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Natural gas delivery

Pipeline works its way across county

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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Part of a 760-mile stretch of natural gas pipeline known as the Overland Pass Pipeline is crossing Thomas County and is part of a \$535 million dollar project to increase natural gas production in the United States.

Tulsa-based ONEOK Partners, a diversified energy company, formed an alliance with Tulsabased Williams Companies, another natural gas firm, to lay the Overland Pass Pipeline. Of the total project, 261 miles of pipe will be put down in 12 counties in Kansas. Entering Kansas at Cheyenne County, pipe will also be buried in Rawlins, Thomas, Sheridan, Gove, Trego, Ellis, Russell, Ellsworth, Barton, McPherson and Rice Counties.

When the project was announced in May of 2006, John W. Gibson, Tulsa-based ONEOK Partners chairman, president and chief operating officer, said the pipeline would link the high growth natural gas production area in the Rocky Mountain region to facilities at Bushton, Wyo. and Conway, which are able to separate liquids into chemical parts.

"The existing infrastructures serving the region are reaching capacity, which makes construction of a new, more energy efficient pipeline necessary to meet the growing demand for natural gas transportation and fractionation (the process of separating liquids into their chemical components)," Gibson said at that time.

Megan Washbourne, public information director for ONEOK Partners, said the pipeline is being laid through 23 counties in three states; five in Wyoming, six in Colorado and the 12 in Kansas. Once operational, the pipeline will have the capacity of moving between 110,000 and 150,000 barrels of natural gas per day. Using three electrically driven pump stations along the route, the general operating pressure will be 1,440 pounds per square inch, Washbourne said.

Natural gas liquids are produced by processing raw natural

Pipeline helps economy

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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Thomas County is reaping the benefits from the pipeline which is going through northwestern Kansas.

"Construction will last about six to 10 weeks at any one point," said Megan Washbourne public information director for Tulsabased ONEOK Partners. "We will build simultaneously in multiple locations and lands, roads and other facilities will be restored to their previous condition."

Washbourne said while the economic impact figures are not broken down by county, the local impact to Cheyenne, Rawlins, Thomas, Sheridan, Gove, Trego, Ellis, Russell, Ellsworth, Barton, McPherson and Rice Counties is being estimated at \$12.2 million dollars. She said the construction workforce is estimated to have another \$43.3 million dollar impact in those same counties. The impact stemmed from having crews lodging and purchasing food and other amenities while working in the areas.

"At the peak (in Thomas County) we had close to 250 people working," Washbourne said. "Now we are closer to 100 people. All we have going on now is tie-ins, testing and clean up. The main line construction crews have completed work through Thomas

Dan and Shirley Bourquin, owners of Bourquin's Old Depot Restaurant and RV Park located at 155 E. Willow in Colby, are pleased the pipeline is going through the area.

'We are extremely blessed that they are here," Shirley Bourquin said. "We average between 30 and 40 units daily."

Bourquin said the pipeline crew members started arriving at their RV park on Jan. 3 and she expects they will remain in the area another couple months.

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn said having the pipeline crews in the area has not put a burden on his office.

"We've had very minor problems," Baughn said. "We've had a couple instances of pasture gates being left open."

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones reiterated Baughn's comment. "We've had some contacts with regards to some minor misdemeanors and we've had contacts with locates to deliver messages," Jones said. "All in all, these crews have not caused any major

Jones said not only are there workers in town for the pipeline, but construction crews have merged on Colby for projects such as the Colby Community College dormitory, Bosselman's Truck Stop, Taco John's, and Subway restaurants.

"I've been fairly pleased, and we have a lot of crews in town,"

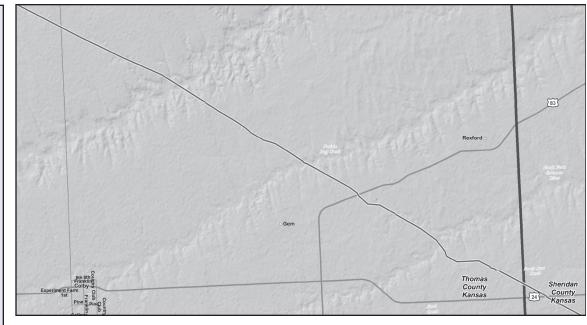
liquids must

be transported to fractionators and an apparatus capable of separating complex liquid substances parts such as ethane, propane, along the pipeline's path. butane and natural gas. The chemicals can be used for pet-

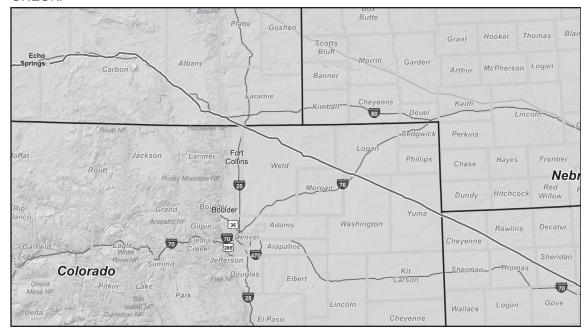
gas gathered from gas producers rochemicals, petroleum refining at well heads. Once produced, the and agricultural industries, Wash-

bourne said. Before construction could start last October, easement rights had to be secured from landowners into their chemical component to put 50-foot construction sites

> Menlo landowner Ron Ball said working with ONEOK Partners



The pipeline's route through Kansas and Thomas County is depicted on the map above. The mapbelow, shows the route through Colorado, Kansas and beyond. Both maps were provided by ONEOK.



was a smooth process. "They were quite generous,"

Ball said.

