

Gas drilling expands in area

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
A Colorado firm with producing gas wells southwest of Goodland wants right of way for a gathering line for a couple dozen more wells to be drilled by the end of the year. Dean Jarrett, a landman for Rosewood Resources from Yuma, Colo., told county commissioner Wednesday the company wants to expand its drilling area and "step-out" south of the producing wells. In all, the company plans nearly 200 wells in the area.

"We are getting ready to drill a number of wells before the end of the year," Jarrett said. "It will depend on the availability of drilling rigs, but we plan to drill 23 more wells by the end of the year. "What we are looking for is right of way for a six-inch gathering line, but we are having some trouble getting permission from some landowners.

"Wells out here don't produce a lot, and the amount one landowner wants to allow access for the gathering line is not economically possible."

Jarrett said the line would go east along County Road 62 from County Road 17, across K-27 to County Road 20, then north to join with an existing high-pressure line east of town.

Curt Way, county public works manager, said he has looked through the files and cannot find any county right of way along the section of County Road 62 where they want to put the gas line.

"The county does not have a right of way north of Stan Meissinger's," Way said. "I know there is an old road there, but we do not have any documents that show the county has any right of way along that section line."

"That is where they want to go," Commissioner Kevin Rasure said. "Guess that answers that question," Jarrett said.

"Going east, we have the right of way," Rasure said. "We cannot go south."

Jarrett said there is another high-pressure line, but don't want to force the issue with the landowner.

He said he would ask for right of way from another landowner who signed a lease. He said he is trying to get all the problems and systems set up before they begin laying the line.

"When we come across K-27, we will stay south of County Road 62," Jarrett said, "because we have that area leased."

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if there are other areas of the county where the company is drilling wells.

Jarrett said they plan to drill north of Goodland, and the company has a high pressure line up there.

"We want to get the wells on and producing as soon as possible," the landman said. "We have 187 wells to be drilled in Sherman County."

Thomas asked about the drilling rigs the company is using.

Jarrett said they are using a new coiled-tubing system, and the company is one of the first in the country to use this type of rig.

"We have the first one and the third one designed for this," he said. "A company in Wray has the other one. The landowners like it because they don't have to dig a pit, it is all self-contained.

"With the new rigs we can reuse the mud on eight to 12 wells."

"If you cannot work with anyone, we will work with you where possible," said Commissioner Mitch Tiede. "We hope the landowners work with you."

"We don't mind sharing the money," Jarrett said, "and we want to work with the landowners, but we have to keep it feasible. We had a problem in Cheyenne County. We pay \$10 per rod (a unit of measure 16.5 feet long) either to the county or the landowner."

Rasure said Jarrett should check with Way and get a permit for laying the line on county right of way.

Way said the permit does not cost anything, but he likes to see a compacting plant if they need to trench in the middle of the road or in the barrow ditch.

"We will try to go along the ditch and make it 36 to 48 inches deep," Jarrett said. "That is unless we hit shale or something else."

Way said he likes it in the ditch in case the county had to open a road and put culverts in.

"I was trying to get a feel from the commissioners about the idea of using county rights of way," Jarrett said. "Working with the landowners is our objective. We feel confident with the success of the wells, and want to get them drilled and on line."

Thomas asked about drilling east of Goodland.

Jarrett said most of the area is leased and they are starting to step out in all directions.

"We rely on the 3-D seismic system to shoot the well," he said, "but they do not tell us what the quality is. We get at 75-80 percent success of drilling wells, but that is not a guarantee about the quality of the gas."

"The landowners think you make a lot of money," Thomas said, "and they want part of it."

"There is a big difference between what you see on the end of the system," Jarrett said. "We do not have as large a production like they do in Oklahoma and other large producing wells. The gas wells here are small in comparison."

Thomas asked about drilling east of Goodland.

First National has hospice tree

Is there an angel in your life? Is there someone whom you would like to honor or remember in a special way?

Hospice Services Inc. will be decorating a Tree of Angels for the holidays at First National Bank in Goodland. Hospice is asking for help in decorating the Memorial

Christmas Tree.

Stop by the bank and give a tax-deductible donation to Hospice Services. With your donation to the annual campaign, a special angel with the name of the person you choose to honor is placed on the tree. The angels will be displayed throughout the holiday season.

By giving to the Memorial

Christmas Tree, you honor the cherished memories of loved ones. It is also a tradition of helping others in Sherman County to receive much-needed care and comfort during a final illness.

By giving to Hospice Services, you allow someone to share their gift of life with family and friends to the very end.

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News
The Carnegie Arts Center was Goodland's "hot spot" on a cold afternoon Sunday. An open house during the holiday home tour, a gallery opening for the December display and a bake sale drew over 100 people to the center.

Over 10 area artists are displaying a variety of work, from paintings to woodworking to fabrics. The opening reception drew a crowd, selling several items and a lot of baked goods.

There are some bare places, said Art Center Director Tina Goodwin, because a lot of things have already sold. Those places will be filled in,

she said, as there may be more artists joining the display throughout the month.

It's a good place to get a unique gift, Goodwin said, something that won't be duplicated during the holiday season.

Two tables full of baked goods, selling for \$8 a box, \$4 for a second box, sold out. The bake sale went well, Goodwin said, selling over 50 boxes. It was the first time the board had the sale, she said; it was good to do something new this year.

The home tour sold 102 tickets, Goodwin said, with each ticket holder being entered in a drawing for a Santa Claus cookie jar; Ann Middleton won.

Kanorado man charged with rape

A Kanorado man has been charged with breaking into an elderly Goodland woman's home on Nov. 18, and sexually assaulting her.

Robert E. Handle, 55, 306 Locust, now unemployed and a candidate this year for Kanorado mayor, was in front of District Judge Jack Burr on Friday for a first appearance.

Handle was arrested on Thursday by Sherman County sheriff's deputies.

Burr told Handle he faces two

charges, the most severe being forced sexual intercourse with a woman on Nov. 18, a level 1 person felony.

The second charge is that Handle broke into the elderly woman's home in Goodland with the intent to rape her, a level 5 person felony.

Judge Burr asked Handle if he could hire an attorney, and Handle said he could not. Burr said he would appoint one.

The judge explained Handle's rights, and said he would continue the bond of \$50,000.

He told Handle the possible sentence on the most severe charge is

Over 60 people had signed the guest book at the arts center by the time the home tours were over, but Goodwin was sure there had been at least double that many visitors during the afternoon.

Items from area artists are displayed throughout the center, on walls, on pedestals and tables, hanging from coat racks and metal trees. Most of the items are for sale.

Watercolors by Elwyn Vatcher, wreaths by Christie Rasure and wood works by Gary Gregory adorn the walls and are available to buy. Vicki Freeman has oils and pastels that are for display only.

There are wood items for sale by George Adelgren, Mike Mersch,

Doug Hilty and Brigham Sloan. Dolls by DeeAnn Ihrig can commemorate a baby's first Christmas, and purses and embellished sweatshirts by Jean Miller and stained glass by Teri Anderson make unique purchases.

Vatcher visited with patrons during the open house and said he has several paintings up that were just finished this year. He has an oil painting in the display that he has not shown before.

"I didn't have a frame for it I liked," Vatcher said, "but I found a good frame and decided to show it."

It's a winter scene, he said, but it gives you a warm feeling.

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