

Spotlight on the Market

[Job market looks good for Oklahoma's business, nursing grads](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - April 30, 2017

Oklahoma's soon-to-be college graduates pair nicely with the state's job market. Estimates show more than 17,800 students will receive bachelor's degrees from Oklahoma's public colleges and universities this academic year. The new graduates are entering the workforce at a time when the Oklahoma Works list of top 100 critical occupations projects there will be some 13,000 new job openings in business and more than 11,000 in nursing in the state in the next eight years.

[Ambassador Hotel Tulsa's Mungul named GM of the Year](#)

The Journal Record - April 27, 2017

Andrew Mungul, general manager of the Ambassador Hotel Tulsa, has been named Marriott General Manager of the Year, Americas Western Region by Marriott International. Mungul joins the Eastern Region winner as one of only two general managers honored in all of Marriott's Americas properties. Mungul, and his staff won for overall performance in growth of the business versus prior year total sales, market share growth year-over-year, overall guest service ranking, leadership and community involvement. In 2016 alone, Ambassador Hotel Tulsa outranked more than 5,700 properties to be named the top full-service Marriott worldwide in Marriott International's guest satisfaction survey, was named Best Hotel by U.S. News & World Report, and was named a Traveler's Choice Top Hotel in the United States by Trip Advisor.

[Oklahoma women receive manufacturing awards](#)

The Journal Record - April 27, 2017

Two Oklahoma women were among 130 recipients of the Manufacturing Institute's Women in Manufacturing STEP Ahead Awards. The awards were presented in Washington on Thursday to Brooke Hamilton, president and CEO, NPI, Tulsa, and Mary Jo "MJ" Jerome, general manager, Stroud Safety, Oklahoma City. The Manufacturing Institute is a non-profit affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers.

[Tulsa airport installs electric vehicle charging stations](#)

The Journal Record - April 25, 2017

Tulsa International Airport has completed installation of two PowerPost Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in its recently expanded parking garage. The stations are capable of charging up to four electric vehicles at a time. The PowerPost EVSE system is in use at several airports, but this will be the first in Oklahoma. Use of the charging stations is provided free of charge to Tulsa International Airport's garage parking customers.

[Cherokees estimate \\$2 billion economic impact on region](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - April 21, 2017

The (Cherokee) tribe's total economic impact, according an estimate it released Friday, was more than \$2 billion in 2016, ballooning from \$1.55 billion in 2014. Cherokee Nation Businesses, the tribe's holding company, had about \$1 billion in revenue in 2016 and either directly, or indirectly, supported \$785 million in wages for more than 10,000 workers.

[Grant to strengthen state's workforce development efforts](#)

The Journal Record - April 20, 2017

Oklahoma is leveraging a recently awarded grant to not only strengthen career pathways, but also create a stronger bond between education and industry for advanced training programs, internships for high school seniors and career-focused, hands-on experience. In January, JPMorgan Chase & Co. and the Council of Chief State School Officers awarded Oklahoma with a New Skills For Youth grant that will provide Oklahoma with \$2 million over three years to help improve access to skills-based education and training for high-skill, well-paying careers. Oklahoma was one of 10 states to win the New Skills for Youth grants, which are intended to help students "improve access to skills-based education and training for high-skill, well-paying careers," according to JP Morgan.

[Oklahoma hotel construction ranks high nationally, 2017 Hospitality Index shows](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - April 19, 2017

Oklahoma ranks fourth nationally in the percentage of its hotel room inventory that is under construction, a national commercial real estate firm study says. The state had 3,906 rooms under way through December 2016, representing 5.6 percent of its stock, according to the Marcus & Millichap 2017 U.S. Hospitality Investment Forecast. Oklahoma trailed only three states in percentage: New York (8.8); Washington (6.9) and Texas (5.7), according to the study.

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Port of Catoosa shipping up sharply for first quarter

The Journal Record – April 18, 2017

Total cargo tonnage passing through the Tulsa Port of Catoosa for the first quarter of the year topped the same three months of 2016 by 50 percent, according to Operations Manager Brad Banks. The multi-modal shipping complex and 2,000-acre industrial park saw 749,000 tons pass through by the end of March. The increased tonnage this year suggests the domino effect of economic forces is holding steady and reversing course to better days, Banks said. The port's best year was 2012 with 2.7 million tons.

New downtown digs: Officials break ground on The Flats on Archer

Tulsa World (OK) - April 12, 2017

Officials broke ground on The Flats on Archer, a roughly \$11 million, mixed-use development in the Brady Arts District. The summer of 2018 is the projected completion date for The Flats, a five-story multifamily property with 62 units and commercial space on the ground floor. Situated at the corner of Archer Street and Boston Avenue, the land at 110 N. Boston Ave. was obtained through the Tulsa Development Authority.

