



Arctic Outbreak and Snow to Impact the Area

January 21, 2026
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Key Messages

- An **Arctic Outbreak** will bring extremely cold temperatures to the region for Friday-Sunday
- **Dangerous Cold Wind Chills** of -10F to -20F are expected, especially for Saturday and Sunday mornings
- **Accumulating Snowfall** will also affect much of the region with southern Kansas having better chances for the highest snowfall amounts

NEW

What Has Changed

- The Winter Storm Watch has been extended northward. An Extreme Cold Watch has been issued for the entire forecast area through Monday morning.



**Winter Storm Watch in effect
Friday afternoon - Saturday night**



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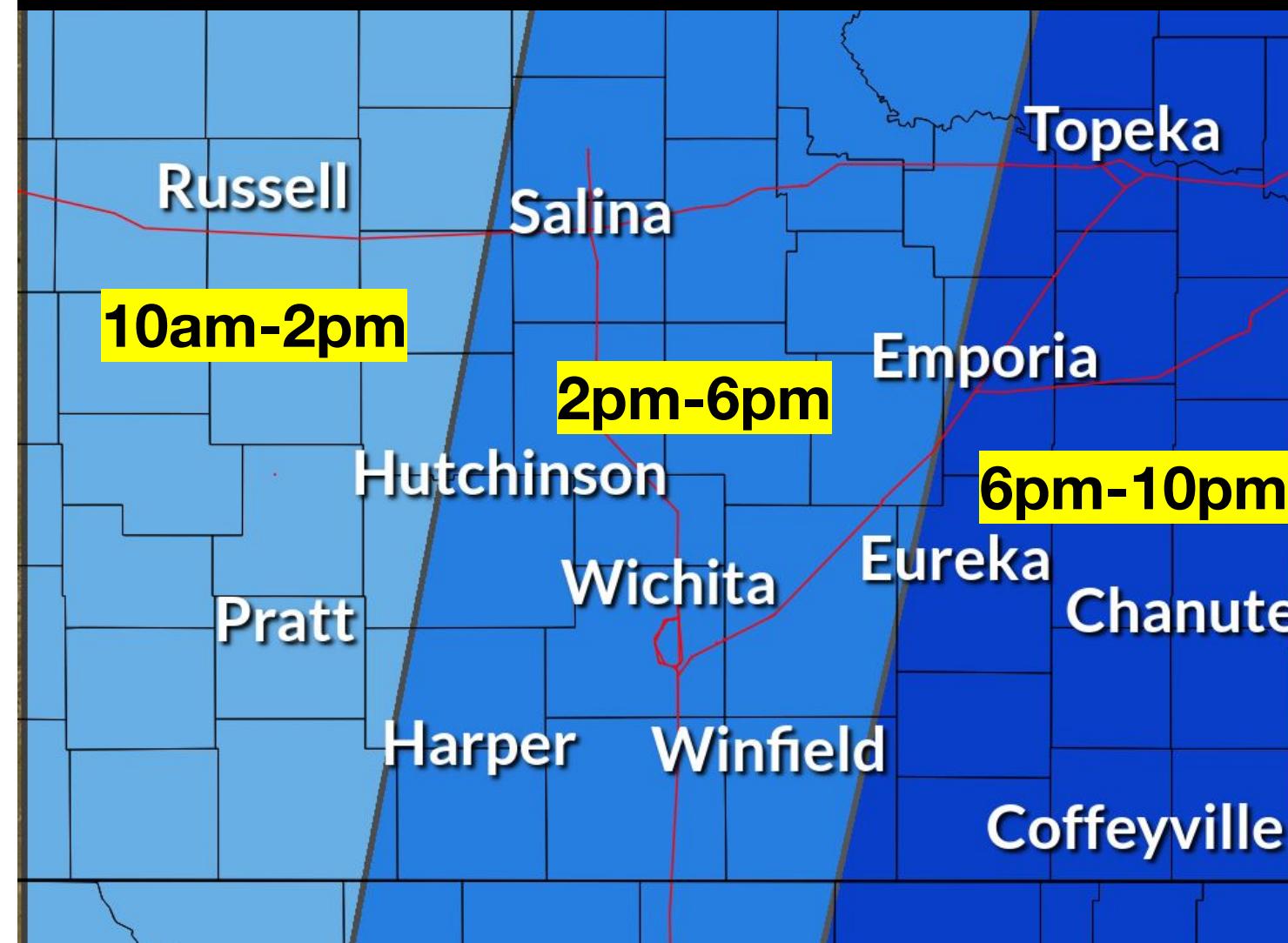
National Weather Service
Wichita, KS



