



☞ - The big story of this week has been the weather – record lows here in Tribune and Kansas, and in many states, and snowfall in the south, where they rarely see snow.

Here, the record low of minus 25 degrees seems hard to think about. We mercifully did not have much wind so it didn't seem that cold – at least for the few minutes we were out to fill the bird feeders or travel the few blocks to work and back.

Monday at about 2:00 p.m. we are up to what seems like a balmy 3 degrees. With Presidents' Day and weather closures, there are only a few places open and not much traffic, even trucks.

We again commend our city crew for getting out early, plowing the streets and seeing about other problems resulting from the bitter cold. Thank you!

☞ - In Austin, Texas, where our daughter lives, they had a record snowfall plus record temperatures. They are not used to ice and snow and cold, and there were some power outages, as well. Luckily, she did not experience that.

☞ - We had many birds at our feeders during the weekend. They were very puffed up and hungry. We saw some purple finches for the first time that I had ever noticed them here. We also had pine siskins, a variety of sparrows, juncos, bluejays and doves. And a hawk, for a brief period before we saw it and urged it to go elsewhere.

☞ - Happy 90th Birthday to Evelyn Schneider on February 21st!!! Evelyn worked at the newspaper for 43 years, and we still miss her proofreading! She has been a tireless volunteer in the community for many years and we wish her a very happy birthday and a good year to come!!

☛ - It's never been colder in Greeley County than it was Monday morning. "-25° is the coldest temperature ever recorded here," remarked Alan Schlegel at the weather station.

Fortunately the wind was not blowing like it sometimes does.

I find it hard to get clarity on the weather. "We are entering a new ice age." "It's global warming." "It's the chemtrails."

It seems that opinions are always split.

I did read an interesting study based on NSA data that all the planets in our solar system are heating up as a result of the solar system entering a different part of the galaxy.

I don't have clarity on the long-term trends, but I'm clear that it was cold on Monday morning. I hope the animals and plants survived.

☛ - The regular season for the High School basketball teams will end this week. The post-season play will be somewhat different this year. There are eight sub-states with 6 to 7 teams and the winners will advance to the state tournament. Tribune is in the Dighton sub-state with Weskan, Dighton, Sharon Springs, Wheatland/Grinnell, Otis-Bison and Western Plains/Healy. The first round of sub-state will be played on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 25 and 26 at the site of the top seeded team.

Both the Tribune boys' and girls' teams have shown improvement since the start of the season. The Jackrabbit boys will be the 1 or 2 seed. The girls have improved their play but do not have a winning record and will not be in the top 4 seeds. Good luck to both teams.



By 7:30 a.m. on Monday morning the temperature on the First Farm Bank sign had warmed up from record low of -25° to -16°.

Record low temperatures hit Greeley County

A polar vortex over Greeley County, Kansas and much of the United States resulted in record low temperatures this past week. The Tribune weather station reported a record low of -25° at their Monday, Feb. 15 reading. The -25° reading broke the old record for Feb. 15 of -14° set in 2007.

It tied the all-time low. The only other time it has reached -25° was on Jan. 18, 1984. "-25° is the coldest temperature ever recorded here," remarked Alan Schlegel, agronomist at the Southwest Research Extension Center.

This past week at the weather station the high temperatures decreased from a high of 14° on Feb. 9, to a high of 2° on Feb. 14. The low temperature of 4° on Feb. 9 decreased to below zero at -2° on Feb. 11 and fell to the record low of -25° on Feb. 15.

The cold front moved in on Monday, Feb. 8. There were 0.01 inches of precipitation on Monday and a trace of light snow on Tuesday through Saturday. On Sunday, Feb. 14 there was 3.5 inches of snow and 0.22 inches of precipitation.

There was a light snowfall from Tuesday through Saturday before the heavier snowfall on Saturday night and Sunday morning.

For the first 15 days of February the station has received 0.28 inches of precipitation, which compares to an average of 0.54 inches for the month. For the year-to-date the station has received 0.79 inches of precipitation, which of 0.07 inches above the normal of 0.72 inches.

The average soil temperatures in Greeley County this past week were 31° on Feb. 9, 29° on Feb.

10, 28° on Feb. 11, 26° on Feb. 12, 22° on Feb. 13 and 14, and 21° on Feb. 15.

The average wind speed for the past week was 4.8 mph with a high of 16.3 mph on Thursday, Feb. 11. There were not high winds during the days and nights with the minus zero temperatures.

Tribune Weather Report

Date	High	Low	Sky/Wind	Pre
2-9	12	4	OC/SE	T
2-10	14	6	OC/E	T
2-11	12	-2	OC/E	T
2-12	10	-5	OC/SE	T
2-13	3	-6	OC/E	T
2-14	5	-9	OC/NE	0.22
2-15	2	-25	Clr/E	0.00
Total for Week0.22			
Total for February0.28			
Normal for February0.54			
Total Year To Date0.79			
Normal to Date0.72			
Above normal0.07			

All readings are taken at 7:30 a.m. and are for the previous 24-hour period.



