



National Weather Service Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley



Impact Weather Briefing

Winter Weather Update for the Rio Grande Valley and the Ranchlands For December 8th, 2017



This Could Be a Scene Late Tonight through Early Friday Morning



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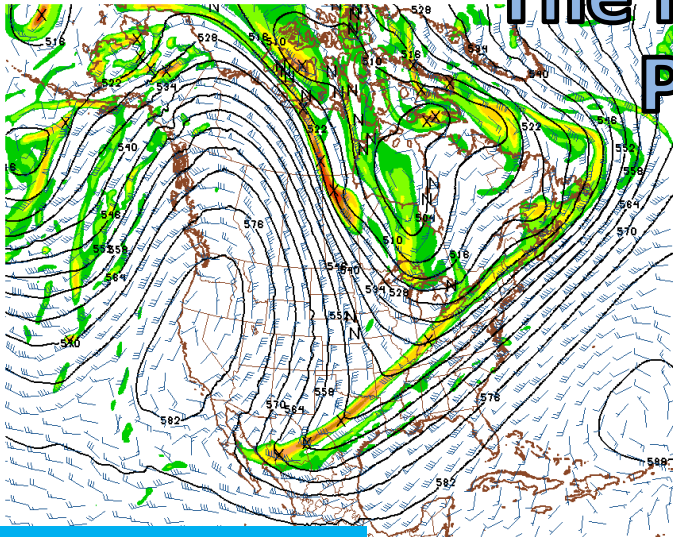


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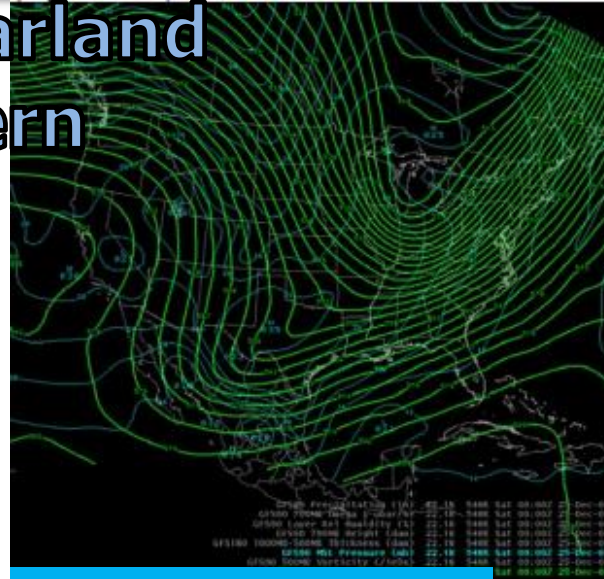
The McFarland Pattern

12/07/17 12UTC 024HR FCST VALID FRI 12/08/17 12UTC MORNING



Forecast, Dec 8 2017, 6 AM

VALUE OF ABS, VOR, AND WIND



Forecast, Dec 24, 2004, 6 PM

Skinny

- A modified "McFarland" jet stream pattern is forecast for Thursday night/Friday morning
- Allows plunge of Canadian air to combine with disturbance to create briefly heavy precipitation
- Air mass is cold enough for a brief period of moderate to heavy snow in some areas which could accumulate, mainly on grassy areas
- Not as cold as the "White Christmas" event (right image) in 2004



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What to Watch For (Thursday Night – Saturday)

• Snow

- Accumulation, mainly on grassy areas, in a three hour window overnight into early Friday
- Low visibility where rates are heaviest (1/4 to 1/2 mile)
- Brief slushy, **not icy**, accumulation, when heaviest, on untreated bridges/overpasses and rural roads

• Cold

- Temperatures in low to mid 30s (midnight to 9 AM)
- “Feels Like” Temperatures 25 to 30, lowest near coast, 3 AM to 9 AM
- Possible frost/light freeze Saturday (Dec. 9) morning in wind protected areas



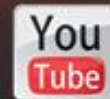
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What to Watch For (Thursday Night – Saturday)

