



Backers push no labels to mark ethanol content

They say honesty is the best policy, but ethanol proponents apparently haven't gotten the message.

Backers of the alcohol-based fuel have pushed state after state — Kansas among them, unfortunately — to eliminate laws requiring gasoline pumps to be posted for ethanol content.

While some vendors have kept the labels, they've quietly disappeared from others. The underlying logic of this scheme seems to be that it's OK to fool all of the people some of the time.

Let us say right here, we see nothing wrong with ethanol-blended fuel. We might as well be burning the stuff as drinking it. Increased use of alcohol-blend fuels promotes farm income, reduces dependence on foreign oil and reduces costs.

But alcohol fuel isn't for everyone. Some people with older cars don't want to endanger their engines, and the need to know what's in the gas they buy. Others either don't want to use the fuel, don't think it's right or don't want to pay the extra price — and there is one.

As consumers, we think they all have a right to know what they are buying.

Farm groups backing the move away from pump labels say they hope to promote more ethanol use. It's their right to promote farm products, but it ought to be done above board.

Let the Farm Bureau buy ads to push the acknowledged values of ethanol fuel. They could write letters to the editor, put up billboard, buy time on television.

Tricking consumers isn't really a nice thing to do, but that's what this change amounts to.

News reports suggest that many motorists don't know they're buying adulterated fuel. Many think the law still requires a label on the pump.

Some states require ethanol in all gasoline sold. Colorado is one, but there, all pumps are clearly labeled. Nothing wrong with that. The alcohol is used to oxygenate the fuel to reduce pollution.

Missouri just began requiring more alcohol in fuel, a move strongly backed by farm groups. One farmer-owned oil firm pushes the claim that alcohol-based fuel actually performs better than regular gasoline and that a 10 percent blend — the most common — should have "little effect" on gas mileage.

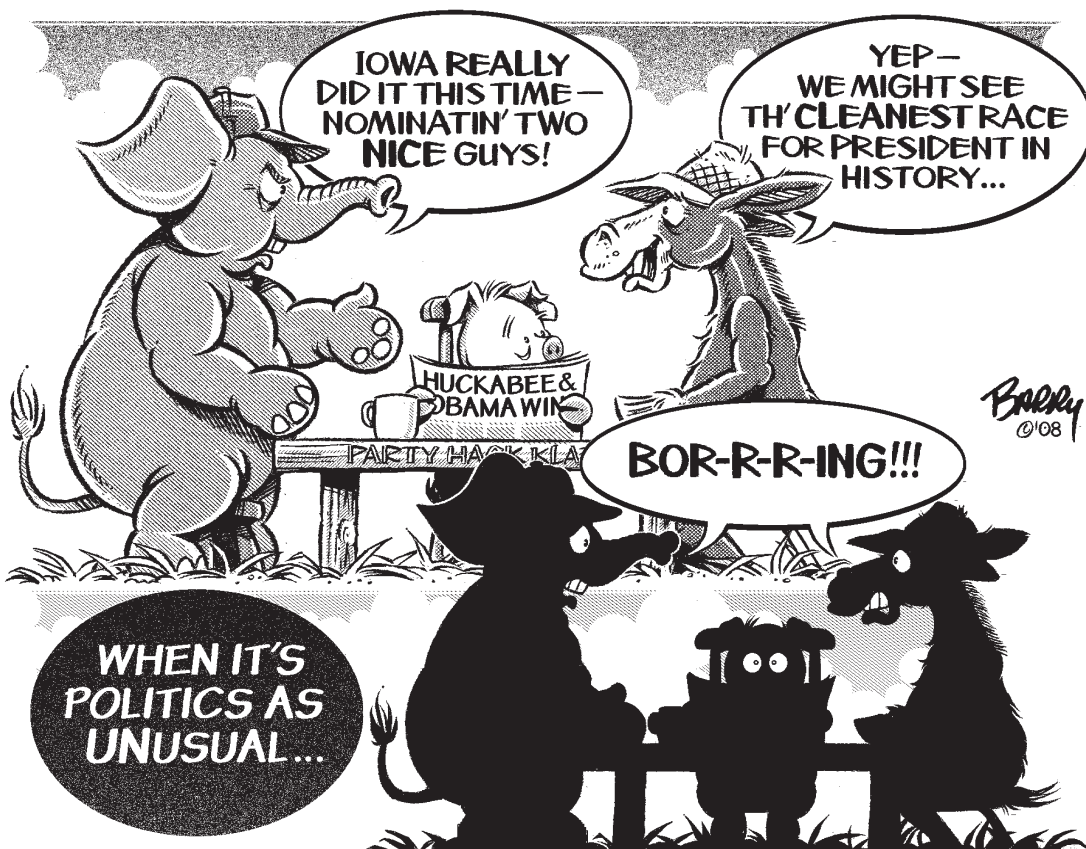
And that's true, as far as it goes. Ethanol blends are good fuel, with high octane ratings. Our experience with the newspaper's fleet is that a car will run about 5 percent farther on regular gasoline, though, so the cost difference can be as much as 10 cents per gallon.

