



Gas prices generate ideas of price control, no taxes

The soaring price of gasoline has generated some really bad ideas, including demands for price controls and an ill-thought-out plan to cancel motor fuel taxes when prices spike.

We tried price controls in the 1970s, during the first so-called "energy crisis." They didn't lower prices, but they did produce long lines at the pump, spot shortages and major aggravation.

Memories are short, though, and many Democrats are again calling for controls. They won't work any better today — you can't increase supply by cutting prices — but demagoguery being what it is, politicians can't resist an easy target.

The truth is, prices are already going down, backing off the record peaks and settling into a more "normal" level. The second truth we have not learned is that this "energy crisis" isn't going to go away.

High prices are the product not of greed or "excess profits" by oil companies, but of spiraling demand for oil in the face of tight supplies. This push comes not so much from the U.S. and Europe today, but from China and India, where awakening economies allow more and more people to own a car.

Someday soon, oil will be too expensive to burn as fuel and we'll have to find a replacement.

The government doesn't have to do anything. It'll happen when we decide we can't afford gasoline for our cars. We'll demand a cheaper fuel, and industry will produce one.

And that's how it'll be. We won't run out of oil, exactly, but it'll become too valuable for industrial uses to just burn. There are other fuels, but the world will need plastics, tires and a million other products. We'll find ways to replace many of those uses

with renewable resources, too, as oil gets more scarce.

In a way, the oil companies are doing us a favor. The sooner we switch to alternative fuels, the sooner we'll not have to worry about global warming and pollution from internal-combustion engines. That's not bad.

Then there is the plan to repeal the federal gasoline tax when prices average over \$3 per gallon. That's about the worst thing we could do, encouraging people to drive more when fuel supplies are tight and oil is expensive.

This bill, backed by Kansas freshman Rep. Nancy Boyda, shows the liberals talking out of both sides of their mouths. One day, they want to cut global emissions, the next they want to encourage driving.

That makes no sense, and it could ruin the federal highway program, which depends on the 18-cent-per-gallon tax to supply money for road repairs and rebuilding.

The federal Highway Trust Fund already faces the threat of bankruptcy as high prices, more efficient vehicles and the shift to alternative fuels depletes revenue in the face of inflation and increasing demand for roads.

Ms. Boyda's answer: tax the oil companies. But they need the money to fund the search for more oil and reduce dependence on foreign sources, especially in the Mideast and Venezuela.

Well, you can't have your cake and eat it, too. High fuel prices may hurt, but they will spur us to better things. Just remember that next time you fill up. And smile, if you can.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

5 years ago - 2002

At a recent ceremony four Cub Scouts were awarded the Arrow of Light badge. Earning the badge were Chase Barnhart, Tyler Larson, Jacob Riedel and Matt Whitmore.

Earning ratings at the 2A State Music Festival were Heidi Rohweder who played a flute solo, and Jenny Weems who played a clarinet solo.

Ritchie Paving equipment and crew rolled into St. Francis early Monday morning to begin making repairs on the Cheyenne County airport runway. They applied a 1.5 inch asphalt overlay on the hard surface runway.

Thirty-seven high school seniors will graduate on Sunday. Loriele Gohl is the class president and Gabriel Weeden, the class vice president.

Students receiving Greene Scholarships include Meaghan Jamison, Jeremiah Wiley, Ty

Long, Jamie Dunn, Aaron Tygart, Ryan Zwegardt, Ana Douthit, Ben Swihart, Janessa Nelsen, Jana Krien and Jody Gienger.

Individuals going to State Track include Kelsey Andrist in the shot put and javelin, Samantha Coates in the high jump and 100-meter hurdles, Lori Faulkender in the triple jump; Amber Feikert in the long jump and Tanner Kinen in the 110-meter and the 300-meter hurdles. Runners and alternates for the 4x400 relay include Dustin Dunn, Jonathan Roelfs, Tyler Voorhies, Ty Long, Dillan Zwegardt and Tanner Kinen.

20 years ago - 1987 The St. Francis State Bank and Trust has offered to sponsor a free barbecue in recognition of the St. Francis Centennial.

The St. Francis High School judging team took top honors in the senior division of the FFA Northwest District Livestock judging contest at Fort Hays State University. Members of

the team include T.J. Douthit, Matt Bandel, Troy Hilt and Robin Greenhagen. Lyn Wiley is the coach.

The Cheyenne County History Book is now in the final stages. There are over one thousand family stories included, from early settlers to citizen of today. The history sections covers the time of becoming an organized county in 1886 to the present day.

Paul DeGood retired May 1 after 30 years of service to the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Thirty-eight seniors received high school diplomas on May 16. Shelly Yost gave the senior talk and class president Jason Douthit bid the senior farewell.

Workmen have been busy the past few weeks working to meet their completion date of August of the new St. Francis Public Library.

Casey's Comments

Historic house in midwest

By Casey McCormick



I love to write about new discoveries in this area. Last weekend Lezlie and I celebrated our anniversary with a weekend trip to McCook, a little over an hour drive from here.

Before we left I ran an Internet search about things to see and do there. Little did I expect to find a Frank Lloyd Wright home in Nebraska, let alone out here on the plains!

Wright is probably the best known American architect. I've seen his Guggenheim Museum in New York City, Taliesin West in Scottsdale, and worked across the street from the Grady Gammage Auditorium at the Arizona State University campus.

His Prairie homes were not only works of art but they were attainable, if you had enough money. Apparently Harvey P. Sutton of McCook did.

According to the Nebraska National Register site, Mr. Sutton owned a jewelry store in McCook,



FRANK LOYD WRIGHT Prairie style house in McCook.

was active in community affairs and served as director of the C.B. & Q. Railroad Concert Band, "known throughout the state."

He and his wife had the house designed by Wright in 1905 and it was completed in 1908. It stands at the northwest corner of Norris and F streets.

Wright was a man before his time. His buildings still have a fresh quality that outlasts the decades.

"The good building is not one that hurts the landscape, but one which makes the landscape more beautiful than it was before the building was built." — Frank Lloyd Wright

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions; Greg Hilt, Lincoln; Barbara Stevanson, Austin, Texas; David Warren, St. Francis; Eldon Zimelman, Wichita; Mildred Kroeger, Lincoln, Neb.; Margaret Novak, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Nadine Flemming, Bird City; Neil Burrows, Wichita; Nanetta Stottman, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Dave Andrews, Eugene, Ore.; Diana Brunswig - Basso, Arnold, Neb.; Tina Sager, Bird City; Shelley Culwell, St. Francis; Chasiti Gerstenkorn, Highland Ranch, Colo.; David Penton, St. Francis; Ben Killingsworth, St. Francis; Delphine Zwegardt, Albuquerque, N.M.; Fred Waters, McDonald; Donna Armstrong, Edson; Al Bandel, Burlington,

Colo.; Larry Blanchard, Salida, Colo.; Floy Ruggles, Haigler, Neb.; Kelly Frewen, St. Francis; Mary Lee Frewen, St. Francis; Cheyenne Bowl, St. Francis; St. Francis Equuity, St. Francis; Lavoine Collicott, Wray, Colo.



GOD SAYS

The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

Psalms 33:13, 14

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Worship 10:30
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www.sfccfamily.com
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Morning Worship 10:45

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Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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Worship 9:30 a.m.
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