

# Daily Times (Salisbury, Maryland)

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## GRAPEVINE

Grapevine is a sampling of comments and observations on a variety of timely topics submitted by readers of The Daily Times.

### Gas prices

» I continue to read that President Barack Obama has no control over gas prices, yet in the same comments, they say gas prices were higher under President George Bush. If Bush caused high prices, how can Obama have nothing to do with it? When you see comments that are pro and con on subjects, do as I do -- check it out on Google. One example is gas prices: Google gas prices from 1992-2012. Look at the charts. Then you will know who jacked up prices and when.

» The Wall Street Journal and the **Cato Institute**, a right-wing think tank, agree: "It's not Obama's fault that crude oil prices have increased." Global prices move in tandem and European countries are paying more than the United States. OPEC controls oil prices.

» In 2000, when George Bush was running for president, he said he would "bring down gasoline prices through sheer force of personality, by creating enough political good will with oil-producing nations that they would increase their supply of crude." At the time he said this, gas was \$1.65 per gallon. During his last year in office, gas rose to \$4.11 per gallon. If Bush, with his forceful personality, couldn't get OPEC to lower prices, why does the right wing expect Obama to do it?

» In 2008, when George W. Bush was president, Bill O'Reilly said, "The key to lower oil prices is less usage and it's complete bull for any politician to say he or she can bring them down." Now he's blaming Barack Obama for high gas prices. When confronted on this by Media Matters, O'Reilly claimed they dishonestly edited his video clip. He showed the "full clip." Turns out it wasn't a full clip, only a small part of it. O'Reilly is the dishonest one. The entire clip supports Media Matters' claim that O'Reilly said the key to oil prices is lower usage. Period.

### Same old budget

» The Republicans have a new budget proposal and again, it benefits the rich at the expense of the middle class. This budget makes a mockery of shared responsibility. Under this plan, the rich will get more tax breaks while working families will have to endure cuts to essential services and medicare will be changed to a voucher program. Most importantly, this new plan wants to eliminate the tax on any U.S. company that makes money from foreign business which will make it easier for companies to ship jobs overseas.

### Pony express?

» We recently sent a package to our daughter in New York City, Priority Mail, from our local post office. We were told it would arrive in an estimated two-four days. It took 12 days. We asked for a refund but there is no guarantee with Priority Mail. And they had no explanation. A letter takes four days. I guess parcel post takes 30 days. If I drove up, it would be a five-hour

trip. Better plan your mailing carefully if you have a birthday or other time-sensitive issue --or just try UPS.