

■ **Gastar Exploration Ltd.** has drilled the Wildman Trust No. 2 well in Leon County to a total depth of 19,500 feet. Based on preliminary tests, the well encountered approximately 220 net feet of apparent gas pay in three separate middle Bossier sands and five separate lower Bossier sands.

Gastar is in the process of installing a 5-inch string of casing to total depth and will begin initial completion and testing of the apparent lower Bossier pay zones.

Gastar has a 67 percent after-casing-point working interest with **Chesapeake Energy Corp.** owning a 33 percent after-casing-point working interest.

■ **Focus Exploration** announced it was the successful high bidder on 13 of 16 tracts at the Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale No. 200, encompassing shallow to deep shelf and deep-water prospects.

Focus Exploration also reported three discoveries on Focus-generated prospects: East Cameron 271, West Cameron 402 and Main Pass 166.

■ **BP America, Anadarko Petroleum Corp.** and **Devon Energy Corp.** discovered oil on the Kaskida prospect in the Gulf of Mexico.

An exploration well was drilled to a depth of 32,500 feet in the lower tertiary and encountered 800 net feet of oil-bearing sands, the companies said. It is on Keathley Canyon block 292 in about 5,860 feet of water 250 miles southwest of New Orleans.

BP plans to begin appraisal activity later this year. The well is operated by BP Exploration & Production, with a 55 percent working interest. **Anadarko** owns 25 percent, and **Devon** owns a 20 percent working interest. The lease was acquired at federal OCS Lease Sale 187 in August 2003.

■ **Noble Corp.**'s semisubmersible drilling unit Noble Amos Runner established a world record for the deepest conventionally moored rig by mooring in 7,650 feet of water in Green Canyon Block 955. Noble will be drilling at the location about 200 miles south of Houma, La., for **Kerr-McGee Oil & Gas Corp.**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Anadarko Petroleum**.

The Noble Amos Runner used its existing mooring system, as opposed to using preset mooring systems that require anchors or suction piles, to be in place before the rig arrives.

■ **Oil States International** purchased three land drilling rigs in the Permian Basin through its Capstar Drilling subsidiary for \$14 million.

The rigs are new or newly refurbished and are similar to those in its existing fleet.

■ **Marlin Offshore International Ltd.** has purchased four tender drilling rigs from **Transocean**.

The purchase includes the W.D. Kent and Searex IX, which are stacked awaiting upgrades, and the Charley Graves and Searex X operating in Thailand and Angola, respectively.