



Spotlight on the Market

[City opens collection facility for household pollutants](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 7, 2016

Tulsa has a new way to get rid of household pollutants — a city-owned facility open year round. The permanent center in west Tulsa is a response to years of successful annual or bi-annual collection events at Expo Square where long lines often resulted in truckloads of harmful substances. The center will accept household pollutants such as paint thinner and motor oil two days a week by appointment, which is a leap from the annual collection events in terms of availability.

[Two Tulsa companies eligible for more than \\$3 million in tax incentives](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 1, 2016

Two Tulsa firms joined the Oklahoma Quality Jobs program in December. Verinovum LLC and Spacenet, along with Norman-based Power Costs and Progrexion ASG of Oklahoma City, were enrolled in the program, which offers economic incentives for to companies locating or expanding in the state, according to a Oklahoma Department of Commerce news release Thursday. The two Tulsa companies are eligible to receive more than \$3 million combined in wage rebates for adding about 100 jobs between them, according to the release.

[QuikTrip receives national award](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - December 30, 2015

Tulsa-based QuikTrip Corp. recently received a national Foodservice Innovators Award from Convenience Store News. QuikTrip was given the award for the creation and launch of its QT Kitchens concept. QT Kitchens is a fresh, made-to-order food and beverage concept and is available in more than 90 percent of QuikTrip stores nationwide. Presented in partnership with Tyson Convenience, the fourth-annual awards recognize convenience retail chains that are raising the bar on quality, service and innovations.

[City in agreement with developer looking at historic downtown facility](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - December 30, 2015

City agreement with developers for Evans-Fintube site Tulsa officials have entered the early stages of an agreement to develop a long-standing downtown property. The Evans-Fintube site, once a massive home to Tulsa's steel manufacturers, has stood vacant for years, as possible redevelopments have come and gone. Now, the city has a memorandum of understanding with Dallas-based developer Jackson-Shaw — signed Dec. 16 — to begin working on a mixed-use project that officials hope will let downtown flourish outside the Inner-Dispersion Loop northward.

[Blowing up: Wind power grew in 2015, experts expect more in 2016](#)

The Journal Record - December 29, 2015

Uncertainty about production tax credits didn't hamper growth for one Oklahoma industry this year. Electricity generation capacity from wind farms soared 56 percent from the previous year, according to data compiled by The Journal Record.

[Crossland Construction wins CURT Award](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - December 27, 2015

The Crossland Construction Education Department won the award for Outstanding Achievements in Construction Industry Workforce Development at the 2015 Awards of Excellence celebration in Houston, Texas. Bestowed by the Construction Users Roundtable (CURT), the Construction Industry Workforce Awards recognizes extraordinary, exemplary and innovative training and education programs that lead others to a career in the construction industry. The Crossland Academy, the company's internal education program, trains and retains employees through on-the-job-training programs, registered apprenticeships, mentoring, individual learning plans and defined career paths.

[Tulsa Chamber announces results for Tulsa's Future II economic development program](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - December 23, 2015

The Tulsa Regional Chamber recently concluded the second generation of its long-term economic development program, Tulsa's Future, and results include goal-surpassing job creation and capital investment in northeast Oklahoma. Since 2011, 28,814 jobs have been announced through the Tulsa's Future II program, according to the Tulsa Regional Chamber. Of those new jobs, 15,355 met the program's target of paying an annual salary of \$50,000 or greater. Due to

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the success of Tulsa's Future II, during 2013 the initial goal of creating 10,000 high-wage jobs for the program's five-year term was increased to 15,000 jobs that pay \$50,000 or more.

Andy's Custard opens BA location

Tulsa World (OK) - December 21, 2015

Andy's Frozen Custard opened its new Broken Arrow location on Dec. 16, next to Chik-fil-A near 71st and Lynn Lane. The drive-through business was doing a brisk business on opening day. Andy's has three locations with two in Tulsa and now BA. An Oklahoma City location is planned for 2016.

Tulsa manufacturing firm pledges \$3 million to A Gathering Place for Tulsa park

Tulsa World (OK) - December 20, 2015

McElroy Manufacturing Inc. has been a staple of the Tulsa economy since the mid-1950s, so it recognizes how quality of life meshes with the sanctity of business. To that end, McElroy has announced a donation of \$3 million to A Gathering Place for Tulsa, the city's \$350 million park that is under construction alongside the Arkansas River. The gift enables the company to attach its name to Rocky Lookout, which will be located just south of Zink Dam and the Pedestrian Bridge.

