

# Cold weather rule goes into effect; seniors advised of heating program

Kansas seniors need to be aware of the importance of weatherization tips for their home, ways to conserve energy, and resources available for assistance with utility payments, said an official with the state's department on aging.

"In addition to our traditional outreach efforts and through the 11 Area Agencies on Aging, the department is partnering with the Kansas Corporation Commission to educate consumers, especially older adults, so they can prepare for high heating bills this winter," Connie Hubbell, Secretary of the Kansas Department on Aging.

The rule, which went into effect Nov. 1 and runs through March 31, establishes guidelines prohibiting the disconnection of residential service during extremely cold periods.

It also requires those utility companies under the jurisdiction of the commission to offer a 12-month payment plan for part and current bills to allow customers to maintain or reestablish service. Important conditions of the rule are:

- Disconnections are prohibited when the forecast calls for temperatures below 35 degrees during the next 24 hours.

- There must be a 48-hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees the day before a utility may disconnect service. The utility must contact the customer 24 hours prior to cutting off service through a telephone call or personal visit to the residence.

- To qualify for a cold weather rule payment plan, consumers must contact their utility company and meet the

commission's "good faith test," under which customers inform the utility that they cannot pay their entire bill.

- Customers must pay one-twelfth of the total owed the company to maintain or restore service under the rule. After making the initial payment, the customer must agree to pay all past bills in equal amounts over the next 11 months.

"While our efforts are targeted at Kansas seniors, all Kansans should be concerned about anticipated high heating costs this winter and should take steps to help reduce their consumption," Hubbell said.

Seniors who have a problem with a utility bill should first try to resolve the issue with the respective utility company. If those efforts fail, consumers can call, (800) 662-0027.

# Khan offers his opinions on Pakistan

From "KHAN," Page 1

The meetings in Bonn, Germany started Monday.

Pakistan is also very nervous about Russian involvement. Khan said they haven't forgotten the purpose behind the 1979 invasion.

"The Russians have always wanted warm water ports," said Khan. The 1979 invasion of Pakistan resulted from an inability to set up stable puppet governments, he said.

"They wanted to eventually move into Pakistan or Iraq and gain access to warm water ports," he said. Only then United States President Jimmy Carter's threat to use nuclear weapons stopped them from moving on, he added.

"The Russians, Indians and Iranians have all opened diplomatic missions in Kabul, already," said Khan. The threat to Pakistan, especially from their historic enemy India, is too great to be ignored.

"Pakistan relied on the United States to control the northern alliance," he said. "President Bush told (northern alliance president Burhanuddin) Rabbani not to go into Kabul, but he did it anyway."

Rabbani has also raised concern about the northern alliance's goals by playing down the possibility of an interim administration coming out of the Bonn talks.

Khan said one of the biggest hurdles for any coalition to overcome in helping Afghanistan build a government is culture. He cited current problems in food distribution.

"The problem is very bad since the drought," he said, but added the food packets, though a "noble idea" weren't working.

"They cost about \$4 a packet, and they have dropped about 1 1/4 million packets," he said. "but it isn't food the people will eat."

Instead of American prepared food, Khan said a better solution would be to

ship rice, wheat flour and lentils into the country.

He added the United Nations is now doing that very thing.

"I've lived here 37 years, and I'm still not used to peanut butter," he said.

Foreign, especially European, troops will also clash with local populations because of differences in cultures.

"There are four Muslim countries willing to send troops," he said. "Turkey, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia would be better suited for that role."

Ultimately, if a provisional representative government can come out of the talks, "it will work."

But, if the government isn't representative, Khan fears the cycle of violence will continue.

"Pakistan and the CIA created the Taliban," he said, although inadvertently. They sent young Afghan refugees to religious training schools, called Madrassas, hoping to develop

an anti-Soviet, anti-communist way of thinking.

"When they (the Taliban) took over, things were peaceful," he said, "then they went crazy." Bin Laden "highjacked" the Taliban by pumping around \$200 million per year into Afghanistan, he said.

One thing he hopes people understand is that "all Muslims are not terrorists."

"Muslims, Jews, Christians, we all pray to the same God," he said. "All religions have their fanatics." He said bin Laden's brand of Islam wasn't about religion, it was about "politics and hate."

Khan said he has developed many friendships, not only in Colby, but around the country.

"Colby has treated me like a prince," he said. "I haven't been mistreated anywhere." In fact, he said, he has had the opposite experience.

"People seem to be genuinely concerned," he added.

# Nutcracker ballet comes to Colby

"The Nutcracker" will be presented Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. central time at the Colby High School Auditorium.

Admission will be by Western Plains Arts Association season passes or tickets will be available at the door, said officials.

Tickets are \$12 for adults \$12 and \$6 for students. Those with Western Plains Arts Association season passes will be admitted to the theatre first, and those purchasing tickets at the door will not be admitted until 2:45 p.m., officials said.

In describing the ballet, Vicky Waldschmidt, public relations, said that once upon a time, there was a young girl named Clara.

At Christmas time, a mysterious stranger appears with the gift of a nutcracker doll and Clara immediately falls in love with it.

In addition, David Taylor, who choreographed his version of the "Nutcracker" ballet, was asked the one question few others do.

How would the story appear to a child? That single query guides the whole production of the dance troupe's version of "The Nutcracker."

Taylor's bright, bold production is

a treat for the eyes, Waldschmidt said. He turns the entire ballet into a dream.

The David Taylor Dance Theatre was founded by choreographer David Taylor in 1979 and remains Colorado's only professional contemporary ballet company.

Through a child's eyes, the whole adult world is a bit grotesque and over-size. To emphasize that and the fact that the story is fantasy itself, the first act is all in black and white which is an art deco approach. As the story and action progress, color begins to enter so that by act II the stage is a riot of hues, a child's dream come true: animated candy! A prestigious group of dancers from all over the country has been assembled for this Nutcracker season, and the rehearsals go on seven days a week at Taylor's studio on Main Street in Littleton.

Students of the Cheryl Schwarz Dance Studio will be portraying the children throughout the ballet.

"If you're worn down by Christmas tradition, this production will recharge your holiday batteries," Waldschmidt said.

This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



Performers in the upcoming ballet, "The Nutcracker."

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