• Surf/Seas/Tides

- Tides running up to dunes Thursday evening on South Padre
- Rough, Dangerous Seas (Beaufort 7) 11 to 15 feet through midday Friday
- Rough, Confused Surf (8 to 10 foot waves) through

• Wind

- 25 to 35 mph gusting to 40 Thurs night/Fri morning along coast
- 25 to 30 knots gusting 40 knots (Gale Condition) Gulf waters through midday Friday



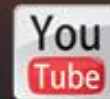
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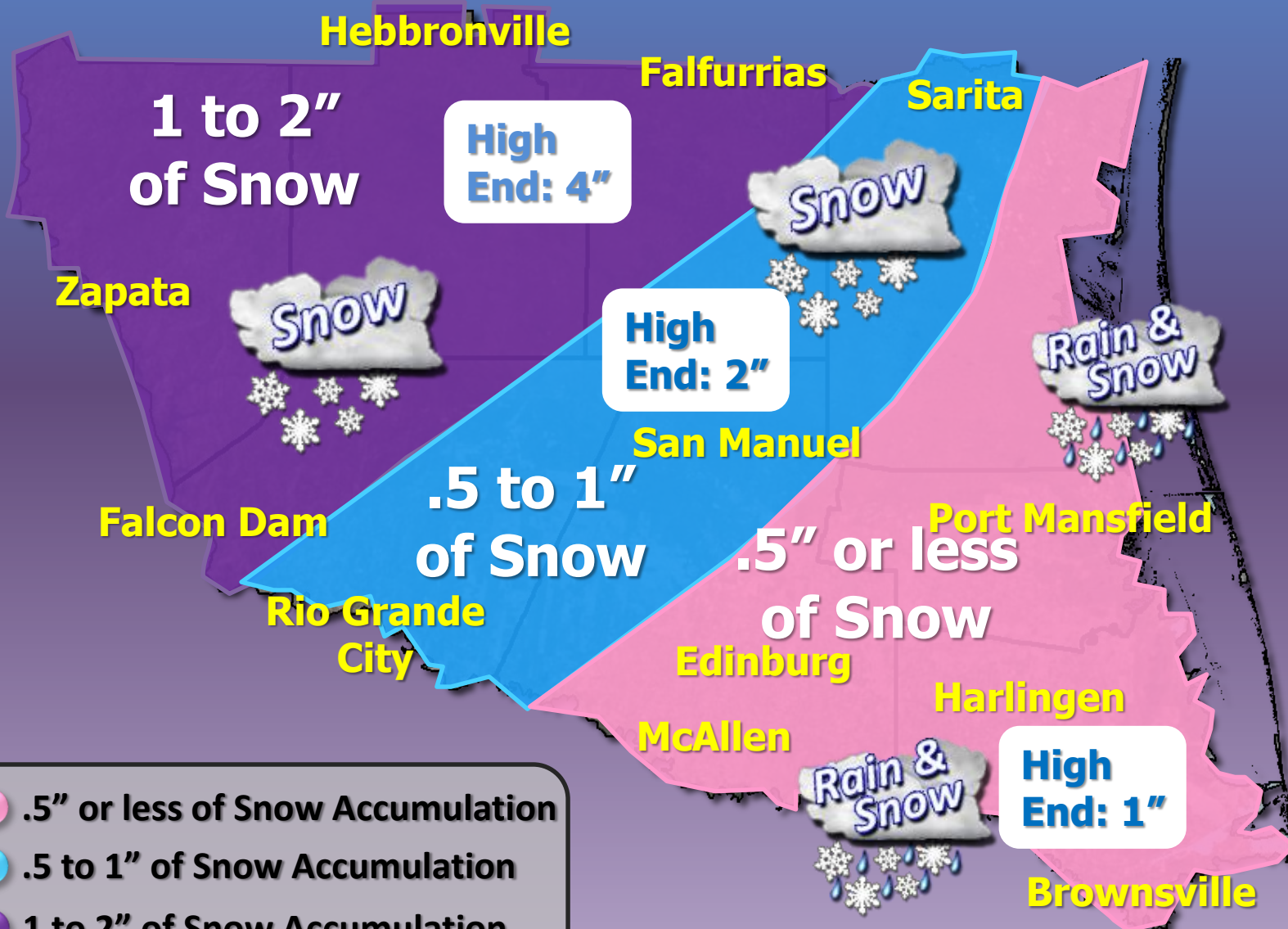


