

July 2016

Spotlight on the Market

[Fifth Street extension opens downtown at Civic Center plaza](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - July 30, 2016

The long-planned and long-awaited Fifth Street extension into the Civic Center plaza opened to traffic Friday afternoon. The project had been looked at for years to give better access to the plaza's Tulsa County Courthouse, Aloft Tulsa Downtown Hotel and the Tulsa Central Library, which also has a long-awaited grand reopening that remains pending.

[Tulsa Ballet opens New Hardesty Dance Center](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - July 27, 2016

Hardesty Center for Dance Education is the new ballet school that Tulsa Ballet has constructed near the intersection of 145th East Avenue and 101st Street in Broken Arrow. The 21,000-square-foot facility, which will open to the public Saturday, is the centerpiece of Tulsa Ballet's \$25 million fundraising campaign called "Defining the Future," which was launched in June 2015. Approximately \$9 million of the campaign's total was earmarked for the construction of the new school.

[City Year Tulsa receives greatest impact award](#)

Tulsa Business & Legal News - July 25, 2016

City Year Tulsa, an education-focused nonprofit that partners with public schools to help students stay on track to graduate, has received a "Best of City Year" award from the national organization, City Year. The award is given annually to select City Year sites that have performed exceptionally against numerous organizational goals. The award was announced at City Year's National Summit Leadership Academy Comcast NBCUniversal Leadership Awards in Boston on July 13, 2016.

[Tulsa State Fair Increases Offerings](#)

GTR Newspapers - July 25, 2016

Exciting changes are coming for the Tulsa State Fair and Expo Square. Future changes include the construction of a permanent main stage on the Expo Square grounds and the addition of seating plazas along the Fair's Midway. Fair organizers recently selected North American Midway Entertainment to oversee the Tulsa State Fair's Midway rides and attractions, starting with the 2016 Tulsa State Fair.

[Community Gives Over \\$100,000 to Street School](#)

GTR Newspapers - July 25, 2016

Street School, a national award-winning alternative education high school in Tulsa, raised \$102,911 in three weeks in June after oil and gas company Canada Company announced its Double Impact challenge. When Carol Robinson, president of Canada Company, learned Street School would be facing a budget shortfall of \$107,000 she offered to match, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000 for all donations received for this fiscal year ending June 30.

[Tulsa Sports Commission a Monetary Winner](#)

GTR Newspapers - July 25, 2016

A million here and a million there, the Tulsa Sports Commission has provided a \$300 million impact for the local economy. With that kind of monetary muscle, Tulsa is transforming into one of America's premier amateur athletics hubs, and the TSC is pulling the strings behind the curtain. Formed in 1993, the Tulsa Sports Commission serves under the umbrella of the Tulsa Regional Chamber, Regional Tourism and the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Trinidad says it came about when local businessmen wanted to attract a March basketball tournament to Tulsa and they secured the Conference USA event.

[BetaBlox Startup Incubator Teams Up With OII](#)

GTR Newspapers - July 25, 2016

BetaBlox, one of the largest startup incubators in the Midwest, is teaming up with the Oklahoma Innovation Institute (OII) to bring their successful entrepreneurship program to Tulsa. BetaBlox is a startup accelerator that helps early-stage entrepreneurs quickly build their business through coaching on lean startup models, modern customer acquisition channels and raising investment funds. While other community organizations address many of the needs of Tulsa entrepreneurs,

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Tulsa City-County Library
400 Civic Center
Tulsa, OK 74103
www.tulsalibrary.org



Phone: 918-549-7431
Fax: 918-549-7433
Email: wizard@tulsalibrary.org

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there is still a significant gap for early stage companies and entrepreneurs needing to receive specific, start-up focused entrepreneur-to-entrepreneur training and mentorship.

Texas firm completes purchase of CrossTimbers Marina

Tulsa World (OK) - July 23, 2016

A Dallas-based marina firm announced Friday that it has finalized the purchase of CrossTimbers Marina on Skiatook Lake. Suntex Marinas, which has interests in 12 states, bought the resort's 517 slips, marine store, restaurant, dock shop, service building, trailer storage and rental cottages. It will continue to invest in the physical assets of the facility, as well as new rental boats, amenities and events to expand and enhance the overall customer experience. Upgrades to the marine store with increased merchandise are planned, and management intends to add a Suntex Boat Club next season.

Port traffic increases significantly over last year

Tulsa Business & Legal News - July 22, 2016

More than a million tons of cargo was moved over the wharves at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa during the first six months of the year, a 38.6 percent increase over the comparable period of 2015. The 1.07 million tons going through the port on 631 barges in the first half of this year was greater than the 1.05 million tons on 634 barges at the same point in 2011 when the total for the year was 2.16 million tons and 1,249 barges.

Wave of specialty stores taking hold at Tulsa shopping centers

Tulsa World (OK) - July 21, 2016

The decline of the department store has been well-documented. Lagging earnings and store closures litter the news, both nationally and locally, including the recent demise of Miss Jackson's in Utica Square. A new wave of specialty stores is invading the shopping mall scene in Tulsa, mirroring the national trend as mall companies and property managers look to get the most out of their square footage and drive traffic in other ways. The newest tenants at these key shopping centers, and others, are specialty stores that focus on a certain demographic and they're also adding restaurants that market more of an experience and don't try to be all things to all people.

