

March, 2019

## Spotlight on the Market

### **Sign grant program to encourage Tulsa's Route 66 to get lit on neon**

Tulsa World - March 29, 2019

The Route 66 Neon Sign Grant, announced Thursday, is an effort to re-ignite the Mother Road's glow in Tulsa with restored vintage or new signs designed in a retro style. The application process launches April 1 and offers matching funds up to \$10,000 per exterior signage containing not less than 25 percent neon or alternative LED lighting within the Route 66 overlay.

### **Webster freshmen design ideas for improving community park as part of inaugural City Lab program**

Tulsa World - March 22, 2019

Rather than catching up on sleep and fun, eight freshmen from Webster High School volunteered to spend spring break brainstorming ideas for improving their community park. The students are the first to participate in Tulsa Public Schools' new City Lab program, which allows freshmen to expand their problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities outside the classroom. The program is made possible through a partnership among TPS, the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance, City Year Tulsa and the Tulsa Parks and Recreation Department.

### **Mayor lays out his priorities for Improve Our Tulsa II proposal**

Tulsa World - March 14, 2019

Mayor G.T. Bynum's proposed funding allocation for the \$597 million Improve Our Tulsa II package includes \$417 million for transportation and streets and \$163 million for other critical city needs. The six-year capital package would be funded with \$427 million in bonds, financed with property taxes, and \$170 million in sales tax.

### **Owasso hires community development director**

Tulsa World - March 10, 2019

The city has hired longtime employee Brian Dempster as its new community development director. For the past nine years as development services manager, he has overseen all building inspections and all services associated with the development process, as well as code enforcement. Dempster started work with the city in 1993 as a parks employee.

### **Feasibility study on outdoor performance venue expected to be made public soon**

Tulsa World - March 10, 2019

Tulsans will soon know whether it makes sense for the community to pursue the construction of a multipurpose outdoor entertainment venue. Ray Hoyt, president of Tulsa Regional Tourism, said last week that he expects to make public the results of a feasibility study as early as April. The study was commissioned last year and was paid for with public and private dollars.

### **ORU to launch Stovall Center for Entrepreneurship**

Tulsa World - March 10, 2019

Oral Roberts University received a \$1 million donation, along with a \$500,000 matching grant, to launch the Stovall Center for Entrepreneurship. "Known for their entrepreneurial spirit, ORU Alumni (1981) Jim and Crystal Stovall, along with the Tulsa Community Foundation, have made this generous donation. The Center will reside within the College of Business and allow ORU to attract and retain students "with exceptional abilities to create new business concepts, start-up incubators, accelerators, and launchpads.

### **Voters in Sand Springs, Claremore approve millions in school bond issues**

Tulsa World - March 6, 2019

Voters in the Sand Springs and Claremore public school districts on Tuesday approved school bond issues, both exceeding \$30 million. In Sand Springs, one proposition was for \$31.5 million to build a new Central Ninth Grade Center/Science Technology Engineering and Math Academy on the campus of Charles Page High School; a new gymnasium/storm shelter at Angus Valley Elementary; turf replacement at Memorial

#### **Research Wizard Tulsa Market Brief**

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Stadium; and core curriculum (textbook and library media materials).

### **City of Tulsa metro gets top-tier magazine ranking for new, expanded corporate investment**

Tulsa World - March 5, 2019

Site Selection Magazine has ranked the Tulsa metropolitan area in the top five for new and expanded corporate investment. The magazine looked at the number of economic development projects each city had in 2018, and Tulsa recorded 25 projects, tying it for No. 5 with Allentown, New Jersey, and Bethlehem and Easton, Pennsylvania, in the category for metros with a population of 200,000 to 1 million.

### **Budding market: Marijuana dispensary owners try to position for long-term success in surging medical marijuana market**

Tulsa World - March 3, 2019

The medical marijuana dispensary business is booming, with more than 100 stores open or in the process of opening in Tulsa and the surrounding area. Since the area's first dispensary opened in early November, more than 40 locations have sprung up in Tulsa County, according to Weedmaps, a reference app patients often use to connect with cannabis businesses.

