

“As it stands now, the voting section of this bill will not help the thousands of black people who want to vote.” ~ John Lewis



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# The Dallas Post Tribune

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VOLUME 78 NUMBER 34

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

May 21 - 27, 2026

## What soaring gas prices mean for Texas and how long it could take for costs to come down

Here's what you should know about the market forces at play and what higher prices mean for oil companies and the state.

By Riddhi Bora, The Texas Tribune



Victor Cortez, 40, fills his tank at a Circle K gas station in Austin on April 24, 2026. Manoo Sirivelu/  
Photo Credit: The Texas Tribune

Texas fuel prices have risen significantly since the U.S.-Israel war on Iran began on Feb. 28, which led to Iran closing a key international shipping lane for oil and gas, the Strait of Hormuz.

The average price for a gallon of gas in Texas, which was \$2.55 in early February, surged by nearly two dollars to \$4.52 on Monday, according to the AAA.

The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow maritime corridor south of Iran, accounts for one-fifth of the world's oil supply — the energy trade passing through it was valued at roughly \$600 billion annually. Any threat to shipping in the strait can affect oil prices globally.

In an April poll conducted by The Texas Politics Project, 61% of 1,200 registered Texas voters said they were "very concerned" about the price of gas — a 23-point jump compared to the same poll in February — while another 25% said they were "somewhat concerned."

Here's what Texans need to know about gas prices:

How are oil barrel and gas prices decided?

Oil and gas prices are determined through supply and demand. Traders sell contracts on an open market and bargain over future prices based on factors that affect supply and demand, like geopolitical events, increased demand during summer months when people travel more and the emergence of new oil sources.

Gas prices are more directly linked to the price of a barrel of oil as well as transportation costs, said Jeff Rubin, Senior Vice President at Upside, a retail technology platform. After crude oil is extracted from the ground, it is transported to a refinery, which produces the gasoline that's shipped to local markets. State gas taxes, like Texas' 20 cents per

Continue Gas Page 4

## 'Whites Only' Signs Were Haunting Reminders of America's Racism

By Aaron Morrison, Contributing Writer | Los Angeles Wave

LOS ANGELES WAVE — The Jim Crow system was undergirded by beliefs that formerly enslaved Black people and their descendants were inferior to white people in fundamental ways, including intelligence, morality and behavior. Allowing white and Black people to coexist as equals, the system's supporters believed, might encourage interracial sexual relations and spur the rise of an abominable race that would destroy the racial purity of the nation's superior white populace.



Continue Racism Page 2

Photo Credit: iStockphoto / NNPA.



Photo Credit: City of Dallas

## Dallas Police Launch New Drone as First Responder Program

The Dallas Police Department's new Drone as First Responder program officially launched today with eight remotely piloted drones based at Dallas Fire-Rescue stations across the City of Dallas. These drones are operated out of the Fusion/Real Time Crime Center and are designed to respond to calls for service in a two-mile radius from their base station. The base locations were selected based on heat maps of calls for service for both police and fire, placing them where they can potentially respond to the greatest number of calls. The pilots will be able to get to the scene quicker than in a squad car and begin to provide real-time intelligence and feedback to officers, as well as reduce the level of response or clear a call entirely if the incident has resolved. If a pilot sees a call in a drone's response area where aerial intelligence can enhance officer safety, they can deploy a drone to provide critical updates to officers at the scene. Each drone is equipped with a thermal camera to help during nighttime operations, as well as a loudspeaker to make announcements to individuals on the ground.

"I challenged our team to find innovative ways to continue improving our response times, and this new drone unit will not only keep officers free to respond to more calls, but provide real time updates as they are responding to calls," said Dallas Police Chief Daniel Comeaux. "Even during our training, our pilots were able to clear three holding calls in an hour with one drone. That alone proved their value to us, and I'm looking forward to seeing the benefits in both officer safety and response times."

