

Mother Nature Has The Region In A Stalemate

Winter weather was creating dangerous travel conditions again on area roads. The below scene was from Wednesday, January 5, just outside of Rothsay. The Minnesota State Patrol reported three semis and one vehicle in the median along I-94 just west of Rothsay around 7 a.m.

There were no serious injuries reported at the scene. The storm had sustained winds in the 30 mph range, with gusts up into the 40s, making sections of the road disappear as motorists proceeded to drive on it. Numerous slide-offs and crashes were reported throughout the region.

The picture on the right is of a Wilkin County Sheriff's car that was involved in a collision while assisting a motorist who was off the roadway on Tuesday evening, January 4.

One of the squad cars was struck by another vehicle not involved in the initial stop. At the time of the collision, the squad car was parked along the roadway as the officer was assisting with controlling traffic around a stranded motorist. Another vehicle that was traveling the opposite direction, crossed over the center line, into the opposing lane of traffic. This vehicle went on to collide with the parked squad car at the scene. The oncoming vehicle swiped the front fender of the squad car, nearly striking the deputy that was out of his vehicle. Luckily he was only struck by flying debris. The suspect vehicle then left the scene.



Deputies were able to catch up to the suspect vehicle, stopping it a few miles down the road. Everyone walked away from this incident, but the officer was inches away from that not being the case. Another cautionary tale to take the weather conditions seriously.

Area schools started out the day with two hour delayed starts, but by 9:00 a.m. they had either closed or switched to flex/e-learning days. Rothsay Public Schools scheduled a flex day for its students.



Local Ice Rink Is Now Open For Skaters To Enjoy



Looking for something local to do when the weather permits? The Rothsay skating rink opened up in December just after Christmas. Jordan Barry and Eric Larson began flooding the rink and working out the logistics just in time for the holiday break.

Bring the family, or just stop over if you are by yourself, to part-take in the free fun going on just down the street.



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The Harsh Winter Realities: Snow, Wind, Ice and Cold

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were operating with skeleton staffs as many employees could not make it in to work. It really didn't make much difference, there were few customers around anyway. Nearly everyone was getting a "storm day."

It would have been a storm day for students as well but they missed out on this one. They were already on break for the Christmas-New Year's week.

If there was any good news in the turbulent holiday weather it was the texture of the snow. While we have gotten quite a lot of snow already for this winter, over two feet, it has all been of the fluffy, light variety that moves rather easily.

That, of course is good news/bad news. The good news is that it is light, fluffy and easy to move with shovel or snowblower. The bad news is that it is light, fluffy, easy to move and the wind can easily swirl it around.

Our usual snowfall in this neck of the woods is rock hard and pounded into almost impenetrable drifts. That was not the case with the Christmas snow storm, which was relatively easy to move.

But Mother Nature was not done with us just yet. As we dug out from under the fluffy, white snow, the mercury was plummeting. The Christmas snow occurred when temps were in the teens and 20s. That was not the case for the rest of 2021 as the mercury tried to fall out of the bottom of the thermometers.

After another round of snow on Tuesday, December 28, the mercury dropped to around zero before sunset and continued its descent and bottomed out at around 22-below zero overnight. A wind chill alert for a five-county area, including Wilkin, warned of wind chills as low as

40-below.

Martha, it was so cold, people's shadows were freezing.

By Wednesday, December 29 the clouds parted a bit, but the renewal of sunlight wasn't enough to coax the temps much higher than just below zero. The winds weren't much of a factor, but at 8 below by mid-afternoon, even the smokers weren't going outside.

A huge respite (that's an exaggeration, but we take whatever we can get) arrived on Thursday the 29th as the plus side of zero made the outdoors slightly balmy by

comparison.

It was below zero again on Friday and even further below zero—like 15-below—into New Year's Day before a brief return to seasonal normals.

Monday and Tuesday of last week saw highs in the teens (that's the plus side). But, alas, it didn't last long. By Tuesday night into Wednesday another system came through with snow and winds, inciting another blizzard warning, putting the region back in the deep freeze. All area schools were closed on Wednesday, including Rothsay.





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