Gas prices

From Page 1

You're going to find the average price of gasoline where it was before Feb. 22 — at $2.98."

The *Times* posed a question to readers on Sept. 29 about how they weigh the economic impact of higher gas prices against the national security goal of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Comments rolled in for weeks over that question.

One reader stated that "Trump said he ended their nuclear program in summer 2025."

"So there's no connection between these prices and national security," read the post.

Another reader agreed.

"The fuel price I believe has nothing to do with the war. If you look at the oil company's profits they're at an all-time high," he wrote. "The oil companies own our politicians, so nothing will change."

Another reader started his post with "Safety > $$."

"The economic impact is much, much larger in Iran. They no longer have a middle class. Inflation in 2025 was 42%. Now its upwards of 69% inflation. The economic side will break Iran while it inconveniences us," he wrote. "We cannot be too bad ... people are still driving, we raised the speed limit (worse gas mileage), and people (are) exceeding the speed limit more than ever."

Another reader agreed, stating that national security is more important than the price of a gallon of gas.

"And my guess is this has more to do with multiple refineries in California shutting down because they can't afford to be in business in California anymore because of the ever-increasing tax burden imposed upon them," he wrote.

One reader asserted that the nuclear weapons "are misdirection," and pointed to a larger geopolitical question.

"'Iran acquiring nuclear weapons' isn't the full story," he wrote. "I firmly believe the real purpose is to protect the value of the dollar and its position as the world's currency. It's also the reason we attacked Venezuela and one of the reasons we need Greenland. If we can disrupt the BRICS coalition's claim over the world's energy supply, become energy independent, and actually supply the world, it helps prevent us from using $1,000,000 bills to buy a loaf of bread."

One woman disagrees that Iran is about to obtain a nuclear weapon.

"Sounds like a convenient excuse to explain a failed attempt to take over their country and take its resources," she wrote. "If anybody is going to use a nuclear weapon, it will probably be us."

Another reader said concerns over Iran are exaggerated.

"Iran is not stupid enough to bomb us even if they had a bomb," he wrote.

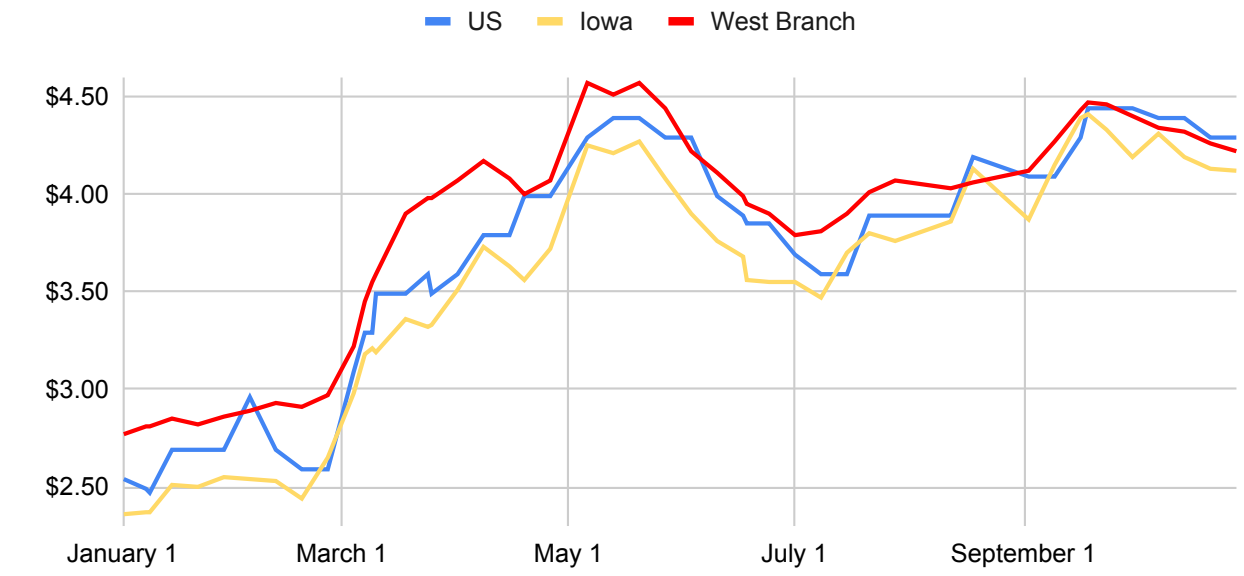
A couple of readers believe that oil companies are colluding to keep prices high.

