



# Android App Arrival

–by Stephanie Bowen

**THE ANTICIPATION IS OVER.** The Mesonet app for Android is now here. The app, released December 4 to the Google Play Store, has been installed by over 1,000 people as of January 1. It provides you with four main tabs of weather information including local weather, maps, radar and advisories.

“Rebekah Bryant, Oklahoma Mesonet Software Engineer, focused exclusively on the Mesonet Android App for several months in an effort to provide a high-quality Android app,” said Nathan Bain, Manager of Software Development. “One challenge in programming this app was to adhere to the newer design principles of Android apps while remaining compatible with older versions of Android. Ada Shih, Mesonet Graphic Designer, designed the overall look of the app to be flat so that it would ‘look’ like an Android app, while Nick Richardson, Mesonet Graphic Designer, made a new set of forecast icons to fit into Android’s flatter theme.”

The new app is compatible with Android versions 2.3 and above, and according to the latest statistics from Google, this covers 98.4% of Android devices.

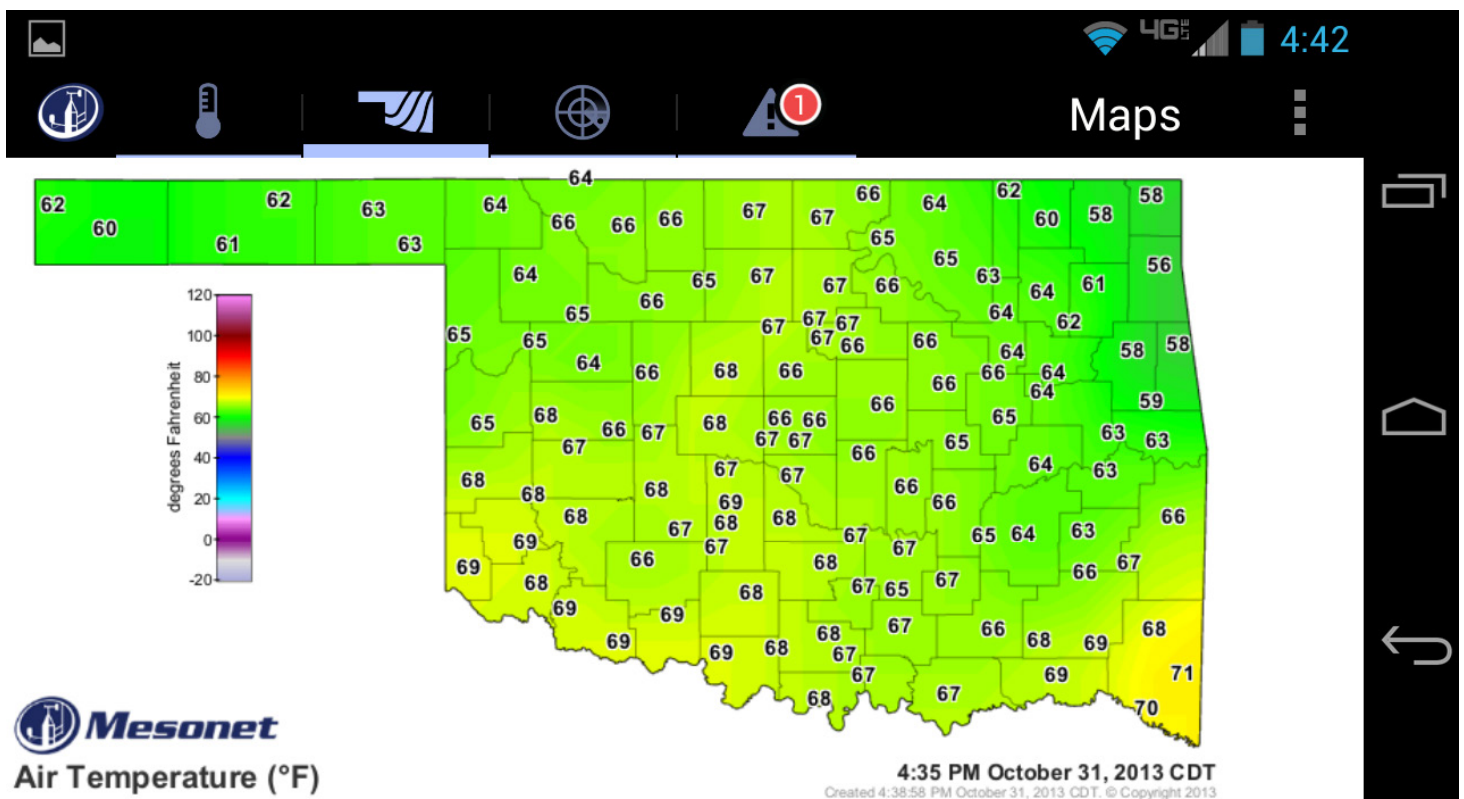
The Local Weather tab provides current conditions and a 5-day forecast from the National Weather Service for

each of the 120 Mesonet stations. Tap on the target icon to automatically view conditions and the forecast for the Mesonet station closest to your GPS location.

