



Oklahoma City FRIDAY

The Newspaper
for Oklahoma's
Trendsetters

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- The Case Of:

The other side of the story: Or why we really need to prime the pump with MAPS 3

AS A STATE, OKLAHOMA has had the lowest, or among the lowest, unemployment rates each month this year despite the national economic slump. That's the good news and something for our state, and Oklahoma City, to shout about. OKC's unemployment rate is even lower than that of the whole state. Our city has been recognized by various national polls, statistics and journals for other good things, like being the most recession proof, one of the best cities in which to live and own a home, etc.

But there is another side of our economic story we can not conscientiously ignore. A news team of The Oklahoman accurately reported eye-opening statistics this week: One of every four Oklahoma City families with children are receiving some type of public welfare help. Get that! 25%! One in every four families with children! Most of the rest of the adult population no doubt is concerned about this. Further, many are bound to be frustrated for not knowing how, or what to do, to help the situation. Most are not in position to do something that would have more reach than maybe one family or a few families, if any at all.

Some of those receiving welfare do have jobs but maybe are not making enough take-home pay to meet the bills and buy food, clothing and gas for the car to get to work. Not to mention possible mortgage, or rent payments. Some do not have jobs, obviously. And even some of those are not listed as jobless because they do not know how to get listed on the unemployment rolls. Don't blame them. They just don't know, but they still have children to feed. Some of these are in need of unskilled-labor jobs, of which we may not have many. Fortunately, on December 8, there will be something folks, not on the welfare rolls, can do to help. It will not be overnight, but it will be BIG and pretty quickly. It is, to work for the passage of, and go to the polls and vote for:

MAPS 3, that will not cause a single penny tax increase, because it will replace a sales tax penny that is expiring. But it will create hundreds of jobs during construction, and thousands of permanent jobs after construction, mostly in the private sector. And it will attract new billions of dollars in private sector investments (like previous MAPS have done.)

Even though the projects are not specifically listed in the submitted proposal itself, they have been formally prioritized in record by the City Council so we will know what the major projects are to be: like the Convention Center, the Park, etc.

The projects that the MAPS 3 millions will provide us will create literally several thousand new permanent jobs. Many of these new jobs will also be of the non-skilled variety and will provide a big help in relieving the welfare conditions of a lot of our citizens.

more . . . Editorials

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- 10.JUL.09 **Sarah, yes! Getting a little life in the Grand Old Party**
- 03.JUL.09 **Woah, Congress! House-passed bill would gut Oklahoma economy.**
- 26.JUN.09 **Our 'umbrella' volunteers: Chamber, United Way, Allied Arts**

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 - Local schools ward off flu
 - LEEDing the state, Casady set to break ground Wednesday
 - New OCU program gets help from novelist
- Gaillard Gatherings**
- As the weather cools down, Gaillardia's Clubhouse heats up with fun activities
- Editorials**
- The other side of the story: Or why we really need to prime the pump with MAPS 3
- J. Leland Gourley**
- I've never been a prouder Okie.
- Vicki Clark's Blog**
- Oklahomans shine in D.C.
- Joy Richardson**
- Patty: 'I'll throw my own party.'
- Erin Embree**
- Golf tourney another success
- High School Sports**
- Game of the Week Deer Creek at Western Heights, Friday, 7:30 p.m.
 - Football: Timberwolves roll over Panthers, 38-17
 - Football Roundup: Casady moves to 5-0 for 1st time since '96
 - Week 4 Football Rankings: Panthers fall out of 6A poll
 - Cross Country: HH's Wilson wins Mustang meet, Ratliff places 3rd
 - Softball: PC North, Deer Creek combine for 5 wins as season winds down
 - Volleyball: Heritage Hall ranked No. 1 in Class 4A
- Panthers Progress**
- Early accomplishments continue to build at PCN
- Irish Items**
- School and sports in full swing at McGuinness
- Heritage Happenings**
- From pajamas to pirates, Senior Week at Heritage Hall adventurous

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