Our public safety partners at Dallas Fire-Rescue will also be utilizing the Drone as First Responder program, with training for pilots underway. Under the new program, in the event of a reported structure fire, a drone will be dispatched to the scene ahead of arriving apparatus. This real-time aerial perspective will allow incident command to assess the size, scope, and intensity of a fire before firefighters even step off the apparatus.

Continue Drone Page 5

## What Happened to EBONY? Johnson Publishing Heir Says She Feels Betrayed

JACKSONVILLE FREE PRESS — Founded by John H. Johnson in 1945 with a \$500 loan, Ebony and Jet magazines — the foundation of the Johnson Publishing empire — became popular publications found in millions of Black households across the country. In 1982, Johnson became the first African American to appear on the Forbes 400 list of wealthiest Americans. At one point, his estimated worth was \$600 million.

By BlackPressUSA / Jacksonville Free Press | The Chicago Crusader



Alexa Rice's Beech Body brand includes seven shades of lip gloss.  
Photo Credit: BlackPressUSA

In 2019, Fashion Fair, the cosmetics line created by Johnson Publishing Company's Eunice Johnson, filed for bankruptcy following years of declining sales that ended the cosmetic giant's decades of growth in department stores across the country.

Today, Fashion Fair is owned by a group that includes former Johnson Publishing Company CEO

Desiree Rogers. Rogers broke her promise not to buy Fashion Fair, the iconic Black cosmetics and fashion company, according to Johnson Publishing Company heirs Linda Johnson Rice and her daughter Alexa Rice, in a recent story in the Chicago Sun-Times.

In a revealing interview, the daughter and granddaughter of Johnson Publishing Company founder John H.

Johnson said they were shocked when they learned Rogers and a group of investors had bought Fashion Fair after it filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

The revelation provides a glimpse of Rogers, who made critical and, according to sources, questionable decisions in the final years of Johnson Publishing Company

Continue EBONY Page 5



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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Let Evil Run Its Course Staying Strong and Working Together Will Bring Positive Results

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

It is naïve to think there aren't evil people in the world. They have only one purpose: to harm as many people as they can. In simple terms, there are no boundaries to what they will do.

I have wondered at times what makes a person want to intentionally hurt another person or group. Is there some mean gene that overwhelms them to inflict harm, whether physically, economically, or emotionally, on someone else?

As long as we live and breathe, there will be sinister people who are up to no good. They go to sleep thinking evil, and they end up practicing it.

There are a few categories of evildoers. First, there is the evildoer who commits evil without a second thought. It doesn't matter what people say about them. In fact, they

enjoy the publicity they get from it.

The second type is the "hide-your-hand" evildoer. He/she is the one doing the evil stuff, but you don't know they are the culprits. They usually work behind the scenes with no celebrity attached to their name.

The next type is the go-along-to-get-along evildoer. He/she is a part of the cool crowd, at least that's what they think. They lack self-confidence and have no real direction in their lives. Another characteristic is that they are easily influenced. Some might say that is happening in today's political climate.

Another group of evildoers might be called the smiling-in-your-face bunch. They grin in front of you and create havoc behind you. We must be cautious and careful because they are always plotting and planning.

With all the evil and meanness surrounding us, what must we do to combat it? How can we move forward in the United States of America these days? It is my fervent belief that we

can, we must, and we will overcome these potholes of despair.

First and foremost, we must be more intentional in finding people with character and integrity. People who know right and won't shy away from actualizing it.

Clubs and organizations must also become more engaged in these struggles today. For example, if you are a member of the Divine Nine, social justice must be at the top of your agenda. This organization has millions of members and must exert its power and influence on the political terrain.

Prince Hall Freemasonry and the Prince Hall Order of the Eastern Star continue to hold high the values of our great nation. Their civic goals and humanitarian efforts have given us visionary leaders and exemplary programs. It was founded in 1775 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Neighborhoods and community groups must provide their residents with helpful information to enable them to make in-

formed decisions. Join your neighborhood group so that your voice can be heard.

There is a rumbling in our country, according to reports that say we are tired of mishandling and mismanagement. We have become politically nauseated with those trying to convince us that wrong is right. We know better.

