

Gas price stays below year ago level.

Gasoline prices remain well below the levels of one year ago and have remained very stable as the summer driving season begins, AAA's Fuel Gauge Report shows.

The Kentucky average price of self-serve regular gasoline is \$1.31. The nationwide average is \$1.36. This is 24 cents below last June's average price of \$1.629. Travelers also will find gasoline prices have remained almost unchanged since April of this year, when the nationwide average price of gasoline first settled near \$1.40 per gallon nationwide.

"This summer's more moderate gasoline prices will make summer trips during the Fourth of July holiday more affordable than last year," said Lilla Mason, Safety Foundation Director.

Gas prices are nearly unchanged in most regions

2002 Farm Bill

The 2002 Farm Bill includes millions of dollars in incentives for improving energy efficiency on farms.

"We're pleased to see that Congress and the president recognize the important role of our nation's farms and rural areas in improving energy efficiency," said Overt L. Carroll, president and CEO of Clark Energy Cooperative.

The bill, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush in May, includes \$115 million to establish a loan, loan guarantee and grant program through which farmers and rural small businesses are eligible for 50 percent cost-share grants, loans and loan guarantees to make energy-efficient improvements and adopt renewable energy systems.

Carroll said Clark Energy is already helping achieve efficiency goals.

Hatton given award

Ed Hatton of Carlisle was recently presented an award for outstanding efforts in collecting data for the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service.

The award was presented to Hatton by Leland Brown, State Statistician at a training



workshop held at Rough River Lake State Resort Park in Falls of Rough.

Hatton interviews farmers about their crop and livestock numbers in Clark, Montgomery, Bourbon and Nicholas counties.

Nationwide, the price of

self-serve, mid-grade averages \$1.472, a decrease of 1.5 cents per gallon since last month, but 26 cents less expensive than last year.

Self-serve premium averages \$1.52 per gallon, down 1.5 cents since mid-May, and 27 cents lower than one year ago.

Average regional gasoline prices in June of last year were: West, \$1.77; New England, \$1.72; Mid-Atlantic,

Education questions answered in online chat

Kentuckians interested in online and other distance education can ask the experts during an internet chat offered by Mapping Your Future on Thursday, July 11, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Anyone with Internet access can join the chat by going to <http://mapping-your-future.org> and selecting the chat session. Experts from across the country will be on hand to answer questions.

Mapping Your Future is a public service Web site whose sponsors include the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA). KHEAA is the state agency that administers a grant, scholarship, work-study, savings, and Federal Family Education Loan Programs (FFELP) to help students pay

for college or technical training. Kentuckians may also access online education information through the Kentucky Virtual University (www.kvu.org) and the Southern Regional Electronic Consortium (www.srec.org).

For more information about KHEAA's financial aid programs and free higher education materials, contact the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602-0798; call 800-928-8926, extension 7381; fax (502) 696-7373; or visit www.kheaa.com.

Edwards joins Army

Tron M. Edwards has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Entry Program. The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay entering active duty for up to one year.

The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a new skill, travel and become eligible to receive as much as \$50,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic military training,

soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career job specialty.

The recruit qualifies for an \$11,000 enlistment bonus.

Edwards, a 2002 graduate of Nicholas County High School in Carlisle, has reported to Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga., for basic training.

He is the son of Jerry L. Edwards of Carlisle.

Fleming County hosts Covered Bridge Fest

The Fleming County Tourism Committee will sponsor the fifth Fleming County Covered Bridge Festival at the Goddard Covered Bridge on Saturday, August 24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Festival will once again be the site of craftsman displaying their wares, food booths of area specialties and local musicians. Air conditioned bus tours will be offered for a small fee to the Bingo Mills and Grange City covered bridges where entertainment will be provided. Knowledgeable local residents will give interesting histories about each bridge.

AAA's Fuel Gauge Report is based on data from Oil Price Information Service — the nation's most comprehensive source of petroleum pricing information.

AAA Blue Grass Kentucky is a not-for-profit automobile club serving 120,000 members in Central and Eastern Kentucky and parts of Virginia and West Virginia. Since its founding in 1952, the not-for-profit, fully tax paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers.

Nicholas joins intelligence agency

Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Millard A. Nicholas has arrived for duty at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.

The DIA is a Department of Defense combat support agency and an important member of the U.S. intelligence community, with over 7,000 military and civilian employees worldwide. As major producers and managers of foreign military intelligence, agency members help provide intelligence to the defense department in support of U.S. military planning and operations and weapon systems acquisition.

Nicholas, a human intelligence collection technician, is the son of Thelma L. Nicholas of Cynthia.

He is a 1962 graduate of Berea Foundation High School, N.Y.

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Golf Magazine listed the Trail's newest course, The Judge at Capitol Hill in Prattville, as one of 10 public courses in the country worthy of hosting the U.S. Open.

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