

ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

FED UP WITH FUEL



Pre-business sophomore Dan Greifinger pumps fuel at Jett's Wildcat Petrol on East Sixth Street and North Park Avenue yesterday. Fuel prices have hit record highs throughout the country in recent days, with Pima County's fuel prices averaging \$1.85 per gallon.

WILL SEBERGER/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Full tanks make for empty wallets

Rise in fuel costs has students carpooling more, driving less

By Melissa Wirkus
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The temperature is not the only thing that has risen in Tucson; the cost of gasoline has skyrocketed and left UA students strapped for cash.

The average cost for a gallon of unleaded regular gasoline in Pima County is now \$1.85, and the highest recorded price for the county was documented just last week at \$1.89 per gallon, according to the American Automobile Association.

Andrea Esquer, public information spokeswoman for the attorney general's

office, said there are a few reasons why gas prices have increased.

"OPEC did a one-third supply reduction in February, reducing the amount of oil being produced out of OPEC countries," Esquer said. "It hurts everyone. That is why gas prices are high across the nation."

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries includes 11 countries that rely on oil export revenues to support their economies.

Tara Zybowski, a psychology senior, said the rising gas prices have affected her everyday budget.

"I find it hard to decide whether to get extra food at the grocery store or buy gas to get to campus," Zybowski said.

She said she typically spends about \$22 to fill up her car but tries to put gas in intervals of \$5 or \$10 so it is not just one lump sum.

Although Tucson gas prices are high, there are other cities that have been hit harder by the hikes, Esquer said.

"Tucson (gasoline) is about 10 cents cheaper than the gas in Phoenix," she said.

Arizona and California have higher gas prices than

other states because of the poor air conditions, Esquer said.

Arizona uses a winter blend of gasoline and then switches to a different blend in the summer. The blends are made with chemicals to make engines burn cleaner in each season, she said.

"The refineries' reason for higher prices is that it takes more money to switch from the different blends," Esquer said.

They have to draw down the inventory and use what they have of one blend before they start refining the next,

Low Down

Average cost per gallon of unleaded regular gasoline in Pima County now a \$1.85

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Governor criticizes tuition increases

Napolitano concerned hikes make college 'inaccessible'

By Bob Purvis
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

PHOENIX — Gov. Janet Napolitano criticized recently approved university tuition hikes at her weekly press conference yesterday, saying she worries the middle class is being priced out of higher education in Arizona.

"I am concerned about the tuition hikes," Napolitano said. "I am concerned that we are making a college-level education more inaccessible, particularly to students from what I would call middle-income families."

Earlier this month, by a vote of 8-1, the Arizona Board of Regents approved a \$494 increase in in-state tuition at the UA and \$700 for nonresidents.

Students at Arizona State and Northern Arizona universities will also face a major increase for the second time in a year.

Napolitano said she was opposed to the hikes and is going to actively oppose any future hikes.

"They've done a pretty good job at segregating financial aid for low-income students to preserve access to them, but that's a big increase for some families to take," Napolitano said. "We are going to watch that situation very closely."

The newest batch of tuition hikes, added to the \$1,000 hike passed last year, have raised the cost of resident undergraduate tuition and fees at the UA to \$4,087.

The board of regents has been trying to raise tuition to the top of the bottom third of state universities nationwide as part of their Changing Directions initiative, and the recent increases have done that, said Regents President Chris Herstam.

"In the future, I think you are only going to see inflationary increases," Herstam said.

Napolitano approves the regents' goal but said tuition increases have put a university education beyond the reach of some students.

While university officials have blamed the steep increases on diminishing state funding, Napolitano attributed it to poor planning and said she hoped any future hikes would be limited to the cost of inflation.

"One of the reasons we've had two big jumps in several successive years is because they didn't keep pace through the '90s and they had to do some big step increases to get up there," Napolitano said. "I would

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Student left speechless after winning Truman Scholarship

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

When Amy Shlossman took the elevator to the Regents Room in the Administration building, she was preparing herself to speak to students about the value of public service.

Instead, President Peter Likins greeted Shlossman, a public administration senior, with flowers and news that she had been waiting nine months to hear.

"Congratulations, you're the winner of the Truman Scholarship," Likins said, giving Shlossman the flowers and a hug.

The announcement left

Shlossman, who is one of 80 recipients for the nationally competitive scholarship, stunned and momentarily speechless.

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation gives about 80 \$26,000 scholarships to students around the nation who exhibit exceptional leadership potential and plan to pursue careers in public service, such as the government or nonprofit organizations.

Encouraged by her parents to volunteer in the community, Shlossman's activism in public service began her freshman year of high school when she took part in AIDS Walk Arizona, only to find a lack of student involvement.

When she asked AIDS Walk organizers about the weak student participation, officials told her students were not a group the organization catered to.

Determined to increase students' roles in AIDS awareness, Shlossman researched the impact of AIDS on youth and presented her findings to AIDS Walk organizers, who still disregarded her request to recruit students.

But Shlossman, who said she puts 200 percent into everything she does, wasn't ready to quit.

She developed the AIDS Walk AZ High School Team Project, which involved more than 85 high schools. In addition, Shlossman

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JACOB KONST/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Karna Walter, the assistant director for international studies and scholarships for the Honors College, and President Peter Likins, congratulate public administration senior Amy Shlossman (center) after she receives the news that she is one of 80 college students nationwide to receive the Truman Scholarship.