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Snow Expected Overnight into Friday Morning

Friday, December 8, 2017



- .5" or less of Snow Accumulation
- .5 to 1" of Snow Accumulation
- 1 to 2" of Snow Accumulation



Warnings and Advisories

Friday, December 8, 2017



Warning: For 1" or more on grassy surfaces and slushy accumulation on untreated overpasses/bridges

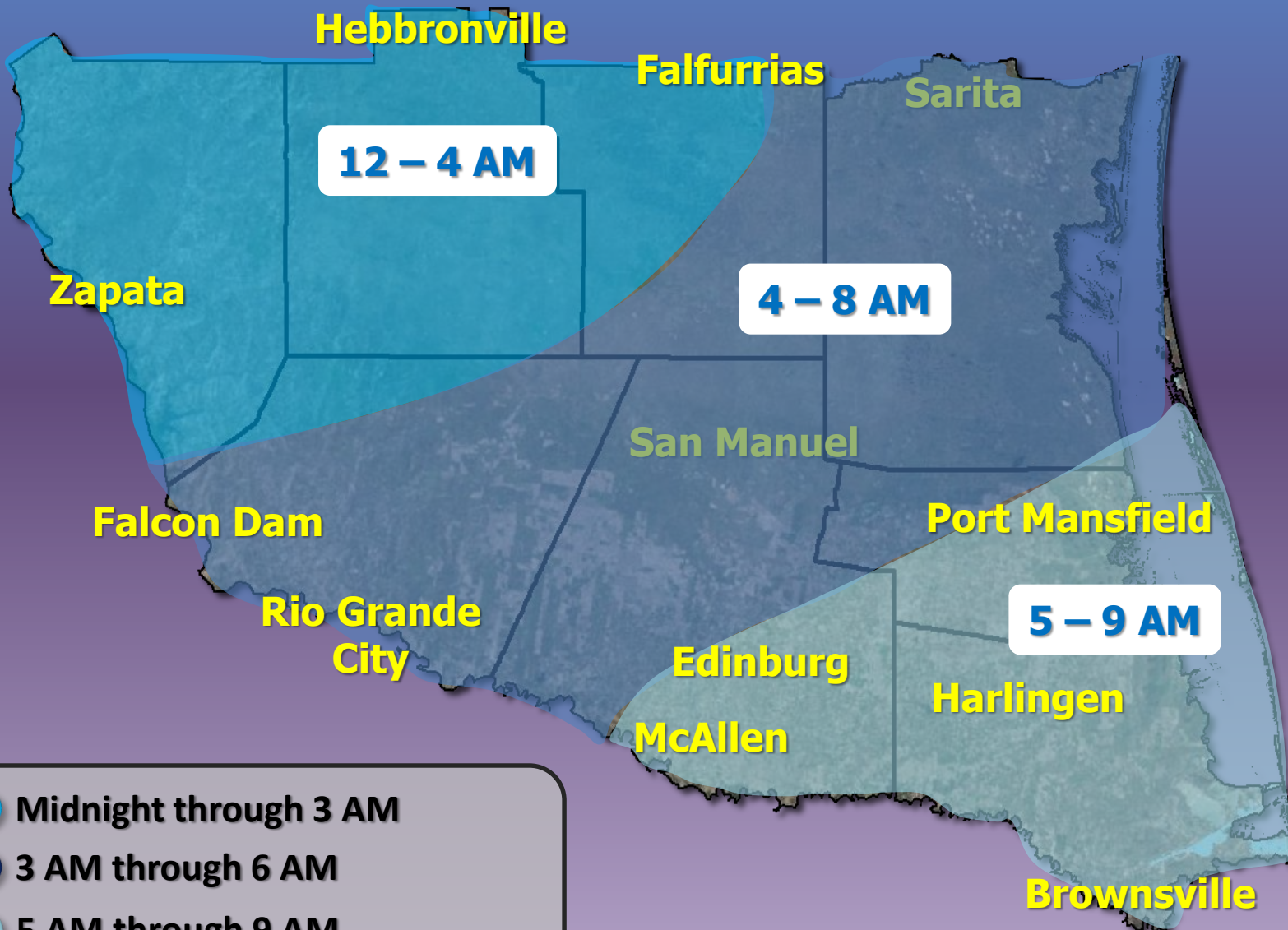





Advisory: For ½" on grassy surfaces, and brief slushy accumulation on bridges/untreated surfaces



Timing of Heaviest Snow (Rates)

Friday, December 7, 2017



-  Midnight through 3 AM
-  3 AM through 6 AM
-  5 AM through 9 AM



