

February 2016

## Spotlight on the Market

### [10,000th tree planted in Tulsa as part of ReGreen Tulsa initiative](#)

*Tulsa World (OK) - March 6, 2016*

The ReGreen Tulsa initiative is now complete. On Saturday, Up With Trees planted the city's 10,000th tree since a massive December 2007 ice storm brought down many trees, as well as causing other damage in the city. The initiative used \$3 million in private dollars — including a \$1.5 million match from the Tulsa Community Foundation — to fund the project.

### [Kaiser Family Foundation, TU acquire Bob Dylan Archive](#)

*Tulsa World (OK) - March 2, 2016*

The Bob Dylan Archive has been acquired by the George Kaiser Family Foundation and The University of Tulsa and will be permanently housed in Tulsa. The Dylan archive — comprised of more than 6,000 items spanning nearly 60 years of the icon's artistic career — will be under the stewardship of TU's Helmerich Center for American Research, for subsequent public exhibition in the city's Brady Arts District. The news was jointly announced by GKFF Executive Director Ken Levit and TU president Steadman Upham.

### [Tulsa Vision's funding for Expo Square would update, upgrade and expand facilities](#)

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 29, 2016*

The Vision proposal on Tulsa's April 5 ballot will include \$30 million to upgrade several Tulsa County fairgrounds facilities to accommodate growing events. Chief Deputy County Commissioner Michael Willis said Expo Square represents economic impact for both the county and the city of Tulsa, which envelops the fairgrounds from 15th Street to 21st Street west of Yale Avenue. Willis said the events the fairgrounds hosts benefit the city in sales tax when the thousands of people who attend them eat at nearby restaurants and fill nearby hotels.

### [Parkside in midst of capital campaign for new psychiatric hospital and clinic](#)

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 27, 2016*

Parkside Psychiatric Hospital and Clinic is in the midst of a capital campaign to construct a new psychiatric hospital. About \$21.6 million has been raised for the \$36.6 million project. The plan is to build a new 115,000-square-foot facility at the northeast corner of 13th Street and Trenton Avenue.

### [The scoop on Owasso's ongoing economic development and retail growth](#)

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 26, 2016*

Owasso is one of the fastest growing cities in the state. With an average annual growth rate of 4 percent for the last four years and projected to continue, this suburb is a major contributor to the Tulsa regional economy. Owasso's economic growth has been driven by retail for the last 10 years. However, approximately 85 percent of the population commutes outside of Owasso on a daily basis to work in the Tulsa region. Major employers include Cherokee Industrial Park, the Port of Catoosa and Tulsa International Airport.

### [Campaign kicks off to support Vision sales-tax proposal](#)

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 26, 2016*

The campaign aimed at getting voters to approve the latest Vision sales tax proposal kicked off Thursday with local dignitaries calling the plan "monumental." The original Vision 2025 package — now branded Vision Tulsa for the renewal effort — built the BOK Center, pointed to as the shining example of how an economic development tax package can change the community.

### [Kaiser Foundation takes on another large Brady District development](#)

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 25, 2016*

The George Kaiser Family Foundation is about to embark on another major conversion of an underused building in the Brady District. This time the target is the white warehouse on the north side of Archer Street between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Detroit Avenue. The \$25 million to \$30 million renovation of the 72,000-square-foot building will create 14 artist apartments, 35 artist work spaces and eight to 10 retail spaces on the first floor.

#### Research Wizard Tulsa Market Brief

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### **Cherokee Nation secures millions in federal funds for massive expansion of Tahlequah hospital**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 25, 2016*

The Cherokee Nation has signed an agreement for federal funding to construct a multimillion-dollar tribal health-care center, slated to be the largest such facility ever built, the nation announced Wednesday. Tribal leaders signed a deal with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service to receive at least \$80 million per year for at least 20 years, according to a Wednesday news release from the Cherokee Nation. Funding will last at least 20 years.

