



Coffee makes a safe date. E1

# WEEKEND Post-Bulletin

IF IT MATTERS TO YOU, IT MATTERS TO US



Mom, above and beyond. D1

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## WELCOME TO THE WEEKEND!

Today's Weekend edition includes new sections, new features and an aggressively renewed commitment to local news and information.

Two new sections begin today, Life and Style, anchored by exclusive local features on home, garden, travel, tech and fashion news. One example: On page E5, where we run engagements and anniversaries, you'll find a new weekly feature called Love Story about how one area couple met and fell in love.

In the B section, check out the Week in Review, a page that summarizes the top local and area news of the past week, along with major police and fire calls plotted on a Rochester city map.

Two pages have been added to the Weekend sports section — a page of sports commentary on page D5 and the Sports Week in Review, with more photos from the week's local/area events, on page D6.

Coming next week, look for a new page called The Whole Story, featuring deep background and context on an important nation/world story.

There's more, as you'll discover. We want the Weekend edition to be the best read of your week — more useful, more entertaining and more relevant than ever. Tell us what you think and how we can make the Post-Bulletin even better.

Jay Furst, managing editor  
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## UPDATING THE NEWS

### Canister dumper faces action

The discovery of military-style canisters filled with a cleaning agent has now spawned a criminal investigation. A10

## LIFESTYLES



### New shoe in town

Half tennis shoe and half ballet flat, skimmers are the hot shoe for spring and summer. The sweet slip-ons are cute but not cloying, and you can wear them with just about everything in your closet. E1

## TODAY'S OBITUARIES

Edward Evans, Ruth Fagan, Agnes Gaertner, Monica Grandbois, Gerald Hayes, Ruben Maisel

## INDEX

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## CORRECTIONS

• Chatfield's high school baseball leaders were inadvertently omitted from the list of southeast Minnesota leaders on page C3 on Thursday. Among Chatfield's leaders are: Nic Obey with a .475 batting average, 20 RBIs and 12 stolen bases; Bryan Neis, .415, 18 runs, 10 stolen bases; and Mitchel Obey, .400, 16 runs.

The Post-Bulletin is committed to publishing fair and accurate information, in print and online. If you find an error or have a concern, call Managing Editor Jay Furst at 285-7742 or e-mail [furst@postbulletin.com](mailto:furst@postbulletin.com).

# What drives gas prices?

## OVER A BARREL



Making Sense of Gas Prices

### Editor's note

No consumer product digs more deeply into your wallet, with more seemingly erratic and puzzling price swings, than gasoline. This Post-Bulletin special report explains why the price of gas is so volatile, how prices are set locally, what effect ethanol and E-85 can have, and what you can do to cope with \$3-a-gallon gas.

To comment on this series or pass along tips and ideas, send an e-mail to [furst@postbulletin.com](mailto:furst@postbulletin.com) or call 252-1980.

### Inside

• Many factors drive prices at the pump — page A4

What, exactly, drives the price of gas in southeastern Minnesota and elsewhere?

• Ethanol has a breakout year — page A5

Ethanol, a fuel distilled primarily from corn, is beginning to flex its muscles. There's surging demand, higher corn prices and a new optimism among farmers. Ethanol is having a breakout year.

• Is a higher gas tax crippling or justified? — page A6

In a time of \$3-a-gallon gasoline, will the state add more to the bill?

• No new refineries in 30 years — page A7

Refineries find expanding their capacity to turn oil into gasoline to be enough to keep our cars, trucks, SUVs and RVs on the road.



Nathan Howard/Post-Bulletin

Jason Hofner of LeRoy secures a hose to his truck after unloading 7,500 gallons of diesel at the Austin Auto Truck Plaza last week. Asked why he thinks gas prices have gone up in recent years, he said, "I have no idea. I'm just like everybody else, I'm not sure."

## How many know what goes into fuel prices?

By Matt Russell  
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What drives the ups and downs of gas prices in southeastern Minnesota?

Why do prices often go up on Thursdays?

Why do prices at gas stations and convenience stores seem to move in lockstep?

Everyone has questions about gas prices, one of the most volatile and punishing facts of consumer life — when prices jump 20 cents a gallon, you have no choice but to pay when your needle hits empty.

Before gas is delivered to stations in Rochester, Austin and other area towns, it goes through a complex process that most of us don't think about much when filling our tanks. Each step in that process, not to mention international politics, war and market forces, can contribute to what you pay at the pump.

"I don't think people realize how

global the price situation is," says Kermit Watts, owner of the Austin Auto Truck Plaza.

Crude oil from around the world winds up as the gasoline you buy at southeastern Minnesota stations, but most of that oil comes from Canada. It's through pipelines starting there that most crude oil arrives at two refineries in the Twin Cities area.