I can see better days ahead. Many others share this position. We must be resolute in our efforts to be together and stay together. Our country is a country of rules and laws. Tampering with them will be unwise.

When you can go about your daily lives, take a listen to a song made famous by The Jackson 5. It is titled, "Show You The Way To Go". Some of the lyrics are, "The job is hard to do. But only we can let us down. Cause we can help each other to overcome. We can do it, we can do it now".

Our lives are interwoven. Your pain is my pain. Your hurt is my hurt. However, in the end, our victory will be one we achieve together.

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Continued **Racism** Page 1

NEW YORK (AP) — "No dogs, no Negroes, no Mexicans." "Colored served in rear." "For whites only."

It's the type of signage that hung from the doors and windows of establishments across much of the American South for many years.

The words, like screaming headlines from Page One of a broadsheet newspaper, were the most visible, daily reminder of the

subordinate status of Black people who lived life alongside and yet separate from people who, regardless of class, were considered white.

After the Civil War, and upon the collapse of Reconstruction, the Jim Crow system of public etiquette and laws regulated the free movement of both Black and white people for generations until the civil rights movement began chipping away at legalized racial discrimination.

The Jim Crow system

was undergirded by beliefs that formerly enslaved Black people and their descendants were inferior to white people in fundamental ways, including intelligence, morality and behavior. Allowing white and Black people to coexist as equals, the system's supporters believed, might encourage interracial sexual relations and spur the rise of an abominable race that would destroy the racial purity of the nation's superior white populace.

Spatial segregation first

was culturally accepted, then enforced violently or through threat of re-enslavement via incarceration. After the 1896 Supreme Court decision Plessy v. Ferguson established the "separate but equal" doctrine, Jim Crow segregation signs were more statutory than strongly worded warnings.

Ritualized humiliation became constitutional subjugation. Railway cars, buses, water fountains,

Continue **Racism** Page 5

## When Hate Crimes Hits Home

By: **Dr. John E. Warren**, Publisher  
San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper  
Chairman of the Board of Directors, NNPA



Dr. John E. Warren

While we all grieve the loss of life and the attack on our local Islamic house of worship, we must not allow our condolences to

become a band-aid on the manifestation of hate expressed in this violent attack. Freedom of Religion, as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution, means everyone has that right and not just a chosen few. The fact that two young men would have such a "learned" hatred is indicative of the growing problem in America, where a few people assume that their rights override the lives and rights of others who do not either agree with them

or worship as they do.

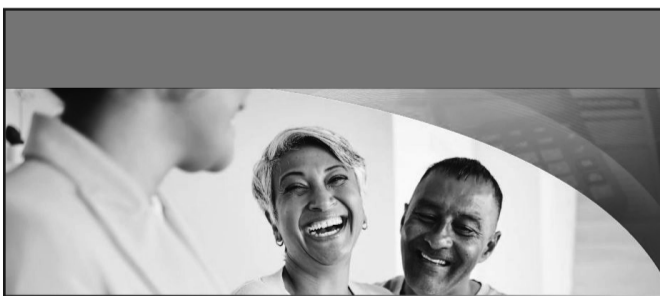
Once again, we have the deadly misuse of the right to keep and bear arms. Once again, we must remind the people of this state that while the attack was on members of our Muslim community, Blacks still have the highest incidents of hate crimes in the State of California.

The tragic attacks and loss of life at the Islamic Center of San Diego is a reminder that hate is a "Clear and Present Danger" right here at

home, that the "Stop The Hate" Project that this newspaper conducted during the past two years is needed now more than ever, and that those who publicly mourn and express their outrage at times like this, must step up their support for all our anti hate efforts so that we fight this problem before we experience more such attacks and threats to all our safety, just because of how we worship.

Where do you stand? Let's have your voice and response to such efforts.

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MARYANN D'ANIELLO, Supervising Attorney, Dallas Housing, Consumer Protection and Economic Benefits Division of Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT)  
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# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## Earnestly Contending for the Faith The Epistle of Jude

### Part II



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

The marvelous epistle of Jude was written by Jude, the half-brother of our Lord (Matthew 13:55) and brother of James, the writer of the epistle of James. This interesting epistle was written against the backdrop of false teachers who were so prevalent in Jude's day. These false teachers had made their inroads into the church!

