

Gas Prices Leveling Off?

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Gas prices in the High Country have seemed to have leveled off after a tumultuous month of increases, most capping off around \$3.80 a gallon for regular before a number of stations backed off, some dropping as low as the mid to low \$3.70's. There are gas bargains—if you want to call \$3.69 a 'bargain,' with that price spotted along US 70 in Hickory, \$3.71 in Jefferson and Granite Falls, \$3.75 at Tynecastle and \$3.72 on Blowing Rock Road in Boone. The U.S. average retail price for regular gasoline rose to \$3.78 a gallon on Monday. That's up 3.7 cents from a week ago and up almost 43 cents from 4 weeks ago, based on the weekly price survey by the U.S. Energy Information Administration.