

## **KLBB SUMMARY OF WEATHER COVERAGE – JANUARY – MARCH 2021**

KLBB Radio returned to the air on March 28, 2019 at 1220 Mhzs, rebroadcasting National Weather Service Radio KEC65 from its location in Chanhassen, Minnesota at a frequency of 162.550. KLBB AM operates from its offices in downtown Stillwater.

### **JANUARY 2021**

January 7 – The first week of 2021 is marked with high humidity, above-normal temperatures and early morning freezing fog which prompted fog advisories in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and St. Croix Valley each day of the work week. Icy road conditions slowed traffic in parts of the metro area with scattered sunshine.

January 13 -- The National Weather Service issues its first Winter Storm Watch of 2021 for most of Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Forecasters say there could be as much as 9 inches of snow in the Twin Cities metropolitan area with the snow and freezing rain starting early in the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> and a difficult morning commute.

January 14 – Icy mist and blowing snow across Minnesota and Wisconsin. Parts of southeastern Minnesota get up to 8.5 inches of snow with icy conditions forcing road closures. Western Minnesota also gets substantial snow but above normal temperatures (low 30s) keeps rain from turning into snow. The St. Croix Valley gets less than an inch of accumulation but temperatures dropping into the 20s create icy driving conditions.

January 19 – A string of days with above normal temperatures comes to an end with early morning temperatures in the teens at the Lake Elmo airport and light snow. A temperature bounce-back on Wednesday could mean a high approaching 40F in the metro area.

January 29 – Winter Weather Advisories are posted for most of Minnesota and Wisconsin. The predicted weekend storm largely skips the Twin Cities Metro area but leaves some icy roadways. Parts of southern Wisconsin get 10 to 15 inches of snow.

February 1 – The Minnesota State Climatologist's Office says the first half of the 2020-21 winter was much warmer than normal. International Falls has had its 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest ever recorded for November 1 through January 15. It's also been somewhat dry in International Falls. The Twin Cities and the rest of the state had dry to normal precipitation amounts. The average daily temperature for the Twin Cities was 30.4 F.

February 5 – Wind chill advisory issued for Saturday through Tuesday for the metro area. Arctic high pressure is arriving which took the daily high temperature at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport from 33 F on the 4<sup>th</sup> to 11 F on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The Twin Cities got about two inches of snow on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

February 6 – The Twin Cities gets its first sub-zero temperature of 2021 with an overnight low of -12 F.

February 7 – A prolonged stretch of very cold temperatures is expected in the coming week with wind chills ranging from -20 to -35 each morning. Early morning low at NWS Chanhassen was -17 F. New Richmond Municipal Airport reported -23 F. St. Cloud and Duluth recorded -18 F and at International Falls, the morning low was -29 F.

February 8 – Wind chill advisories are extended in the metro area for a third day with light snowfall causing hundreds of car crashes in Minnesota in the morning. Wind chills in the -40F range are forecast in northern Minnesota for the next couple of days.

February 9 – Wind chill advisory for the Twin Cities is canceled after winds diminish overnight. Low temperature at Minneapolis-St. Paul International was -8 but much colder temperatures continue north of the metro area and wind chill warnings remain in effect for 4 counties with warnings of dangerously cold weather forecast through Sunday.

February 12 – Some of the coldest temperatures of the winter of 2020-21 with a trace of snow before midnight. The NWS says the Twin Cities area is “firmly entrenched in the arctic airmass” with frigid wind chills through the weekend. Early morning lows include -15 F at the Lake Elmo Airport, -13 F at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, -15 at New Richmond and -19 at St. Cloud.

February 15 – The coldest morning to date in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Early morning low temperatures: -17 F at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, -32 F at New Richmond Airport, -18 F at Holman Field in downtown St. Paul, -29 F at Simenstad Municipal Airport in Osceola, -27 F at the Red Wing Airport.

