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Welcome to the new and improved Coastal-FMC Currents! I hope you enjoy the new look and same updates and info from across the company.

- Katie Montgomery, Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Erik Montgomery erik@coastal-fmc.com

It feels like we just went through Daylight Savings Time. We lost an hour of sleep but gained an hour of daylight. Overall I call this a win-win situation, although I wish we could just leave it alone - is it truly worth going through twice a year? I do enjoy having the extra evening sunshine, though!

Over the last few weeks we have all been following the current US/Israel-Iran war. No matter what your opinion of the conflict, we are all experiencing the effects. Oil prices are surging with consequences that will affect many

businesses down the line. Though the size of any impacts will be determined by the length of the conflict and the way it develops, it is likely to cause at least some fluctuations, both good and bad. Here are a few facts for review:

- One fifth of the world's oil supply travels through the Strait of Hormuz, which as of today (April 27) is currently closed.
- Many tankers are stuck at port or are in limbo on what they can or can't do.

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Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, Musandam, Oman, April 27, 2026. REUTERS

- Yes, attacks on energy facilities have interfered with gas and oil production.
- Oil prices have risen in consequence.

Now many fear the worst, but much of what we are seeing today is all speculation. We all think we know what is coming but only time will tell how much pricing will increase or what impact this

will have. Everyone's crystal ball is cloudy. We are watching markets every day and attempting to react to company needs and customer needs. We are working to ensure that we communicate with customers to adequately take care of everyone's needs. This type of market makes it hard to anticipate our next moves.

We are seeing product pricing move, rebound, and jump again all based on what people think could be coming next. Combine that with the start of our busy season, and we are all feeling the pressure.

Safety Director Gary Picard wins state award

FMC Transport Safety Director Gary Picard was selected as the 2025 Safety Director of the Year by the Missouri Trucking Association at its March 2026 safety conference. Gary's family joined Coastal-FMC leadership in celebrating this milestone award in Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.



Above left - Joe Blankenship, Gary Picard, David Montgomery, and Erik Montgomery at the MoTA Safety Conference

Above right - Gary speaks before the MoTA Safety Conference to accept his award

Right - Joe Blankenship presents Gary with a set of Williams kitchen knives to celebrate his achievement

Congratulations, Gary!



SAVE THE DATE

for the annual company dinner & safety awards



DIRECT FROM NBC'S THE VOICE: DEK OF HEARTS

We are so excited to announce that Nashville-based country-pop trio DEK of Hearts will be performing at this year's company dinner in Springfield, Mo! They recently appeared on Season 28 of *The Voice*, competing for Team Niall and ultimately advancing to the Top 3. Their signature sound is a blend of country, pop, and bluegrass influences with their powerful three-part harmonies.

The trio is comprised of Dylan John, Emily Clapp, and Kollin Bailey. Kollin grew up in Marshfield, Mo., and is a good friend of Fleet Manager Joe Blankenship, who was invaluable in helping us book this special performance.

Since their appearance on *The Voice*, DEK of Hearts has enjoyed touring with Carly Pearce and other artists. The group is also preparing for their Grand Ole Opry debut in May.

You won't want to miss this exclusive concert, just for you and your family!



FROM THE ASPHALT SALES MANAGER

Chad Odle chad@coastal-fmc.com

“In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”

This famous saying by Benjamin Franklin has hit me hard the past few days and weeks. I have been working on my taxes, and every day (whether I want to admit it or not) death gets closer, too. But this statement also means that most everything else in life is uncertain, which leads me to my point for this article.

As we approached asphalt season, I felt certain that it was shaping up to be great. Supply and pricing for asphalt products were staying stable, nothing in sight for dramatic change. Crude supply was good, refining capacities good, transportation good, and no bottlenecks in the system. We had good jobs on the books across all three terminals, and I was certain that the summer was shaping up to be great, steady, normal, easy (not that our summers are ever easy).

I left the office on a Friday night heading for a retreat with no internet service, TV, or cell service, which provided a great chance to unplug and connect with the others on this trip. As I returned home on Sunday afternoon, I started checking social media and news and was informed that the United States had begun operation Epic Fury.

All my certainty and confidence of the summer being great, normal, steady, and easy went away. In just a few minutes of reading news articles my confidence was lost. I began to worry, stress and wonder what was going to happen to crude supply, prices and refining capabilities. I spent days worrying about these things, talking to others in the industry and nobody had great answers that eased my concerns. On top of that, there is nothing we control individually that can or will change the world events.

But there was another event of uncertainty that occurred in our company that has given me confidence that this asphalt season will be good. This event started on a Friday



Additional equipment storage is being added at the Willow Springs Rail Facility

morning, being woken up by a phone call informing me that a truck had wrecked and rolled over. I sprang out of bed and headed straight to the office. As I entered the back gate, I saw a driver preparing a truck and trailer, and the service truck was being prepped to respond to the scene. As I entered the office, dispatch gave me the information they had on the accident. Then I went down the hall to Safety, where Gary was diligently working on assessing and gathering more information as quickly as he could.

