By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

What happened to spring?

Saturday's activity in Imperial was nearly stalled when a storm bringing high winds and a heavy, wet snow hit the Imperial area.

Forecasts several days before that predicted four to seven inches of snow here held true. According to local weather watcher Cory Schuller, four inches of snow came with the storm.

The conditions forced the closing of Highway 6, west of Imperial to the Colorado state line.

Ray Walrod, highway maintenance superintendent with the Dept. of Roads, said Highway 6 was closed shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday due to zero visibility. It reopened Sunday about 7:30 a.m.

They were getting reports of a number of vehicles in the ditches, he said, and the difficulty with visibility in getting them pulled out.

Walrod said the state's snow removal trucks were out by noon Saturday to begin moving snow that was starting to build up and get slushy.

"We had a heck of a time keeping up," he said.

The state pulled its trucks off the highways later Saturday at dark, he said, because of poor visibility.

There were similar conditions in Perkins County, Walrod noted. Highway 23, west of Grant to the state line, was also closed at about 12:20 a.m. Sunday, reopening about 6:50 a.m.

The worst areas were west of Imperial, Grant and Enders, Walrod noted.

Imperial Public Works Supt. Pat Davison said city trucks went out at 4 a.m. Sunday to begin clearing streets in town.

Chase County Sheriff Tim Sutherland said no accidents were reported to his office, but they did have a lot of calls about vehicles that had slid off the roads into ditches.

Most people apparently heeded the warnings and stayed home, avoiding unnecessary travel, he said.

While the city experienced no electrical problems or outages, that wasn't the case east and south of here.

Southwest Public Power District (SWPP) crews were out battling wind, snow and ice Saturday night and Sunday morning.

SWPP reported outages to some of its customers on the Chase/Dundy County line and in eastern Hayes County. According to SWPP's Colyn Suda, service was restored to all residential services within hours of the power losses, and all were back on Sunday afternoon.

No broken SWPP poles were reported and most of the outages were caused by high winds blowing the lines together, creating frayed wires, Suda said.

In anticipation of Saturday's storm, Chase County was in a winter storm warning on Friday, which was upgraded to a blizzard warning Saturday morning.

Much of the snow was gone early this week, as temperatures were back in the 60s by Tuesday.

Kids' Easter Egg Hunt postponed to April 11

Due to Saturday's storm, the Easter Egg Hunt in Imperial was postponed to this Saturday, April 11, in Campbell Park.

Parents should have their children at the park before 1 p.m. The Hunt will start promptly at 1 p.m.

The Hunt is organized by the Imperial Eagles and Auxiliary with support from the Chamber.

See the advertisement on page 3 for more details.