

Arrow Lumber shoots for July 1 Buckley opening

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Everything is rolling along for a July 1 opening of the new Arrow Lumber and True Value Hardware store on Highway 410 in Buckley, according to officials.

"Construction is really moving," said Barney Wagner, the president of Arrow Lumber. "It is going to be nice."

Work crews installed trusses and the plywood roof of the building earlier late last month. The exterior walls also are up at the site next to the Western Self Stor-

age complex.

"I think by mid-June we will start setting up the store for a July 1 opening," Wagner said. "But there are a lot of variables. It is going real well right now and we are excited."

The financing for the new Buckley store is coming from Wagner and Al Meier, a widely-known name in the lumber business.

The pair have been operating lumber yards for 30 years together, but decided to retire from the business in 1991. Wagner and Meier sold their old business, Al

Meier Building Center, in 1991. Those stores became the Lumberman's Building Center chain.

Meier retired at that point, while Wagner stayed on with Lumberman's as director of operations until 1997.

The pair then decided to get back into business with one another. They purchased Intermountain Lumber and Hardware in Eatonville, tripled the size of the existing building and changed the name to Arrow Lumber.

Wagner and Meier also are in the midst of planning another store in Graham. They

like the small-town atmosphere, they said.

"Enumclaw and Buckley are great towns," said Wagner. "We hope to service them well."

The new Buckley store will feature everything the contractor or do-it-yourselfer will need for projects, including a computerized paint-matching center, free deliveries and free quotes.

The 6,600-square-foot building will be gray, with an outside parking area and external lumber storage. The new Buckley store will be managed by Shawn Roehr, who currently runs the Eatonville store.