“This (Local Weather) tab was challenging to make due to the multitude of screen sizes and display densities that Android devices have,” Bain said. “We wanted the tab to be aesthetically pleasing on all devices, but getting all of the text fields to scale gracefully on every device required writing a lot of custom layout code.”

The Maps tab provides access to every map available on the Mesonet website. As new maps are added to the Mesonet website, they will automatically appear in the Android app. The Radar tab provides access to 15 radars in or near Oklahoma. As with the Local Weather tab, people can tap the target icon to automatically select their closest radar. The Advisories tab provides access to text-based advisories issued by the National Weather Service for areas in or near Oklahoma. The tab features a count of active advisories that can be seen regardless of which tab is currently selected.

To download the Mesonet app for Android, visit the Google Play Store. The app is also available for iPhone, and view the Mesonet on any mobile device at [m.mesonet.org](http://m.mesonet.org). ■

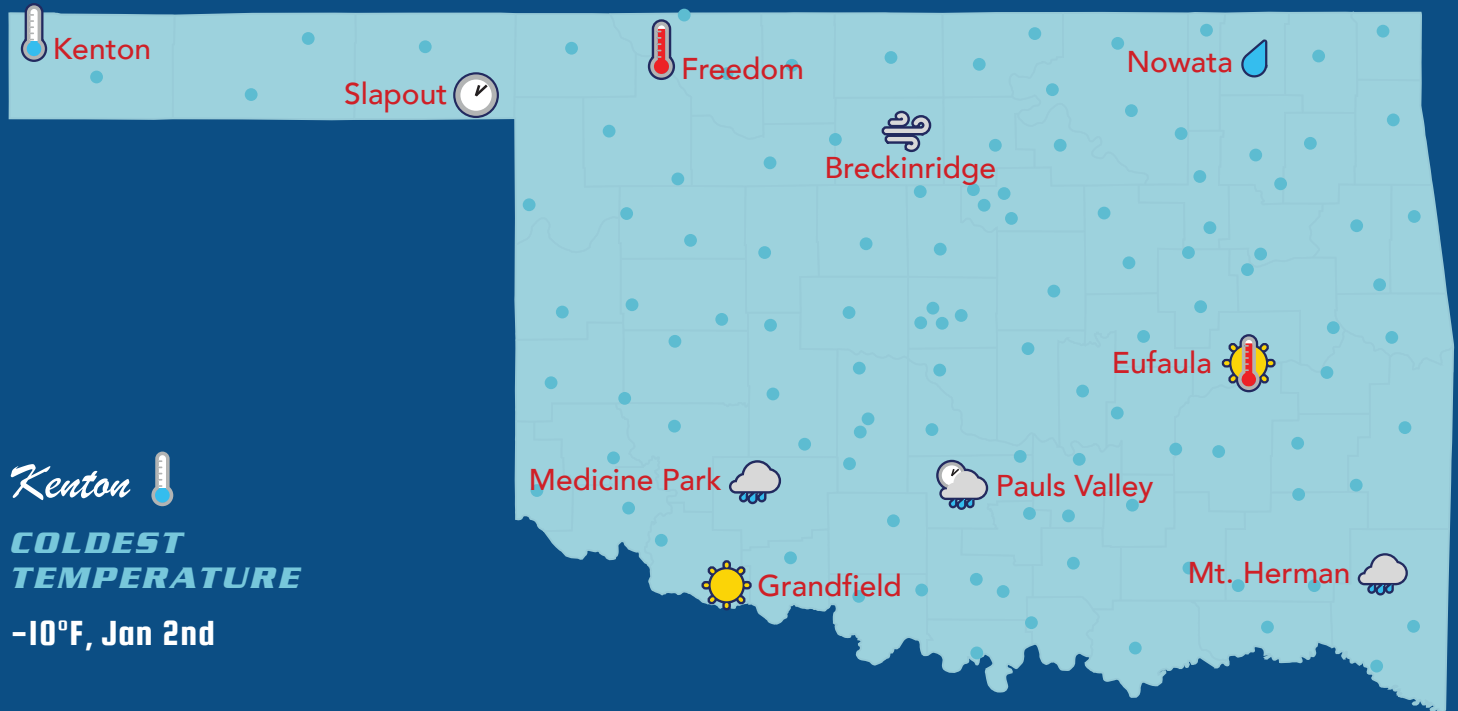



# MESONET IN PICTURES

## Mesonet Android App

- The Mesonet app is now available for Android. Download it today in the Google Play Store. It provides you with four main tabs of weather information including local weather, maps, radar and advisories.







*Kenton*   
**COLDEST  
TEMPERATURE**  
-10°F, Jan 2nd

*Slapout*   
**GREATEST 24HR  
TEMP CHANGE**  
87°F to 26°F, Apr 8-9

*Nowata*   
**HIGHEST  
DEW POINT**  
81°F, Aug 5th

*Grandfield*   
**MOST DAYS  
ABOVE 100°F**  
44 Days


*Freedom*   
**HIGHEST  
TEMPERATURE**  
111°F, June 27th

*Eufaula*   
**HIGHEST  
HEAT INDEX**  
114°F, Aug 2nd

*Pauls Valley*   
**GREATEST  
10min RAIN**  
1.03", May 31st

*Breckinridge*   
**GREATEST  
WIND SPEED**  
82mph, June 5th

*Medicine Park*   
**GREATEST  
DAILY RAIN**  
6.57", Apr 17th

*Mt. Herman*   
**GREATEST  
ANNUAL  
RAINFALL**  
60.8"

# *2014 marks 20th anniversary of Oklahoma Mesonet*

—by Stephanie Bowen

**WE OFTEN RING IN THE NEW YEAR** by making resolutions and traditions for good fortune. Since our beginning in January 1994, the Oklahoma Mesonet has resolved to provide the best quality data every day of the year.

“The idea for the Mesonet was proposed in the 1980s, and the network was commissioned in 1994,” said Chris Fiebrich, Manager of the Mesonet. “Now we are celebrating our 20th anniversary with 120 stations that report to us every five minutes, around the clock.”

