

January 2017

Spotlight on the Market

[Just Between Friends Celebrates 20 Years](#)

GTR Newspapers - January 30, 2017

In 1997, Just Between Friends was created in a living room in Tulsa when co-founders Daven Tackett and Shannon Wilburn hosted a sale with 17 friends as consignors, and had gross sales of \$2,000. The sales caught on with families and grew, so in 2003, they formed Just Between Friends Franchise Systems, Inc. Just Between Friends has been on the Inc. Magazine 5000 list of fastest growing companies four years in a row and was named one of Entrepreneur Magazine's Top 500 Franchises. Wilburn is now sole owner of Just Between Friends Franchise Systems, Inc., which has more than 150 franchises in 28 states and a franchise now in Canada.

[Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church breaks ground on community center](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 28, 2017

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1222 S. Guthrie Ave., broke ground Sunday afternoon on a new community center. Bishop Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver and Holy Trinity pastor the Rev. George Gartelos were scheduled to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony and blessing of the new center, which is expected to be completed this fall in time for the popular annual Tulsa Greek Festival. The new 9,500-square-foot facility will include a kitchen, banquet hall and youth activity center.

[TU research bringing technology from the lab to the oilfield](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 27, 2017

The University of Tulsa's petroleum engineering program launched its first industry sponsored academic research consortium in 1966 to come up with practical, long-lasting solutions to challenges faced by the oil and gas industry. Since that time the number of consortia has grown and so has the funding for groups working on projects in reservoir engineering, drilling and production. At a conference in Tulsa on Thursday celebrating the technology that has made the energy industry more efficient and effective than ever before, Mohan Kelkar said support for the research now consistently comes in at \$6 million to \$7 million a year. Around 60 different companies are currently supporting research programs that operate in conjunction with TU's petroleum engineering program.

[Bonding Vision Tulsa projects brings chance for risk and reward](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 22, 2017

Mayor G.T. Bynum, along with city councilors and department heads, announced a front-loaded schedule for Vision Tulsa projects last week, saying residents can expect to see significant construction in the next five years. The accelerated schedule means the economic development boost the projects are estimated to provide will begin to help Tulsa's economy sooner and with greater effect, city leaders said. Although Bynum expressed his excitement in general for so much of Vision Tulsa's projects to be underway so quickly, he said he was particularly pleased with how the funding schedule worked out for the schedules of the individual projects.

[Smithwick earns honor from magazine](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 21, 2017

In their most recent issue, Tulsa World Magazine recognized Broken Arrow Chamber's Wes Smithwick as one of the key leaders making a major impact on this region. The cover story (which also featured other notable luminaries such as Tulsa mayor G.T. Bynum, BOK Center general manager Jeff Nickler, and George Kaiser Family Foundation executive director Ken Levit) praised Wes' vision and leadership in the development of the Rose District since 2011. Downtown revitalization was a **top** priority for Smithwick when he took over the position of BA Chamber President and CEO nearly seven years ago.

[Oklahoma Nonprofit Excellence Awards finalists named](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 19, 2017

Five Tulsa agencies have been named as finalists for the 10th annual Oklahoma Nonprofit Excellence Awards. The awards by the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits honor organizations from across the state for their excellence in eight categories: arts and humanities, community, education, health services, self-sufficiency, seniors, youth services and an open category. Area finalists include Hospitality House of Tulsa, Reading Partners, Catholic Charities, Tristesse Grief Center and the Car Care Clinic.

[Tulsa StartUp Series fetes decade of entrepreneurship with 2017 reboot](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - January 18, 2017

Research Wizard Tulsa Market Brief

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**"Customizing Information
to Meet
Your Business Needs"**

The Tulsa StartUp Series will mark its 10th year of competition Wednesday with its inaugural event of 2017. The Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation has supported entrepreneurial innovation, growth and creativity since 2007 when then-Mayor Kathy Taylor founded the competition as the Tulsa Entrepreneurial Spirit Award. Since then, the business-plan competition has evolved into its current name and format. The competition has spawned more than 2,300 full-time, part-time and contract jobs, \$11 million in follow-on investment, and \$57.7 million in total economic impact for Tulsa, according to the foundation.

