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OPINION | OUR VIEW

Watch The Octane When Headed West

A trip to the Black Hills during these waning weeks of the summer vacation season could turn into a real adventure if you're not paying attention to the gas pumps. That's because some counties in western South Dakota are now legally selling 85-octane gas, a low-grade fuel that can cause high-grade headaches for motorists.

This brand of fuel has been sold for a long time at some places out west, where the 85-octane is said to allow engines to run more smoothly at higher altitudes. However, Gov. Dennis Daugaard authorized the Department of Transportation to deploy emergency rules to govern the sale of the low-grade fuel last year after oil distributors warned of possible fuel shortages in they weren't allowed to sell 85-octane. Thereafter, the fuel began to make its way east.

Thanks to a legislative committee decision late last year — followed by a bill that passed through Pierre this past winter — the fuel can be sold legally in just nine counties: Butte, Custer, Fall River, Harding, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins and Shannon. This was done in response to investigations that discovered the low-grade gasoline was being sold in other parts of the state, and it wasn't always labeled as such.

The problem with 85-octane is that it is a low-grade fuel that does not sit well with most newer vehicles, which are generally designed to be used with higher octane fuel such as 87-octane; indeed, many vehicle warranties specify that octanes lower than 87 should not be used in most modern vehicles. The use of the lower octane can cause engine knocks and poor motor performance, ultimately resulting in reduced fuel efficiency. Long-term use of such fuel could cause damage to engines and burn out pistons. Hence, the warranty warning from automobile manufacturers.

What makes this fuel so low grade is that, as its lower number suggests, it can ignite at a lower temperature, unlike more stable fuels. But the lower ignition point means more early misfires that, over time, could cause engine overheating and damage. The lower octane was created in the days when most cars had carburetors. Now, it's estimated that less than 2 percent of vehicles on the road have carburetors.

The Legislature passed the law legalizing the sale of 85-octane as a means of limiting its sale elsewhere, especially in the east. Also, a pump selling 85-octane must carry this warning: "This octane level may not meet minimum manufacturer specifications. Consult your owner's manual before fueling."

The problem is, if you are driving west and aren't aware of this fuel's availability, you might inadvertently fill up with the mixture. While it isn't likely to cause damage with short-term use, it may create immediate performance issues.

There is a reason that a lot of automakers want to see a ban on low-octane fuels. So, too, does the ethanol industry, which frets over the possibility of its product being blended with low-grade fuel.

So, if you're driving west — be it for a family vacation, the Sturgis Rally or whatever takes you in that direction — and need to fill up in one of the nine aforementioned counties, be sure to check out the octane level on the pump. There are a lot of travelers, especially from out of state, who aren't aware of this fuel. They may be in for a surprise or two if they fill up with it. (Hopefully, that's all they will experience.)

kmh

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 30, the 211th day of 2013. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 30, 1863, American automaker Henry Ford was born in Dearborn Township, Mich.

On this date: In 1729, Baltimore, Md. was founded.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces tried to take Petersburg, Va., by exploding a gunpowder-filled mine under Confederate defense lines; the attack failed.

In 1918, poet Joyce Kilmer, a sergeant in the 165th U.S. Infantry Regiment, was killed during the Second Battle of the Marne in World War I. (Kilmer is perhaps best remembered for his poem "Trees.")

In 1932, the Summer Olympic Games opened in Los Angeles.

In 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine during World War II; only 316 out of some 1,200 men survived.

In 1953, the Small Business Administration was founded.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum" ("Out of many, one").

In 1963, the Soviet Union announced it had granted political asylum to Harold "Kim" Philby, the "third man" of a British spy ring.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Medicare bill, which went into effect the following year.

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit; although presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 1990, British Conservative Party lawmaker Ian Gow was killed in a bombing claimed by the Irish Republican Army.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush took personal responsibility for the first time for using discredited intelligence in his State of the Union address, but predicted he would be vindicated for going to war against Iraq. Iraq's U.S.-picked interim government named its first president: Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a Shiite Muslim from a party banned by Saddam Hussein. Sun Records founder Sam Phillips, who discovered Elvis Presley, died in Memphis, Tenn., at age 80.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush quietly signed a housing bill he'd once threatened to veto; it was intended to rescue some

cash-strapped homeowners in fear of foreclosure. Amid corruption allegations and his own plummeting popularity, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced he would resign. Ex-Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic was extradited to The Hague to face genocide charges after nearly 13 years on the run. Republican Party stalwart and onetime U.S. ambassador to Britain Anne Armstrong died in Houston at age 80.

