

Cold Weather Rule is now in effect for heat

The Kansas Corporation Commission's Cold Weather Rule took effect Thursday, Nov. 8, and remain in effect through the end of March. The rule prohibits utility companies from disconnecting a customer's natural gas or electric service during periods of extreme cold and requires them to offer a 12 month payment plan to allow consumers to maintain or re-establish utility service.

"The Cold Weather Rule helps to ensure that Kansans can be warm in their home this winter," said commission chairman Mark

Sievers. Consumers are encouraged to take steps to prepare for colder temperatures this winter."

Under the rule, utility companies are prohibited from disconnecting a customer's service when temperatures are forecast to be at or below 35 degrees over the next 24 hours and cannot initiate disconnection until temperatures are forecast to be above 35 degrees for the next 48 hours. They must contact the customer 24 hours before disconnecting service.

The commission wrote the rule in 1983 as part of their billing standards. It applies only to residential customers of electric and natural gas utility companies under the commission's jurisdiction. For a complete list of utilities regulated, go to kcc.ks.gov/pi/jurisdictional_utilities.htm.

The commission wants Kansans to have services, but also recognizes their responsibility to pay for it.

"Make sure heating equipment is in good working order," Sievers said. "Set your

thermostat at a reasonable level, weather strip and caulk windows and doorways - doing these things can cut down on heating costs."

Under the rule, any residential customer with a past due balance will qualify for payment arrangements under the rule. It is the customer's responsibility to make those arrangements.

Customers must contact their utility company and inform them they cannot pay their bill in full, and then agree to pay 1/12th

of the current bill, the full amount of any disconnection or reconnection fee, plus any applicable deposit to the utility. They must agree to pay the remaining balance in equal payments over the next 11 months, in addition to their current monthly bill.

Information about the cold weather rule is available at: kcc.ks.gov/pi/cwr_english.htm or from the commissions' Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at (800) 662-0027.

The Whos with the Grinch



The Grinch (Hunter Harkins) sang a song with the Whos including Sabre Yarbrough, Cheyenne Prevatt, Kat Boyington, Raquel

Tomsic, Ryleigh Paxton and Elisa Backofen at dress rehearsal for "Seussical the Musical" last Tuesday at the Goodland High School

auditorium. Also pictured are Mrs. Mayor (Brooke Lockhart) and Mr. Mayor (Carly McCracken). Photo by Pat Schiefen

COMMUNITY INPUT WANTED

USD 352 Goodland will be hosting **School Facilities Meetings** for the community. The district has been working on the next school facility project for almost a year, and would like to get the communities input at this point in the process. The Board of Education is preparing to make final decisions and would appreciate your thoughts on several options. Each attendee will be given a brief survey to complete after the presentation so your voice will be heard. **The meetings will be conducted at the High School auditorium on the following dates:**
MONDAY, November 12th at 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, November 14 at 12 p.m.
FRIDAY, November 16 at 7:30 a.m.
 You only need to come to one session as the same information will be presented.

SCHOOL FACILITIES MEETING

State to offer advise on how to get care

A new state effort went online last Thursday to provide Kansas seniors with advice on how to get health care.

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services informed the Aging and Disability Resource Center to provide information, referrals and contacts for trained counselors.

The department has a contract with the Southwest Kansas Area

Agency on Aging to operate the center. The agency will work with 10 others across the state to provide these services. The center is designed to provide senior with referrals to services under the department and put them in contact with someone in their area trained in health-care options counseling.

To contact the center, call (855) 200-2372.

corrections

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