Tulsa Area United Way announces \$300,000 in Community Innovation Grants

Tulsa World (OK) - December 16, 2015

The Tulsa Area United Way announced \$300,000 in Social Innovation Grants on Tuesday. The grants were awarded to several area nonprofit organizations and individuals who presented new approaches to addressing societal issues. Ideas to receive grants included breakfast tacos delivered by formerly homeless youths, a crisis hotline for foster children and training for teachers with children of refugees in their classrooms.

Tulsa Regional Chamber names Justin McLaughlin new COO

Tulsa World (OK) - December 16, 2015

The Tulsa Regional Chamber announced Tuesday that Justin McLaughlin will return to the economic development group as chief operating officer and executive vice president. McLaughlin will rejoin the chamber by the end of the month, a news release said. He worked for the chamber as senior vice president of economic development before joining St. John Health System as foundation president and vice president of government affairs.

OU-Tulsa graduate students help startups grow

Tulsa World (OK) - December 11, 2015

David Jankowsky, president of Tulsa-based renewable energy startup Francis Renewable Energy, couldn't be happier with the project a team of University of Oklahoma-Tulsa graduate students came up with for his company. This fall the renewable energy company partnered with the University of Oklahoma's Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth, or CCEW, a development program that pairs startups with student interns who work to tackle a high-level need for the company. CCEW started in 2006 on OU's Norman campus, and it expanded to OU-Tulsa in 2012. The goal of CCEW is to create wealth in the state by helping to build a strong ecosystem for entrepreneurship, the program's Executive Director Jeff Moore said.

Expansions, Openings, Relocations, Acquisitions

Aldi to open Eton Square store Jan. 28

Tulsa World (OK) - January 9, 2016

The Aldi store near the intersection of 61st Street and Memorial Drive will open Jan. 28, store officials announced. The store will open at 8:45 a.m. that morning with a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by golden tickets of store gift certificates awarded to the store's first 100 shoppers. The store, located in the Eton Square Shopping Center at 8221 E. 61st St. Suite S, will feature high ceilings, natural lighting and environmentally friendly building materials, including recycled materials and energy-saving refrigeration and light bulbs, a store official said.

Linde Engineering companies in North America to reorganize into single organization, retain Tulsa office

Tulsa World (OK) - January 8, 2016

The family of Linde Engineering companies in North America is reorganizing into a single, unified organization called Linde Engineering North America Inc. and will keep its Tulsa location, the organization announced Thursday. Prior to the restructuring, two companies existed: Linde Process Plants and Linde Engineering North America with its Hydro-Chem division. Under the new structure, the staff, products and services associated with each entity will create a singular Linde Engineering North America Inc. operation. When the reorganization is complete, Linde Engineering North America will have its primary presence in Tulsa and Houston. Both are existing locations.

BOK Financial acquires large Texas wealth management company

Tulsa World (OK) - January 7, 2016

BOK Financial Corp. acquired Weaver Wealth Management, a Texas-based wealth management company that serves those with ultra high net worth — between \$10 million and \$25 million in assets. Weaver Wealth Management has about \$340 million in assets under management. It will be folded into The Milestone Group, which is owned by BOK. The Milestone group has about \$1.8 billion in assets under management, according to a company news release.

Restaurant news: Pink House opens second location; restaurants offer specials

Tulsa World (OK) - January 6, 2016

Pink House tea room opens Owasso location. The Pink House, a well-known Claremore tea room since 1982, has opened

a location in downtown Owasso. The new restaurant is located at 209 N. Main St. and reportedly has been drawing big crowds since it opened in November.

Table Talk: Umberto's moves pizzeria to new location

Tulsa World (OK) - January 6, 2016

Umberto's, a neighborhood pizza restaurant that has operated near 21st Street and Harvard Avenue since 1997, has moved about a mile south. The new location is in a stand-alone building at 3147 S. Harvard Ave. in space that once held the Amish Kitchen, among others. Moses Okoro has owned Umberto's since 1998.

Tulsa-based company facilitates Diamond Coach acquisition

Tulsa World (OK) - January 3, 2016

ClearRidge, an Oklahoma (Tulsa based) investment banking and business advisory firm, announced the acquisition of Diamond Coach Corp. of Kansas by B12 Capital Partners. Diamond Coach was founded in 1957 and is one of the premium manufacturers of passenger coaches in the U.S., selling dealerships in nearly every state. Located in Oswego, Kansas, the company operates out of a modern 91,000-square-foot fabrication facility.