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

### **AAON, Tulsa Community College partners in ESL courses at workplace**

Tulsa World - March 27, 2019

A Tulsa manufacturing company is removing barriers to language and a better workplace environment. AAON Inc. has for two years partnered with Tulsa Community College to provide English as second language (ESL) courses at the job site. The program is part of the New Tulsans Initiative, which is designed to integrate immigrants and refugees into the community.

### **Company that mitigates data breaches captures Tulsa StartUpSeries live pitch**

Tulsa World - March 25, 2019

A company that provides legally required notification services for businesses that experience a data breach won the Tulsa StartUpSeries cybersecurity live pitch Sunday. Founded by Geoffrey Simpson, Breach Management LLC was awarded \$40,000 at the StartUp event, which is powered by the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation and supported by Cox Business, Cox Media and the OSU Riata Center for Entrepreneurship.

### **Price Family Properties downtown parking garage lights up the night**

Tulsa World - March 23, 2019

Into a structure that typically is cold and gray, Price Family Properties has injected warmth and color. Nightly, the company is illuminating the exterior of its new parking garage at Fourth and Main streets. Tenants of First Place Tower this month began parking in the five-story, 500-space garage, which includes two underground levels and commercial space on the ground floor.

### **Capital Homes developing patio homes neighborhood in Broken Arrow**

Tulsa World - March 22, 2019

Aspen Crossing Patio Homes, a new gated community in Broken Arrow, will hold a pre-sale event Saturday at The Club at Indian Springs, 16006 E. 131st St. South. Owasso-based Capital Homes is the developer of the project, which will offer home sites to the public from 2-4 p.m. Aspen Crossing Patio Homes is at East 131st Street South and Aspen Avenue.

### **QuikTrip opens new north Tulsa location today; full-service food counter among features**

Tulsa World - March 21, 2019

The convenience store at Pine Street and Peoria Avenue will be QuikTrip's 79th Tulsa location. The new store is at the site of a Fiesta Mart, which closed in 2017. Thornbrugh said the site is an ideal location because of its easy highway access.

### **Eerie Abbey Ales plans downtown brewery**

Tulsa World - March 20, 2019

Demolition has begun for Tulsa's newest downtown brewery, located in the old Impressions restaurant near Fifth and Main streets in the Oil Capitol Building. Co-founders Joshua Schrock and James Jankowski started Eerie Abbey Ales a few years ago and have been pouring their beers at numerous events, letting consumers try out their products.

### **Las Americas opens new midtown location**

Tulsa World - March 20, 2019

Antonio Perez is looking to find success where others have failed. The location of his newest grocery store has seen a number of markets come and go over the years, but Perez thinks he has a formula for longevity. Perez, owner of Las Americas International Supermercado, just opened his newest store at 3029 S. Sheridan Road.

### **What the Ale: Tulsa's Local Cider announces grand opening Saturday**

Tulsa World - March 19, 2019

Local Cider founder and owner Hunter Gambill has been collecting apples, making and aging his ciders, and now, it's time to officially open the taproom. Gambill has set its grand opening from noon to 11 p.m. Saturday, March 23, at 1724 E. Seventh St. Gambill started OK Distilling in 2017.

### **Mid-Con Energy Partners expands footprint in state**

Tulsa World - March 17, 2019

Mid-Con Energy Partners closed approximately \$23 million in acquisitions, including several properties in the new core area of Wyoming, and expanded its footprint in Oklahoma.

### **New company GreenLight 360 streamlines building scanning process**

Tulsa World - March 15, 2019

Tulsa-based GreenLight 360 announced this week the launch of its building scanning services that enable owners, designers and contractors to quickly pinpoint the exact building data they need without returning to the building site or sifting through unmanageable amounts of raw data. Founded this year, GreenLight 360 is an evolution of Andrew Brister Architecture and Visualization, PLLC (ABAV).

### **Longtime family owned business signs lease for new manufacturing and distribution center**

Tulsa World - March 14, 2019

E&I Sales Co. has signed a lease for a new, build-to-suit manufacturing and distribution facility at 4825 N. Mingo Road in Tulsa. E&I Sales Co., a 40-year-old, family owned business, is a custom UL control panel shop, systems integrator and electric motor distributor. The new facility encompasses 31,200 square feet.