Within minutes of arriving to the office, there were four vehicles loaded with personnel and tools responding to the wreck. We were also informed that the driver was being transported to a local hospital and that company personal was also en route to the hospital. While at the crash scene, I looked around and I saw our Safety Director, Shop Manager, Transportation Manager, Sales Manager, and a driver all working side by side in the ditch along a crooked two-lane road in the middle of nowhere.

It did not matter what any of our job titles were or what part of the company we worked in, we all knew we were working to accomplish the same thing at that moment. We faced difficulties all day, pumps that broke, hoses that clogged, and poor cell phone service, but through all the issues we worked together and communicated clearly. At the end of the day, we accomplished what we needed to accomplish for the day.

One event that occurred that day that stood out to me, the first question asked by everyone was “how is the driver” everyone’s first concern was the driver and it was made evident by the actions of the leaders of this company. They went straight to the hospital to be there with the driver and his family. The fact that our leaders put their concerns for

the wellbeing and safety of people in their company first before concerning themselves over profit loss exemplifies what a family should be. Also, the wisdom of having a team of employees in place to help take care of things like this in a timely fashion exemplifies leadership that I am proud to be a part of.

There were several things that happened that day that I was impressed with and that made me proud of our Coastal-FMC team. Not one person started that morning knew what the day would bring, we were all certain that we would be doing our normal daily activities, but

uncertainty hit and we all adjusted and worked together. This event just reassured me that no matter how uncertain I am about world events and what crude prices will be, I know that we have a team that is built to adjust, change and do anything it takes to make each and every day a success no matter the circumstances we face.

We all know we can’t control world events, but we do and can control how we each respond to them and whatever uncertainty they may bring. I am confident that this Coastal-FMC team will respond this summer to make it a great one even if we don’t know what uncertainty awaits.



Tom Havens recently celebrated his retirement from Coastal-FMC after 21 years of service

PREFERRED FUELING LOCATIONS

Each month, we will feature a list of preferred fueling location as we work to negotiate better fuel savings with various fuel stops.

We are working on additional fuel stops that can better suit some of the drivers in KS and AR. We will continue to have updates throughout 2026.

- Sapp Brothers - Harrisonville, MO
- Loves Travel Center - Willow Springs
- Loves Travel Centers - all other locations



The engine is being replaced in the old Ford service truck.

It should be back in service soon.

- FMC Transport fuel island - Miller, MO. This location has DEF and winter treatment. If you have questions, call Joe or Allen.
- Lamar Travel Center
- Casey’s locations - this is not our best option but we do have some discounts offered.

- FMC Transport fuel island - Willow Springs, MO. Please only use if you are unable to use the Love’s location across the street.



COASTAL HOSTS EMULSION SCHOOL



Chad Odle, Shannon McDaniel, and Larry Thompson recently hosted an emulsion school in Springfield, Mo. There were two sessions of about 30+ students. It went so well that several supervisors wanted to schedule another one for next season!

New faces at Coastal-FMC and Bear Crossing

Join us in welcoming our newest team members!



Cary Kinder, FMC Transport Dispatcher



Colton Lemon, Bear Crossing Truck Wash & Tire Center



Scott Sefton, FMC Transport Owner-Operator



Jason Fish, Willow Springs Rail Facility



Nick Welch, Willow Springs Rail Facility



Rylee Scarbrough, Bear Crossing Truck Wash & Tire Center



Alexus Whitaker, Miller Asphalt Facility



Caleb Dilocker, Clinton, Oklahoma Asphalt Facility

AROUND THE COMPANY

Send your photos to katie@coastal-fmc.com to be featured in the next issue of the newsletter!



Above - New owner-operator Charlie Hicks loads at the Miller, Mo asphalt facility

Right and below - Erik Montgomery and Joe Blankenship recently attended the 2026 Southeastern & International Propane Expo in Nashville, Tn.



Left - Gary and David address drivers at the spring safety meeting in March.

Below - Owner-operator Scott Sefton delivers propane



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Age is a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

- Mark Twain

May

- 3 - Charles Perry
- 4 - Douglas Gimpel
- 11 - Kent McAbee
- 11 - Trey Oravec
- 13 - Randall Perry
- 17 - Billy Vanderbilt
- 17 - Dustin Miller
- 19 - Lisa Sanders
- 21 - Brady Walton
- 21 - Jakob Norman
- 23 - Ray Brotherton
- 29 - Larry Thompson

June

- 2 - Randall McWhorter
- 5 - Jeanetta Brooks
- 6 - Gary Picard
- 7 - Robert Cline
- 10 - Dylan Ferguson
- 24 - Christopher Pekarek
- 25 - Daniel L'heureux
- 25 - Kalehal Burns
- 28 - Carl Roberts

July

- 5 - Bobby Lee
- 14 - Sarah Roughton
- 12 - Andrey Protsenko
- 16 - Chad Odle
- 16 - Katie Montgomery
- 19 - James Carter
- 21 - Rodney Wade
- 23 - Jenna Cook
- 24 - Cary Kinder
- 26 - Alexis Whitaker
- 26 - Ty Brook
- 26 - Damon Whitmill
- 27 - David Walker
- 31 - Bryan Holycross