The wonderful book of Jude may be viewed as follows: I. The Prevalence of False Teachers Vv. 1-4; II. The Prevailing Problem of False Teachers, and God's Past Judgment of Rebellion Vv. 5-16; III. A Pressing Defense Against False Teachers Vv. 17-25.

#### II. The Prevailing Problem of False Teachers, and God's Past Judgment of Rebellion Vv. 5-16

Having informed his readers of what happened to unbelievers, Jude will rehearse three historical examples of unbelief that God certainly judged. The first of these, in verse 5, was the unbelieving generation that emerged from Egypt. They were God's favored people who had witnessed God's power in the plagues on Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and the guidance of the fiery pillar in the wilderness. They had been fed sufficiently by the Lord, clothed, and healed of fatal afflictions; in addition, they had seen the glory of God hovering over Mount Sinai. Despite witnessing God's marvelous acts, they remained unfaithful, drew back,

and failed to conquer Canaan (Hebrews 3:16-19).

In verse 6, Jude's second historical example of apostates whom God destroyed involved "the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation." These angels mentioned here rebelled against God's authority and the positions to which He had assigned them. There is no doubt that these angels were the ones who followed Satan in his revolt against God (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Revelation 12:7-9). Because of their disobedience, God has kept them "in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

A portion of the fallen angels are being confined by God until "the judgment of the great day. The reference to "the judgment of the great day" will occur after the Millennium, when Satan will be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10; Matthew 25:41). Jude's point is "God will certainly judge all rebels."

In verse 7, Jude's third historical example is "Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them." They were guilty of giving themselves over to fornication and going after "strange flesh." The Sodom and Gomorrah example would portray those who live immorally, having perverted desires. The account of these cities' destruction is found in Genesis chapter 19. Sodom and Gomorrah and nearby cities were punished with a rain of fire and

brimstone (Genesis 19:24-25).

The dreamers described in verse 8 would also incur God's rod of punishment. Jude described these false teachers as dreamers because they had been deluded by Satan (II Corinthians 4:4; II Timothy 3:13). These dreamers were charged with defiling the flesh by their immoral living, rejecting authority in their unwillingness to follow Christ's teachings, and slandering celestial beings. The three perverted actions exhibited by them denoted their inner depravity (Romans 1:24; 26-27; Ephesians 4:19), callous insubordination, and spiritual blasphemy. They only thought that their ways would bring satisfaction.

According to Jewish tradition, in verse 9, Jude recalled an incident in which Michael, the archangel, was dispatched to bury Moses' body; however, the devil, claiming his right to bury it, also argued with the angel. Although Michael was powerful and had authority, he did not dare dispute with Satan, for he committed the matter to God, saying, "The Lord rebuke you." This incident showed that the teachers Jude spoke of had no respect for authority or angels. Although the apostates were guilty of slandering celestial beings, as seen in verse 8, Michael, a chief angelic being, would not slander Satan, the chief of the fallen angels!

Regarding the evil men spoken of by Jude in verse 10, they spoke evil of things about which they

had no knowledge: "They are without spiritual sense, and so spiritual things are beyond them, and when these are brought to them they are treated with disdain and scorn." The knowledge these evil men possessed was more like the unreasoning instinct of an animal and would ultimately destroy them. Their dependence upon knowledge gained only by brute sense leads to sure destruction.

Jude announced a woe in verse 11 to the apostates who erred in three respects, mentioning that: (a) they have taken the way of Cain in promoting their own way of worshipping; (b) they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error who sought monetary gain in his error (II Peter 2:15-16; Numbers 22:21-31); (c) they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion who revolted against the authority of Moses and Aaron.