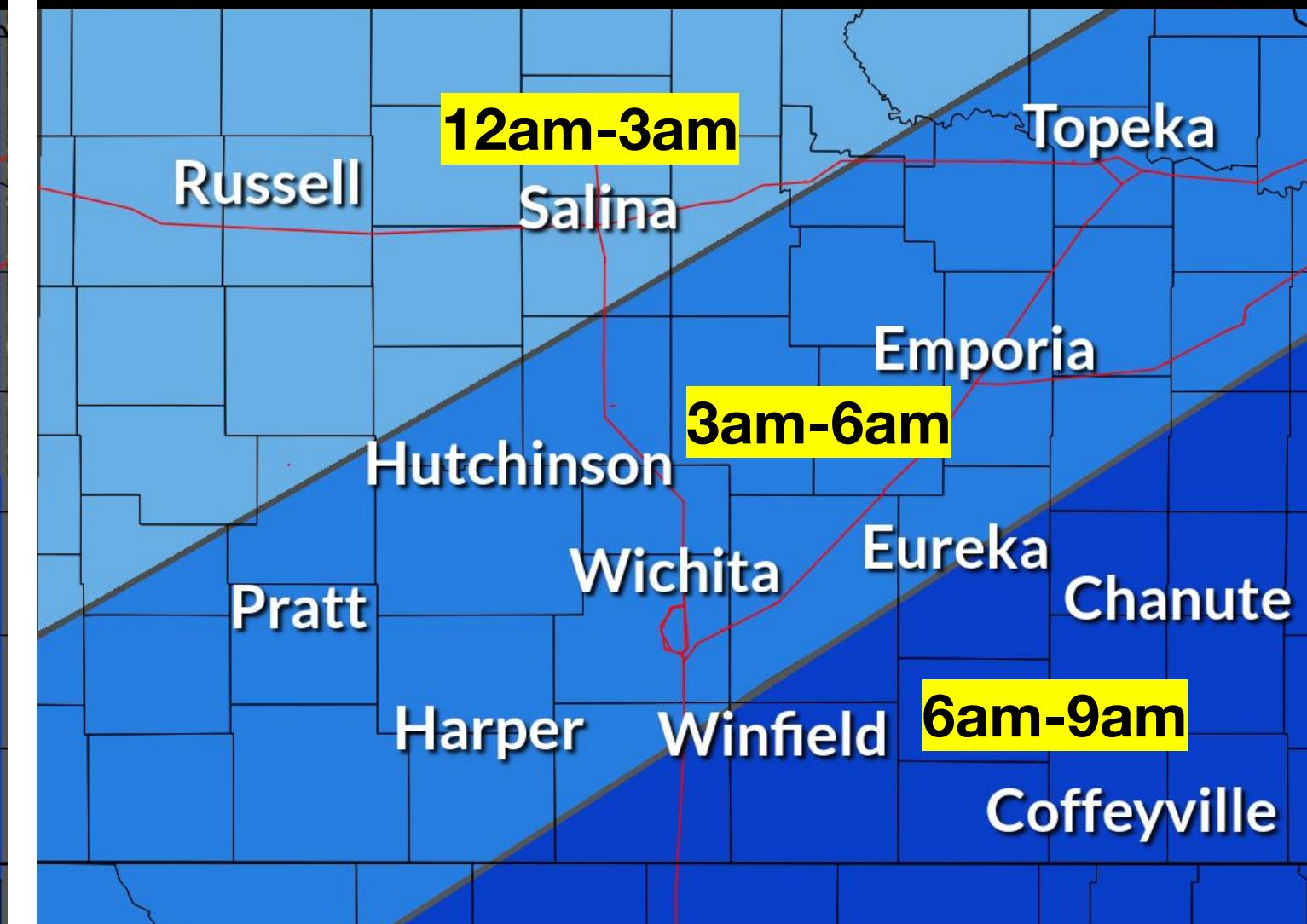
Snow Timing Friday - Sunday Morning

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Snow Start Time - Friday



Snow End Time - Sunday



