



USING AN INFRARED SCANNER, Les Loker, Midwest Energy star certified rater, demonstrates to Marion and Betty Miller the hot and cold spots located in their home.

Time staff photo by Casey McCormick

# Energy company offers service to help consumers lower bills

**By Casey McCormick**  
The harsh winters and hot summers of northwest Kansas can make paying energy bills a year round difficulty. Midwest Energy is providing a service to help lower energy use and make customer's homes more efficient.

Les Loker, a Midwest Energy energy star certified rater, is one of the company's employees trained

to give customers suggestions to make energy costs go down.

On Monday morning he arrived at the home of Marion and Betty Miller in St. Francis. Armed with high tech equipment, Mr. Loker first explained to the Millers what he would do.

Normally Midwest Energy provides a walk-through audit at no cost to any customer. On Monday

he also used a blower device and infrared scanner. The cost on the blower service is \$50 and the infrared scan service is \$25.

"The blower produces an artificial, 25 mile-an-hour wind that sucks air out of the house," said Mr. Loker. This causes a reverse air flow that shows where drafts enter the home.

The infrared scanner shows a black and white display of hot and cold spots in each room. Looking through wall and ceiling the scanners show everything from lath, drywall screws and insulation.

## Year's Past

**30 years ago - 1975**  
Tammy Underwood of Bird City was second runner up for queen at the Colby Community College Winter Formal. She was a nominee of the Gold Keys and Art Club.

Ralph Seymour and Ralph Leach were pleased when they were able to truck 5,500 pounds of clothing and supplies from this area to the Good Will Industries in Denver.

Senior Cindy Nelsen was notified that she is to be featured in the eighth annual edition of the Who's Who Among American High School Students.

Royce Bursch, David and Sara Sowers and Pastor and Mrs. Melvin Adams, youth sponsors, represented the Bird City Wesleyan Church at the youth convention held in St. Louis.

Shelly Young of Bird City is working on hairstyling techniques in the Cosmetology classes at Northwest Kansas Area Vocational-Technical School in Goodland.

Dwayne Gipe will be receiving the God and Country Award in Scouting during the worship hour at Immanuel United Methodist Church on Sunday, Jan. 19.

The theme of the 45th annual Cheyenne County Kansas Day program to be held in Bird City is "The Progressive Cattleman of Cheyenne County."

The Cheyenne County Conservation District annual meeting will be held Jan. 30 in Bird City. Bankers Awards will go to Mr. and Mrs. John Keller, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Burkhalter and Mrs. Beryl Smull.

Hot areas, such as a recent human hand print on a cabinet door show up as white. Cold areas, like outside air around a window, are seen as black shadows that seem to spider web into the home.

"Often what we find are some things that won't cost the customer very much," said Mr. Loker. "A lot can be done with a tub of caulk and some insulation."

Another service is a video tape of the walk-through audit that the homeowner can use as a reference for future repairs or to provide for an independent contractor to see what can be changed.

"We can't control the cost of gas," said Mr. Loker, "but, hopefully we can help customers use less."

# Board members continue to schedule entertainment

**By Lezlie Hilt**  
At the Jan. 6 Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting, members were still trying to fill the night entertainment for the 2005 fair which will be held in August.

Wednesday night of the fair will find the Kids Ranch Rodeo back again and, of course, the demolition derby will be held at the Saturday night spot. Several other ideas for entertainment have been checked into or tossed around but nothing has been reserved.

**Remodeling**  
The remodeling of the fair building is coming along. The members discussed whether to pay Lampe Hardware or Tri-State Lumber bills as there is not enough money in the account at this time. They could move money out of Grandstand Account into the General to pay the bills. After some discussion, it was decided to wait until the end of the month when the board gets their allotted budget and pay both bills.

**Extension office**  
Tye Faulkender, county extension director, asked the board if they saw any problems with having 4-H clubs or an all-county cleanup in June. If the grounds could be mowed in June and again before fair there wouldn't be as much of a problem with weeds. Jared Douthit, board member, offered to do the spraying as he is licensed, but asked that the county supply the chemical. The members felt that an early mowing would be a good idea even if they sprayed the weeds — it would eliminate the big weeds.

