News

Outrage at the pump

BY MATT ROCHELEAU FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE Tuesday, June 3, 2008 1:26 AM EDT

Drivers' anger rises as prices creep over $4 a gallon

Industry analysts said the cost of gasoline might have peaked over the Memorial Day weekend, but prices shot up another 6 cents from last week - to just shy of the $4 mark.

And that has motorists in the Attleboro area fuming.

"It's outrageous. I didn't want to stop here, but I'm on empty," said Deborah Walsh of Canterbury, N.H., who travels across New England on a daily basis assisting radiologists.

Walsh stopped at the Shell gas station on South Avenue in Attleboro, where the price of regular gas was $3.95 per gallon.

"I'm waiting for it to hit $5, then I'm going to learn to ride a motorcycle," she said. A statewide survey Monday by AAA Southern New England found an average price of $3.96 per gallon for self-serve regular, up from $3.90 last week.

The state's average has risen 77 cents per gallon over the last six weeks and is a penny a gallon below the national average.

The survey found prices as high as $4.19 to as low as $3.84 in the state

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Anthony Gallucci of Warwick, R.I., said he tries to save on gas by commuting with his wife when he can, but said that's tough because their schedules do not always match up.

Corrine Beckwith, 21, traveling with Chris McGrath, 23, said the two often travel in Beckwith's more fuel efficient vehicle instead of McGrath's Jeep, which McGrath said is not fuel-efficient and costs about $80 to fill.

Brad Kirby of Attleboro was not in a pleasant mood fueling his Nissan Frontier, which he said gets about 18 miles per gallon.

"I think it's ridiculous. Gas is not a frivolous thing, it's a basic necessity," he said. "The fat cats are getting rich off of middle-income people trying to get to work."

Walsh was inclined to agree.

"It's a monopoly and all about politics," she said. "We're stuck. As an everyday person there's nothing we can do."

Until the recent spike in prices, the state's record price was $3.23 per gallon, set in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. A year ago at this time, the average stood at $3.03. Diesel prices also rose 3 cents this week to $4.91.

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socal1 wrote on Jun 3, 2008 1:53 PM:

" Demand by emerging markets has definately increased world demand, but the US is still the largest consumer of oil and gasoline. So overall we have the greatest potential to negatively or postively impact supply and demand. "

noonespecial wrote on Jun 3, 2008 12:19 PM:
" It's not the US increase in demand that has caused this, but the global increase in demand, especially in large developing countries such as China and India. "

socal1 wrote on Jun 3, 2008 8:04 AM:
" High gas prices are here to stay. The "conspiracy vs supply and demand" debate was also made in the 1970s when gas prices rose from $0.25/gal to $0.50+/gal. Be grateful that we don't have long gas lines or the dreaded "odd/even" days to purchase gas. Whatever the true reason(s) for the spike in gas prices, our economy, based on capitalism, helps to add to the price of oil. This is not a bad thing because we can also help to reduce the price. As consumers the only way to get the attention of opec, wall street speculators, auto makes, etc. is to purchase less gas. But this would require consumers to make changes to their behavior patterns; reduce your speed on the highways (people are still driving 75+ mph), etc. Auto makers are now saying they will be making more fuel efficent vehicles because truck and suv sales are down. Since the US govnmt. said that American drivers drove about 11 billion miles less in March or April 2008 in comparison to the sames month in 2007, a barrel of oil has dropped from a high of $135 to $127. As in losing weight, a life time commitment to a life style change is necessary in order to be successful. So keep complaining but keep changing. You get the attention of individuals as well as companies when you impact their wallets. "

spookey wrote on Jun 3, 2008 8:01 AM:
" supply and demand, and also we can figure in, GREED! the united states has a lot of coal,oil, and natural gas. NO one in washington is doing anything about the high prices. ethanol is a joke, giving a rise to food prices! bought elbow macaroni lately? if our government is serious about conserving fuel, lower the speed limit! lower speeds, saves fuel! "

kevin h. wrote on Jun 3, 2008 7:23 AM:
" "It's outrageous. I didn't want to stop here, but I'm on empty," said Deborah Walsh of Canterbury, N.H.,

But Deb, We have new lamp posts!
Not exactly an Attleboro Chamber of Commerce endorsement. ;-) "

a-town is weak wrote on Jun 3, 2008 2:21 AM:
" wut the f$ck "

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