For years, ethanol fuel sold at the same price as regular, then a couple of cents cheaper. Now, many stations sell it for six cents a gallon less, and that at least approaches a fair deal.

Ethanol is fine for those who want to buy it. Many people will buy it just because it burns cleaner, many others because it is cheaper. Some people object that it doesn't really save energy and may not want to buy it.

But all consumers deserve to know exactly what they are buying. A policy aimed to help farmers, but based on dishonesty and trickery, cannot help but fail. And the farm groups ought to know better.

Shame on them. — Steve Haynes



Hangin' With Marge

By Margaret Bucholtz



Tuesdays at the Herald

The past few months I have been working at the Herald on a regular basis because they are short handed. I've learn a lot about things you do and don't want to do especially on a Tuesday. Things are just a little tense on paper day so we all watch out and for people like me I have learned it is not a day to talk unnecessarily, which is hard for me.

However the fun part of the day is when we all load up in a vehicle and go to a local restaurant and get our food to go. Lots of fun things happen there. One time the person in the back seat was in such a hurry to get out that they forgot to let

the person riding in the front get out first. Needless to say it sort of bent that person over and her head laid on the dash.

The other day we all went and this time I was along. I handed each person the togo plate and while they were all drooling over the food I went ahead and paid for mine. Then I got my plate and while everyone was standing at the counter to pay I headed for the car.

I thought I would be funny and head out to the car and get in first, hoping they would be surprised. Walking to the grey car straight north of the restaurant I was a lit-

tle surprised when someone was already there. I wondered how she got out first, but knowing it wasn't a race I proceeded on.

When I got about to the car the lady opened the door and got out. Thank heavens as it wasn't the right car and there I would have been sitting in the car picking at my food and would have probably missed my ride back to work.

It was then I remember we hadn't parked there and I went to the right car hoping no one had noticed.

Technicians upset with media

Letter to the editor:

This is in regards to the letter (editorial) in The Saint Francis Herald for the week of Jan. 3, the stories published in the Salina Journal on Dec. 26 and 27, and the KHI website.

The target of these articles appeared to be about RURAL EMS (emergency medical service). Noting that we do not live in a perfect world, how can it be expected to have a TRAUMA center within an hour of us? We are rural America.

Yes, we chose to live out here, and a lot is expected of our rural hospitals and EMS services. Considering the fact that we live approximately 2 1/2 to 3 hours from our nearest trauma center, transporting by ground ambulance and anywhere from 40 to 50 minutes by air ambulance, given perfect conditions, this is all out of our control. It appears to us that many are saying a trauma center should be in every county. Or each county should have a paramedic crew. Watch your taxes go up then. Again, we do not live in the perfect world.

As VOLUNTEER EMT's, we do have to meet a standard of training. Ask any volunteer how

Letter to the Editor

long it took to take the class, how hard the testing was. We have to keep our skills up to date, know how and when to use ALL equipment. Our protocol is gone over in continuing education, as are our skills and equipment use.