"It's called price gouging, it has nothing to do with the so called war! It's the people or so-called Americans that own the big gas companies," wrote one man.

"Its called collusion and gouging. Its illegal. We the people can do nothing about it. Greed, greed, greed," wrote another man.

Gas prices up $1.75 since Jan. 1

As of Jan. 1, the local price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was $2.54. Today, it is $4.29, an increase of $1.75 per gallon, or 69 percent. President Trump on Feb. 28 initiated Operation Epic Fury, which launched a large-scale military attack on Iran with the expressed goal of preventing the Islamic country from acquiring a nuclear weapon. However, some residents doubt the president's reason for the attack. Others believe the president and agree that the extra cost is worth preventing the terrorist country from acquiring a nuclear weapon.



Sources: West Branch's Parkside BP, Maverik, and Casey's General Store displayed prices; GasBuddy.com *Chart by Gregory R. Norfleet*

Girls

From Page 8

around and been a big part of this for four years, " the coach said. "And it's always sad to see them leave, but we're also very excited for next year."

While the Iowa high school season is over for City High, the Little Hawks are not done this season as the team will participate in the Nov. 15 NXR Heartland Regional cross country meet at Sioux Falls, South Dakota to attempt to qualify for nationals. Ahlers said that the team would take a short break before taking on the NXR meet, which would help the team have some fun running one last time together while also providing some competition that can help the Little Hawks carry momentum into next year.

Team scores: 1. Cedar Falls 96; 2. Ankeny Centennial 101; 3. Waukee Northwest 102; 4. Pleasant Valley 103; 5. Johnston 159; 6. Valley West Des Moines 208; 7. Dowling Catholic 218; 8. Iowa City High 225; 9. Davenport Central 226; 10. Waukee 241; 11. Linn-Mar 249; 12. Norwalk 272; 13. Cedar Rapids Prairie 286; 14. Dallas Center-Grimes 288; 15. Epworth Western Dubuque 346.

All-State runners: 1. Charlee Gall (CF) 17:13.0; 2. Maddie Millage (PV) 17:30.0; 3. Emmy Stubbendeck (WN) 17:33.6; 4. Gianna McCombs (DC) 17:46.7; 5. Presley Moeller (DC) 17:52.6; 6. Emma Weih (VWDM) 18:00.8; 7. Hailey Kozloski (L-M) 18:05.3; 8. Isabel Spradling (DMR) 18:08.9; 9. Joley Sullivan (DC) 18:10.7; 10. Natalie Cogdill (AC) 18:13.1; 11. Emma Stanley (AMES) 18:19.5; 12. Emerlyn McNally (CF) 18:19.8; 13. Rebecca Flick (AC) 18:27.6; 14. Ellie Blevins (AC) 18:35.9; 15. Avery Driscoll (WAUK) 18:40.6.

City High results: 26. Laine Barnes 18:57.4; 33. **Grace Hamann 19:08.4**; 44. Mari Bechtel 19:23.0; 73. Anna Fischer 19:49.5; 80. Calissa Fruin 20:01.2; 83. Lucy Sherburne 20:09.5; 98. Madeline Fischer 20:29.6.

Davis writes book on life growing up in West Branch

Author graduated from West Branch High School in 1969

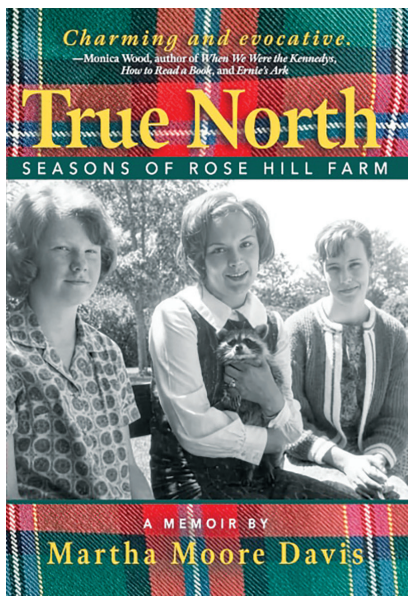
In her new memoir, "True North: Seasons of Rose Hill Farm," author Martha Moore Davis shares stories of growing up on a farm north of West Branch, in Cedar County.

