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# Gas Prices Jump 20-cents; Stump Professor

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Grand Rapids - A big surprise at the pump for Drivers Monday afternoon. Gas prices jumped 20-cents between the Morning drive to work and the lunch hour.

A gallon of gas will cost Michigan motorists 64 cents more than it did this time last year.

AAA Michigan says the statewide average for self-serve, unleaded is \$2.55 a gallon this week. Prices shot up 26 cents in two weeks. That's the largest two-week jump in four years.

WZZM 13 News checked West Michigan gas stations early this afternoon and found some are charging \$2.80 for a gallon of unleaded gas. The lowest is around \$2.40 a gallon. Some higher grades are pushing \$3.00 a gallon.

Professor Ed Aboufadel won The Gas Game Monday, while many of us lost. The game is a hobby website started by the GVSU professor five years ago, that aims to predict the price at the pumps around Grand Rapids.

He expected a ten cent gas hike Monday; instead, pump prices pushed up a full twenty cents, averaging about \$2.80 a gallon. It's been very hard to predict gas prices lately - they've gone up twice in a week on several occasions, something he says rare. Also, most hikes occur on Thursdays, not Mondays.

Aboufadel won the game Monday since he filled up in the morning, before area stations raised pump prices to record highs, but others were not as lucky. Off of Kalamazoo near 44th, Gloria Harts fumed: "It's stupid, it's ridiculous, it's out of hand", while at pump over Gordon Czarnecki grabbed a reporter to complain "I think this is a scam and I am totally disgusted."

Prof. Aboufadel also thinks the high prices are unsustainable, and will come down steadily until their traditional yearly low point Christmas.

His site is: <http://faculty.gvsu.edu/aboufadel/gasgame.htm>.

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