

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cold Snap Keeps Campus Moving

BILLINGS, Feb. 6, 2014 – The Rocky Mountain College campus dealt peacefully with the second cold snap of the winter season when low temperatures dropped to the negative teens or lower for three nights beginning Tuesday, February 4. Kristina Felix-Tuu'u of the RMC athletic department said the mid-week chill caused no changes to scheduled events. Crystal Voss at the RMC facility services office reported normal operations across campus Thursday, February 6, although temperatures before sunrise Thursday morning reached -23° around the College. The effective wind chill at intervals in unprotected areas around Billings equaled -48°.

RMC, however, sits in a relatively lush microclimate, a veritable garden spot of Montana. Billings hosts some of the most moderate average winter temperatures in the state. Living under the 460' sandstone Rimrocks that absorb sunlight then release and reflect it to level ground beneath, citizens within blocks of campus successfully grow peaches, melons, and cherries. Evergreen and spreading trees protect the RMC neighborhood from winds that can scour the northern plains. Bright sun is raising temperatures toward an expected high of -1° on Thursday and 16° on Friday.

Even lower temperatures visited Thursday morning across south-central Montana. National Weather Service remote weather station thermometers recorded -26° at Little Big Horn Battlefield in Crow Agency, -36° at Yellowstone Lake, Wyo., and in Three Forks, Mont., and -44° in Hebgen Lake, Mont.

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