

January Winter Blitz over the Permian Basin and Northern Lea County

Continuing the never-ending snow theme this winter season was another quick storm that rolled through the region in early January, blanketing northern portions of the forecast area in a sea of white. Another dynamic storm system perused



Paul Aguilar in Big Spring

through the west with sights on west Texas and the Panhandle leading to yet another winter storm that would impact travel for a multi-day period. By Friday January 9th, a strong disturbance was pressing southeast through New Mexico with snow across the

higher elevations near Albuquerque down to the Sacramento's. Forecast for a few days was pretty consistent with the heaviest snowfall falling across the northern Permian Basin. However, guidance began trending more and more to a more prolific snowfall across northern Lea county in New Mexico, east towards Snyder with even some lighter snowfall totals down to the Midland/Odessa area. Stage was set on Friday night as the system swung through the area with snow breaking out north to south overnight into Saturday morning the 10th.

Heavy bands aided by intense lift from the storm provided moderate to heavy snow for a swath of the northern tier, especially areas like Seminole/Lamesa/Gail where snowfall rates of 1-2"/hr were common for several hours heading



Lucky James in Snyder



Kim Northrup in Hobbs

beyond sunrise. The satellite the next morning showed a quickly departing system, but the snow continued for several more hours before vacating by Saturday afternoon. Reports of more than 8" became common across a stretch of the Permian Basin with even a few inches down into the Midland/Odessa neck of the woods. Temperatures were

not that cold considering the snow, but the storm dynamics utilized what was available, another theme to this past winter season.

In all, tens of thousands were once again stuck for a day after the barrage of snowfall. Travel conditions along and north of I-20 were rough, especially TX 349 where 3-6" of snow caked the roadways through the morning and most of the afternoon. It was another reminder of what kind of winter this area was facing. Another chapter in what would be a historical winter in many regards.