West Branch Times readers will recognize her name as she began writing columns for the newspaper in late 2023 with an emphasis on growing up on a farm near West Branch.

She graduated from West Branch High School in 1969.

Vanishing stories about a vanishing way of life. Martha Moore Davis chronicles events in the 1950s and 1960s that become her "true north, a compass in times of doubt, crisis, or crossroads."

She invites the reader to experience the seasons



of Rose Hill Farm and asks, "What is your true north?"

A family photo album and Davis's love of her Brownie Hawkeye camera inspired her to tell stories that would otherwise be lost.

Through a selection of prose and photographs, she shares the stories.

Martha Davis encourages readers to make sense of their own experiences and to find themselves on familiar ground.

Published by Maine Authors Publishing, "True North: Seasons of Rose Hill Farm," Martha Davis hopes to provide an opportunity for benefitting the community through book signings for nonprofit groups.

She is willing to lead book group talks and give presentations to interested groups.

Also by Martha Moore Davis: "Sarah's Seasons: An Amish Diary and Conversation," University of Iowa Press, a University of Iowa bestseller and named a Upper Midwest Booksellers' Favorite.

Her essays have appeared in various newspapers and literary journals.

She received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Iowa and her doctorate from Teachers College, Columbia University. She lives in Des Moines with her husband, Steve.

Boys

From Page 8

gible to return next year, City High has the potential to return to Fort Dodge next year stronger.

"Six guys are coming back next year," Skay said. "We can't do anything about the past day or year, but we can use it and learn and make ourselves stronger and better. And I think that's definitely what we're going to do with the sophomores and juniors who'll be returning.

"And we have an extremely strong JV program. Almost undefeated during the season, the fresh/soph, so we're looking forward to reloading for next year and having another strong team coming to the state meet."

Team scores: 1. Dowling Catholic 70; 2. Cedar Falls 93; 3. Iowa City Liberty 94; 4. Ankeny Centennial 151; 5. Waukee 152; 6. Dallas Center-Grimes 158; 7. Cedar Rapids Prairie 195; 8. Pleasant Valley 241; 9. Davenport Central 242; 10. Waukee Northwest 257; 11. Johnston 260; 12. Valley West Des Moines 275; 13. Dubuque Hempstead 283; 14. Norwalk 338 (sixth runner tiebreak); 15. Iowa City High 338.

All-State runners: 1. Preston Johnson (MARSH) 14:40.2; 2. Keegan Decker 14:53.1; 3. Jack Crossland 14:55.5; 4. Kuma Gutema (SCN) 15:03.4; 5. Andrew Heden (BETT) 15:07.0; 6. Dominic Williams 15:21.8; 7. Cole Carrizales (CRP) 15:22.2; 8. Tyson Cho (ICL) 15:26.6; 9. Jaxston (Jax) Alvarez (AC) 15:26.8; 10. Charlie Deick (DC) 15:32.3; 11. Jonah Whitson (PV) 15:36.5; 12. Zack Ryan (DC) 15:37.8; 13. Owen Anderson (DS) 15:39.0; 14. Maxwell Kinzer (ICL) 15:39.5; 15. Graham Ibeling (DCG) 15:40.3.

City High results: 25. Andrew Hamilton 16:05.9; 94. Jasper McRoberts 16:49.1; 99. Leif Eastlund 16:52.2; 104. Sam Elliott 16:56.9; 114. Soren Miller 17:24.2; 125. Clayton Terrill 17:50.3; David Randall DNF.

Cedar county payroll

PAY DATE 10/16/2026

VENDOR	VENDOR TOTAL
Benefits Inc.	965.82
Phelps the Uniform Specialists	34.10
Cedar County Health Fund	175,292.06
Nationwide Retirement Solution	190.00
Cedar County Treasurer	74,822.49
Cedar County Treasurer	8,671.52
Cedar County Treasurer	361.82
Cedar County Treasurer	445.84
COUNTY TOTAL	260,783.65

WBT 44

Cedar county board

(FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES.FULL TEXT OF DAY'S MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AUDITOR'S OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE—WWW.CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV)

TIPTON, IOWA

October 20, 2026

Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. October 20, 2026 with following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Minutes reported by Deputy Auditor Hamdorf. Members of public were also present.

Board viewed correspondence from various agencies.

It was noted following Handwritten Disbursement was issued on 10/16/2026 to Cedar County Treasurer for Midwest Group Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #447151 for $1,924.31-self funded medical claims.

Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to approve agenda.

Ayes: All

Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. There were none.

Moved by Gaul seconded by Barnhart to approve Board Minutes of October 13, 2026.

Ayes: All

Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve Payroll Disbursements #206906-207050 for period ending 10/1/26 and to be paid on 10/16/26.

Ayes: All

Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bell to adopt Ordinance Regulating Placement of Data Centers on Property Located in Unincorporated Areas of Cedar County, Iowa.

Ayes: Bixler, Barnhart, Kaufmann, Gaul, Bell

Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to approve Crisis Response K-9 Program as a self-funded program with no fiscal impact on EMS budget.

Ayes: All

Moved by Gaul seconded by Barnhart to approve a utility permit for Mechanicsville Telephone Company for Charles Avenue and 145th Street and $100 fee applies.

Ayes: All

Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to adjourn at 9:00 a.m., to October 27, 2026.

Ayes: All

Jon Bell, Chairperson
Nicki Welch, Auditor
WBT 44

West Branch Community School will have items for sale on GOVDEALS.COM in the months of November and December

The City of West Branch is seeking a
Finance Director
to oversee the City's financial operations, including budgeting, financial reporting, accounts payable, account reconciliation, debt management, investments, and grant administration. Working under the direction of the City Administrator, this position plays an important role in maintaining the City's financial health, ensuring compliance with state and federal requirements, preparing annual budgets and financial reports, coordinating annual audits, and providing accurate financial information to City leadership and the City Council. The ideal candidate will have a degree in accounting, finance, public administration, or a related field, with municipal accounting, budgeting, or financial management experience preferred. This is a full-time, exempt position offering an opportunity to make a meaningful impact in a growing community.
Employment Application, Cover Letter, and Resume are required to be considered for the position. Applications are due by 11/23.
For more information, please contact:
Adam Kofoed, City Administrator
Phone: (319) 643-5888
Email: adam@westbranchiowa.org

Wanted

WANTED – JUNK appliances – will pick up. Farm steel, batteries and cars. 319-331-8122. #17tf

BUYING ALL Antiques: Fair Cash Prices for Antiques: Furniture, Signs, Toys, Crocks, Paintings, Documents, Oddities and Weird Stuff. 319.270.1251. #9tf

Help Wanted

PART-TIME Cashier/Merchandiser @ Tipton Pharmacy. 563-886-2158. #42-43

Storage For Rent

WEST BRANCH Mini Storage, 1264 East South Street, Tipton 10 x 24 ft. stalls. Reasonable rates 1-319-643-7150. #10tf

Hertz Real Estate Services
LAND FOR SALE

CEDAR CO. – NEW LISTING! 66.00 acres located 8 miles NE of West Liberty. Mixed used farm with cropland and mature timber. **$7,750/acre.**

CEDAR CO. – 80.00 Acres located NW S of Mechanicsville. 73.50 crop acres with a 91.4 CSR2. Includes nice buildings. SALE PENDING! **$18,500/acre.**

CEDAR CO. – 59.49 acres located 4½ miles west of Tipton. 39.80 Acres in CRP. An attractive recreational farm, potential as building site! **$8,500/acre.**

DES MOINES CO. – 3.34 acres located on the southwest side of Mediapolis. Includes 2.49 CRP acres. **$50,000.00**

JONES CO. – NEW LISTING! 196.19 acres located 4 miles west of Wyoming. 170.60 crop acres with an 81.20 CSR2. Additional 15.95 acres in CRP. **$14,250/acre.**

LINN CO. – NEW LISTING! 35.24 acres located SE of Cedar Rapids. Potential building site with 27.55 crop acre, mature timber and pasture. **$14,950/acre.**

LINN CO. – 76.50 acres NE of Marion along IA-13. 71.30 crop acres with a 91.20 CSR2. **$22,500/acre.**

LINN CO. – 160.00 acres NE of Marion. 158.11 crop acres with a 92.00 CSR2. **$20,500/acre.**

LINN CO. – PRICE REDUCED! 41.00 acres with attractive, 3 bed/2 bath home & buildings. Located 6 mi. N of Marion.
1350 Waubeek Rd., Central City ~~**$1,050,000.00**~~ **$950,000.00**

MOUNT VERNON • 319-895-8858 • WWW.HERTZ.AG
all acres are "more or less" unless noted
also offering professional farm management & appraisal