

Consumers need to prepare for winter

Consumers encouraged to prepare now for winter temperatures

As winter approaches and temperatures drop, the Kansas Corporation Commission reminds Kansans that the Cold Weather Rule takes effect Tuesday, Nov. 1, and remains in effect through Saturday, March 31.

"We encourage consumers to take appropriate steps to prepare for colder temperatures this winter," said Corporation Commission chairman Mark Sievers. "Set your thermostat at a reasonable level, make sure heating equipment is in good working order, caulk and weather strip windows and doorways - these are all things that can cut down on heating costs. The Cold Weather Rule helps to ensure that Kansans can be warm in their home this winter."

The rule prohibits utility companies from disconnecting a customer's natural gas or electric service during periods of extreme cold. The rule requires utility companies to offer a 12-month payment plan to allow consumers to maintain or re-establish utility service.

Disconnection conditions
Utility companies may not initiate disconnection until temperatures are forecast to be above 35 degrees for the next 48 hours.

Utility companies must contact the customer by phone or in-person 24 hours before disconnecting service.

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.

The commission wants Kansans to have the electric and gas service needed to keep their homes warm during the winter months. They also recognize the customer's responsibility to make arrangements to pay for that service.

The Cold Weather Rule was designed in 1983 to ensure that both goals are met. Any residential customer with a past due balance will qualify for payment arrangements under the rule. However, it is the customer's re-

sponsibility to contact the gas or electric company to make those arrangements.

Payment plan conditions maintain or restore service

Customers must contact their utility company and inform that they cannot pay their bill in full.

Customers must agree to pay 1/12th of the total amount owed, 1/12th of the current bill, the full amount of any disconnection or reconnection fee, plus any applicable deposit to the utility.

Customers must agree to pay the remaining balance in equal payments over the next 11 months, in addition to their current monthly bill.

The Cold Weather Rule applies only to residential customers of electric and natural gas utility companies under the commission's jurisdiction. For a complete list of utilities regulated visit: http://kcc.ks.gov/pi/jurisdictional_utilities.htm.

More information about the Cold Weather Rule is available at: http://kcc.ks.gov/pi/cwr_english.htm. Kansans may also contact their local utility company or the commission's office of public affairs and consumer protection at (800)662-0027.



THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CHORUS, directed by Neals Carmichael practices every Sunday afternoon for the performance that will be held on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. at the Peace Lutheran Church. Times staff photo by Tim Burr

Scholars bowl begin season at home

The Cheylin Junior High Scholars Bowl began their 2011-2012 season with their home scholars bowl in Bird City on Oct. 17.

"It was a good early test for our kids, and they responded very well," said head coach Kale Shields.

Other teams attending were Atwood, Oberlin, Goodland, Brewster, Triplains, Tribune, Golden Plains and Weskan. The seventh grade (A-team) finished in second place, losing to Goodland in three extra rounds. The eighth grade

(A-team) finished in fourth place, coming up short to Atwood. The following students were on each team:

Eighth Grade (A) - Ivan Kemp, Devon Janicke, Reece Leonard, Elizabeth Keltz and Elsa Craig Burr.

Eighth Grade (B) - Derek Vandike, Kelsey Miller, Diana Garcia (all eighth graders) and Jorge Gonzalez (seventh grade).

Seventh Grade (A) - Tommie Frisbie, CJ Antholz, Kevin Estrada, Bergan Bock and Haleigh Rucker.

Seventh Grade (B) - Jordan Janicke, Rachel Keltz, Angel Sanchez, Alex Hazuka and Robert Glass (all sixth graders)

The Cheylin Scholars Bowl teams were back in action in Goodland on Oct. 24. Other teams competing in Goodland were Atwood, Oakley and Burlington, Colo. The seventh grade won the tournament, while the eighth grade finished fourth place.

The eighth grade had some tough competition, said Coach Shields, but played very well. The seventh grade was outstanding, losing only one match on their march toward the gold medal.

Teams included:
Eighth Grade - Ivan Kemp, Devon Janicke, Reece Leonard, Derek Vandike and Jordan Janicke (sixth grader)

Seventh Grade - Bergan Bock, Jorge Gonzalez, Kevin Estrada, CJ Antholz and Tommie Frisbie

On Halloween, the Cheylin Junior High Scholars bowl rolled into Golden Plains and placed all of their teams. The sixth grade in their first competition against oth-

er sixth grade students, finished tied for first, but earned second place on a tiebreaker to Atwood.

The seventh grade kept their streak of placing either first or second in every tournament they've competed in since last year. Like the sixth grade, they finished tied for first, but lost the head-to-head tiebreaker to Weskan. Another tournament and another medal for this group. The eighth grade also had a great day, and earned the third place award. Teams included:

Eighth Grade - Devon Janicke, Ivan Kemp, Elizabeth Keltz, Elsa Craig Burr, Reece Leonard, Danae Magnani and Diana Garcia

Seventh Grade - Tommie Frisbie, Haleigh Rucker, Bergan Bock, CJ Antholz and Jorge Gonzalez

Sixth Grade - Ethan Moore, Alex Hazuka, Rachel Keltz, Angel Sanchez and Jordan Janicke

All of our kids are competing well, as we get ready for our next scholars bowl in Atwood, Coach Shields said. We have two really good teams who I feel will represent Cheylin well.

