



CARLOS GALARZA | THE JOURNAL

Motorists fill up at the Ingles gasoline station in Seneca on Friday. AAA says falling prices at the pump are revving up Memorial Day weekend travel plans.

Lower gas prices fueling holiday plans, AAA says

BY CARLOS GALARZA
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SENECA — Falling gasoline prices could not have come at a better time for holiday travelers getting ready for the long Memorial Day weekend.

Business was brisk at the Ingles gasoline station on U.S. 123 and Highway 130 where a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was selling for \$3.47 on Friday.

Henry Simmons filled the tank of his Buick as well as a gasoline container in his trunk.

"I'm taking the family to MayFest in Myrtle for the weekend," he said. "The lower gasoline prices will help the budget."

According to AAA, more than 400,000 motorists in South Carolina are expected to take advantage of dropping prices at the pump to hit the road this Memorial Day weekend.

AAA said the average price per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline in South Carolina dropped 16 cents since peaking at \$3.75 on May 12.

South Carolina has the nation's cheapest average price," said Brendan Byrnes, a spokesman for AAA Carolinas.

Gasoline prices in Oconee are about 8 to 10-cents cheaper than the state average.

The lower gasoline prices, coupled with a decrease in the unemployment rate are fueling a 3 percent increase in the estimated number of holiday travelers over last year, Byrnes said.

He added that the favorable economic conditions also have resulted in an increase of hotel bookings, car rental reservations and personal trip routing requests over last year.

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