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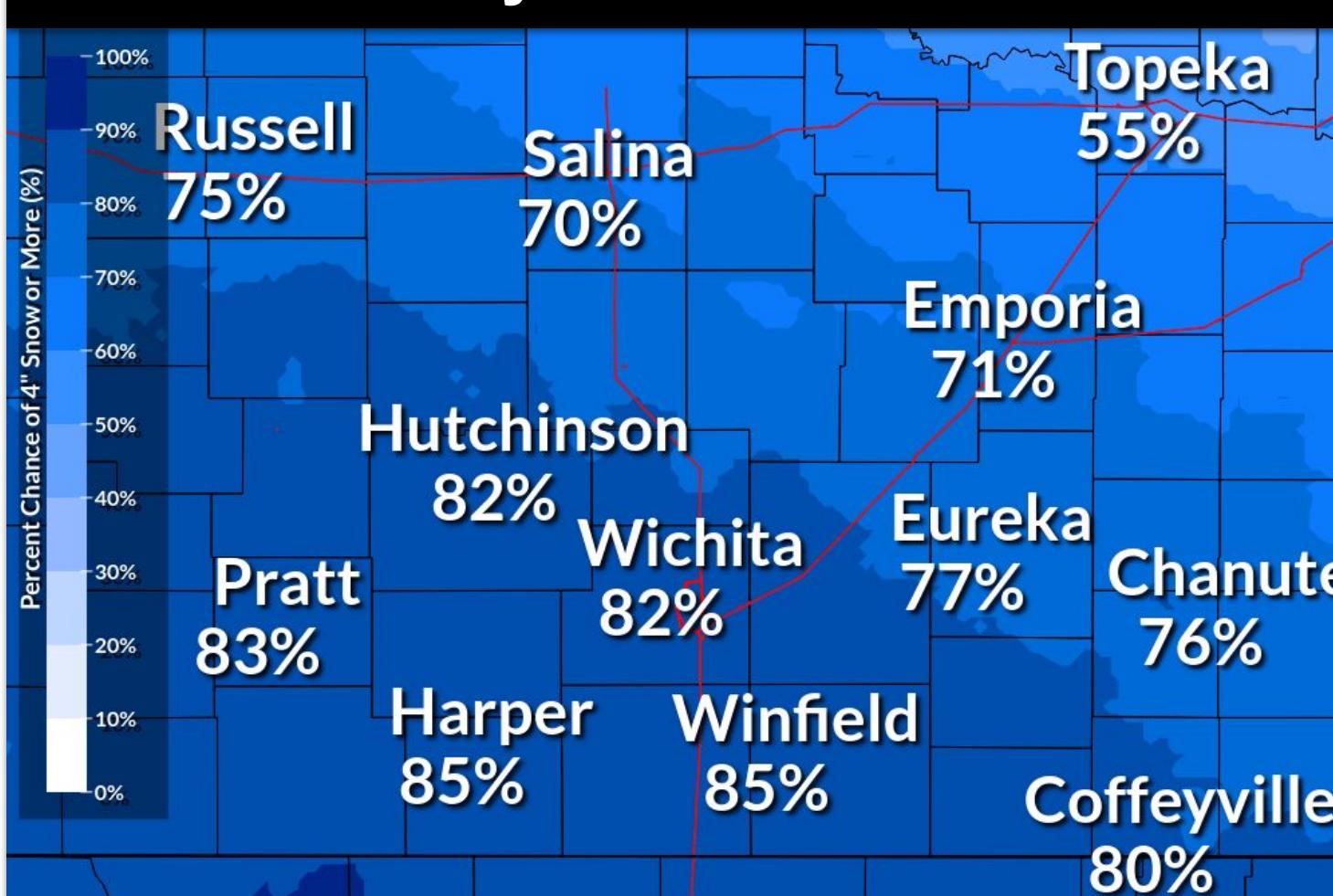
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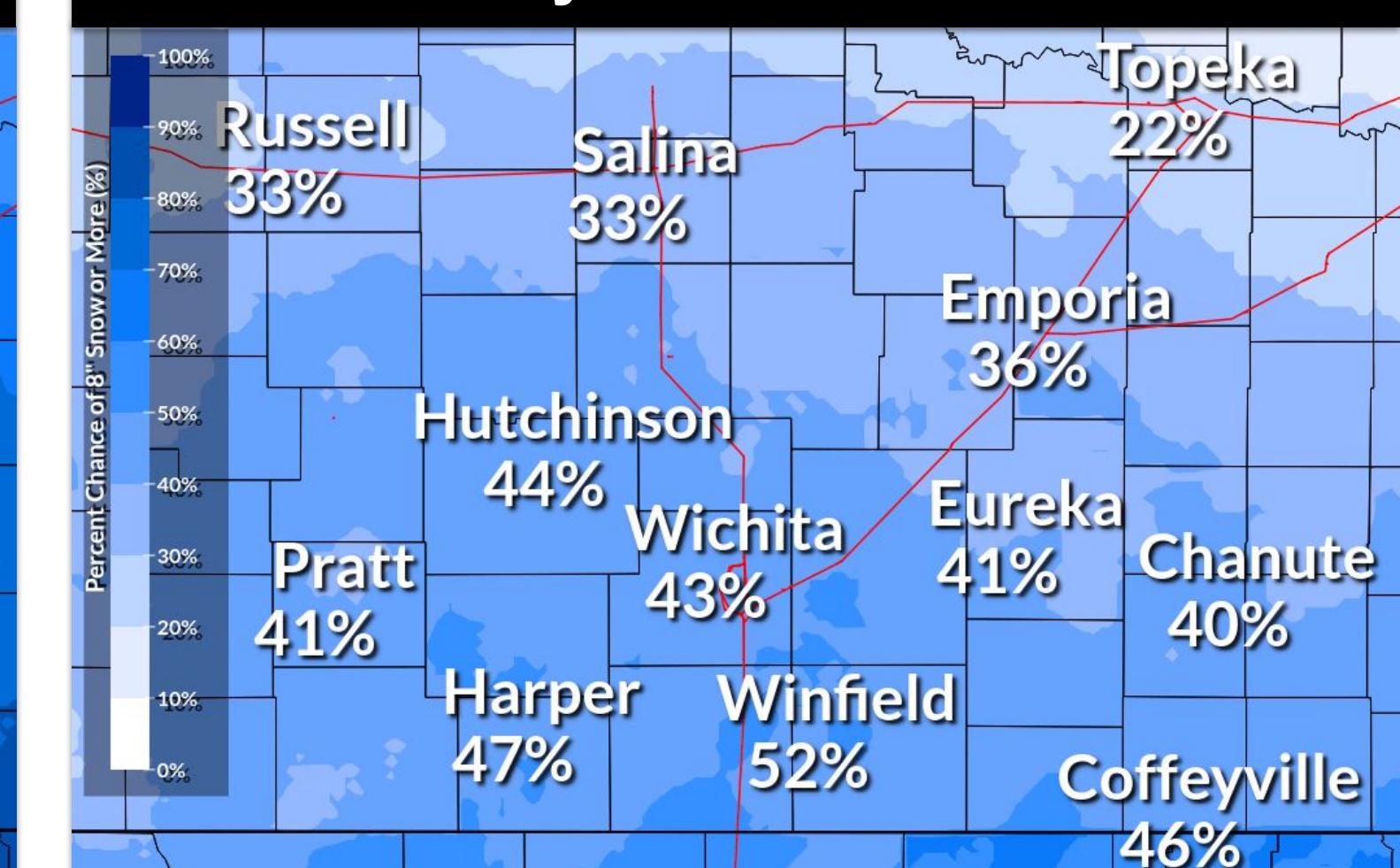
Probability Chances for Accumulating Snow

