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## High price of gas finally getting lower

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We can't stop gassing about gas.

Didja break the bank to drive somewhere on Memorial Day? Last weekend, a gallon of regular unleaded gas cost about \$2.78 in North Carolina, according to AAA Carolinas — 70 cents more than it did the same time last year.

And it was nearly 7 cents higher than it had been at Easter.

Sigh.

And yet the highways were packed. We can personally attest to that — and to the bank-breaking part. But when ya gotta go — out of town, that is — ya gotta go.

Things might be improving a teeny bit, though. That or [RaleighGasPrices.com](http://RaleighGasPrices.com), which includes information about Fayetteville gas prices, has different info than AAA Carolinas.

In any case, [RaleighGasPrices.com](http://RaleighGasPrices.com) showed the average price of gas here to be a mere \$2.69 a gallon. (Remember when that would have seemed crazy high?) The \$2.69 isn't just less than AAA Carolinas' report from last weekend, it's way less than the \$2.91 a gallon that the site said we were paying back in late April.

So that's something. Maybe.

**A couple of Texas men** are dealing with high gas prices in a novel way — wait, make that a nonfiction way.

According to a news release, Tom Hollenbeck and Kenny Joines have “developed” a book called “The Gas Mileage Bible: How to Squeeze More Miles Out of Every Gallon and Pay Less at the Pump.”

The book is said to contain more than 40 easy actions people can take to get better gas mileage.

Some of the 17 tips they list in the news release are basic, common-sense stuff — keep your tires inflated properly, don't use the AC when it's not hot, remove unnecessary weight from your vehicle, keep your car tuned and maintained, drive more like a cautious mom or dad, not a NASCAR wannabe.

But the release says the book also identifies and analyzes engine modifications you can make to improve gas mileage. These include air intake and exhaust systems, electric cooling fans and throttle body spacers.

For information, go to [www.GasMileageBible.com](http://www.GasMileageBible.com). Note: At \$16.95, the book costs about as much as six gallons of regular gas.

**Folks driving across the Person Street bridge** might have noticed the pretty old-fashioned lamps placed along its span.

And anyone who's driven across at night may have noticed... they cast no light.

So are they just for daytime show?

Nope. The old bridge that used to span the river at that spot also had old-fashioned lamps. They worked, though.

When the state decided to replace that bridge, it agreed to similar lamps — if the city would wire and maintain them.

And the city plans to get that done soon, probably within the month, according to Planning Director Jimmy Teal.

The city plans to install similar lights on the nearby bridge over Locks Creek within the next two to three months, Teal said.

**Rural community transit systems** in the region have been awarded some cash by the N.C. Board of Transportation.

Systems in all 10 counties in the region were among 85 that were recently awarded state and federal funds.

Funds were given to the Bladen Area Rural Transportation System (\$127,785); Columbus County Transportation (\$126,893); the Cumberland County Transportation System (\$54,808); the Harnett Area Rural Transit System (\$284,810); Hoke Area Transit Services (\$96,367); County of Lee Transit System (\$208,359); Moore County Transportation Services (\$208,692); Robeson County (\$221,200); Sampson Area Transit (\$128,863); and Scotland County Area Transit (\$134,691).

The funds will be matched by local funds and used to support each system's administrative and capital needs.

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