

## US, Oregon gas prices continue steady rise

by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources

Spot reports of some stations in the state already charging \$3 or more

With the arrival of spring break, motorists in Oregon are seeing gasoline prices ranging from less than \$2.80 per gallon to more than three dollars per gallon. In the past month, the state's average price for a gallon of regular rose by 36 cents to \$2.859. That compares to a national average price increase in the same time period of a bit more than a quarter to \$2.59.

"Earlier in the month, some analysts forecast that Oregon's average price could hit \$3 by month's end. With a week to go, we may dodge that bullet for the time being, but fuel prices are still climbing but at a slower pace than in recent weeks " said AAA Oregon Public Affairs Director Elliott Eki. "Although the current Portland area average price for a gallon of regular is \$2.86, some stations already are charging more than \$3."

Other factors affecting pump prices are Iran's detention of British sailors, which is blamed for pushing up the price of crude oil, currently trading in the \$62 per barrel range; a number of refineries have experienced production problems; and consumer demand is squeezing already low gasoline inventories.

At \$2.86, Oregon's average gasoline price is tied with Washington's as fourth highest in the nation. California has the highest average price at \$3.19 with Hawaii following at \$2.97 and Nevada at \$2.89. Idaho's statewide average price moved up six cents to \$2.56. South Carolina has the lowest average price at \$2.39. The national average diesel price held at \$2.74 per gallon during the past week. Idaho's average diesel price moved up to \$2.88, Nevada's remained at \$2.87, Washington's held at \$2.90, and California's was steady at \$3.06. Oregon's average diesel price is \$2.77.

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