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Probability of 4" Snow or More



Probability of 8" Snow or More



HAZARDOUS
TRAVEL

Moderate Impacts - Expect disruptions to daily life

- Hazardous driving conditions. Use extra caution while driving
- Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.



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Forecast Confidence for Snowfall

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Location

Low Medium **High**

Confidence is HIGH that the higher snowfall amounts will extend across southern Kansas with lesser amounts further north.

Timing

Low Medium **High**

Confidence is HIGH that snow is expected to start late Friday afternoon or Friday evening and then continue through Saturday night.

Magnitude

Low **Medium** High

Confidence is MEDIUM for snowfall amounts due to a possible location shift for the higher amounts with new information over the coming days.



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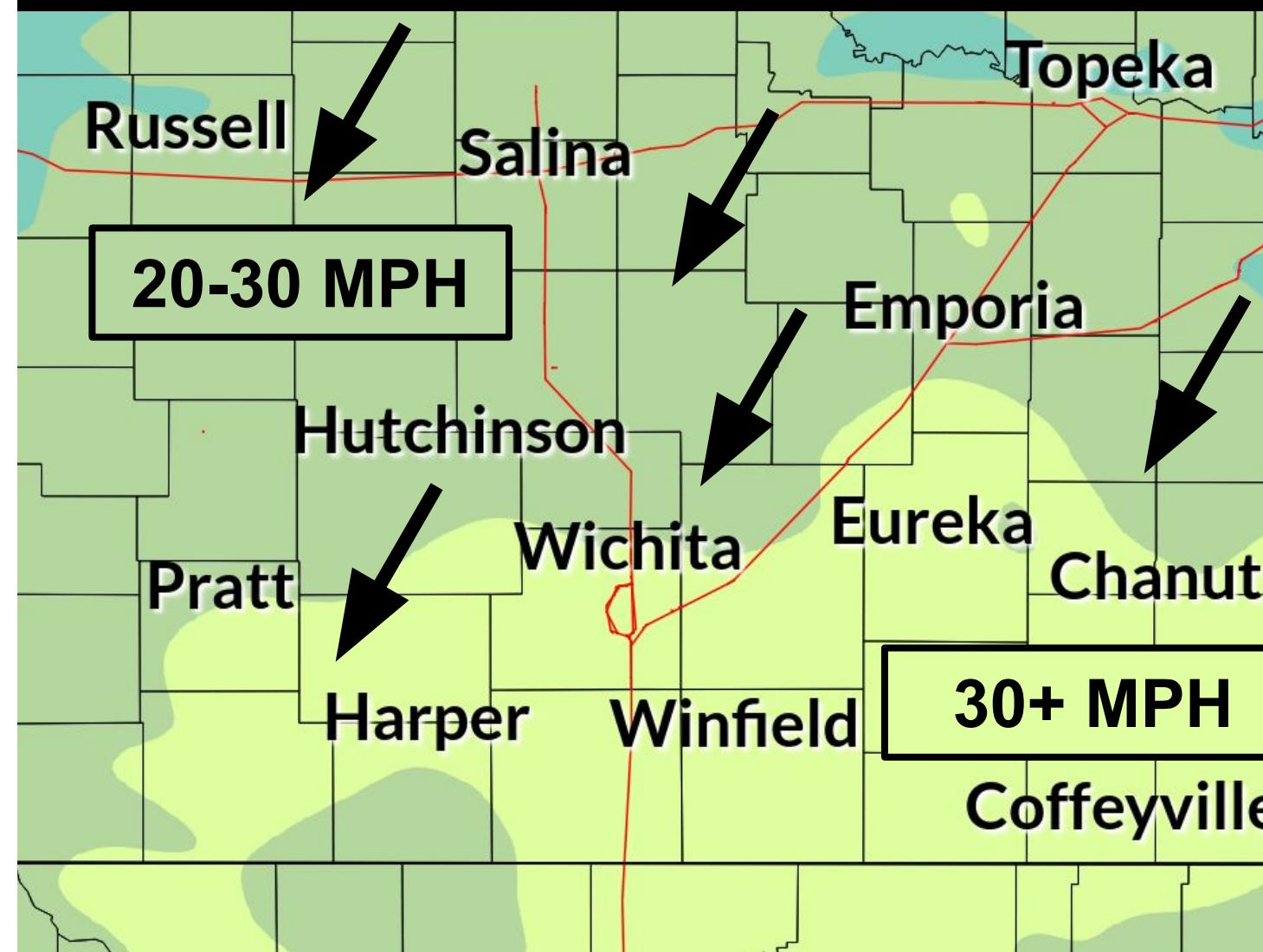
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Strong Winds Expected Friday Morning

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Maximum Wind Gusts Friday AM



- Northeasterly winds will increase behind the front on Friday morning
- Breezy winds will lead to dangerous wind chills
- Winds will diminish through the afternoon
- Strongest winds are not expected to overlap with snowfall