### **Jenks Crossing to bring mixed commercial development, apartments to west Jenks**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 24, 2016*

JENKS — Although Jenks already has a variety of major commercial and multifamily developments planned or underway — the most prominent among them the relocated Simon Outlet Mall — another one is set to begin construction in the coming months. Jenks Crossing, a \$39 million development at the southwest corner of 111th Street and U.S. 75, will combine 175 apartments, restaurants, retail and “service centers” that would allow for stores, mechanic shops, storage areas and more.

### **George Kaiser Family Foundation buys land near Turkey Mountain formerly eyed for outlet mall**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 20, 2016*

A 60-acre tract that last year was considered as a site for an outlet mall has been purchased by the George Kaiser Family Foundation for expansion of a public wilderness area. The foundation paid \$2.95 million for the 55- and 5-acre parcels in the Turkey Mountain area that previously belonged to Beeline Sixty-One Properties LLC and the Robert D. and Dorothy S. Grant Family Trust, said Bob Parker, president of NAI Petrous, which brokered the deal Jan. 8.

### **Tulsa Tech: Growing businesses, empowering employees**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 19, 2016*

Tulsa Tech, a recognized contributor to regional economic prosperity, has a division known as Business and Industry Services that is dedicated to serving the needs of business and industry clients throughout its district. Some performance highlights from last year include: • Served over 500 Tulsa-area companies with customized training and consulting services; • Provided customized training to over 20,000 enrollments of incumbent workers employed by Tulsa companies; • Assisted Tulsa companies in achieving ISO certification, implementing Lean and other continuous effort initiatives that saved millions for local companies through efficiency and productivity gains.

### **Owasso prepares for downtown redevelopment efforts**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 15, 2016*

Locals will soon be bidding farewell to a decades-old building on the corner of 1st and Main in downtown now that the City of Owasso has scheduled it to be demolished sometime this March. The project is part of the City's downtown redevelopment program — a component of the Vision 2025 Projects for Owasso package — that involves expanding the space to make room for new shops, businesses and restaurants that will benefit the community.

### **Rose District expands after church is purchased**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 12, 2016*

The City of Broken Arrow approved the purchase of the empty Assembly of God buildings between East Detroit and East Elgin and North Main Street and North First Street during a special Council meeting on Wednesday night. The buildings were appraised for \$745,000, but purchased for \$600,000. The church and surrounding buildings will be razed and used to expand the Rose District north. Current plans for the main building will be office, retail and residential.

### **City of Jenks calls for election on portion of expiring Vision 2025 tax**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 11, 2016*

JENKS — City councilors recently approved a resolution calling for an April 5 election on its version of Vision 2025 renewal. The Jenks City Council last week voted to propose a 0.55 percent tax for 15 years beginning Jan. 1. It is projected the tax would generate \$22 million over its term, \$16.67 million of which would be earmarked for the proposed Tulsa/Jenks Arkansas River Low Water Dam Project. Approved by voters in 2003, the Tulsa County sales tax known as Vision 2025 is set to expire at the end of this year. This tax is collected at a rate of 0.60 percent.

### **New GRDA turbine will be largest, most efficient power generator in Western Hemisphere**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 25, 2016*

The latest wave in electric power efficiency lapped ashore at the Port of Catoosa on Wednesday. The 350-ton Mitsubishi gas turbine for the Grand River Dam Authority's new generating plant No. 3 was lifted from a barge onto a flatbed trailer with 16 axles, eight tires on each axle, for transport to the Grand River Energy Complex east of Chouteau. The turbine is the first of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. Manufactured in Savannah, Georgia, it was billed Wednesday as “where green is at in terms of large-scale generation” by Mitsubishi Hitachi executive Dave Walsh.

### **Oklahoma Innovation Institute gets \$350,000 grant from U.S. Commerce Dept.**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 13, 2016*

The U.S. Department of Commerce announced this week that the Oklahoma Innovation Institute and Tulsa Research Partners will receive a \$351,400 grant to help develop academic ideas into products. The money will fund a “Community Technology Commercialization Concentrator (CTCC) Portal” — a means of taking research and other resources and finding a way to bring those to market with the private sector. Tulsa Research Partners is a group of local educators from Oklahoma State, University of Oklahoma, University of Tulsa, Tulsa Community College and Oral Roberts University under the broader umbrella of the Oklahoma Innovation Institute.

