Natural gas was the topic of conversation at Holyoke Chamber of Commerce's monthly meeting Tuesday, April 26.

Three representatives from Black Raven Energy, Inc. were on hand to speak about the company and the wells that are being drilled in the area. President Bill Hayworth explained how the company came to be and the process they have seen to begin drilling wells in Phillips and the surrounding counties.

Director of operations Billie Hadaway and landman Janice Aldstadt were also present to speak about their roles as they pertain to the project and company.

Hayworth noted the entire process begins with leasing. Aldstadt said many of the leases were acquired through the purchase of the assets from Western Gas Resources.

The company first started as a gathering company called PRB Energy. The founder started it in the Powder River Basin in Wyoming. In 2007, the gathering systems aspect of the business was sold off and became an exclamation production company.

The name of the company was also changed to Black Raven Energy, Inc.

During the process, Hayworth ran across the acreage in northeast Colorado which also reaches into Chase and Perkins counties in Nebraska.

"I liked the potential based upon the information I saw in the data room in Denver," Hayworth said.

Western Gas Resources had the assets and was selling them, according to Hayworth. Hadaway conducted an assessment of the assets after which an offer was made and the assets

were purchased.

Black Raven currently has 69 wells and hopes to drill 70 more beginning in July.

Hayworth said the gas in this area is located about 2,400-2,800 feet below the surface.

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