Tulsa Trader Joe's to open in February, hiring starts Jan. 2

Tulsa World (OK) - December 28, 2015

In February, Oklahoma will have its first Trader Joe's. Trader Joe's said in a news release that it plans to open its first Oklahoma store in Tulsa at 8 a.m. Feb. 26. The 9,500-square-foot store, which will be at 3702 S. Peoria Ave., will hire employees starting on Jan. 2. In the news release, the company offered specific instructions on how and when to apply.

Chick-fil-A agrees to buy land in Claremore, would be 10th store in Tulsa area

Tulsa World (OK) - December 23, 2015

Chick-fil-A agreed to buy land from the city of Claremore on Monday evening, city officials said Tuesday morning. If the sale goes through and the project is completed, this would be the 10th Tulsa-area location for the private, Atlanta-based restaurant chain known for its chicken sandwiches. The new restaurant would be on Lynn Riggs Boulevard between Pizza Hut and Advance Auto Parts. It could bring about 80 new jobs to Claremore, a news release from the Claremore Industrial and Economic Development Authority and city said.

A moving story: EDC needed Hilti's campus because of its explosive growth

Tulsa World (OK) - December 16, 2015

Educational Development Corp. is in the business of selling children's books. Book sales have tripled in the past six months, and the company's gone from 75 full-time employees to 350 in the same time frame. The bookseller now plans to occupy 227,000 square feet of the 401,000-square-foot campus, including the entire 180,000 square feet of warehouse space. While **EDC** has been growing for years — its most recent quarterly report showed record revenue of \$8.5 million, more than double the same period in 2014 — that growth has exploded this year.

Sagebrush Pipeline Equipment closes on new facility lease

Tulsa World (OK) - December 15, 2015

It's been almost a year since Tulsa-based Sagebrush Pipeline Equipment returned to its roots as a privately held company. The provider of custom fabricated pipeline equipment can mark that anniversary with a healthy project backlog and a 27,000-square-foot workspace expansion. Randy Roberts and Ron Carson purchased Sagebrush for the first time in 1984. Sagebrush is located in southwest Tulsa on New Sapulpa Road, where it operates out of an 80,000-square-foot shop. They just closed on the lease of an additional 27,000-square-foot facility nearby.

Costco will open in April, now hiring for its Memorial Drive store

Tulsa World (OK) - December 13, 2015

Costco, a membership-only warehouse club, is hiring for 34 different positions at its store under construction at 10220 S. Memorial Drive. The store will open in April, but the company doesn't have a date to share just yet, said Kerry Carbullido, retail marketing manager for the company's Texas region, which includes Oklahoma.

Conn's bucks trend with second Tulsa location

Tulsa World (OK) - December 12, 2015

Conn's HomePlus opened its second store in Tulsa and 102nd nationwide on Nov. 20 — a week before one of the biggest shopping days of the year, Black Friday. The opening came at a time when most national retail brands are contracting or standing still because of a sluggish recovery and a fickle consumer. Kohl's and Target have announced store closings this year. Best Buy has stopped expanding for the time being.

The new store at 6921 E. Admiral Place joins the 10143 E. 71st St. location.

Table Talk: Lone Wolf Banh Mi food trucks open carryout location

Tulsa World (OK) - December 10, 2015

Fans of Lone Wolf Banh Mi won't have to chase the food trucks around town anymore to snag their favorite items. Lone Wolf owner Philip Phillips has opened a carryout location at 3711 S. Harvard Ave.

Review: Bros. Houlihan's newest location draws enthusiastic crowds

Tulsa World (OK) - December 9, 2015

The original Bros. Houlihan on Cherry Street, which turns 30 in 2017, is a bit cramped for space, has a small bar area and an "old" feel to it. Not worn out or outdated, just comfortably lived in. Brothers Pat and Tim McMurchy recently moved their former second location from 61st Street and Mingo Road to 48th Street and Yale Avenue.

BOK Financial will acquire Missouri Bank & Trust of Kansas City

Tulsa World (OK) - December 9, 2015

BOK Financial Corp., the Tulsa-based regional bank, announced Tuesday it will continue its expansion into the Kansas City market with the acquisition of Missouri Bank & Trust of Kansas City. The company will pay \$102.5 million in an all-cash deal to acquire mobank, which operates four branches in the Kansas City area, according to a news release.

Devon increasing oil holdings with purchases in Oklahoma and Wyoming

Tulsa World (OK) - December 7, 2015

OKLAHOMA CITY — Devon Energy Corp. said Monday that it will spend \$2.5 billion in cash and equity to add to its oil acreage in Oklahoma and Wyoming through separate transactions. In addition, the company said it planned to sell \$2 billion to \$3 billion in noncore assets, including a pipeline in Canada.