### **New coalition to open Brady district book store**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 24, 2016*

A newly formed nonprofit organization, the Tulsa Literary Coalition, plans to bring the art of literature to the Brady Arts District and beyond. The coalition will open Magic City Books, an independent book store, on the corner of Archer Street and Detroit Avenue. The store will occupy the anchor position in a building owned by the George Kaiser Family Foundation. Renovation of the building, to be led by Chris Lilly Architects, will begin soon, with the store itself opening in late 2016 or early 2017.

## **Expansions, Openings, Relocations, Acquisitions**

### **Cherokee Nation building new multimillion-dollar tribal health care center**

*Tulsa World (OK) - March 5, 2016*

TAHLEQUAQH — W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah was built in 1984 to accommodate 60,000 patient visits a year. There were nearly seven times that many visits last year at the Cherokee Nation facility. A new partnership between the tribe and federal government, which could be worth more than \$1.6 billion over 20-plus years, has cleared the way for a major expansion to the facility that will meet the growing needs among American Indians with a residual impact on rural health care in eastern Oklahoma. The Cherokee Nation plans to break ground this spring on a 450,000-square-foot expansion that will house the tribe's clinical needs including women's health, pediatrics, dentistry and optometry.

### **QuikTrip back on Fortune's best companies to work for list**

*Tulsa World (OK) - March 4, 2016*

Tulsa-based convenience store chain QuikTrip is back on Fortune Magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For" list, coming in at No. 76. This marks the 14th-straight year the company has made the list, said QuikTrip spokesman Mike Thornbrugh.

### **Fat Guy's Burger Bar opens Broken Arrow location**

*Tulsa World (OK) - March 3, 2016*

Fat Guy's Burger Bar has opened a location in Broken Arrow at 1009 N. Elm Place and expanded its dining space in downtown Tulsa. The Broken Arrow store is located on the northeast corner of Kenosha Street (71st Street) and Elm Place (161st East Avenue).

### **Zaxby's to open second Tulsa location Monday**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 26, 2016*

Zaxby's, a fast-casual chicken chain restaurant, will open its second Tulsa store at 10:30 a.m. Monday at 10801 E. 31st St. The first Tulsa restaurant opened a little more than a year ago at 6995 S. Mingo Road. Zaxby's, with roots in the southeastern United States, offers chicken fingers, wings, sandwiches and salads

### **AAON breaks ground on research and development lab in west Tulsa**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 25, 2016*

CEO Norman Asbjornson broke ground Wednesday afternoon on a new research and development lab at AAON Inc. The \$26 million facility on the company's sprawling west Tulsa campus will be three stories tall and 75,000 square feet. It will be the air conditioning, heating and ventilation company's means of testing both product effectiveness and the amount of noise it makes. A company release said it will be the "only lab in the world able to measure the supply, return and ambient sound under actual load conditions."

### **Trader Joe's arrival a sign of Tulsa's growth**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 24, 2016*

To some Tulsans, Trader Joe's is more than just a new grocery store; it's a sign the city is now on the same plane as the dozens of other cities the specialty brand already calls home. The company's first Oklahoma store opens at 8 a.m. Friday in Brookside, marking the end of a three-year process to bring it to Tulsa. Trader Joe's was TYPros "Bring it to Tulsa" initiative's first target because of the brand awareness it had among young professionals.

### **National wholesaler Costco to open April 21 in Tulsa**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 23, 2016*

National wholesaler Costco said it will open at 8 a.m. Thursday, April 21, in a flier sent to Tulsa homes this weekend. The first Costco store in Oklahoma is nearing completion at 10220 S. Memorial Drive after construction delays in 2015. The company announced in December that it will hire about 225 people for the store.

