

Gas Prices Fall Everywhere But High Country

Written by Steve Frank
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So the gas companies tell us every spring that we have to pay more for gas as they switch to their warm weather formula, additives to protect the environment as we get into hot weather. And this year, prices rose from the \$3.30 range per gallon of regular to the \$3.60's by Easter, but we were reassured that we were actually paying less than last Easter. But since then, the prices still climbed, some stations here in the High Country reaching the mid \$3.70's for regular gas. But in a little publicized move two or so weeks ago, we heard that gas prices would soon decline—and they have—if you don't happen to live in the High Country. Prices in Burke County a week ago were in the \$3.58 range for regular, and prices I saw in Wilkes, Catawba and Caldwell yesterday were in the \$3.59 to \$3.61 range, while prices here are still even 15 cents per gallon higher. Even our lowest price gas is 11 cents per gallon above the Foothills and Piedmont prices. So it's time for us to, again, ask why the High Country is being targeted for paying more. Research into gas prices in the past has shown that transportation of fuels up the mountain can add tenths of a cent to the price—not 10 cents and more that we typically see. There had been parity in prices between our area and areas surrounding us for most of a year, but now we seem to be paying prices approaching gouging. We'll ask—you report. Let us know your best—and your worst deal. Get camera phone shots of gas prices and send them to GoBlueRidge.net.