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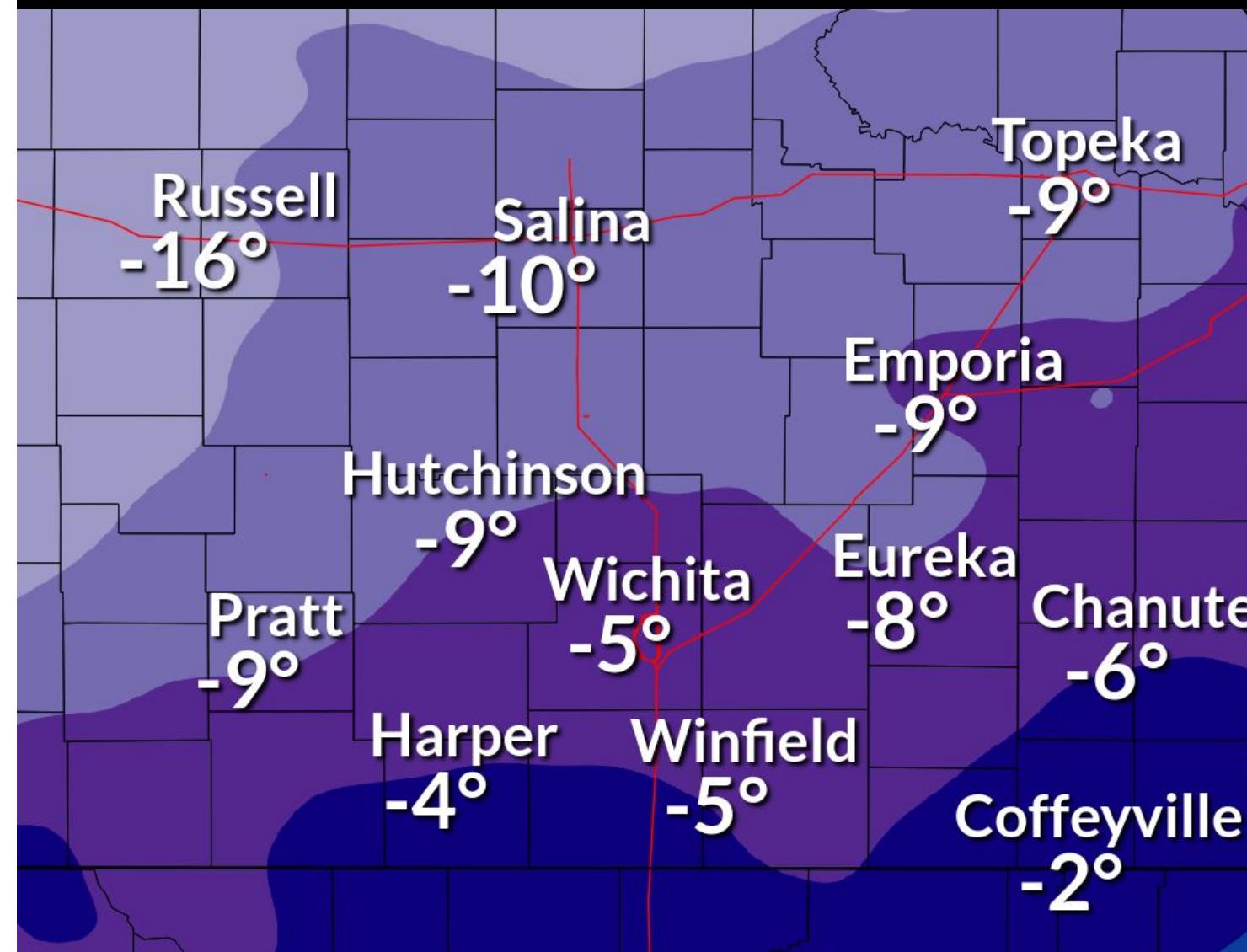