ORU celebrates grand opening of Global Learning Center

Tulsa World (OK) - January 12, 2017

Oral Roberts University officials cut the ribbon Wednesday to open the new Global Learning Center, a high-tech facility designed to connect ORU to students around the world. The \$8 million, 54,000-square-foot facility is in what is called the "Baby Mabee," the building attached to Mabee Center at 81st Street and Lewis Avenue that once housed the Oral Roberts television studio. ORU President William Wilson told people crowded into the lobby that the Global Learning Center is one of the visible realities of ORU's pursuit over the last several years to become a global institution.

Oklahoma getting \$2 million federal grant to assist with career preparedness for high-schoolers

Tulsa World (OK) - January 11, 2017

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma has been awarded a \$2 million grant to improve career pathways for high school students as the need for post-secondary education and training continues to grow. State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister said the money will be used over the next few years to enhance career readiness programs, which includes helping schools repurpose a student's senior year around an increased focus on post-secondary employment. Oklahoma was one of 10 states to be awarded grants from JPMorgan Chase and the Council of Chief State School Officers to be used for various career readiness efforts that target

St. John Broken Arrow Among America's 100 Best for Joint Replacement

Tulsa World (OK) - January 9, 2017

St. John Broken Arrow, a part of Ascension, the nation's largest Catholic and nonprofit health system, has again been recognized by Healthgrades as one of America's 100 Best™ hospitals for joint replacement. This is the fourth consecutive year St. John Broken Arrow has received recognition for high quality joint replacement. In addition, St. John Broken Arrow achieved the Healthgrades Joint Replacement Excellence Award™, was named among the top 5 percent in the nation for joint replacement and was recognized with five-star ratings for total knee and total hip replacements.

UniFirst of BA honored for clean food safety

Tulsa World (OK) - January 8, 2017

The UniFirst Corporation industrial laundry facility in Broken Arrow, has been awarded TRSA's Hygienically Clean Food Safety (HCFS) certification status for its cleaning and servicing of work apparel for food-related industries. UniFirst is a leading provider of workplace uniforms and protective clothing to businesses, large and small, within a wide range of industries throughout the United States and Canada. TRSA is an international organization, representing textile services industry companies, with expertise to determine the most appropriate hygienic laundering solutions for food manufacturing and food processing facilities and workplaces.

BTC Broadband expanding fiber network across metro

Tulsa World (OK) - January 6, 2017

BTC Broadband announced Thursday morning that its now-in-place fiber-optic backbone across the Tulsa metropolitan area will allow it to build out more and offer fiber-based business service. At a news conference alongside the Tulsa Regional Chamber, the company touted the plans and completion as a means of expanding the competition for broadband service for businesses in the metro area. BTC President Scott Floyd said in an interview with the World that the expansion allows any city along the route to plug into major national networks, which has been sought after by businesses.

Expansions, Openings, Relocations, Acquisitions

American Solera named best new brewery in U.S.; announces new location at 18th and Boston

Tulsa World (OK) - January 31, 2017

Tulsa's American Solera, which was just named America's best new brewery, will open a tap room at 18th Street and Boston Avenue this summer. The new facility at 108 E. 18th St. will be in addition to the brewery's current tap room in west Tulsa. And it will be right across the street from Burn Co. Barbeque. American Solera was named best new brewery in the United States and second in the world over the weekend at the RateBeer Best awards in Sonoma County, California.