The examples of rebellion cited were judge; likewise, the men of whom Jude spoke rebelled against God's authority and as a result would be destroyed truly. The apostates of verse 12, had invaded the love feasts in the local assemblies, defiling the sanctity of the occasion. This love feast was the fellowship meal eaten in conjunction with the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:17-34). Instead of feeding the flock as faithful pastors and teachers should (I Peter 5:1-3), these false proclaimers were "feeding themselves without fear" (v. 12). They were using God's people for their own ad-

vantage.

Using vivid pictures to describe these false teachers, Jude said that they were like clouds without rain, promising much but giving nothing. They were like dead trees, having no fruit to offer. Besides being fruitless, they were rootless, "twice dead, plucked up by the roots" (v. 12). In verse 13, these false teachers were like "raging waves" of the sea, raging back and forth but producing nothing that edifies. What they produced was only shame. They were also depicted as being wandering stars that move across the sky, shining briefly and soon vanishing without producing light or giving direction. These impostors will certainly be judged for their unfruitful deeds!

In verses 14-15, Jude referred to a prophetic affirmation of Enoch that pointed to the glorious return of Christ to the earth with thousands upon thousands of His angels (holy angels) when His purpose will be to judge everyone (II Thess. 1:7-10), especially ungodly humanity. Jude related a fourfold description of the apostates, saying: (a) they were grumblers and fault-finders who saw others' failures but saw no flaws in themselves; (b) they followed their own evil desires lustfully; (c) they bragged about themselves; (d) they flattered others, gaining favor only when it was to their own evil advantage to do so.

May God Bless!

## LIFE IS LIKE A CAMERA, JUST FOCUS ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT!

- THEME: MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURES  
(Solution will appear in May 28 edition)

- ACROSS**
1. Throat-clearing sound
  5. Like a fiddle?
  8. Chicago baseballer
  11. Cyberattack target
  12. Opposite of pizzicato, in music
  13. Bullying, e.g.
  15. Pharmacy ware
  16. Wedding cake layer
  17. \*Mythological part woman, part bird
  18. \*Part man, part bull
  20. Means justifiers
  21. Seize the throne
  22. Found at the pump
  23. \*Part man, part fish
  26. Julianne Moore or Lucille Ball, e.g.
  30. Schiller's address to joy
  31. Popular pet rodent
  34. Bono's bandmate, with The
  35. Chunk of iceberg
  37. \*Pointy-eared humanoid
  38. Knight's breastplate
  39. Independent chieftan
  40. Pay, in casino (2 words)
  42. Bugling ungulate
  43. Like sun
  45. Mother-of-pearl, pl.
  47. Public health org.
  48. Manila hemp
  50. Vegan's protein choice
  52. \*Three-headed dog
  55. African antelope, pl.
  56. Not written
  57. Arch above eye
  59. Actor's rep
  60. Sommelier's domain
  61. \*Large and hideous humanoid
  62. \*Giant bird of prey
  63. Bulb type
  64. \*Abominable humanoid

- DOWN**
1. Tally
  2. Stay out of its way!
  3. Small ladies' handbag
  4. Extra large wine bottle
  5. Robin Hood's companion Tuck
  6. Frost over (2 words)
  7. Millimeter of mercury
  8. Little Miss Muffet's morsel
  9. Mail carrier, acr.
  10. Beyonc , a.k.a. Queen \_\_\_\_\_
  12. Adjust
  13. Beforehand
  14. \*Wailing spirit
  19. "Killers of the Flower Moon" Oklahoma location
  22. Hair-raising product
  23. Lawn trimmer
  24. Organ swelling
  25. Made over
  26. Abundant
  27. Landscaper's tool
  28. Like an athlete
  29. Office stations
  32. Landlord's due
  33. Acronym-named sandwich
  36. \*Part lion, part eagle
  38. Lickety-split
  40. Nurses' org.
  41. Incapable
  44. Sunbaked, archaically speaking
  46. Demijohn
  48. Eagle's home
  49. Gwyneth Paltrow's Goop
  50. Not for here (2 words)
  51. Barrel-counting org.
  52. Type of hood
  53. Restless desire
  54. Database command
  55. Roofing sealant
  58. Yellow river tributary

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle  
Theme: MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURES

**CROSSWORD**

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## NEWS

Continued Gas Page 1

gallon tax, the distance the gas must be shipped, the octane of gasoline and local competition also affect prices.

