

We're almost holding our collective breath—gas prices in the High Country have—since the Christmas holidays—been lower than many areas off the mountain. In other words, the gas gap is reversed. Prices off the mountain around Christmas crept back from their \$3.20 range into the \$3.30's, landing in many areas in the \$3.39 range—fully 10-cents higher than gas you can buy here. We've got prices along Blowing Rock Road at \$3.27.9, and \$3.28.9, one West Jefferson price the same, but the closest similar gas price is the 'gas war' corridor around Granite Falls and into Hickory. But there's still the wonderment of how same-brand gas can be 10-cents higher along US 421 and NC 105, with Wilco Hess prices there a good bit higher. Over the weekend, the Seven Devils Wilco Hess was selling gas at a High Country low price of \$3.26.9. Many of us have been holding our breath, but for as much pounding as we give the gas business over the price differential—our usually much higher—we have to report on—and ponder on—this new scenario, and wonder how long it can last.