

Snowed in and no complaints

Local road crews and volunteers were out in full force, area students received one more day of Christmas vacation, and travel ground to a halt, but there were few complaints. Much needed “white stuff” blanketed the Sandhills in a snow event that hasn’t happened in quite some time.

The Stapleton and Tryon area received 8 to 10 inches of snow that began with freezing rain on Monday, January 2, and continued through Tuesday, January 3. Thedford received 18 inches and Mullen recorded 12 inches.

Most school and community activities were canceled or postponed and local law enforcement said motorists stayed off the roadways and no major calls came in.

Logan County Sheriff Sean Carson said two semis were stuck Tuesday at mile marker 117 on Highway 85 and the Nebraska State Patrol responded.

Most roads in Logan and McPherson counties were open by Wednesday afternoon as crews worked to reopen those blown shut again by high winds that were estimated to gust up to 45 miles per hour.

The snow followed some much needed moisture that fell in December. The Sandhills area of the state has experienced “exceptional drought” and the worst condition on the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor maps from UNL’s National Drought Mitigation Center.

Of concern to residents was the lack of propane being delivered to local dealers. Frey’s Propane in Stapleton was very concerned that they had received half as much as needed to service their 300 plus tanks.

“It was a dire situation, especially for smaller propane dealers here in the Sandhills,” Cindy Frey said. “We were down to emergency reserves and telling our customers to conserve, lower their thermostats and keep an eye on their tanks.”

With windchill temperatures dropping to 50 degrees below zero around Christmas time it was cause for sleepless nights before a load finally arrived in Stapleton, Wednesday, January 4.

“This is all over the Sandhills, not for sure about anyone else,” Cindy wrote in an email to the Nebraska Propane Association. “It is very frightening and sad. We are sitting

here with customers depending on us and we can’t run our routes because of this situation. It has put us a month behind running routes.”

The Nebraska Propane Association responded they were aware of the long lines at the terminals, but not that companies could not get product.

Colorado, South Dakota, and Wyoming declared a state of emergency in December, allowing for quicker delivery of heating fuels. Emergency orders were due to extremely low inventories and outages of propane and heating fuel. Governor Kristi Noem’s order involved delivery of propane and heating fuels while Gov. Mark Gordon’s order was just for propane.

Snow reports across the area:

Thedford: 18.0”
Merritt Reservoir: 15.0”
Valentine: 13.0”
Anselmo: 13.0”
Dunning: 12.0”
Mullen: 12.0”
Ogallala: 9.0”
Stapleton: 8.5”
North Platte: 7.0”
Callaway: 5.6”
Arthur: 5.0”



MARCIA HORA - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

Snowblowers and snowmobiles were finally dusted off and put to good use after 8.5 to 10” of snow fell after New Year’s Day. Scott Salisbury mans his snowblower on Main Street, Tuesday morning, January 3. Salisbury also did many other sidewalks and driveways to assist Village maintenance crews as they opened streets.



MARCIA HORA - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

It was pretty much back to normal in Tryon on Thursday morning, January 5, as streets in the community and McPherson County roads were being opened after the most snowfall received in quite some time accumulated and caused some drifting. The county measured a little over 8” with the most being reported north of Ringgold where 10-12” was estimated. This picture shows snow piled up northeast of the McPherson County Volunteer Fire Hall and north of the elementary building. Classes were to resume at McPherson County Schools on Wednesday, January 4 after Christmas break. Students returned Thursday, January 5, and a wrestling triangular with South Loup and Hyannis was held that day. It was Parent’s Night.



KADEE MCVAY

Several younger people could be seen helping scooping snow in Stapleton. Brewer McVay, 2-year-old son of Bo and Kadee McVay of Stapleton, assists his dad in removing snow on sidewalks at Stapleton Public Schools. Village residents are very appreciative of those who worked to open driveways and streets, scoop sidewalks and those who were out on road and highway crews in the county to help get everything running smoothly after the storm.

Gathering The Weather

Determining snow depth is done by measuring and averaging the depth on snowboards in 3-4 sites least affected by wind and structures nearby. Snow within a 9” circle is melted & measured in a 2.75” tube to calculate the moisture amount. An inch of snow equals 0.10” moisture on average. Temperature lows and highs and moisture is recorded daily at 7 a.m. for the previous 24 hour period by National Weather Service volunteers around the nation. The official Logan County site is maintained by Deanna Brummet, 4.5 miles WSW of Stapleton.

Allison Named Deputy Police Chief

North Platte Mayor Brandon Kelliher swore in police Lt. Kendall Allison on Tuesday, January 3, as the city’s Deputy Chief of Police. Allison has worked in law enforcement for 40 years. He joined the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office in 1982, two years after he graduated from Stapleton High School. He joined the North Platte police force in 1988. Allison served more than four years as an officer and seven years as an investigator. He was then a police sergeant for 20 years and promoted to lieutenant two-and-a-half years ago.

Weather

DATE	HI	LOW	MT.
30	35	18	.27
31	35	16	0
Jan. 1	35	25	0
2	41	30	0
3	44	23	1.33
4	30	18	.15
5	30	14	0
6	27	8	0

Observations: Snow amounts were, 1.8” on December 30; 8.3” on January 3; .9” on January 4. Wind chill was -14 degrees at 8:48 p.m. on January 4; -15 degrees at 8:54 p.m. on January 5; -16 at 6:35 a.m. on January 6. Total December moisture was .96”. Total December snow was 6.1” Total moisture for 2022 was 14.77”. Average moisture for our area is 22.97” last calculated in 2021 by the National Weather Service.

McPherson Co. News



- Over The Hills
- Graphic Files
- It Won’t Matter Poem
- Starting The New Year With Planning

Notices

- Notice Of Organization Dailey Well Company, LLC
- Logan County BOE & Commissioners Public Notice
- Notice Of Renewal Of Retail Liquor License Creative Printers LLC
- Notice Of Renewal Of Retail Liquor License Velda J. Cassell Vet’s Club
- School District R-1 Public Notice
- McPherson County Commissioners Special Board Proceedings

Read The Notices Be Informed On What’s Going On In Your Community.

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