### **Arvest recognized as one of 'World's Best Banks' for 2019**

Tulsa World - March 12, 2019

Arvest Bank, which has many branches in Tulsa, has been recognized by Forbes magazine as one of the "World's Best Banks" for 2019. A total of 415 banks in 23 countries received the distinction, with 60 of those based in the United States. On average, each bank recognized received 100 customer evaluations. Arvest ranked 16th on the list of U.S. banks.

### **Crowe & Dunlevy named Oklahoma firm of the year**

Tulsa World - March 10, 2019

Crowe & Dunlevy has been named the 2019 Oklahoma Firm of the Year by Benchmark Litigation, the publication that exclusively covers litigation and disputes markets in North America. Only one firm per state receives this award each year as recognition for their work during the past 12 months.

### **Local developer has more than 1,000 apartments in Tulsa area pipeline**

Tulsa World - March 9, 2019

Case & Associates Properties, Inc. is investing more than \$100 million in three upscale multifamily complexes in the Tulsa area. Already underway is The Cottages at Cedar Ridge, a \$37 million, 337-unit development at East 96th Street and South Garnett Road near the Creek Turnpike. Two other projects are in the pipeline for Broken Arrow: a 309-unit (\$34 million) Redbud Ranch and the 282-unit (\$31 million) Aspen Meadows.

### **Luxe Furniture opens new showroom in south Tulsa**

Tulsa World - March 3, 2019

Luxe Furniture & Design on Friday celebrated the opening of a new showroom at 10545 S. Memorial Drive. In business for more than a decade, owners Tamara and Chris Noel purchased a new building to help expand their business, previously located on Riverside Parkway. The new space also is home to another design-oriented company, Home Hardware.

### **Sand Springs to become home of 18th TFCU branch**

Tulsa World - March 3, 2019

TFCU Federal Credit Union is set to begin construction on a new Sand Springs branch. The location will be in the River West development near the intersection of Main Street and Morrow Road and is scheduled to open in 2020. The Sand Springs branch will be TFCU's 18th branch.

### **Kimberly-Clark Corp. pouring \$120 million into Jenks mill expansion**

Tulsa World - March 1, 2019

JENKS — Kimberly-Clark is making at least a \$120 million investment that will add more than 50 full-time jobs to its facility in Jenks. The multi-phased project, which will expand the Jenks mill by 270,000 square feet and install new assets for manufacturing Kleenex folded tissue products and Scott bath tissue, is expected to be completed in 2020.

### **DoubleShot Coffee to open new downtown facility**

Tulsa World - March 1, 2019

DoubleShot Coffee Co. announced Friday that it will open its new location at 1633 S. Boulder Ave. at 7 a.m. Tuesday. The new DoubleShot at The Rookery spans 6,000 square feet and features an enclosed roaster with a viewing window, an expanded bakery, multi-level loft seating and a patio, according to a news release. Owner Brian Franklin opened DoubleShot exactly 15 years ago Tuesday at 18th Street and Boston Avenue.

## Layoffs, Closings, Downsizes, Restructures

### Allen's Coney closing after 35 years in Brookside

Tulsa World - March 20, 2019

Allen's Coney Island, a mainstay in Brookside for 35 years, has announced it will close April 26. Diane and Allen Hynes started the restaurant in 1984 on 61st Street just west of Peoria Avenue, next to the original location for Mondo's. It moved to the Brook Plaza Shopping Center at 51st Street and Peoria Avenue 25 years ago.

### Charlotte Russe to close all stores, including Tulsa locations

Tulsa World - March 7, 2019

National women's clothing retailer Charlotte Russe announced Thursday immediate plans to liquidate and close all its stores across the country. The closings include the locations at Woodland Hills and Promenade malls. Charlotte Russe filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in early February and announced plans to shutter 94 stores. The two Tulsa locations were not listed among those to be closed; however, the Promenade location was already slated to be closed prior to the bankruptcy filing.

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## Comparative Unemployment Rates

Period	County %	MSA %	State %	U.S. %
2019 February	3.4	3.5	3.5	4.1
2018 February	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.4

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