One year ago: Republican presidential challenger Mitt Romney, on a visit to Israel, outraged Palestinians by telling Jewish donors that their culture was part of the reason Israel was more economically successful than the Palestinians. American teenager Missy Franklin won the women's 100-meter backstroke before Matt Grevers led a 1-2 finish for the U.S. in the same men's race. The Chinese won their second straight Olympic title in men's gymnastics and third in four games after a dismal performance in qualifying.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Richard Johnson is 86. Actor Edd "Kookie" Byrnes is 80. Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 79. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 77. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 74. Feminist activist Eleanor Smear is 74. Former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., is 73. Singer Paul Anka is 72. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 68. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 66. Actor William Atherton is 66. Actor Jean Reno is 65. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 65. Actor Frank Stallone is 63. Actor Ken Olin is 59. Actress Delta Burke is 57. Law professor Anita Hill is 57. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 55. Country singer Neal McCoy is 55. Actor Richard Burgi is 55. Movie director Richard Linklater is 53. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 52. Actress Lisa Kudrow is 50. Bluegrass musician Danny Roberts (The Grascals) is 50. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 49. Actress Vivica A. Fox is 49. Actor Terry Crews is 45. Actor Simon Baker is 44. Movie director Christopher Nolan ("The Dark Night") is 43. Actor Tom Green is 42. Rock musician Brad Hargreaves (Third Eye Blind) is 42. Actress Christine Taylor is 42. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 40. Actress Hilary Swank is 39. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 36. Actress Jaime Pressly is 36. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett is 33. Actress April Bowlby is 33. Actress Yvonne Strahovski (TV: "Chuck") is 31.

Thought for Today: "You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do." — Henry Ford, American auto manufacturer (1863-1947).

FROM THE BIBLE

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish. *Jonah 2:1.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The Rez Of The Story

Issues Of Tribal Governance

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), David E. Wilkins, author of "American Indian Politics and the American Political System," provides us with one of the most comprehensive and thorough examinations of contemporary Native political reality. Anyone who is a student of Tribal governance or wants a more inclusive understanding of Native issues should have David's book occupying a permanent place on their book shelf.

Much of the conversation in Indian Country (around the reservation) and between Native and non-Native people involves the convoluted arena of tribal politics, leadership and the disconnect felt and experienced by many Native people in their own pursuit of understanding their situation in the context of today's modern world.

Here taken from Wilkins' manuscript is an attempt to hopefully help clear up some of the muddy waters I've eluded to:

"Public policy may be defined as what governments do or do not do, why they do it, and what difference government's actions make, or more broadly, as a general plan of action adopted by a government to solve a problem, counter a threat, or pursue an objective. Under this definition, policies emanating from the federal government that involve Indian people, federal Indian policy may be defined as a course of action or inaction pursued by the U.S. government and adopted as expedient in its relations with the indigenous peoples of North America. By expedient, we mean policy that is considered by government to be advantageous or advisable under the particular circumstances or during a specific time span.

"It is most assuredly federal Indian policy and not simply Indian policy, because by and large Indians have not set the policy. They have usually reacted to or had to endure given policies (removal, reservations, allotments, termination), although tribes were seldom the passive recipients of federal mandates they have sometimes been depicted as being. One can argue with a measure of veracity that the 1988 Tribal Self-Governance Act, as a policy, has at least been inspired by, if not established by, Indian nations. But Indian self-governance is only one of a group of policy issues that affect and are affected by tribes and Indians in the areas of

politics, law, cultural rights, property and natural resources, and intergovernmental relations, among others.

"Moreover ... indigenous people's lives and resources are frequently governed not only by political and economic expediency, but also by fundamental ambivalence. It is an ambivalence exacerbated by the complex interrelationship of federal and state governments; the BIA and other agencies; corporate America; interest groups; the media; tribal, local, national, and occasionally international crises; political parties; and the amorphous entity known simply as the public. The inherent diversity of 561 indigenous entities does not, of course, bring clarity to the situation, and the fact that a majority of Indians now live off reservation further complicates matter, because the BIA has never clearly asserted whether the government's trust responsibility extends to non-reservation Indians.

"All of the above is muddled even more by the fact that Indian treaties and the trust relationship have moral and ethical dimensions because in an obvious sense they entail a pledge of U. S. national honor. The combination of these distinct yet related rights and responsibilities leads to, on one hand, acceptance of the legal/moral claim by Indians against the federal government and, on the other hand, the reality that Indian tribes remain semi-independent political entities with the right to exercise inherent sovereign powers in the areas of commerce, property use, and governing authority.

