

Gas stations could be given green light for self-service

By MARK MILLER
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — A bill introduced in the House would allow more gas stations to offer self-service pumps. Oregon and New Jersey are the only two states in the Union that don't allow self-service gas stations statewide. Oregon lawmakers started chipping away at that prohibition two years ago, when they legalized self-service in counties with populations under 40,000. But a bill that received a public hearing Wednesday would take that a step further, allowing any gas station in Oregon to designate up to a quarter of its fuel pumps for use by customers who want to fill their own tank. House Bill 3194 is a compromise solution to a sticky issue, explained bill sponsors Rep. Julie Fahey, D-Eugene, and freshman Rep. Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles. "I've had this idea in my head for several years as a possible way to give everyone what they want," Fahey said. "It would protect full-service gasoline for the people who really strongly want that —



EO file photo
A gas attendant pumps gas on March 21, 2012, at Space Age Travel Center outside of Hermiston.

and there are a lot of Oregonians that do — and it would give the option for self-service gas to the people who want that. And it would give business-owners the choice." Bonham represents one of the largest and most sparsely populated districts in the state. On top of that, he drives a truck for work, with a service area that ranges into Washington. Both Bonham and Fahey drive vehicles that let them take advantage of lesser-known gaps in Oregon's ban on self-service. Bonham's truck runs on diesel, which drivers can pump themselves because it's classified separately from gasoline. Operators of motorcycles and motorized scooters, like Fahey, are allowed to pump their own fuel as well. Bonham and Fahey said they enjoy that convenience, and they want to extend it to motorists regardless of what they drive. "I think all of us have experienced a time when we've pulled up to the gas station and the attendants were very busy," Bonham said. Even with the choice, he would still use full-service

sometimes, Bonham said. But he added, "For the times when I felt like I was in a hurry, if there was a pump available, I would love to have that quick access." Full-service gas stations were once commonplace across the country, but self-service came into vogue in the 1970s, and full-service stations are now rare outside Oregon and New Jersey. Fahey and Bonham said they don't want to do away with full service altogether. "I really don't want anybody to lose their work over allowing for self-service," Bonham said. "And I think the majority of people still like full-service gas." "Part of the reason for the 25 percent number is because you still have to have someone who is out, who is dispensing gas," Fahey said. "That would mitigate the potential job losses." But Fahey also noted that many business owners are having trouble hiring. "If we're going to make a change that might have some potential for some small job loss, now would be the time to do it, because the unemployment rate is so low," Fahey said.

At Wednesday's hearing, state Rep. Rob Nosse, D-Portland, argued against self-service gas. "While some people may not view these jobs as glamorous careers, it's honest, entry-level work where people employed doing this work can build a work ethic and acquire the basic skills needed to succeed in a work environment," Nosse said. Nosse voted to allow self-service in low-population counties in 2017 because he saw it as a safety issue, he said, but he sees HB 3194 differently. "What I really think is that something quirky and charming about our state would be lost with this bill," Nosse said. "Oregon would lose part of its culture, part of what makes this state unique."

Phishing scheme led to DHS email hack

By AUBREY WIEBER
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — A phishing scheme that successfully compromised 2 million emails from the Oregon Department of Human Services accounts targeted more than 400 accounts at two major state agencies. Nine employees in four units of Human Services departments inadvertently gave hackers access to their accounts, said agency spokesman Robert Oakes. Oakes said Friday that the state still hasn't established how many state clients' information was accessed. The agency was required by state statute to notify the public because of the potential for it to impact at least 350,000 people. The breach occurred in late January but state officials didn't disclose it until Thursday, attributing the time lag to work needed to assess what happened.

The state has retained an outside firm for \$480,000 to do a forensic examination of the breach and help impacted clients. That contract provides for service covering a breach impacting up to one million people, according to the contract with IDEXperts of Portland. The firm's contract would be boosted if its investigation determines more than one million had their data exposed, according to the contract. DHS provides services to 1.6 million people. As of Friday, IDEXperts were operating a call center and website to provide information to potential victims of the hack. IDEXperts is required to give DHS frequent updates on its findings and security recommendations. It's forensic examination will determine what personal information was available to the hackers, how much was taken and how many people are impacted. That is expected to take two weeks, according to the contract. Elizabeth Craig, spokeswoman for the Department of Administrative Services, said the state has used IDEXperts for several years for such work. The Department of State Lands and the Department of Revenue both experienced data breaches in 2018. The details of the attacked files are still not clear. Oakes said that on Jan. 8, 429 employees at Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority received an email stating their Outlook email account had expired and they had to reregister. The email, provided Friday to the Oregon Capital Bureau, included a link. Thirty-six DHS and OHA employees clicked the link. Nine then entered their username and password, giving the hackers access to their accounts. Those accounts were immediately frozen by state IT workers. By Jan. 28, DHS established that the hack exposed personal information. On March 15, it contacted IDEXperts about a forensic review, according to the contract, and the agreement was finalized Tuesday. DHS sent out a news release announcing the breach Thursday. Oakes couldn't provide details on why it took nearly two months from the time the department realized the breach included personal information to the time it notified the public. The employees caught in the attack worked in the child welfare, self-sufficiency, aging and people with disabilities and vocational rehabilitation programs. Collectively, their accounts contained 2 million emails, which included spreadsheets with personal information, such as dates of birth and Social Security numbers. All 8,500 DHS employees go through training to avoid being caught in such hacks, though they are not always effective. On Thursday, Oakes said "human error" was at play but also said the attack was very sophisticated.

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Mostly cloudy and cooler

Partial sunshine

Cloudy

Cool with periods of sun

Cool with sun and clouds

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST									
54°	40°	56°	37°	52°	36°	51°	34°	56°	36°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST									
59°	42°	61°	37°	55°	36°	57°	36°	57°	36°

OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	65°	40°
Normals	56°	36°
Records	83° (1911)	13° (1898)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.39"
Normal month to date	0.97"
Year to date	5.24"
Last year to date	3.51"
Normal year to date	3.48"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	68°	41°
Normals	59°	36°
Records	78° (1940)	19° (2014)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.10"
Normal month to date	0.66"
Year to date	3.49"
Last year to date	2.18"
Normal year to date	2.90"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Sun.
Boardman	WSW 6-12	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	WNW 7-14	W 6-12

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:53 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:11 p.m.
Moonrise today	10:43 p.m.
Moonset today	8:41 a.m.

Last New First Full

Mar 27

Apr 5

Apr 12

Apr 19

CORRECTIONS: The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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