February 17 – Arctic high pressure has finally moved out of the area, bringing temperatures above the 0 F mark for the first time in five days. It’s still cold in northern Minnesota with -22 F in Mora. Light snow is in the forecast with temperatures above the freezing mark forecast for the weekend.

February 22 – The Twin Cities area’s string of sub-freezing weather is coming to an end. Sunday’s highs were 31F at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, 30 F at the New Richmond airport and 28 F at the St. Cloud airport. Light snow mixed with fog and mist led to more than 125 car crashes in the metro area on Sunday.

February 28 – Winter returns to Minnesota and Wisconsin with about an inch of snow in the Twin Cities metro area and St. Croix County, WI with accumulations of 7 to 8.5 inches south of St. Cloud. The snow returned after four straight days of 40-plus F temperatures. Temperatures dropped to 12 F overnight with March starting off with a high in the mid-twenties followed by temperatures forecast to rise near 50 F by the end of the week.

March 1 – March arrives with a return to temperatures in the mid-twenties and early morning snow, which quickly disappeared with sunshine.

March 2 – A high of 45 F in the Twin Cities with 47 F at Holman Field in downtown St. Paul and 42 for the high in New Richmond.

March 9 – A week of above normal temperatures climaxes with record high temperatures in the Twin Cities (63 F...breaking a record set in 1878 and matched in 1879), St. Cloud (61 F...tying a record set in 1911) and Eau Claire, WI (67 F...breaking a record set in 1902). The average high temperature for March 9<sup>th</sup> in the Twin Cities is 38 F. New Richmond, WI had a high of 60 F. Osceola, WI had a high of 64 F. A major change in the weather is expected with winter weather advisories posted for northern Minnesota and a winter storm watch for western Minnesota.

March 10 – Stormy weather arrives throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. Tornado warnings and watches are posted for western Minnesota eastward towards Carver and Dakota counties. No tornados

were reported. A tornado watch was issued for Washington and Chisago counties in Minnesota and St. Croix and Pierce counties in Wisconsin. Heavy rain accompanied by thunder lasted much of the day in the St. Croix Valley. Heavy snow canceled schools in Duluth and caused many vehicle crashes.

March 15 – Heavy, wet snow strikes southern Minnesota with 12 inches at Mankato and 9.3 inches at Rochester. Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport got 2.6 inches of snow and Washington and St. Croix counties received about 2 inches of snow. Treacherous road conditions occurred during the late morning hours with two semi crashes closing Interstate 35 from downtown Minneapolis through Bloomington for several hours.

March 21 – Spring arrives with above-normal temperatures (62 F Sunday at Minneapolis-St. Paul International) but high winds (Gusts up to 43 mph). High wind warnings are posted for most of western and southwest Minnesota along with the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Wild fire warnings are posted for western Wisconsin. State hydrologists say 40% of Minnesota cropland is in a drought-like condition. Rain is in the forecast for most of the upcoming week.

March 25 – Two days of light but steady rainfall in the Twin Cities area greens lawns and reduces farm soil moisture worries. Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport got 4/10ths of an inch of rain and the New Richmond Airport received about a half-inch.

March 27 – The weather roller coaster continues with winter weather advisories in the Duluth-Superior area but not far from there (Brainerd to Hayward), there are Fire Weather Watches because of dry conditions and high winds. A cool rainy Saturday is expected in the Twin Cities and St. Croix Valley with the possibility of the first 70 degree day of the year on Monday.

March 29 – After a cold and wet weekend, skies clear and the temperature reaches a high of 73 F at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Winds pick up during the evening and temperatures drop back into the twenties.

March 31 – The month ended on a cool note with highs in the 30s in the metropolitan area. For the month, the National Weather Service office at Chanhassen recorded an average maximum temperature of 50.1 F, which is 8.8 inches greater than the normal average. Precipitation was 2.82 inches, which was .93 of an inch greater than normal. The snowfall season ended with 40 inches which was 6.3 inches lower than the historical average.