Frosty tree branches hang above the library's decorative snowman in the lot north of the newspaper office. The sign, "Let It Snow," came true, along with frigid temperatures after three days of snow showers.

KCC issues emergency order to ensure adequate natural gas and electricity is available

TOPEKA, February 15, 2021 — In a special meeting this morning, Commissioners issued an emergency order directing utilities under its jurisdiction to do all things possible and necessary to ensure adequate amounts of natural gas and electricity to meet the needs of Kansas customers including interconnected non-jurisdictional utilities that depend on them for power.

The prolonged stretch of extremely cold temperatures has increased demand, created natural gas supply constraints, and potentially reliability issues.

"It's in every Kansan's best interest to conserve electricity and natural gas over the next few days when possible," said KCC Chairperson Andrew French. "Reducing your usage will help ensure everyone continues to receive these

services, and it will save you money on future utility bills."

Utilities are experiencing wholesale gas prices anywhere from 10 to 200 times higher than normal. Those costs will eventually impact customers through increases in monthly natural gas and electric bills.

Today's order also authorizes every jurisdictional electric and natural gas distribution utility that incurs extraordinary costs associated with ensuring its customers continue to receive utility service during this cold weather event to defer those costs to a regulatory asset account for future review by the Commission. This deferral is for accounting purposes only. Any decisions related to ratepayer recovery will be addressed in future proceedings.

School Board meets

Unapproved Minutes of the Regular Meeting of USD# 200 Board of Education held February 8 2021 6:00 PM

Board members: Todd Schmidt, Kenton Mangan, Ginger Gibson, Shea Stewart, Shanon Schneider, and Brent Foster-Tarman. Superintendent Stuart Holmes, 6-12 Principal John Niehues, and Clerk Katie Zerr were present. Sheryl Crotinger was absent.

Meeting was called to order by President Todd Schmidt.

Motion was made by Shea Stewart to approve the agenda with additions. Seconded by Shanon Schneider; Motion carried 6-0.

Motion was made by Brent Foster to approve the minutes from the January 11th meeting. Seconded by Kenton Mangan; Motion carried 6-0.

Motion was made by Todd Schmidt to pay expenditures and transfer \$7,044.25 to Bilingual, \$1,195.42 to At Risk 4 Year Old, \$19,163.49 to At Risk, and \$4,403.91 to Vocational Education. Seconded by Shea Stewart; Motion carried 6-0.

6-12 Principal John Niehues reported on 6-12 matters. Topics discussed were as follows: working on updates to the security system, recognized the Jackrabbit Booster Club for updating the locker rooms, Homecoming went well with the Senior class helping decide the schedule, calendar committee met and recommended a calendar for the 2021-2022 school year, drug dog visit and policy/handbook, and game attendance according to COVID protocols.

Superintendent Holmes reported on PreK-5 and district matters. Topics discussed were as follows: working with Mr. Niehues on transition to Superintendent, finishing observations and evaluations, open positions, staff polo shirts went out last week, thanks to Ashley's Graphics for doing such a nice job on the staff shirts and to Mr. Niehues for organizing the order, snow days, and will hold Pat Brunswig's retirement recognition on March 10th at 4:15pm.

Motion was made by Todd Schmidt for the Board, JH/HS Principal John Niehues, and Superintendent Holmes to enter executive session for 10 minutes for the purpose of discussing individual employee's performance pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA; and the board will return to open session at 6:56 pm in this room. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed. Seconded by Kenton Mangan; motion carried 6-0.

Motion was made by Todd Schmidt for the Board, JH/HS Principal John Niehues, and Superintendent Holmes to enter executive session for 15 minutes for the purpose of exception relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting a student under KOMA; and the board will return to open session at 7:13 pm in this room. The executive session is required to protect the privacy interests of the individuals to be discussed. Seconded by Shea Stewart; motion carried 6-0.

Ginger has attended the Northwest Tech board meetings. They are continuing to get more grants and recruiting more students.

Motion was made by Shea Stewart to approve the classified handbook update as presented. Seconded by Kenton Mangan, motion carried 6-0.

Motion was made by Shea Stewart to approve the health insurance renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Seconded by Kenton Mangan, motion carried 6-0.

Motion was made by Kenton Mangan to accept Jacob Govert's resignation effective 1/19/21 as an Assistant Technology/Full Time Substitute Teacher. Seconded by Shea Stewart, motion carried 6-0.

Motion was made by Shanon Schneider to accept Roxana Benavides resignation as a custodian effective 1/21/21. Seconded by Brent Foster, motion carried 6-0.

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