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Today's Photo



Members of the Boise Police Union and supporters of the union, including Boise resident Patricia LeMoyné, near left, chant and hold signs outside Boise City Hall Wednesday evening in support of the department in its contract dispute with Boise Mayor Dave Bieter.

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News

Mat Grady / IPT The Jenkins family will drive across the country in a bio-diesel RV to spread awareness about energy conservation. Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Nampa family hails benefits of biodiesel

Posted: Thursday, June 21, 2007 8:26 AM EDT

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Awareness: Jenkins family will drive a biodiesel-powered motor home across country to raise awareness of alternative, renewable energy

By Lee Vander Boegh

Ivanderboegh@idahopress.com NAMPA — Some families plan their vacation routes around theme parks or hotels, but the Jenkins family is building its summer vacation around an unusual theme: the nation's biodiesel filling stations.

The Nampa family is about to embark on a one-month, coast-to-coast trip in a diesel motor home decorated to call attention to the renewable energy source.

The Jenkins plan on filling up with biodiesel — a nontoxic, plant-based fuel — nearly every step of the way. "We've always been interested in energy conservation and renewable energy and we wanted to combine that with public service," Christina Jenkins said in a statement. "This will be a good learning experience and help spread the message of green, clean and renewable energy."

The 2006 Gulfstream motor home's diesel engine doesn't require any modifications to burn biodiesel, said Taylor Jenkins, who is also president of I Corporation, an engineering and product development consulting company.

In fact, he said, biodiesel will burn just fine in any diesel engine. "If you've got a diesel engine it's just a matter of filling up at a different pump," he explained.

That fuel interchangeability means the Jenkins can burn traditional diesel fuel if biodiesel is not available.

The extended family — Christina and Taylor, their four children, Taylor's parents and a brother and sister — plans to leave Nampa on Monday. The Web site also features information about various alternative energy forms, and could eventually host a forum for related discussions.

The RV's exterior has been painted with a vegetation theme — an appropriate design, Christina Jenkins said.

"American farmers are already supplying us with biodiesel and there's much more potential," she said. "We're the most productive agricultural nation on earth and we could supply a lot of our energy needs" The route will take them through a string of cities, including: Salt Lake City; Rockford, Ill.; Louisville, Ky.; Washington, D.C.; New York, N.Y.; Detroit; Rapid City, S.D.; Butte, Mont.; and Shoreline, Wash.

Sticking with the biodiesel theme, planned stops include energy fairs, research labs and energy



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facilities.

Though the 40-foot motor home is a departure from the Jenkins' traditional vehicles, energy concerns play a factor in all the family's car choices. Their Dodge SUV will soon be converted to burn flex fuel, or a combination of ethanol and gasoline. Their Saturn passenger car was chosen because of gas mileage, Taylor said. The Jenkins hope this summer vacation marks the beginning of an annual biodiesel adventure.



"While this is our first year, we hope to start a tradition for our family and nation and make these tours in coming years, with more stops," they said on their Web site.

The Jenkins family of Nampa will drive across the country in a biodiesel RV to spread awareness about energy conservation. (Mat Grady / IPT)

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Comments

Comments are limited to 200 words or less.

Jason, Milwaukee Biodiesel Co-op wrote on Jun 26, 2007 6:29 PM:
" The Jenkins are welcome to stop in Milwaukee, where the Milwaukee Biodiesel Co-op is getting started. We will have 100% biodiesel on hand for sale (to members, and at cost) starting in July. Our tank is located at a store called Future Green, which is at 2352 S Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207. "

David Maria wrote on Jun 23, 2007 8:08 AM:
" The Jenkins family is to be lauded for their efforts to put themselves in front of the public to help education the rest of us. Visit their web site at www.getenergyaware.org if you want to see more information on energy issues. We can do so much more than we are currently doing. For instance, here in the Treasure Valley we should be seriously looking at solar power, we certainly have the sun for it, instead of looking at building new natural gas powered plants to help augment peak summer demand when everyone knows that natural gas is going to explode in cost just like oil has. "

Jessica wrote on Jun 22, 2007 9:32 AM:
" Check out this link: www.frankentank.com For information about a technology to convert oil into 100% biodiesel for the end-user i.e. make safe, reliable biodiesel at home. Look for the Frankentank Link. "

Nic@OiLogic.com wrote on Jun 21, 2007 9:17 PM:
" I say 10% is better than no percent! It's a good start guys. Even this article helps to raise awareness of biodiesel. The more attention and support biodiesel gets, the easier it will be to produce more affordable, more "bio" diesel. "

warren carlson wrote on Jun 21, 2007 12:15 PM:
" you talked a lot about bio deisel but were to you buy it stinkers only has 10% bio deisel.real bio deisel has a higher percentage "

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