

# COUGAR CRY

Fall 2007

Serving Wilkes, Ashe, & Alleghany Counties

Volume 36- Issue 1

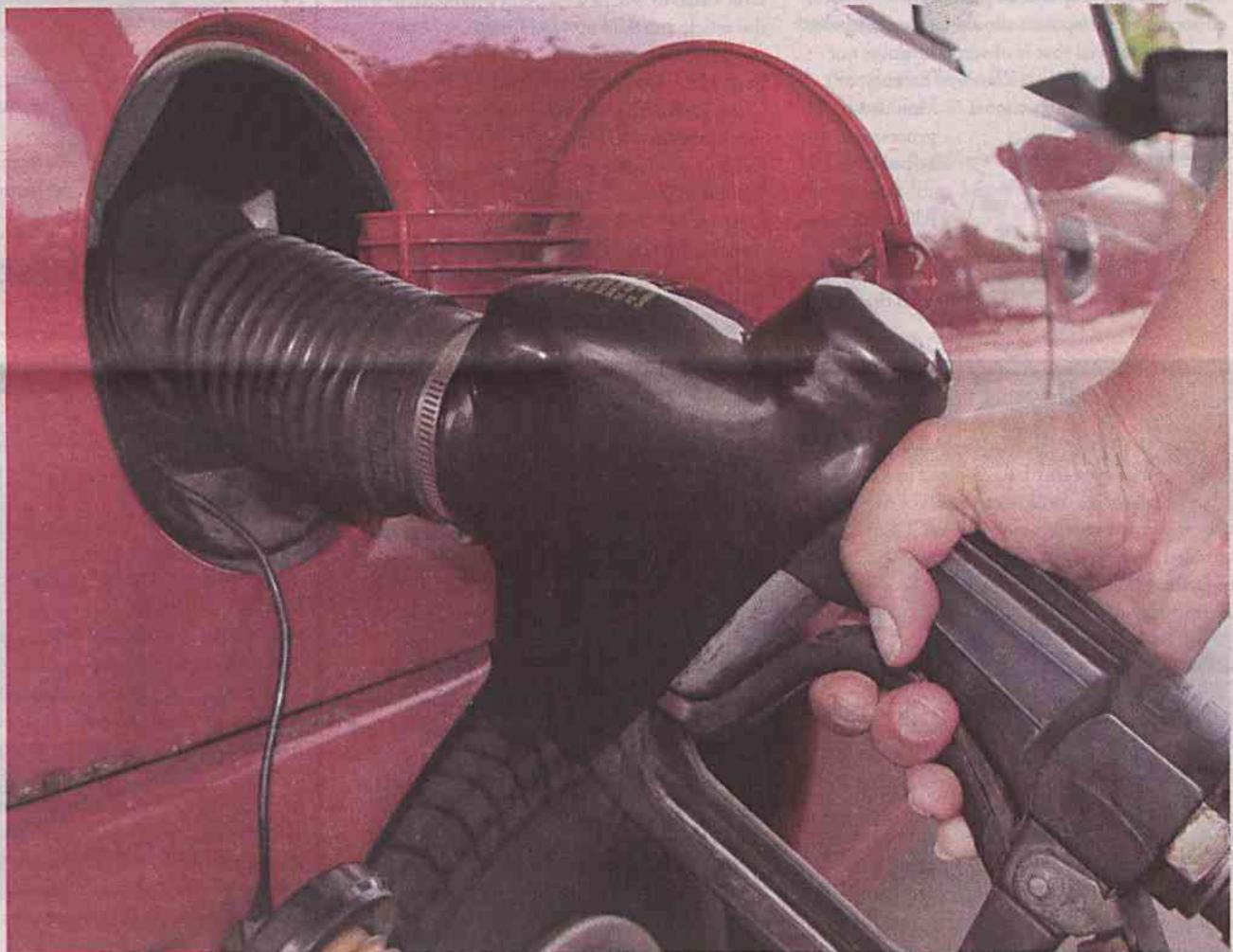
## Gas Prices Effect WCC Students' Summer

By: Keisha Call

**A**s summer has come and gone, so has vacation time. People dreamed of going to the beach, to the mountains or to another state to get away from everything. This year was different than most. With gas nearing three dollars a gallon, many people said they stayed home to save money but the high gas prices didn't disrupt everyone's plans. A random survey of several WCC students, family, and friends indicated that most people still carried out their vacation plans. Sixty-two percent of the people being surveyed were unaffected by the gas prices and thirty-eight percent were affected. The most popular vacation spot this summer was the beach.

One person said the high gas prices didn't affect her plans for this summer but that she was taking "fewer trips to Wal-Mart and shopping less frequently at shopping malls and grocery stores." Another person being interviewed stated that the high gas prices didn't affect her summer plans but "having no job" did. One person stated that when she moved here four years ago from Utah, the gas price was \$1.59. She was unable to return to Utah to see her friends and family, this summer because of the high gas prices. Another person that lives at the beach planned to come home to family and friends but the gas prices also changed his plans. An additional person being interviewed said that he and his family had already visited Lake Gaston once and would be going back again before the year ended.

With gas prices continuing to fluctuate, drivers need tips on how to save at the pump. The best way to ease the sting of the high gas prices is to carpool and don't top off the tank because it can cause more harm to your car and to the environment. Also when



topping off your tank, you could be paying for gas that is fed back into the station's tanks because your gas tank is full. The gas nozzle will automatically click off when the tank is full. Finally, keeping your car in good working order can help save on gas. This can improve gas mileage by four percent. Drive the speed limit posted. This can help save up to \$1.06 per gallon. Also it is safer for you and others. These are just a few of the tips for saving on gas mileage. You can find more on <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/drive.shtml>. Hope everyone had a great summer!

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