Club Clip

McDonald Senior Center

President Joan Tongish welcomed 34 guests, including three from the Rawlins County Health Department to the Dec. 7 meeting at the McDonald Senior Center.

Phyllis Wingfield had decorated in Fall colors with cute pilgrims, small cookie replicas of pilgrim hats, and a Thanksgiving napkin at each place setting.

Joan thanked everyone for their help in preparing the traditional Thanksgiving meal. Birthdays and anniversaries were acknowledged.

Marlene Johnson read a Thanksgiving poem and gave thanks for the bountiful meal. Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship.

At the business meeting the Dec.

5 Christmas meal was planned. Committees: Poem and Prayer - Pastor Mark Adams. Bingo - Phyllis Wingfield. Kitchen Duty - Everyone takes turn.

Bird City News

Jim Dorsch of Louisburg, and Bob Dorsch of Mesa, Ariz., spent several days on the farm with their mother, Hulda Dorsch. Tom and Marcy Dorsch are settled into their new home in Niger, Africa. Their daughter Lindsay is doing her student teaching in French in Niger for one month and enjoying her visit with her parents.

Bird City News

Friday was the day the largest number of weddings was performed around the world, singularly and in numbers of 11. Steve and Isabelle Headrick, Willy and Carol Martinez, and Ray and Norma Martinez were in Denver last weekend to attend one of the 11-11-11 a.m. weddings.

This wedding conducted at Cross Roads was for Emmalee Keeney, and Matthew Martinez-Suazo from Denver. Matthew is a grandson of Della Solano, son to Manuel Suazo, and great nephew to Isabelle Headrick, Willy Martinez, Bill Martinez, and Ray Martinez.



Remember The Classic Rose for all your upcoming floral needs. The holidays are approaching quickly. We will have a fresh supply of Autumn flowers for your Thanksgiving needs. We specialize in fresh, silks and plants.



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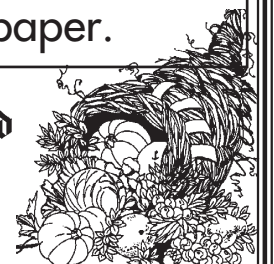
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Early Deadline

The week of Thanksgiving, The Herald and Times will be coming out early so everyone will have their paper which will include the Treasure Hunt numbers.

Articles and Ads Deadline is Friday, Nov. 18, at 5 p.m. for the Nov. 24 paper.

The Saint Francis Herald
Bird City Times



2011 TAX LEVIES FOR CHEYENNE COUNTY, KS USED TO FUND THE 2012 BUDGETS

2011 Valuation		2011 Levy		2012 Valuation		2012 Levy		Difference
State	\$35,788,169	1.500	\$537,337.683	\$37,737,683	1.500	\$566,055.247	28,717.564	
County	\$35,788,169	1.500	\$537,337.683	\$37,737,683	1.500	\$566,055.247	28,717.564	
General	\$2,855			\$4,667		2,812		
Road & Bridge	22,966			21,121		-1,845		
Bridge Building	1,323			0,563		-760		
Noxious Weed	0,714			0,709		-0,005		
Hospital	5,461			11,660		6,199		
Total	82,519			88,720		6,201		

2009 Levy		2010 Valuation		2010 Levy		Difference
Bird City	2,325,752	\$2,141	\$2,395,583	\$2,970	\$2,970	0,829
St. Francis	6,482,270	42,405	\$6,725,959	41,687	\$4,872	-718
USD 103	9,155,663	53,002	9,293,470	52,997	53,002	5
USD 103 Rec	9,155,663	0,507	9,293,470	1,000	0,493	-6
USD 297	26,632,506	39,628	28,444,213	40,054	40,054	426
USD 297 Rec	26,632,506	1,000	28,444,213	1,000	1,000	0
Cemetery Dist 1	9,630,560	1,000	9,771,691	1,556	0,556	-556
Cemetery Dist 2	26,157,609	1,025	27,965,992	0,832	-0,193	
Rural Fire 1	26,403,581	0,875	28,039,028	1,110	0,235	
Rural Fire 3	576,566	1,288	677,083	0,447	-0,841	
NWKS Library	28,590,147	1,073	28,516,111	1,130	0,057	
Sunflower Ext. Dist. 6	35,788,169	1,065	37,737,683	2,160	1,095	

Levies of Taxing Units		City of Bird City		K.S.A. Levy	
State Levies	K.S.A. Levy	City of Bird City	K.S.A. Levy	79-1953	49,421
KS Ed. Bldg.	1,000	General	79-5032	3,587	
State Institutions	0,500	Library	79-5032	3,587	
Total	1,500	Total	62,970	41,687	

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