They turned the ground right back over to us and said to operate just like we had been in the past. If they have to go on the ground again, they'll have to re-negotiate at that time."

Ball said his land that ONEOK Partners crossed was dryland, so he did not expect much settling to job."

"Some of the irrigators are worried the ground will settle," Ball

he is a bit concerned about ground three-feet under. settling.

It's probably going to be OK, Meier said. "But when the sprinklers go across (the easement) there may be some settling and we'll have to put soil back in. (ONEOK) needs to do a little better job of putting ground back. On dryland, they are doing a good

Washbourne said the teal colored pipe is epoxy coated to avoid corrosion. She said the pipe is being aid in 14- or 16-inch diameters

Roch Meier, also of Menlo, said and being buried a minimum of

The pipe meets United States government environmental codes for use for moving liquids under-

project team worked closely with the United States Bureau of Land Management, other regulatory agencies, state governments and landowners to obtain feedback and the proper permits for the project," Washbourne said. "The pipeline is expected to begin operation by the end of the second quarter of 2008.

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Investigative reporter Ted Gup, left, of Washington D.C. visited with Tom Moorhous following his speech at Tuesday's Max Pickerill Lecture Series event.

Reporter tells the stories

By Patty Decker

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In an era of opinion and personal beliefs as opposed to facts, along with government secrecy rather than openness, guest lecturer Ted Gup of Washington, D.C., spoke Tuesday at Colby College on how these factors are costing Americans in dollars and human casualties.

Gup, an investigative journalist, author of two books and a Pulitzer Prize finalist, was the final speaker in the Max Pickerill Lecture Series for this year, said Tom Moorhous, chairman of the lecture series.

Throughout America's history, Gup said, fear has not brought out the best in us.

One example he cited was Mc-Carthyism in the 1940s and 50s,

who Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy disagree with that." said were infiltrating the federal government by the hundreds. Mc-Carthy was feared because of the mass information he had put together on people in government. "It was irrational behavior," he said. "We don't need to give the

Bin Laden's of the world satisfaction (through fear)." Gup said he believes in secrecy,

sive secrecy. "Troop movements or covert operations need to be secret, but not bogus secrets from misdeeds,

As a child, Gup said he was raised to believe America is an open society unlike communist

"But calling something open doesn't make it so," he said. "I can call myself a midwestern, but I am which identified communists, from Iowa and many of you may

He talked about how we are becoming less and less of an open society. Many of the expressions even support this belief.

"Too much knowledge is dangerous - curiosity killed the cat ignorance is bliss." Even the Bible references the forbidden tree good and evil — some things we don't need to know about,' but not in obsessive and compul-Gup said.

Yet, what we don't know can

Gup cited investors, Firestone tires, Ford Explorers, the drug, Vioxx, Enron and the Virginia Tech shooting last year.

In each of those situations, it would have helped the public to know what was going on.

He spoke about the dynamics of secrecy to more than 100 people in the Frahm Theater of the Cultural Arts Center.

Briefly

Soccer tickets available

The Colby Soccer Club has tickets for a Colorado Rapids soccer game to be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, May 4, at Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Denver. Daniel Morris, board member of the American Youth Soccer Association in Colby, said this would be a great way for people interested in the sport to see a game and at a reasonable price. The tickets have been discounted and Morris hopes that many people in the area will consider attending the game in Denver. For ticket costs or questions, call 443-3325. Morris said he needs to know who is interested in tickets no later than Monday.

Band concert May 1 A spring band concert will be held at 7:30 p.m.,

Thursday, May 1, at the Frahm Theater on the campus of Colby Community College. Director for the instrumental concert is Bradley Herndon. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

Gospel group to perform

Homeward Bound, a gospel music group from Colorado, will be presenting music and testimony 10:30 a.m., May 4, at the First Baptist Church located at Grant and Webster streets in Colby, said Rev. Carroll Morony. Homeward Bound features be received for their expenses and a carry-in dinner will follow the worship," Morony said. The public is invited. For questions, call 462-2867.

Friendship Day planned

May Friendship Day will be recognized by the Colby Presbyterian Church May 2. May Friendship Day is an annual event that unites Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women in a common worship experience building and strengthening friendly relationships within the community, said Joyce Gatlin, one of the coordinators. Fellowship will be held at 9:30 a.m. A worship service begins at

Southern gospel- style music. "A love offering will 10 a.m. For other questions, call 460-3656.

Remote car races Sunday

The Racing for Christ Car Club, also known as the RC Club, welcomes everyone to attend its next remote control car races, from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, at the First Baptist Church, 615 Webster, Colby. This will be the last event until Sunday, June 1, said Kent Higerd, coordinator. "No experience is necessary and we have many remote control cars available for all ages who would like to learn," he said. There are no costs and the event is non-denominational. For questions or information, call 462-3440 or 462-2867.

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