QuikTrip mobile ordering launch a sign of competitive marketplace

Tulsa World (OK) - January 31, 2017

In early January, QuikTrip sent a push notification to users of its mobile application saying, in part, "Mobile ordering is now available in the QT app." The Tulsa-based convenience store chain's customers now had the ability to order any of the chain's prepared foods or specialty coffees from miles away and hours in advance, bringing the QuikTrip into the same space as some of its convenience store competitors as well as national brands such as Starbucks and Domino's Pizza.

Morris Heat & Air of Okmulgee wins 2016 Angie's List award

Tulsa World (OK) - January 31, 2017

An area service company, Morris Heat & Air of Okmulgee, has been awarded the 2016 Angie's List Super Service Award for Heating, Cooling and Solar Systems. Angie's List is an online database that provides consumers with reviews and feedback on service professionals. Award winners must meet strict eligibility requirements, which include an "A" rating in overall grade, recent grade and review period grade. Morris opened his business in 2008 after years of experience in the HVAC field and

completing a heating and air conditioning program at Tulsa Technology Center.

White River Fish Market opens Monday

Tulsa World (OK) - January 30, 2017

White River Fish Market officially opened its Broken Arrow location on Monday. A ribbon cutting was held at 10:45 a.m., to celebrate the new location and lunch service will begin at 11 a.m. White River Fish Market joins Sky Fitness in the County Line Shopping Center, located at 71st and Lynn Lane in Broken Arrow. Several staple businesses remain in the shopping center, including the Coney I-Lander.

Three from Tulsa named to Housing Hall of Fame

Tulsa World (OK) - January 29, 2017

Three veterans of the state's home building industry were among those inducted into the Oklahoma Housing Hall of Fame earlier this month. Ken Klein, Charlie Gilmore and the late Bill Rhees were honored along with two from the Oklahoma City area during the annual Installation Banquet and Hall of Fame ceremony for the Oklahoma State Home Builders Association. The OSHBA has over 2,500 members in 11 local associations, including the Tulsa HBA, and serves as an advocate for the state's housing industry.

WinCo Foods store part of chain's reach into state

Tulsa World (OK) - January 29, 2017

WinCo Foods' decision to locate a new store in Tulsa is part of an expansion of its footprint in Oklahoma and north Texas. The roughly 85,000-square-foot store in Tulsa is scheduled to employ between 150 to 200 people and could open sometime in 2018, the spokesman said. It will join WinCo facilities in Moore (set to open in May), Midwest City (August) and Oklahoma City (September), the company representative said.

Cosmetics retailer Bluemercury coming to Brookside in February

Tulsa World (OK) - January 24, 2017

Luxury cosmetics retailer Bluemercury is coming to Center1 in Brookside. The company, which was founded in 1999 by Barry Beck and Marla Malcolm Beck, is known for high-end skin-care and makeup brands as well as spa services. Barry Beck said Tulsa surprised him when he came to tour the city searching for sites for Bluemercury's expansion. "You don't think it's going to be as sophisticated as the coasts," Beck said. The demographics around Center1 proved him wrong, he said, and reminded him of Greenwich, Connecticut, which is one of the wealthier areas in the U.S.

SageNet hiring 20 for new National Logistics Center

Tulsa World (OK) - January 24, 2017

Tulsa-based SageNet will add 20 employees to its workforce with the opening of the company's new 20,000-square-foot National Logistics Center and expansion of its Tulsa Network Operations Center. SageNet, a managed network services and cybersecurity solutions provider, has 110 associates in Tulsa and 210 at offices in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Chicago and Philadelphia.

Custom Cuts Tree Care selected for 2016 Broken Arrow Small Business Excellence Award

Tulsa World (OK) - January 21, 2017

Custom Cuts Tree Care has been selected for the 2016 Broken Arrow Small Business Excellence Award in the Tree Services classification by the Broken Arrow Small Business Excellence Award Program, it was announced last week. The Broken Arrow Small Business Excellence Awards recognizes outstanding small businesses that serve the Broken Arrow area. Each year, a selection committee identifies businesses that have achieved outstanding marketing success in their local community and business classification.

