as fire** — Fire crews have been struggling with frozen hydrants and hoses as well as ice encrusting their uniforms and equipment

9 Great Pop Culture Moments That Wouldn't Have Happened Without Cold Weather

1. Jeff Daniels getting his tongue stuck to a pole in *Dumb and Dumber*
2. Dwight hiding inside a snowman to prank Jim on *The Office*
3.  The entire movie *Ice Age* (also the entire movie *Frozen* and *March of the Penguins* and *Fargo*)
4.  Edward Scissorhands carving a giant ice angel, which then creates snow, beneath which Winona Ryder dances
5. Kanye West making it snow inside stadiums on the Yeezus tour
6. Kevin McAllister sliding on his knees across a crowded skating rink and yelling "whoa!" in *Home Alone*
7.  The epic ice-climbing scene from *Game of Thrones*
8. Young Kane using his sled (named "Rosebud") as a weapon in *Citizen Kane*
9. The song "Cold As Ice" by *Foreigner* 

How the Cold Makes Us Smarter



Good news for those in cities affected by the vortex: cold weather can actually be really good for you. Not just because you burn more fat when it's cold, but because your brain works better when it's cold. According to an article by Adrian Ward that appeared in *Scientific American*, it takes more energy to cool your body when it's hot than it does to warm it up when you're cold. The energy comes from glucose which is also necessary for the brain's mental processes. So basically, cooling off when it is hot uses more glucose than warming up when it's cold; thus leaving less available glucose for the brain. Therefore, we can assume that cold weather is better for the brain.

TIME

Source of information for the articles in this month's Restroom Reader is *TIME Magazine*. You can access UWMC's subscription to *TIME* through the library database [Academic Search Complete](#).

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