### **Arvest Bank recognized among best banks in U.S**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 21, 2016*

Arvest Bank was ranked No. 8 Consumer Reports' best banks in the country in its January issue, Arvest officials reported last week. The magazine polled more than 49,000 of its readers to gauge their satisfaction level with their bank and Arvest received a score of 87, only four points behind top-ranked Frost Bank. Customer service was the primary attribute noted by Arvest customers leading to their high satisfaction. Arvest was the only bank with more than two locations in Oklahoma to be in the top 10 of this list.

### **A blueprint for growth and success**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 19, 2016*

During a season of economic uncertainty for many in this state, one thriving Tulsa company is investing heavily in its future here. John Zink Hamworthy Combustion employs about 800 men and women in and around Tulsa, and the company is look-

ing toward the day when that number will grow. Expanded capabilities include the company's new 68,000-sq-ft manufacturing facility.

**BancFirst Coweta grows with the times, plans expansion**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 17, 2016*

Coweta State Bank, organized on April 8, 1902, established roots in what would become a thriving little city by 1903. The bank underwent a few name changes over the years, including the Bank of Commerce, Security National Bank and Security Bank. It now serves the community as BancFirst, located at 14269 S. State Hwy. 51. BancFirst Coweta is a full service bank where the advancement of technology means customer convenience for their banking needs.

**Local accounting firm to merge with regional firm**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 14, 2016*

Tulsa-based Cross and Robinson, certified public accountants, will merge with Regier Carr & Monroe, LLP, a regional accounting firm with offices in Tulsa, McAlester and Wagoner, Oklahoma; Tucson, Arizona; and Wichita, Kansas, said Jim Ogez, partner in charge of RCM's Tulsa office.

**Williams Partners project to connect two Gulf Coast LNG export facilities**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 11, 2016*

Williams Partners announced Wednesday that it has executed long-term contracts with two shippers for Gulf Connector, a 475,000 dekatherm per day expansion of the Transco pipeline system to connect U.S. natural gas supplies with global liquefied natural gas markets. Gulf Connector will deliver gas for the Cheniere Energy's Corpus Christi liquefaction project and a shipper in Freeport LNG Development LP's liquefaction project near Freeport, Texas, according to a news release.

## Layoffs, Closings, Downsizes, Restructures

**Two Tulsa energy companies confirm rounds of late-February layoffs**

*Tulsa World (OK) - March 5, 2016*

Samson Resources and Midstates Petroleum both had a round of layoffs last week, representatives with the Tulsa-based energy companies have confirmed. About 80 of Samson's roughly 350 employees in Tulsa were let go on Feb. 25. Also that day, Midstates Petroleum cut 30 positions in its corporate office as well as a small number of employees serving in related roles in Midstates' field offices. Approximately 120 employees worked for Midstates in Tulsa after the company relocated its headquarters here from Houston in late 2014.

**D&L Oil Tools lays off 78 employees**

*Tulsa World (OK) - March 1, 2016*

D&L Oil Tools announced Monday it is laying off 78 employees effective immediately. The cuts mean a workforce reduction of almost 25 percent for the Tulsa-based company. The decision was made because of current economic conditions and the continual declining price of oil, according to a media release announcing the layoffs. The company had employed about 300 workers.

**WPX Energy announces sale of Colorado assets, plans for staff reduction**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 14, 2016*

Hertz to close Tulsa center, lay off 80 employees Hertz Global Holdings announced to employees Wednesday that it will be closing its Tulsa Service Center and that 80 employees — around 45 percent of the center's workforce — will be laid off. The Tulsa Service Center is located in two buildings at 5310 E. 31st St. and helps with customer care, franchise/licensee support, marketing and vehicle remarketing.

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**Helmerich & Payne lays off approximately 40 Tulsa employees**

*Tulsa World (OK) - February 5, 2016*

Energy exploration and production company Helmerich & Payne has confirmed that local workforce reductions were made Thursday at its Tulsa headquarters. The layoffs affected about 40 employees, which is approximately 8 percent of its Tulsa-based workers, according to the company.

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### Comparative Unemployment Rates

Period	County %	MSA %	State %	U.S. %
2015 December	3.7	3.9	4.0	4.8
2014 December	3.6	3.8	3.9	5.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Rates are not seasonally adjusted.