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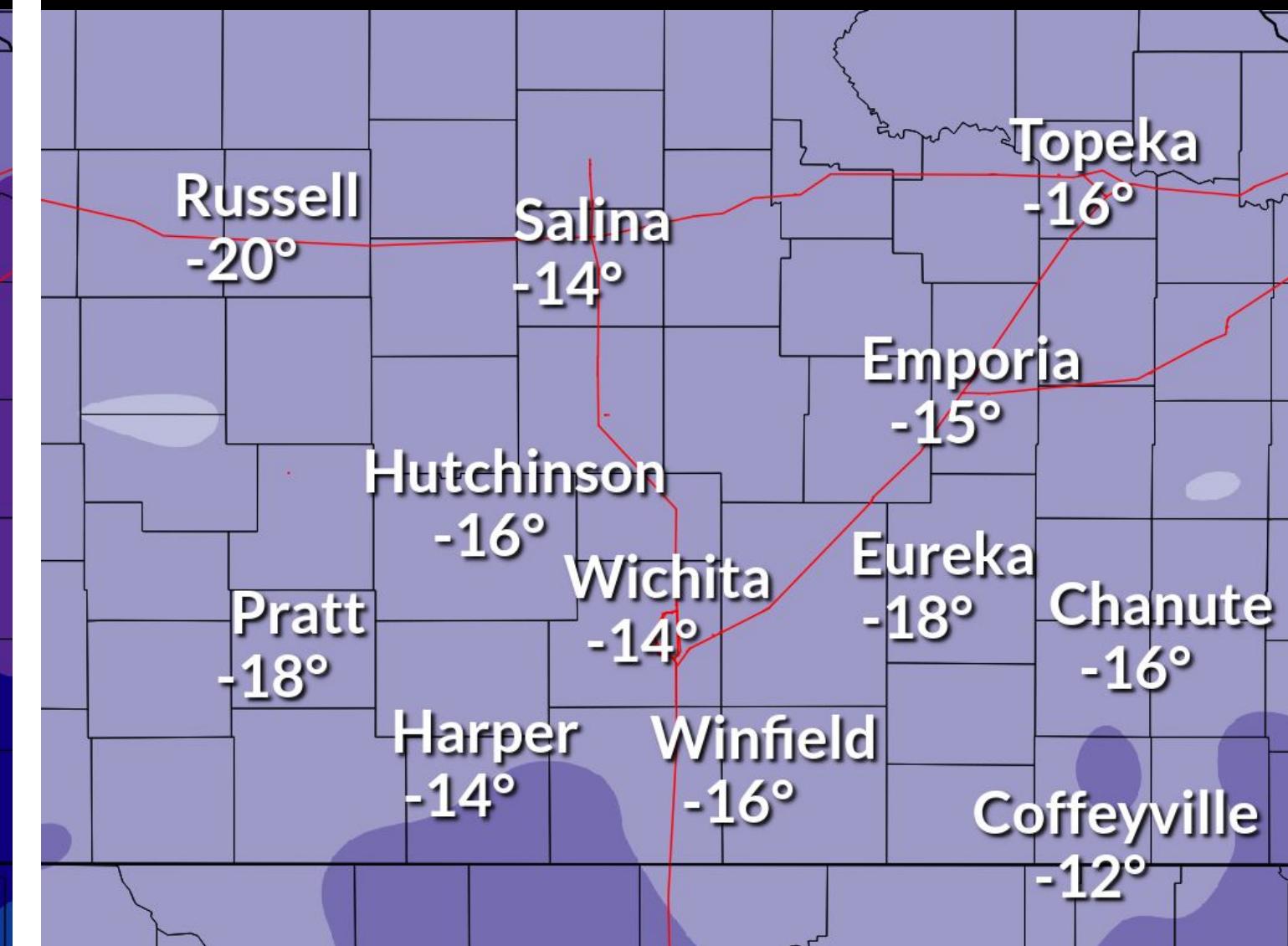
Dangerous Wind Chills Beginning Friday