Mr. Faulkender talked about having a Spring Show. No date has been set. He was just getting the board's approval before making any plans. Mr. Faulkender thought that maybe if there was no other show in the area, that they would have a better attendance.

Mr. Faulkender asked how the members felt about setting up in the

basement of the courthouse for the judging of foods during the fair. This would give the 4-H'ers a cool place to wait before their conference judging and after they were done, the projects would be taken to the fair building.

**In other business**  
In other business:  
• It was decided that the Goat Class needed to be established for three years before adding it to the Round Robin competition.  
• There are several people who would like to turn in their trophies for recycling. No decision was made until they can check and see what all would be involved.  
• Work nights on the fair building

will be on Thursdays.  
• There were some ideas for having portable peg boards or a way to display articles so that they would be removable for wedding and other functions. However, Mr. Faulkender was assured that the peg boards would be available for the displays at the fair.  
• There was discussion about what to charge for the rent on the fair building. There was a suggestion of charging \$200 to \$250 for six months during the winter and \$150 for the other six months. The matter was tabled.  
• The members approved another possible board member and they will submit the name to the commissioners.

# Producers eligible for loan assistance

Wool and mohair producers are eligible to apply for nonrecourse marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDP) from the Farm Service Agency, but they must apply by Jan. 31 for their 2004-year crop.

"Producers have until Jan. 31, of the year following the year in which the wool or mohair was sheared to apply for a nine-month marketing assistance loan or loan deficiency payment" announced Angie Berens of the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency.

The final deadline also applies to loan deficiency payments for unshorn pelts from unshorn lambs slaughtered in 2004.

Producers placing their wool and mohair under loan with the Farm Service Agency receive an established loan rate. National per pound loan rates are set at \$1 for graded wool, \$0.40 for ungraded wool and \$4.20 for mohair. In addition, un-

shorn pelts are eligible for loan deficiency payment at the ungraded wool loan deficiency payment rate. When filing a loan deficiency payment application, producers must have a good estimate of the pounds they want to certify. Director Berens said the wool or mohair must be produced and shorn from live animals of domestic origin in the United States and be of merchantable quality.

Director Berens said producers can forego putting their wool and mohair under loan and receive a loan deficiency payment instead.

In order to qualify for loans or loan deficiency payments, producers must meet program eligibility requirements she said.

"Producers must have owned the sheep or goats for at least 30 days before shearing, and they must retain beneficial interest from the time of shearing through either repayment of the loan or, in the case of a loan deficiency payments, the date the payment is requested. Also for unshorn pelts, the producer must sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter or slaughter the unshorn lamb for personal use."

Producers that do not retain the wool or mohair on the farm when sheared may lose beneficial interest and may need to file a form CCC-709 before shearing. A form CCC-633 must be filed after shearing if the producer still has beneficial interest. Form CCC-709PELT and CCC-633PELT are applicable to unshorn pelt loan deficiency payments.

Producers can contact the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency office in St. Francis for more information.

## McDonald News

**By Vera Kacirek**  
Abe and Janet Fisher and boys were last Monday visitors of Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison.

On Thursday Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison visited Viola Jones, Irene Kehlbeck and Alvin and Marie Holzwarth in St. Francis.

Bud and Helen Frisbie, Trudy Voorhies and Agnes Burk were Saturday night visitors of Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison.

Dick and Doug Beamgard of Michigan took June Beamgard and Joan Tongish to the Frosty Mug for

supper on Tuesday evening.

On Saturday evening a group of friends from St. Francis, Bird City and McDonald helped Laddie and Vera Kacirek celebrated their 60th anniversary with a supper at the Frosty Mug.


Phyllis Wilkinson was a Thursday visitor of Agnes Reeh in Atwood.

Judy Fisher attended the meeting of the West Vicariate in Colby on Sunday.

R.J. and Susie Sabatka returned Sunday night from a week's Caribbean Cruise.

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