Growth at GasTech Engineering spurs move to larger facility in Sapulpa

Tulsa World (OK) - January 19, 2017

It may have been a rough couple of years for the oil and gas industry, but GasTech Engineering LLC is expanding. "We've just outgrown our current location," Chief Technology Officer Ron Key said during a tour of the engineering and manufacturing firm's new facilities in Sapulpa. With a workforce of approximately 100, GasTech carries out process engineering, design and fabrication for the natural gas, oil production, refining, petrochemical and industrial gas markets. Earlier this month, it began the process of relocating its headquarters from just east of downtown Tulsa to a plant in north Sapulpa formerly occupied by Thermal Engineering International.

WPX Energy announces new Permian Basin acquisition

Tulsa World (OK) - January 13, 2017

WPX Energy announced Thursday a new acquisition that will increase its Permian operations to more than 120,000 net acres. The deal includes approximately 6,500 barrels of oil equivalent per day of existing production from 23 producing wells; two drilled but uncompleted horizontal laterals; 18,100 net acres in Reeves, Loving, Ward and Winkler counties in Texas; and 920 gross undeveloped locations in the geologic sweet spot of the Delaware Basin.

Welcome to Paradise: River Spirit Casino Resort opens new arena

Tulsa World (OK) - January 7, 2017

Paradise Cove is the latest ribbon-cutting to take place as the \$365 million expansion of River Spirit Casino Resort fully opens to the public. The 2,700-seat theater doubles the size of the previous event center at River Spirit and continues the Margaritaville theme of the new casino, restaurant and upcoming pool deck at 8330 Riverside Parkway. The venue will seat 2,700 for concerts and can expand to about 3,000 for sporting events, like the first Xtreme Fight Night at the venue, set for Feb. 17.

Woman about town: Entrepreneur takes fashion forward with mobile concept

Tulsa World (OK) - January 4, 2017

Consumers in recent years have flocked to food trucks, lining up for everything from egg rolls to tacos to gyros. Aszurdee Sade has gone mobile with another public appetite — clothes. Sade last year founded the Fashion Cruiser, a Tulsa-based boutique on wheels. The Fashion Cruiser, which services Tulsa, Creek and Osage counties, is primarily stocked with women's clothing and accessories. It can be rented out to fundraisers, as well as to corporate, charity and employee appreciation events, with clients selecting the inventory.

Layoffs, Closings, Downsizes, Restructures

T.D. Williamson lays off about 25 in Tulsa

Tulsa World (OK) - January 25, 2017

Tulsa-based T.D. Williamson had a small round of layoffs at its headquarters Monday in addition to cuts across the company. The reduction in force affects approximately 25 employees in Tulsa and approximately 7 percent of the company's global workforce, according to the privately held pipeline equipment and services company. Prior to the cuts, T.D. Williamson had approximately 1,800 employees globally and approximately 550 in Tulsa.

Samson Resources lays off almost one-third of workforce at Tulsa headquarters

Tulsa World (OK) - January 20, 2017

Samson Resources Corp. has laid off 66 employees at its Tulsa headquarters and 70 overall, the company confirmed Thursday. As of this fall, Samson had employed about 200 at its Tulsa headquarters and close to 400 employees companywide. The shale-oil driller filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in September 2015 when it was \$4.2 billion in debt.

Macy's to close Tulsa Promenade store

Tulsa World (OK) - January 8, 2017

Tulsa will lose one of its two Macy's, the company said Wednesday. The Macy's at Tulsa Promenade mall will close later this year. The company announced last August that it would be closing 100 stores as part of the decision to streamline its store portfolio. The store at Woodland Hills Mall, which is about five miles away, will not be affected. The Promenade store employs 58 associates, according to a company news release. Some employees may be offered positions at another store.

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Comparative Unemployment Rates

Period	County %	MSA %	State %	U.S. %
2016 December	4.5	4.8	4.6	4.5
2015 December	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.8

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