Do bigger oil company profits mean more tax proceeds for the state?

The war has become a windfall for oil companies, whose product became much more valuable almost overnight. In fiscal year 2025 — which begins in Texas on Sept. 1 — the Texas oil and natural gas industry paid \$27 billion in state and local taxes and state royalties, which marked the second-highest total in state history.

Todd Staples, president of the Texas Oil and Gas Association, said that revenue represents roughly \$74 million per day to the state, which uses it to help pay for public schools, universities, roads and first responders.

Rubin said he expects this

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### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What Is the 30-30-30-10 Rule for Retirement?

The rule suggests that you should put 30% of your income into living expenses. Next, place the other 30% to your investments and another 30% to retirement savings. You'll later remain with 10% for unforeseen financial issues that can come up.

If you follow this rule, you can easily create disciplined savings habits. With more savings in your account, you get to boost

your retirement security.

#### How Can I Diversify My Investments

Don't just have one investment; you can diversify into different money-making portfolios. Here's how you can diversify:

- Get into real estate
- Try dividend-paying stocks
- Explore alternative assets, such as precious metals like gold
- Opt for investments like Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS)
- 
- 

Make sure you partner with a trusted financial advisor. They will guide you appropriately, ensuring your investments align with your income goals and risk tolerance.

#### How Can Seniors Be Protected from Financial Scams?

As a retiree, make sure you consult an advisor before making any investment or paying a lot of money for an item. Scammers often prey on your desire to save money and your naivety in navigating the financial world.

Don't make investment decisions alone. Ad-

ditionally, always have a bit of skepticism when it comes to the investments you're told to consider. Do your research first, before you make a choice.

#### Elevate Your Retirement Income Planning Tactics

*Retirement income planning* will tell you whether you'll have a comfortable or stressful life as you age. If you want comfort, it's important to avoid starting late, using Social Security benefits early, and only using one investment channel. With the help of financial experts, build comprehensive retirement income strategies.

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## Quinn Minute

# Here's something to think about...

By Rix Quinn

These little columns are mostly silly. But today I'm asking a serious question.

This is something an editor told me many years ago. Do you agree with it?

"A major minute is one that can change the course of a life almost immediately."

For instance, one minute you're standing out-

side a kindergarten class. The child standing next to you smiles, you greet him, and 40 years later, you're still best friends.

Or, you sign up for a random history class in high school. The teacher's first lecture makes you decide you want to teach history too.

Seconds. Moments. Minutes. Charles Lindbergh takes his plane

down the runway and across the ocean in a world-changing adventure.

In the third game of the 1932 World Series, it takes Babe Ruth only seconds to point to the grandstands in center field where he will hit the next pitch. And he does it.

My job is interviewing people. One of the first questions I ask nearly everybody is this: "What

major minutes — or decisions -- completely changed the course of your life?"

*I write a semi-regular column for Substack. It's free, and offers information about short stories and short writing. To sign up for the mailing list, just go to this link: <https://rixquinn.substack.com/>*





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Continued **EBONY** Page 5

Fair.

“You can own the business, but you can’t own my grandmother,” she said.

Rogers could credit some of her success to Johnson Publishing Company and to Linda. The two had been friends for decades. Nearly 10 years prior to Rogers’ and her co-owners’ purchase of Fashion Fair, Linda helped Rogers during a difficult period in her career.

In 2010, Rogers was fired as First Lady Michelle Obama’s social secretary after she was blamed for a White House incident in which an uninvited couple crashed a state dinner hosted by President Barack Obama. Rogers was accused of focusing on hosting duties instead of being stationed at security checkpoints.

The gate-crashing incident was one of several criticisms Rogers faced during her short tenure as White House social secretary, a role that organizes and coordinates social events for the First Lady.

Although the position can be high-profile, White House social secretaries historically work behind the scenes. But Rogers was often criticized for being too visible. She clashed with Barack Obama’s Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel as critics pointed to her high-profile style and an interview with The Wall Street Journal in which she referenced the “Obama brand.”