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Friday Morning



Saturday Morning



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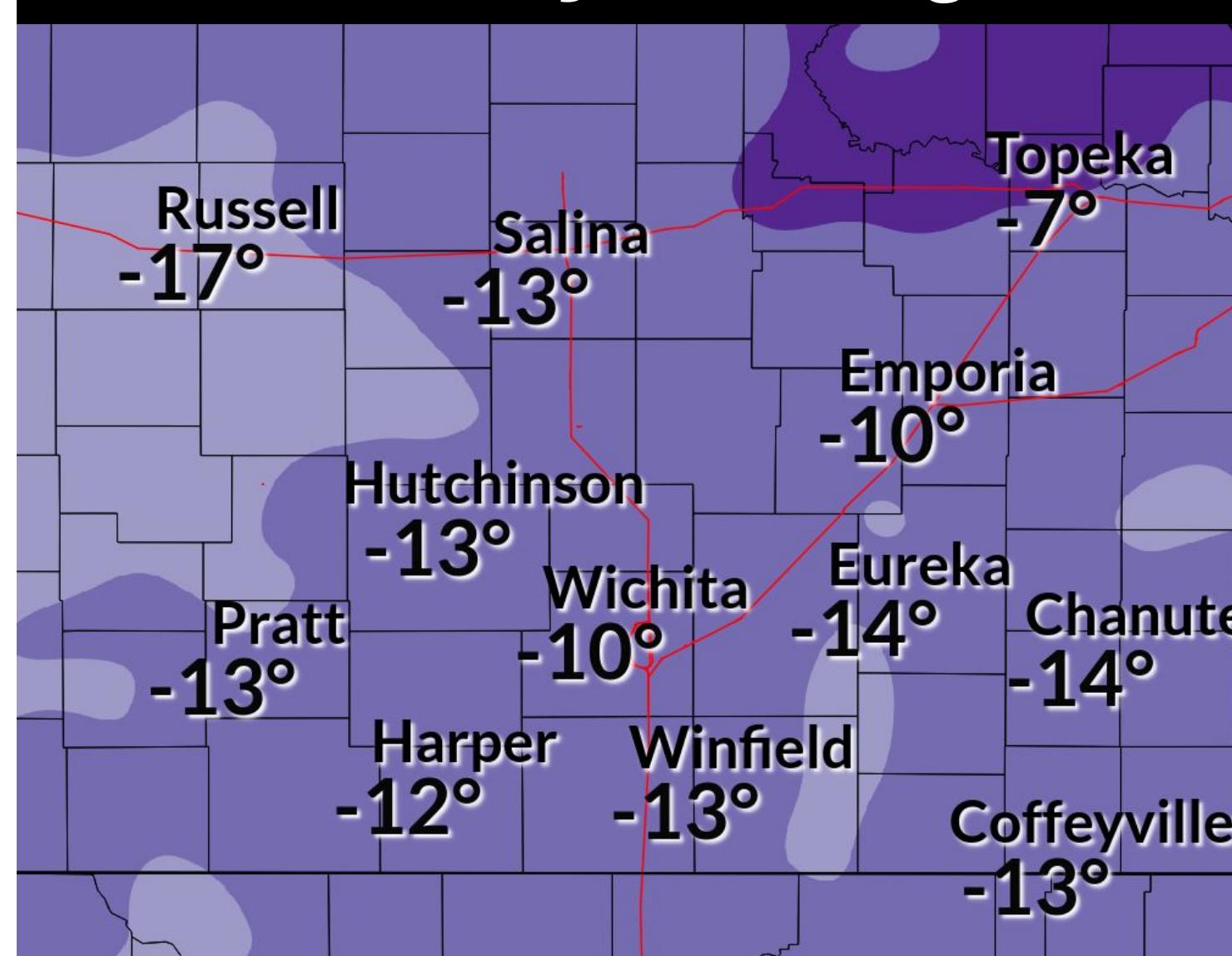
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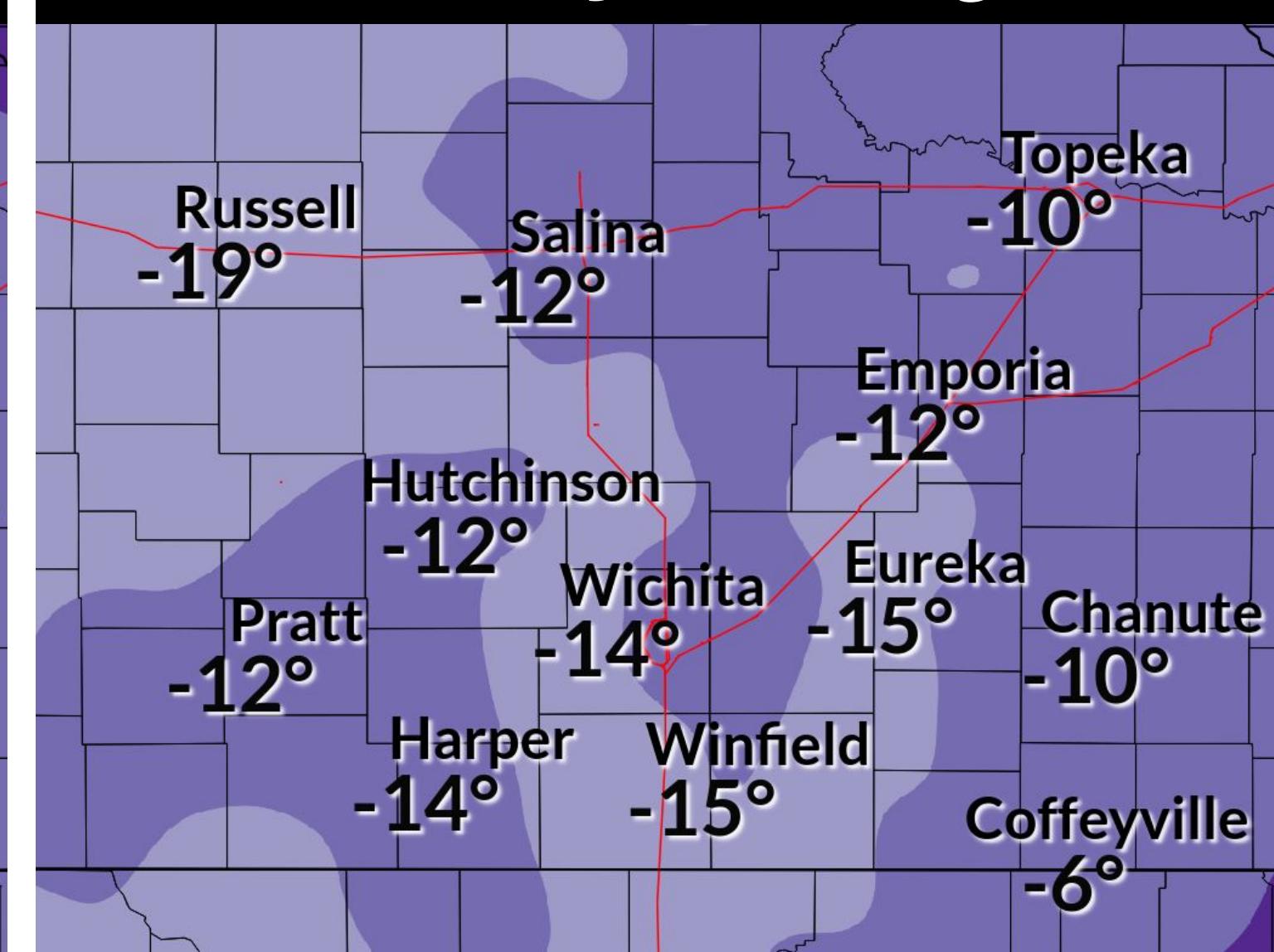
Dangerous Wind Chills Through Monday

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Sunday Morning



Monday Morning



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Forecast Confidence for Extreme Cold

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Location

Low Medium **High**

Confidence is HIGH for extreme cold temperatures and dangerous wind chills impacting the entire area.

Timing

Low Medium **High**

Confidence is HIGH that Arctic air will spread into the area early Friday morning and linger through Monday morning.

Magnitude

Low Medium **High**

Confidence is HIGH that Arctic air with extremely cold temperatures and dangerous winds chills in the the -10 to -20 degree range will impact the area



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Tips to Prepare for Extreme Cold and Winter Travel

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