GUY Engineering acquires Nicholls Consulting

Tulsa World (OK) - December 6, 2015

Tulsa-based GUY Engineering Services Inc. acquired Owasso-based structural engineering firm Nicholls Consulting, and the combined company will offer integrated roadway and bridge design services, said GUY president John Blickensderfer.

Layoffs, Closings, Downsizes, Restructures

SEG says layoffs result of down energy market

Tulsa World (OK) - January 9, 2016

Tulsa-based Society of Exploration Geophysicists, or SEG, confirmed this week that it had laid off 19 employees. The layoffs equal about 20 percent of the nonprofit's workforce, the organization said. According to a Tulsa World article written in August, SEG had 93 employees. The staff reduction is a result of the sharp downturn in oil and gas prices and the current outlook for the market, SEG said in a statement Thursday. The layoffs are part of an effort to facilitate long-term sustainability, according to the organization.

Citing loss of a private investor, Canebrake closes its doors

Tulsa World (OK) - January 8, 2016

Although The Canebrake just finished a major expansion in the middle of last year, the co-owners announced Thursday it would permanently close. In a press release, Sam and Lisa Bracken, co-owners of The Canebrake, said the closure was due to the unexpected loss of a private investor.

Macy's to cut up to 4,800 jobs after weak holiday sales

Tulsa World (OK) - January 7, 2016

The Cincinnati-based department store chain says sales fell 5.2 percent in November and December at existing stores. Warm weather and lower spending by international tourists hurt sales. The company also listed Wednesday which 40 stores it would close. It had announced it was closing stores in September. The Macy's at Quail Springs Mall in Oklahoma City is among those being shuttered.

Drysdale's lays off 20 employees at its Tulsa warehouse

Tulsa World (OK) - December 31, 2015

Drysdale's Western Wear laid off employees at its warehouse facility Tuesday in Tulsa. The company said in a news release it will shed 20 jobs as part of a restructuring of its e-commerce business and fulfillment center. The fulfillment center is just off U.S. 169 at Pine Street. McClure said the layoffs are the first in the company's 34-year history and stressed that the layoffs will not affect the retail stores in Tulsa.

Tulsa energy firm files for bankruptcy protection

Tulsa World (OK) - December 19, 2015

New Gulf Resources has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, the Tulsa-based oil and natural gas company said Thursday. New Gulf filed a pre-arranged reorganization plan, including a restructuring support agreement with creditors representing more than 72 percent of the company's second-lien notes and 22 percent of its subordinated notes. The creditors agreed to provide at least \$125 million in new funding to help the company reorganize.

Spirit AeroSystems offers employees voluntary layoff, retirement options

Tulsa World (OK) - December 15, 2015

Spirit AeroSystems announced to its employees Monday it is offering voluntary retirement and layoff programs. The offer was made to employees working in both the company's Oklahoma and Wichita, Kansas, operations. It is unclear how many workers the programs will ultimately impact.

Tulsa mayor announces hiring freeze for City Hall

Tulsa World (OK) - December 11, 2015

Mayor Dewey Bartlett announced a hiring freeze for City Hall on Thursday in expectation of flat sales tax figures for the rest of the year. Bartlett said he doesn't foresee cuts that accompanied previous hiring freezes, saying he instituted the hiring freeze to shore up the budget against underperforming sales tax revenues.

Comparative Economic Indicators

Indicator	Tulsa County	Tulsa MSA	Oklahoma	U.S.
Population Estimate 2015	633,152	975,666	3,911,338	321,418,820
Population, percent change since 2010	4.9	4.1	4.3	4.1
Total Labor Force November 2015	319,739	480,343	1,862,713	157,340,000
Labor Force, percent change Nov. 2014 - Nov. 2015	2.6	2.7	3.7	0.7
Employed November 2015	306,837	459,816	1,784,226	149,766,000
Employed, percent change Nov. 2014 - Nov. 2015	2.4	2.4	3.5	1.4
Unemployment Rate November 2015	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.8
Unemployment Rate November 2014	3.8	4.0	4.0	5.5
Average Annual Earnings 2014	\$48,181	\$46,625	\$43,773	\$51,364
Average Annual Earnings percent change since 2010	14.2	14.2	14.5	9.9
Median Household Income 2015	\$49,304	\$50,098	\$46,238	\$53,423

Sources:

2015 Total Population Tulsa County and Tulsa MSA from Demographics Now

2015 Total Population for Oklahoma and the U.S. from Census Bureau

Labor Force and earnings from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

2015 Median Household Income from Demographics Now