The State Board of EMS inspects each service yearly. We are inspected from our log book, to our protocol book, to our QA/QI, to our ambulances. If the KSBEMS finds too many deficiencies, the ambulance service can and most likely will be shut down, until all problems are taken care of.

In Cheyenne County, we have two ambulances stationed in Bird City and two ambulances in St. Francis. There is a lot behind the scenes time spent keeping these ambulances in perfect "ready to respond" condition, from stocking, to cleaning, to maintenance. ALL of this is done by VOLUNTEER EMT's.

The population of the county is approximately 2,900 people and we cover approximately 1,085 square miles. This is done with 23 EMT's who leave family events, holidays, school activities, paying jobs, sound sleep, sacrificing any private life we may have. WHY DO WE DO THIS? Because we want and like to help others. The last thing a volunteer needs is criticism.

Why don't the so called "experts" come out into rural areas and look and see exactly what we have to work with. One was in the area talking about Rural Trauma Development not long ago. It was a good course overall. Then two

weeks later, we read articles in the paper and on the web slamming mainly rural EMS, because we are a volunteer service. We take being an emergency medical technician as seriously as we take our normal paying job and everyday life. It was stated that 30 percent of rural trauma deaths could be avoided, assuming of course that again, in that perfect world, there would have been a trauma center nearby. SHOW US THE NUMBERS.

Another statement made by a rural director was "THINKING" there is not a problem with volunteer EMS in Kansas? That's a real confidence booster. To the public, be advised, you can't just "think," you have got to KNOW, there is NO problem with Cheyenne County EMS skills in Kansas.

Being rural or urban 911, the EMS providers are trained to the extreme of their level of certification. We will answer the call 24/7 whatever the situation may be. We have an excellent hospital we work with, from the providers, to the nurses, to housekeeping, to office staff, they are there to lend us a hand.

As the old saying goes, "if you read it in the paper, it must be true." So read this— do not be afraid to call 911 for the ambulance service. We are volunteers and care about the healthcare and well being of the people of Cheyenne County.

Jannelle Bowers
EMT-B/Director, Cheyenne County EMS
Mike Hansen
EMT-B/T01, president of the Cheyenne County EMS

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



I'd like to say "hello" to Steve Colantoni in Parsippany, N.J. Although we have never met, I feel like we have a common bond.

Mr. Colantoni subscribes to the Bird City Times.

To some it may not seem like a big deal, but I get excited knowing that our two papers in Cheyenne County go such great distances.

Being a transplant, I still see wonder in the everyday happenings around Bird City and St. Francis. And I know I'm not alone.

People in other places look at the paper as a way of connecting with our rural community. By seeing a familiar name or looking at a photograph, it practically puts them here on the prairie.

I took a quick look at the subscription books for The Bird City Times and The St. Francis Herald and was surprised at all the out-of-state homes we go to.

Not to do shame to Johnny Cash but "We go to...Grand Rapids, Minn., Bristol, Conn., Aberdeen, S.D., Rio Rancho, N.M., Flowery Branch, Ga., Fairfax, Va., Lake Charles, La., Plano, Texas, Waucondo, Ill., Scottsdale, Ariz., Eugene, Ore., Dothan, Ala., Ocean-side, Calif., Hideaway, Texas, Angola, Ind., Rudolph, Wisc., Jonesboro, Ark., Tullahoma, Tenn.,

Troutdale, Ore., Orange, Maine, Massillon, Ohio, Yardley, Pa., Hot Springs, Ark., and Broken Arrow, Utah."

In the "Lower 48" we stretch from Washington down to Florida and big cities like Los Angeles to New York.

So, for our local residents, next time you visit family or friends and let us know at the paper, it's going to be shared in places far and wide.

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GOD SAYS
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.
Isaiah 65:25

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Praise the Lord

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<p>United Methodist Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, 512 S. Scott Pastor Morita Truman Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC 202 N. College Pastor Ken Hart 332-2928 Pars. 332-2312 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday eve Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>
<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 332-2888 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Mike Larson Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>Solid Rock Baptist Church 412 S. Denison Welcomes You! Pastor Allen Coon Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>St. Francis Equity</p>
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