After she was dismissed as social secretary and disinvited from attending White House adviser Valerie Jarrett’s wedding, Rogers turned to Linda, her longtime friend, who hired her as CEO of Johnson Publishing Company despite her lack of media experience.

Founded by John H. Johnson in 1945 with a \$500 loan, Ebony and Jet magazines — the foundation of the Johnson Publishing empire — became popular publications found in millions of Black households across the country. In 1982, Johnson became the first African American to appear on the Forbes 400 list of wealthiest Americans. At one point, his estimated worth was \$600 million.

In addition to its Michigan Avenue headquarters, Johnson Publishing Company had an office in New York’s Rockefeller Center. It was the largest Black-owned media company in the

world. At one point, it also owned JPC, a television production company that produced nationally syndicated programs. Johnson died in 2005. His wife Eunice died in 2010.

Sources told the Crusader that year, Rogers persuaded Linda to sell the 11-story Johnson Publishing headquarters for \$8 million, months after Rogers was hired. Those same sources said that, as CEO, Rogers executed plans to reposition Ebony magazine toward a more upscale audience.

As part of that plan, many of Ebony’s veteran staffers were let go and replaced by employees with high-profile backgrounds. Rogers hired Amy DuBois Barnett as Ebony’s editor-in-chief, a Chicago native who grew up in Hyde Park and earned degrees from Brown and Columbia universities.

At Johnson Publishing Company, sources described Rogers as a “cold” individual more interested in filling Ebony’s pages with fashion and beauty content.

Under Rogers’ plan, Ebony lost many of its longtime readers. In 2014, Jet magazine’s print edition was discontinued amid rising print costs and mounting debt. Ebony went from a monthly publication to a quarterly format as printing costs rose and advertising revenue declined.

Sources told the Crusader that NBA legend Ervin “Magic” Johnson had interest in purchasing Ebony and Jet, but he reportedly lost interest after Linda requested that she remain chairman emeritus as part of the deal.

In 2016, Ebony and Jet were sold to Clear View Group, a private equity firm. In 2019, with more than \$35 million in debt, Johnson Publishing Company filed for bankruptcy and sold its \$30 million photo archive collection to several philanthropic foundations.

That same year, the former Johnson Publishing Company headquarters at 820 S. Michigan Ave. reopened as an apartment building after developer 3L Real Estate purchased the Chicago landmark in 2017 for \$10 million. In 2020, former NBA star and billionaire Ulysses “Junior” Bridgeman purchased Ebony and Jet for \$14 million as a gift to his daughter, Eden Bridgeman Sklenar. Sklenar today operates Ebony as a digital-only publication. Ulysses Bridgeman died last year.

Continued **Gas** Page 4

profits to be higher for Texas oil companies because the war has pushed oil prices higher.

What is the strategic oil reserve and is it helping mitigate gas prices?


The U.S. has a massive stockpile of emergency crude oil funded and managed by the federal government. The U.S. strategic oil reserve is the largest such supply in the world, with an authorized capacity of over 700 million barrels, and is stored in four cities, including Houston and Beaumont. Starting in mid-March, the U.S. began to release 172 million barrels of oil from the reserve over the course of 120 days.

Historically, tapping the reserve is a short-term method to help lower gas prices. The U.S. Treasury Department’s analysis of major releases — like the one following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022 — estimated that they reduced gas prices by 17 cents per gallon. The U.S. consumes roughly 20 million barrels of oil daily, so even the most aggressive releases from the oil reserve would amount to just a few weeks of total supply.


Is the war increasing drilling in Texas?

New oil wells and rigs are expensive, and because of the uncertainty surrounding when the war will end, companies are hesitant to spend a lot of money developing new oil sources that may not be needed if the Strait of Hormuz reopens and oil supply returns to pre-war levels, said Jordan Blum, energy editor at Fortune.

Rubin said companies are likely to increase pumping from existing wells rather than invest in drilling new ones.



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