Gilcrease Turnpike extension plans approved by Oklahoma Transportation Commission

Tulsa World (OK) - April 11, 2017

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Transportation Commission on Monday approved the route for a toll road to complete the Gilcrease Expressway. Last month, the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority adopted a resolution to further work on the project, which has been on the books for decades. The estimated cost of completing the final leg of the project is \$290 million. The five-mile, four-lane roadway will include an adjacent multiuse trail and feature 22 bridges, the most expensive of which will be two Arkansas River crossings.

City readying first round of Vision Tulsa bonds one year after vote

Tulsa World (OK) - April 6, 2017

A year to the day after voters approved the Vision Tulsa sales tax, city officials on Wednesday revealed steps to issue bonds for construction of economic development projects. The past year has been spent on detailing the needs of more than \$520 million in economic development projects and then scheduling construction within the funding structure. The economic development projects are expected to bring in about \$526 million over 15 years — not including use tax that comes in separately from sales tax. The projects are expected to cost \$510 million with the difference being built in as a buffer against changes in bond interest.

Grant program aims to boost business in rural Oklahoma

Tulsa World (OK) - April 4, 2017

Gov. Mary Fallin, i2E Inc. and seven state partners have begun a program designed to boost and diversify the state's rural economies, the groups announced Monday. Backed by a \$200,000 federal matching grant, GrowOK will begin this spring with a curriculum designed for rural communities and Native American entrepreneurs. The program is a partnership between nonprofit high-tech business incubator i2E, the Cherokee Nation, Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Oklahoma Business Roundtable, the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science & Technology (OCAST) and Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma Inc.

Hillcrest South: Top Place to Work

Greater Tulsa Newspapers – April 4, 2017

Hillcrest Hospital South, 8801 S. 101st E. Ave., was recently named one of the “150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare” by Becker's Healthcare. The list features both U.S. health care provider organizations, such as hospitals, health systems, ambulatory surgical centers and home health agencies, as well as other types of healthcare-specific companies, like consulting firms, health IT vendors, medical societies and more.

Expansions, Openings, Relocations, Acquisitions

Supermercados Morelos expanding in Tulsa and Oklahoma City

Tulsa World (OK) - April 29, 2017

Supermercados Morelos started as one tiny — by grocery store standards — 5,000-square-foot storefront in Oklahoma City. Now it's a chain of soon-to-be seven stores that stretches across the state's two largest metro areas. 2016 was a solid year for the business and included some growth, said co-owners Manuel Gomez and Francisco Ibarra. Supermercados Morelos is currently building a store in north Tulsa.

Connexions Loyalty plans to add hundreds of jobs to Tulsa operations

Tulsa World (OK) - April 24, 2017

Connexions Loyalty, a subsidiary of Connecticut-based customer service company Affinion Group, purchased the assets of an existing Tulsa travel service center in January and hasn't stopped hiring since. The company said in a news release that its purchase of the existing infrastructure in east Tulsa allowed it to retain 50 existing jobs. It has added 100 jobs in the meantime, bringing the number of employees up to 150. Connexions Loyalty plans on adding another 200-plus to its call-center operations at Corporate Woods business park on 129th East Avenue.

Tulsa's Harsco completes 100,000th cooler section

Tulsa World (OK) – April 23, 2017

Harsco Industrial Air-X-Changers, a Tulsa-based producer of cooling systems for natural gas compression and processing, oil refining and other applications, has produced its 100,000th ASME-certified cooler section. The cooler shipped Friday and will be deployed in the Permian Basin of West Texas in a gas compression package. The milestone section was a key component of a Model 156 EH cooler, a vertical-discharge, forced-draft cooler combining engine and compressor cooling in a

single, compact unit. The HAXC/Hammco Model EH design is the world's most popular gas compression cooler design.

Andolini's Jenks location opens Monday

Tulsa World (OK) - April 21, 2017

The fourth and largest Andolini's Pizzeria will open to the public at 11 a.m. Monday at the RiverWalk Crossing in Jenks. The restaurant, at 300 RiverWalk Terrace, held an invitation-only preview on Friday, where guests sampled a variety of the pizzas, salads and appetizers Andolini's serves. The 4,200-square-foot space has a private room that could be reserved for special events, and a kitchen built to accommodate the firm's catering program. The full-service bar includes more beer taps than any other Andolini's, with 32. It is also the first Andolini's to serve STG Gelato, and the first to have a private dining area that can be reserved for special events.

StartUp Series champion Pop House to open Brookside location

Tulsa World (OK) - April 14, 2017

The Pop House soon will have a home. Winners of the 2016 Tulsa StartUp Series finale, Pop House creators and brothers Chris and Robby Davis are scheduled to locate their flagship frozen dessert store by the end of May at 3737 S. Peoria Ave. The 96-square-foot "tiny house" will be part of the newly named Brookside Collective, a park area on the grounds of the Trinity United Methodist Church that was razed in December.