"Factor in the treble citizenship aspect and the situation is even less clear. In addition to these convoluted realities, the application of federal Indian policies and law often times depends on the images and perceptions of Indians that the public, presidential administration, Congress, and Supreme Court maintain. Indians are, therefore, 'wholly at the mercy of forces and personalities beyond their control, and this fact alone distinguishes them from all other American minority groups.' No constitutional protections exist for American Indians insofar as they wish to emphasize their ethnic identity. By the same token, federal law recognizes in American Indians certain rights and privileges that it cannot recognize in other minority groups."

More on this in future columns. Until then, now you know the rez of the story.

Doksha (later) ...

The McBudget: Tips On Survival

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

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A few words about the McBudget.

Perhaps you've heard of it. As fast-food workers around the country protest for higher wages, we learn that McDonald's offers advice to help them live on the wages they make that, while not technically bupkes, do amount to a paycheck you can pretty much have the driver cash for you on the bus ride home. In December, for example, Bloomberg profiled a Chicago man who, after 20 years with the burger giant, earns \$8.25 an hour — and doesn't get 40 hours a week. This, as McDonald's CEO Don Thompson pulled down, according to the Wall Street Journal, a compensation package worth \$13.8 million last year.

Anyway, Mickey D's isn't blind to the difficulties of french fry makers and drive-through order takers getting by on not quite bupkes. It partnered with Visa on a website — <http://www.practical-moneyskills.com/mcdonalds/budgetJournal/budgetJournal.php> — which includes a sample budget showing how you can live reasonably well on next to nothing.

The impossibility of doing so has been attested to by everyone from writer Barbara Ehrenreich in her book "Nickel and Dimed" to noted obstetrician Cliff Huxtable, in that episode of "The Cosby Show" where he uses Monopoly money to teach young Theo the value of a good income. It has also been attested to by the people trying to do it. But all that notwithstanding, the McBudget insists it can be done.

It envisions monthly take home pay of \$2,060 from working two (!) jobs. Out of that, you pay \$600 for rent, \$150 for a car note, \$100 for insurance (home and auto), \$100 for cable and phone, \$90 for the electric bill, \$20 for health insurance, etc. You save \$100 a month and have \$750 to play with — if, by "play," you mean pay for clothing, child care and water. Also, gasoline, maintenance and repair for the 1997 junkmobile you're able to buy for \$150 a month. Oh, and food. Can't forget food.



Leonard
PITTS

As you might expect, the McBudget is mildly controversial. *Washington Post* blogger Timothy B. Lee called the figures "realistic" and praised McDonald's for "practical" advice. This seems to be a minority opinion. ThinkProgress, the left-leaning website, called the budget "laughably inaccurate." Stephen Colbert skewered the company, saying a \$20 health insurance premium will buy you "a tourniquet, a bottle of Night Train and a bite stick." Writing for the *Wall Street Journal*, columnist Al Lewis suggested that McDonald's \$13.8 million man show us how it's done by volunteering to live on the McBudget.

The most vexing thing about that budget is its condescension. Take it from this welfare mother's son: If there's one thing poor people do not need, it is lessons in how to be poor. To the contrary, you will never meet anyone who can wring more value from a dollar.

We're talking every trick of layaway and 2-day-old bread, coupon clipping and off-brand buying. Goodwill shopping, Peter robbing, Paul paying and plain old going without. You ever hear of a jam sandwich? That's when you "jam" two pieces of bread together and call it lunch. Heck, if you handed the federal budget over to a couple welfare mothers, we'd be in surplus by December.

And McDonald's has lessons for the poor? Look, there are many reasons people wind up in poverty. Sometimes they make bad life choices — they drop out of school without salable skills, or they become teen parents. Often, it falls on them from the sky in the form of illness, injury, addiction or financial reversal.

However they got into poverty they all need — and deserve — the same things: a way to work their way out and to be accorded a little dignity while they do so. The former comes with paying a living wage, the latter by treating people with respect and not presuming to teach them what they could teach you. McDonald's fails on both counts.

The McBudget is a McInsult.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for The Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

ONLINE OPINION

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the Press & Dakotan's Web site are as follows:

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you approve of the Yankton City Commission's decision to implement a sales tax rebate as an incentive to retail development on the outlots of the Menards property?

Yes47%
No44%
Not sure9%
TOTAL VOTES CAST236

The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

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CURRENT QUESTION:

Would you support a ballot measure to increase South Dakota's minimum wage?

To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.