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Potential Snow-Related Impacts

- Mainly Grassy Accumulations (shown)...
- ...but during period of heaviest rates, could “slush” on rural roads and bridges/overpasses
 - Best opportunity along IH 69C north of Edinburg to Brooks County; US 83 in Zapata and SR 16 and 285 Zapata through northern Jim Hogg
- Heaviest Snow would drop temperature to 33°F
- When heaviest snow over, turns back to light rain/drizzle



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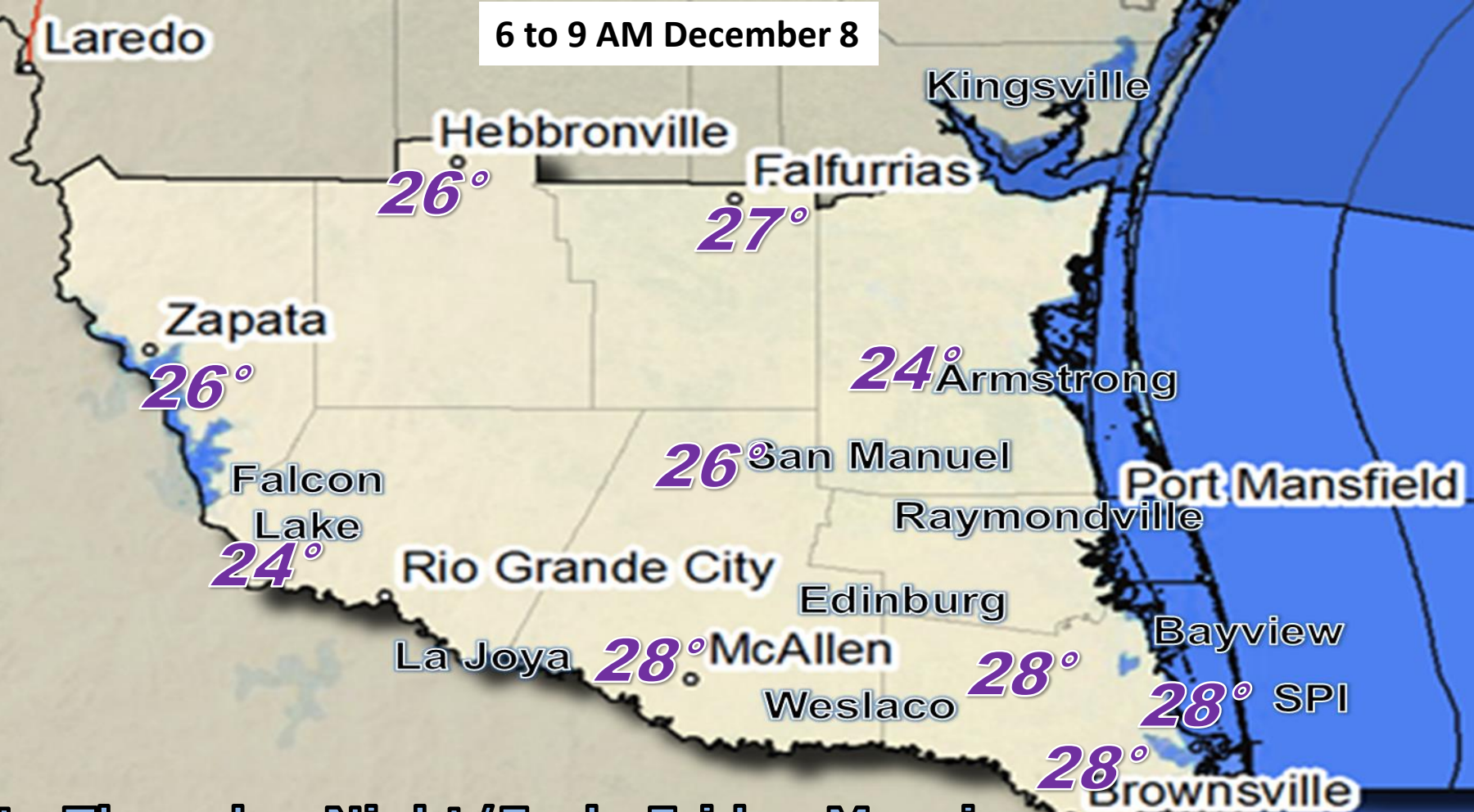
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6 to 9 AM December 8



