

TIMES RECORD

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TODAY IN NEWS
WORLD REACTS TO DEATH OF NELSON MANDELA PAGE 8A

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BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

Deep Freeze Is Here For While

NWS: FREEZING DRIZZLE IN FORECAST, BUT NO NEW ACCUMULATION IS EXPECTED

By Stacy Ryburn

TIMES RECORD • SRYBURN@SWTIMES.COM

Although the snow cleared up Friday afternoon in Fort Smith, the cold is projected to hang around through the weekend.

The snow that began to fall before 6 a.m. Friday rapidly traveled east and began to leave Fort Smith and its surrounding counties by mid-afternoon. The temperature, however, was set to move into single digits by Friday evening, said meteorologist Peter Snyder with the National Weather Service in Tulsa.

No immediate relief is in sight from Friday's freezing temperatures. Increased cloud coverage is set to bring a projected high temperature of 26 degrees for today, with an east wind of 5-10 mph. Freezing drizzle is set to move into western Arkansas by late tonight into early Sunday, but no accumulation is expected, Snyder said.

SEE COLD PAGE 3A

WINTER WEATHER COVERAGE
PAGES 2-3A, 8A



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Dee Newell of Fort Smith clears his vehicle windows Friday as snow continues to fall. Temperatures are expected to fall through the weekend. For more winter-weather pictures, visit swtimes.com.

Storm Causes Power Outages, Accidents

By Rob Moritz

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LITTLE ROCK — Sleet and ice covered most of Arkansas on Friday as a winter storm moved across the state, causing thousands of power outages and wrecks.

By midday, Entergy Arkansas was reporting about 11,000 power outages, of which about 6,000 were in Russellville and Pope County.

Entergy spokeswoman Julie Munsell said outages also were reported in Craighead and Mississippi counties in northeastern Arkansas.

The state Highway and Transportation Department

was reporting icy conditions on all major roadways north of a line from Texarkana to Hot Springs, Pine Bluff and West Memphis.

"Stay at home if you don't have to get out," said Highway Department spokesman Danny Straessel, adding that Interstate 540 north of Alma in the western part of the state was particularly bad.

Friday morning, a large truck clipped a power line that had sagged from all the ice at U.S. 71 and Arkansas 10 in Greenwood in western Arkansas, Straessel said, adding the area was blocked with traffic until the power line and truck could be removed.

SEE STORM PAGE 4A

By Stacy Ryburn

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Many emergency responders in western Arkansas and northeast Oklahoma worked throughout Thursday night and into Friday afternoon, but feared the worst was yet to come by later in the evening.

A downed power line that fell about 11 p.m. Thursday near U.S. 71 and Hidden Valley Drive in Greenwood blocked traffic for hours into Friday morning as crews worked to clear the scene. By Friday afternoon, the road had been reopened, according to Philip Pevehouse with the Sebastian County Sheriff's Office.

As of 2:45 p.m., much



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Snow and branches continue to fall Friday in Fort Smith. The snow is expected to clear out as temperatures drop through the weekend.

of Sebastian County was without power. An Arkansas Valley Electric outages

map showed more than 1,200 outages in Greenwood, with 1,100 out in

Hackett and hundreds out in Hartford.

SEE REGION PAGE 3A

Snow Day Leads To Play, Working From Home, Too



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Cooper Myers, 8, sleds on Friday near his home in Fort Smith. Cooper was sledding with his twin sister, Kenedy, and friend, Eric Newell.

By Rachel Rodemann

TIMES RECORD • RRODEMANN@SWTIMES.COM

After several inches of ice, then snow, blanketed the Fort Smith region Thursday night and into Friday, many local residents made the decision to stay in — working, playing and staying warm from home.

Kristen Kuykendall of Van Buren watched from her back porch Friday afternoon as her four rambunctious daughters played their hearts out in the snow. "They've just been playing all day," she laughed. "In this! Since before 10 a.m.!"

With the girls' squeals ringing through the neighborhood, a smile spread across Kuykendall's face. "I thought, really, that they would only last about 10 minutes, but they're really in it to win it today," she said, as a chorus of gleeful "yeah!"s rang out through the yard.

SEE PLAY PAGE 3A

GETTING STARTED

Just \$2 Donation Provides Big Community Impact

Are the children in your home counting down the days until Christmas? With less than three weeks left, we imagine they are getting pretty excited.

It's a blessing to be able to house, feed and clothe our children, and another blessing to be able to offer them a Christmas experience worth getting excited about.

Maybe that makes this a teachable moment: A time when you can explain to children why we count our blessings at Christmas and why we make donations to help make Christmas a little easier for someone else.

This year's Community Christmas Card recipient is especially suited to teaching children some essential lessons. The Children's Service League helps children by making sure they have warm, comfortable clothing, something the children in your life will appreciate. Because the organization has no overhead costs, every penny you give will go to providing clothes. The Christmas Card doesn't ask people to give more than they can; instead it asks many people to each give a little, as little as \$2 per names, to have a big, community impact.

The list of names, which appears in the Christmas Eve edition, has a great visual impact for children: All these names, all these people have worked together to improve the lives of children, right here where we live.

Readers so far have contributed \$3,814.

You may participate in this annual community event by:

- Send your names and at least \$2 per name to the Times Record Community Christmas Card, P.O. Box 272, Fort Smith, AR 72902. All money should be received by noon Dec. 19.
- Bring your names and cash, check, debit or credit card to the cashier on the first floor of the Times Record building, 3600 Wheeler Ave.
- Call 784-0464 to pay by debit or credit card.
- Drop your names and cash or check at the Press Argus-Courier office at 100 N. 11th St. in Van Buren by noon Dec. 18.

Please make checks payable to the Children's Service League.



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