

April 28,
2025



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Alvord: Economic growth

By Senator Jerry Alvord District 14 on Wednesday, April 9, 2025



Alvord

Economic growth and development are critical to ensuring that Southern Oklahoma remains a place where families prosper, businesses thrive and communities have the resources they need to succeed. As our region continues to evolve, we must take a thoughtful, strategic approach to new developments—one that prioritizes long-term benefits, responsible growth and respect for the character of our communities.

The closure of the Michelin tire plant in Ardmore is a reminder that economic landscapes change, and we must be proactive in attracting and retaining jobs. When approached responsibly, development projects can provide stable employment, strengthen existing local businesses and generate funding for public services and education. Strategic development must be guided by fiscal responsibility, community needs and a clear vision for the future.

One example is the Pointe Vista project on the shores of Lake Texoma. The proposal has sparked important conversations about how economic incentives can attract investment while ensuring that benefits are broadly shared with local entities.

Oklahoma-based investor Mark Fischer and his team are committing billions of dollars to this project - a level of private investment Marshall County has never seen before. To support these efforts, the developers have asked Marshall County to consider forming a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district to help fund infrastructure improvements such as roads, water treatment facilities, utility lines and sewer systems. Pointe Vista would cover the full cost of these improvements upfront and receive reimbursement through a portion of the new tax revenue generated by the development. The remaining portion of the new tax increment would generate hundreds of millions of dollars for local schools and county services. This model has proven successful in other parts of the state, and I'm glad to see a proposed package that includes significant funding for our schools.

As a former county commissioner in neighboring Carter County, I understand the importance of making responsible financial decisions when it comes to public investment. I have always believed in smart

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growth - projects that create economic opportunity while preserving the values that make our region special. Large-scale developments require careful planning to ensure they enhance the communities they are meant to support.

At the heart of this discussion is the future of Southern Oklahoma. Our region has always been defined by hard work and resilience, and with the right approach, we can strengthen our economy in a way that benefits both current residents and future generations. That means encouraging business investment, maintaining sound financial principles and ensuring that new developments align with the long-term needs of our communities.

I encourage residents to stay informed and engaged throughout the TIF review process. Economic growth works best when it is shaped by those most impacted. Together, we can ensure that Southern Oklahoma remains a place of opportunity, stability and prosperity for years to come.

Senator Jerry Alvord is a member of the Oklahoma Senate, representing portions of Carter, Coal, Johnston, Marshall and Murray Counties.

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High Temp: 75

High Temp: 75

High Temp: 81

High Temp: 75

High Temp: 75

High Temp: 75

The Madill Record

Vol 133 — Number 471 Madill, Marshall County, OK Tuesday, April 24, 2025 46 Pages • Circulation — 81

OK Governor Stitt visits Marshall County

By Heather Clark
The Oklahoma Governor's office announced that Governor Kevin Stitt will visit Marshall County on Tuesday, April 24, 2025. The visit is part of the Governor's ongoing efforts to connect with Oklahoma's citizens and promote economic development across the state. Governor Stitt will be joined by several members of his cabinet and staff during the visit. The group is expected to arrive in Madill in the morning and spend the day visiting local businesses, schools, and community organizations. Governor Stitt is known for his commitment to improving infrastructure, supporting small businesses, and ensuring that all Oklahomans have access to quality education and healthcare. The visit is expected to be a productive one, with Governor Stitt and his team gathering valuable insights from the community and discussing ways to address local needs and challenges. The Governor's office will provide further details about the visit as the date approaches.

Pope Francis passes away at age 88
A Pontificate of Humility, Reform and Global Engagement
By Charles Miller
Pope Francis' pontificate, which began on March 17, 2013, was marked by a series of bold and transformative decisions that reshaped the Catholic Church's role in the world. From his humble beginnings as Jorge Mario Bergoglio, an Argentine Jesuit priest, to his ascent to the papacy, Francis embodied a message of humility, compassion, and global unity. His reign was characterized by a deep commitment to social justice, environmental stewardship, and a renewed focus on the Church's mission to serve the poor and marginalized. Francis' leadership was marked by a series of landmark events, including his historic visit to Brazil in 2013, his meeting with Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei in 2015, and his unprecedented trip to Africa in 2019. His papacy was also defined by a series of reforms, including the creation of the Dicastery for Synodal Life, which emphasized the importance of listening to the voices of all Catholics in the process of decision-making. Francis' pontificate was a testament to the power of humility and service, and his legacy will continue to inspire Catholics and people of all faiths around the world.

Several tornadoes hit the Texoma area
By Shannon Miller
Several confirmed tornadoes damaged multiple homes across southern Oklahoma on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. The storms, which were part of a larger weather system moving through the region, caused significant damage to property and infrastructure. In Madill, a strong EF1 tornado tore through the town, damaging several homes and businesses. In nearby towns, other tornadoes caused varying degrees of damage, including downed trees, power lines, and damaged vehicles. The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) is currently assessing the damage and coordinating relief efforts for those affected by the storms. Residents in the affected areas are being urged to check on their neighbors and report any damage or injuries to local authorities. The ODEM will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as more information becomes available.

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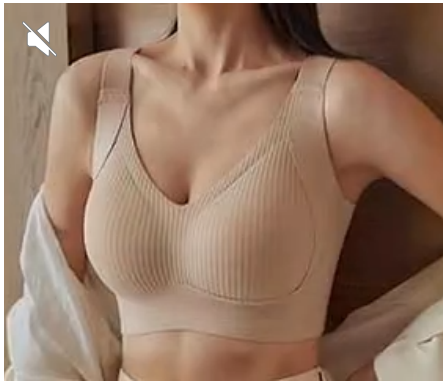
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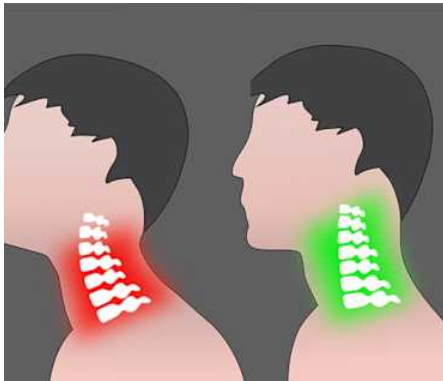
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