We will be celebrating our anniversary at the Mesonet booth during the National Weather Festival at the National Weather

Center, usually held the first weekend of November. We have lots in store for the big day, so be on the lookout for more information as the event nears.

The Mesonet is unique in its capability to measure a large variety of environmental conditions at so many sites across an area as large as Oklahoma. Data is updated every five minutes and relayed to a wide variety of customers. Over the years, Mesonet data users have grown to include state agencies, K-12 schools, public safety agencies, fire managers, growers, ranchers, electric utility cooperatives, the media, and private citizens. ■

## *Extreme observations recorded by the Mesonet over the last 20 years*

- *February 10, 2011 – Lowest temperature recorded at Nowata at -31°F.*
- *February 10, 2011 – Lowest wind chill recorded at Medford at -47°F.*
- *August 9, 1999 – Highest heat index recorded at Calvin at 125°F.*
- *May 24 2011 – Highest wind gust recorded at El Reno at 151 mph.*
- *April 29, 2009 – Highest 1-day rainfall total recorded at Burneyville at 12.42”.*
- *July 24, 2011 - Highest dew point temperature recorded at Clayton at 84°F.*
- *February 10, 2011 - Lowest dew point temperature recorded at Nowata at -37°F.*
- *July 2011 – Hottest single month for any state in U.S. history.*
- *June-August 2011 - Hottest summer in Oklahoma history.*
- *November 7, 2011 - Tornadoes destroy Mesonet sites at Tipton and Fort Cobb.*



# Frigid December Closes Out Tumultuous 2013

By Gary McManus, State Climatologist

## DECEMBER WRAP-UP

A frigid, icy December seemed a fitting way to close out the boisterous weather of 2013. Preliminary data from the Oklahoma Mesonet ranked the month as the 17th coolest December on record at nearly 4 degrees below normal. Records of this type for Oklahoma date back to 1895. The statewide average temperature as recorded by the Mesonet was 35.2 degrees. As chilly as it seemed, however, that mark provided little threat to 1983's record cold of 25.8 degrees, but also far cooler than 2012's 42.1 degrees.