Late Thursday Night/Early Friday Morning
Forecast Wind Chill ("Feels Like")



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Difficult to Dangerous Boating Through Friday

- Gale Warnings Continuing
- Expected Wind: **25 to 32 knots with Frequent Gusts 40 knots**
- Waves: Beaufort Force 6 and 7 (shown); **11 to 15 feet at peak Thursday Night/Friday AM**
- Small Craft Boaters/Fishers: Suggested to **postpone trips until Saturday** at earliest



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Brownsville/RGV

Watch For Pelicans



Strong 'Nother Creates Issues

**Temperatures Thursday through Friday AM:
40-45**

North Winds 20-30 mph, Gusts 35+
Light-Moderate Rain Late Tonight-Early
Friday



Most Impacted Areas:
Queen Isabella Causeway to SPI
Bahia Grande/Gayman Bridge Area
on Highway 48

Note:
Volunteers and members of
local law enforcement may
be in the area or on the
roadways. Drive with caution!



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Make Rainy Days Safe Days!

How to Prepare

- Check your wiper blades and replace if dry-rotted
- Check tire tread/air pressure and fill/replace as needed
- Remove debris from ditches and canals



Visibility and Traction Leave Time for Reaction!



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Don't Forget Your Furry Friends!

NWS Brownsville, TX

Cold Nights Ahead

For any pets left outside!

BRRRRR

Thursday Night
33 to 37°F

Friday Afternoon
46 to 52°F



Friday Night
33-39°F



Remember: Fresh water, food, shelter from elements, and blankets or straw if stuck outdoors!



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Wrap: Suggested Actions

• Snow

- Caution is urged for late night driving (ranches) and the early morning commute (Valley) for:
 - Low visibility 1/4 to 1/2 mile in any heavy snow bands
 - Rapid “slushy” accumulation on elevated roads – slow down and keep distance between vehicles
 - Solid ice is NOT expected

• Cold

- Bundle Up: Multiple layers and a hat/scarf recommended outdoors through Friday
- Make sure space heaters operating properly
- Young tropical vegetation should remain inside until Saturday afternoon
- Don't forget about pets; they may not be acclimated to the sudden change



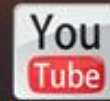
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Wrap, Continued

- **Boating/Fishing/Beach/Tides**

- Gale Force Winds, Beaufort Force 7 Seas = No Go for Small Craft Through Friday
- Tide "run up" to the dunes peaking at high tide Thursday evening on SPI
- Skip the beach until Sunday



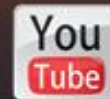
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