

Major improvements underway at Wilcox & Flegel cardlock

Before the middle of August, truck drivers will be able to drive up between two fueling

sumps directly underneath the fuel pumps.

When the station is finished,

customers will have a broader selection of fuels, too. Instead of two grades of gasoline, there will be three, plus both low and high sulfur diesel fuel.

Scott has been in the construction department of Wilcox & Flegel for twelve years and has been project manager for several new facilities. He noted that the station will have to be closed for about two days while the fuel lines are being switched from the old pumps to the new ones. He is estimating August 5-6 as the days it will be closed, but a diesel fueling truck will be brought to Vernonia to avoid disruption to many customers. Customers will be informed as soon as the dates and times are certain.

The station will be closed again, around the end of August, for paving.

Vernonia residents who do not use the card lock will also



Two more loads of gravel arrive from Morse Bros. Deer Island facility.

islands at Wilcox & Flegel's Vernonia cardlock, and fill two fuel tanks simultaneously—without feeling like they're stretching a hose until it's ready to break.

That will be just one result of the major project the company has undertaken at its Vernonia operation.

In addition to efficiency, explained project manager Mike Scott, safety is greatly enhanced in the new design. Double wall piping makes a spill highly unlikely if a pipe should leak. If that should happen, however, the facility includes all new drainage systems, plus an oil/water separator that has a 93-94 percent clean-up rating. Efforts to avoid environmental damage include fully self-contained

said Scott, who has been with Wilcox & Flegel for 17 years,



Mike Scott is project manager for changes at Wilcox & Flegel's Vernonia cardlock.



Pipes and sumps are visible during construction of Wilcox & Flegel's new cardlock.

benefit from the work underway, with additional, two-way paved access between Weed Avenue and Rose Avenue. That part of the project required a lot of changes, with both the company and the City of Vernonia working to bring it about, while also meeting the requirements of the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Scott felt that City staff worked hard to accommodate the company while meeting the City's needs, too. "I can't say enough about Mike and Julie and Robyn," Scott said, "and Kathy's the best, too."

Some operations have been moved to St. Helens, but Wilcox & Flegel plans to stay in Vernonia, according to Steve Wilcox. "This is a pretty good investment," Wilcox said, "but we're involved in the community and feel it's a good long-term investment."



This simple-looking combination of plastic and metal is a key element for containing a fuel spill, or for shutting off the flow of fuel in case of fire.



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