There were two significant winter storms during December, each creating headaches for travelers and power utility companies. The first storm struck on December 5-6 in two separate waves and brought freezing rain, sleet and snow across the state. Significant snow totals of 5-6 inches fell from southwestern up through central Oklahoma, with lesser amounts surrounding that narrow swath. Heavy sleet and freezing rain created havoc across southern Oklahoma, particularly in Choctaw and Pushmataha counties where Oklahoma National Guard units were deployed to help with timber debris removal. More than 9000 homes and businesses were left without power from this storm. State emergency management officials noted more than 800 storm related injuries reported by local hospitals, as well as at least 10 fatalities. The second storm on December 20-22 was more of an ice event for much of the state, although significant snow did fall in some areas. Total ice accumulations of a half-inch to an inch covered much of southwestern through northeastern Oklahoma along the I-44 corridor. Snow totals from 2-6 inches fell across far northwestern Oklahoma. Power outages peaked at close to 50,000 homes and businesses.

The winter storms provided the southeastern two-thirds of the state with decent moisture, although much of drought-plagued western Oklahoma remained significantly dry. The statewide average precipitation total from the Mesonet was 1.53 inches, about a half-inch below normal, to rank as the 59th wettest December on record. That total is possibly an underestimate due to the frozen precipitation, although the moisture pattern across various parts of the state was quite clear. Far southeastern Oklahoma received from 3-5 inches during the month while western areas of the state received less than a half-inch.

The state's drought picture improved during December in some areas thanks to the wintry precipitation, but other areas saw drought intensify. Over 38 percent of the state was classified in at least moderate drought at the end of the month according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, an increase of approximately eight percent during December. Most of that increase occurred in west central and northwestern Oklahoma. The relief throughout 2013 was much more widespread and significant, however. At the start of the year, the entire state was covered by at least severe drought, with 95 percent of that in the extreme-exceptional category. The Drought Monitor's intensity scale slides from moderate-severe-extreme-exceptional, with exceptional being the worst classification. Most of the drought reduction throughout the year occurred in the eastern two-thirds of the state. Unfortunately, much of far southwestern Oklahoma and the Panhandle have remained in significant drought for more than three years. Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin declared a drought emergency for Jackson, Tillman, Greer, Harmon and Texas counties in October 2013.

**1.53"**  
**PRECIPITATION**  
statewide average for December

**38**  
**PERCENT**  
of the state suffering from at least  
moderate drought according to the U.S.  
Drought Monitor on December 31

**35.2°F**  
average statewide temperature  
for December

**17th**  
**COOLEST**  
December since records began  
in 1895

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY

- ▶ 5th: State Legislative Ag Chairs presentation, NWC, Norman
- ▶ 10-11th: KNID Agrifest, Enid
- ▶ 11th: Science Olympiad, Putnam City High School
- ▶ 15th: KOMA Cattle Conference, Dewey
- ▶ 16th: Turf and Landscape Maintenance presentation, Ada
- ▶ 20th-22nd: Oklahoma Ag Aviation Conference, Midwest City
- ▶ 22nd-24th: OCES Conference, Stillwater
- ▶ 31st: Central Oklahoma Cattle Conference, Chandler

### FEBRUARY

- ▶ 1st-6th: American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- ▶ 3rd: Ag Research Center Admin Society presentation, Dallas, TX
- ▶ 21st-22nd: American Farmers & Ranchers Convention, Norman
- ▶ 24th: Steering Committee Meeting, Stillwater
- ▶ 26th: OK-First/Mesonet at Emergency Management Day, OKC Capitol

## CONTACTS

Accessing recent (within the past 7 days)  
Mesonet data

Contact: [Mesonet Operator](#)

Instrumentation, telecommunications, or  
other technical specifications

Contact: [Chris Fiebrich](#)

Mesonet agricultural data and products

Contact: [Al Sutherland](#)

Mesonet meteorological data

Contact: [OCS Data Requests](#)

Earthstorm - K-12 educational outreach

Contact: [Andrea Melvin](#)

OK-First - Public safety outreach

Contact: [James Hocker](#)

OK-FIRE - Fire management outreach

Contact: [J.D. Carlson](#)

Not sure?

Contact: 405-325-2541 or [Chris Fiebrich](#).

## FORECAST FOR JANUARY

[Click here to view the original maps from the Climate Prediction Center.](#)

### Chance for above normal temperatures

*DISCUSSION:* Equal chance for above-, below- and near-normal precipitation for Oklahoma. Increased chance for above normal temperatures in the far west of the panhandle.

**Equal chance for above-,  
below- and near-normal  
precipitation statewide**