Mr. Nice Guys food truck set to move into Guthrie Green Cafe

Tulsa World (OK) - April 12, 2017

Mr. Nice Guys will be serving up its popular jerk chicken tacos and mac and cheese concoctions from new digs starting Saturday. Customers need to look beyond the food truck this time because the restaurant is opening up shop in the Guthrie Green Cafe. The food truck opened a takeout space at 3711 S. Harvard Ave. in October 2015. The takeout space will close but will serve as the food truck's commissary for food preparation and storage between catering and special events.

Argonaut Private Equity buys local manufacturer MIRATECH

Tulsa World (OK) - April 8, 2017

A local private equity firm recently acquired a Tulsa-based producer of emission and acoustic solutions — the components used to bring all manner of engines into compliance with regulatory standards and make them run cleaner and quieter. Argonaut Private Equity, one of the larger private equity firms in the central U.S., bought MIRATECH, a manufacturer and supplier of emissions and acoustic solutions equipment, Argonaut said this week. MIRATECH has 150 employees in North America, including Tulsa, according to the company. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed to the World.

Groundbreaking Held for Historical North Tulsa Housing Development

Greater Tulsa Newspapers - April 5, 2017

Capital Homes hosted a groundbreaking ceremony March 9 for its newest development, Ogan's Circle, a new neighborhood situated in the heart of north Tulsa. This quiet, self-contained cul-de-sac will contain 14 new homes and provide high-quality, affordable housing starting in the \$140's. A new construction neighborhood of this capacity hasn't been completed in north Tulsa in several decades, making this an historic project.

Local Harley-Davidson Dealership Recognized

Greater Tulsa Newspapers - April 5, 2017

Myers-Duren Harley-Davidson earned the prestigious Bronze Bar & Shield Circle of Recognition Award for 2016. Presented by Harley-Davidson Motor Company, this award is given to dealers based on motorcycle and related product sales performance, customer service and satisfaction, and operational measures. Myers-Duren Harley-Davidson is the only dealership in Oklahoma to receive this award for 2016.

Oklahoma Central Credit Union Breaks Ground in Owasso

Greater Tulsa Newspapers - April 4, 2017

On March 23, Oklahoma Central Credit Union held a ground-breaking ceremony on its 10th full-service location, to be constructed on the northeast corner of 116th Street North and 129th East Avenue. The branch is expected to open by the end of the year. The 4,700-square-foot branch will feature four drive-thru lanes, a walk-up ATM, an open, free-flowing branch design that enhances face-to-face member interactions, and friendly employees and service.

Matrix Service awarded contract

The Journal Record - April 4, 2017

Tulsa-based Matrix Service Co. was awarded a contract for the balance of plant aboveground electrical construction work at PSEG Power's new 540-megawatt combined cycle power facility, Sewaren 7, in Woodbridge, New Jersey. The plant is expected to come online by summer 2018. Sewaren 7 will replace older generating units with cleaner, more efficient technology.

Layoffs, Closings, Downsizes, Restructures

Tulsa-based RedStone Construction Services moving some positions out of state

Tulsa World (OK) - April 27, 2017

A Tulsa-based construction company is moving its operational resources to affiliated construction teams in Dallas, Boston and Chattanooga, Tennessee, its company president said Thursday. RedStone Construction Services will continue to maintain an office in Tulsa to work on projects and pursue opportunities in the region, President Chris Samples said in a statement.

Payless Shoesource closing 12 Oklahoma stores, including Sand Springs

Tulsa World (OK) - April 12, 2017

Payless ShoeSource, a national discount footwear retailer, is closing 12 of its Oklahoma stores after it filed for bankruptcy this week. It will close one of its Tulsa locations, at 2175 S. Sheridan Road, along with stores in Sapulpa and Sand Springs. Other store closures are scheduled in Ponca City, Oklahoma City, Altus, Edmond, Norman, Lawton and Altus.

ConocoPhillips Canadian asset sale expected to result in Bartlesville layoffs

Tulsa World (OK) - April 1, 2017

The Canadian asset sale that ConocoPhillips announced earlier this week will lead to layoffs at the exploration and production company's location in Bartlesville. However, it's too early to know a timeline for cuts or the number of jobs that will be affected, a spokesman for the company said Friday afternoon. Houston-based ConocoPhillips announced Wednesday that it is selling its 50 percent nonoperated interest in the Foster Creek Christina Lake oil sands partnership, as well as the majority of its western Canada Deep Basin gas assets to Calgary-based oil company Genovus for \$13.3 billion.

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Comparative Unemployment Rates

Period	County %	MSA %	State %	U.S. %
2017 March	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.6
2016 March	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.1

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