Those two refineries, one in Rosemount and the other in St. Paul Park, supply a large portion of the gas that's pumped at southeastern Minnesota stations. From those refineries, gas is delivered to our area in two ways — by truck and by a distribution pipeline. The Twin Cities refineries supply much of the gas that comes to southeastern Minnesota through that pipeline, which is part of a sprawling system that also carries gas to our area from refineries in places such as Kansas, Oklahoma and the Gulf Coast, according to Bruce Heine, a spokesman for

pipeline-owner Magellan Midstream Partners.

The pipelines carry gas to Magellan-owned distribution terminals in Eyota and Mankato, where fuel is mixed and loaded onto trucks before being hauled to area stations.

Watts said his Austin station gets gasoline delivered by trucks from multiple sources: directly from the Twin Cities, the Magellan terminals in Eyota and Mankato, and also from a British Petroleum-owned terminal in Spring Valley. The Spring Valley terminal is supplied by a BP-owned pipeline with gas from a refinery in Whiting, Ind., according to BP spokeswoman Valerie Corr.

But what happens then? How are prices set, why do they bounce up and (sometimes) down — who's making all the money, and what can consumers do about it?

That's what this package of stories is about. Read on for answers.

## Mother, daughter give birth a day apart

By Matt Russell  
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For a some mothers on Sunday, having newborn children with them will make Mother's Day a rare kind of experience.

Rarer still is the story of Patti Kellner of Rochester: Not only did the 40-year-old give birth Tuesday, a month earlier than expected, but she did so just more than 24 hours before her daughter, 21-year-old Mary Jones of Stewartville, also gave birth to her second child.

There's more. The women both gave birth at the Olmsted Medical Center hospital in Rochester, and as they recovered from their deliveries this week, their rooms were just feet away from each other.

"It's perfect," Kellner said as her newborn daughter, 5-pound, 9-ounce Sofia, rested nearby. "They're both so healthy. We're just so blessed."

Kellner's story started Tuesday when she woke up and realized she would likely



Elizabeth Nida/Post-Bulletin

"It's a total blessing," Patti Kellner of Rochester, left, says of her new daughter, Sofia Schandorff. Kellner's daughter, Mary Jones of Stewartville, right, delivered a son, Lewis Jones, the following day.

give birth that day. She got on the phone to tell her daughter the news.

"She called me Tuesday morning and said, 'I'm going into labor!' Jones said. 'I was like 'Wow! OK!' And I was already scheduled to be induced on Wednesday."

Kellner gave birth to Sofia Love Schandorff, her first child with partner Daniel Schandorff, at 12:24 p.m. Tuesday.

Jones gave birth to 8-pound, 4-ounce Lewis Oliver Jones, her second child with her husband, Jon, at 2:12 p.m.

Wednesday. "It was just surprising," Mary Jones said. "While we've been pregnant, everyone's like, 'How do you feel about that? Is that OK?' I'm like, it's great, I think it's fun. I mean, we went baby shopping together and now the babies will be so close — it's fun."

Suddenly two members larger, Mary and Patti's family plans to get together for Mother's Day on Sunday, with plans calling for a picnic in Stewartville.

## Area residents join firefighting effort up north

By Mike Dougherty  
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The haze that draped Rochester on Friday seemed to start clearing toward the evening hours, possibly giving residents relief from breathing the smoky air.

But for at least nine area residents, the smoke-filled air was much closer. Personnel from the area's Minnesota Department of Natural Resources office have been dispatched to two fires burning in northern Minnesota — the cause of Friday's haze here.

The DNR's Web site said Friday that the following area personnel have been assigned to the Ham Lake fire: Doug Rau, Kurt Hinz, Randy Mell, Val Green, Jason Walker and Joyce Rusert. Assigned to the Eveleth fire are: John Kelly, Jim Edgar and Kevin O'Brien. They are among 657 personnel from local, state and federal agencies fighting the fires.

The mobilization of DNR personnel from other regions of the state showed the scope of the fire and demand for help. The latest reports said the fire had stretched about 85 square miles, including territory in Canada. The majority of the burned area is outside the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Fire officials said the fire is only 5 percent contained at this point.

Residents along half of the 57-mile Gunflint Trail have been evacuated.

Haze can be cause for concern, A10

## PHOTO REPRINTS

To order reprints of any photo taken by a Post-Bulletin staff member, go to [postbulletin.com/reprints](http://postbulletin.com/reprints) or call 285-7737.

## TODAY'S PUNCHLINE

"Ole has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Norwegians in the area of Walnut Grove and Revere were already using wireless." Joke on A2.

## WEATHER

Sunday: Breezy, partly cloudy.  
75° | 60°  
More: B10

## CONTACT US

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