City leaders readying Vision Tulsa project schedule

Tulsa World (OK) - July 17, 2016

The city has about seven months before Vision Tulsa tax money starts to roll in, and a group of officials is working to schedule 33 projects and allocate more than \$500 million over the life of the 15-year tax. Paul Zachary, director of engineering services for the city, said the group is in the fact-finding phase and is meeting with project leaders to better define exact needs. In April, Tulsa voters approved the Vision Tulsa sales-tax package, which renewed Vision2025's 0.6 percent tax.

The New Owasso City Hall

Tulsa World (OK) - July 16, 2016

On Saturday, July 9, more than 50 city staff packed up all their belongings and relocated from the original City Hall at 111 N. Main St. to the new building at 200 S. With a \$2.5-million price tag, the renovations covered a variety of important aesthetic and architectural changes, including a newly designed public lobby, new carpet and flooring, upgraded light fixtures, fresh landscaping, and up-to-date signage, to name a few.

Owasso hosts Googlefest for businesses, educators

Tulsa World (OK) - July 16, 2016

It seems that Owasso is the ideal place for multinational technology company Google to host its giant Googlefest OK 2016 conference. The corporation held the annual event — its fourth and largest to date for Oklahoma — on Tuesday, July 12 at the Tulsa Tech Owasso campus, where it brought together more than 500 local professionals to learn about all things Google.

Many city improvements underway in Glenpool

Tulsa World (OK) - July 11, 2016

GLENPOOL — Glenpool's southern horizon is changing with a large water tower now in view. The construction is part of a spectrum of improvements throughout the city of Glenpool that are underway or preparing to break ground. Projects include renovation of the senior citizen building, a new water tower, sidewalks, soccer fields and street maintenance. Glenpool's growth has no indication of slowing with new several neighborhood developments in the works. Recent U.S. Census Bureau data revealed Glenpool is the fastest growing city in Oklahoma with a population increase of 9.9 percent from 2014-2015.

BTC Broadband expanding its footprint north and south

Tulsa Business & Legal News - July 8, 2016

A 102-year-old family company is bringing the latest technology to south Tulsa and beyond. Bixby-based BTC Broadband announced the acceleration of a major fiber optic expansion south and north of the city. The expansion will also feature providing fiber optic technology for Collinsville Public Schools, the Collinsville Business District and the northern part of Tulsa.

Oklahoma Innovation Institute kicks off two new programs, graduates Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance

Tulsa World (OK) - July 6, 2016

The past few weeks have been especially busy ones for Oklahoma Innovation Institute, a nonprofit committed to building an innovative economy in the Tulsa region. The launch period for Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance, the institute's answer to the need for growing STEM programs in the area, has come to an end. As Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance moves on, the institute is turning its incubation efforts to beginning two new initiatives with the goals of increasing the number of commercially viable businesses that enter the marketplace and of helping the fledglings get through the earliest stages of the entrepreneurship

process.

Philbrook named 'most beautiful' place in Oklahoma

Tulsa World (OK) - July 6, 2016

House Beautiful magazine has decided Tulsa's Philbrook Museum of Art is the most beautiful place in the state of Oklahoma. Philbrook Museum of Art is now considered one of the country's finest art museums, serving more than 150,000 visitors each year through innovative programming that has earned the museum national acclaim.

Oklahoma Innovation Institute welcomes NSU to Tulsa Research Partners

Tulsa Business & Legal News - July 5, 2016

Northeastern State University has become the newest member of Tulsa Research Partners, a collaborative, multi-disciplinary research partnership for institutions of higher learning in the Tulsa area. TRP is an initiative of the Oklahoma Innovation Institute.

Expansions, Openings, Relocations, Acquisitions

RCB Bank purchases Kansas-based CornerBank

Tulsa World (OK) - July 29, 2016

Officials with RCB Bank announced the acquisition of all nine CornerBank locations in Kansas on Friday. RCB bought the locations based in Arkansas City, Douglass, Lawrence, Oxford, Wellington, Wichita and Winfield. All the locations will transfer to RCB immediately, and customer service at those locations will not be interrupted. Founded in Claremore in 1936, RCB Bank is a \$2.8 billion community bank with more than 600 employees and 51 locations, including two each in Owasso and Broken Arrow.

Rimrock Resource Partners announces SCOOP assets acquisition

Tulsa World (OK) - July 28, 2016

Tulsa-based Rimrock Resource Partners announced Thursday that the company has completed a \$150 million acquisition of assets in the South Central Oklahoma Oil Province, or 'SCOOP,' play from an undisclosed seller. The oil and gas assets cover approximately 24,500 net leasehold acres that are 100 percent held by production; approximately 2,100 barrels of oil equivalent per day; and 3,100 net mineral acres located predominately in the Golden Trend portion of the SCOOP play.

Chevron Phillips Chemical celebrates completion of new polyethylene pilot plant

Tulsa World (OK) - July 28, 2016

A ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrated the completion of the next-generation polyethylene pilot plant that enables polyethylene research, such as new catalyst and polymer development, to take place on a pilot scale prior to implementation in full-scale operations like those that will take place at Chevron Phillips Chemical's soon-to-open \$6 billion petrochemicals project on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Jackson Tech Breaks Ground

GTR Newspapers - July 25, 2016

Sticking to its downtown roots, but expanding into its own headquarters, Jackson Technical has broken ground for an 18,878 square foot new office building and training center in Downtown Tulsa. This will be a major expansion for the IT services company including additional employees, a training center and venue for hosting outside industry groups with access to state-of-the-art AV equipment and ample parking. Jackson Technical has been listed in INC 5000's fastest-growing private companies in America in 2013, 2014, 2015.

Mississippi company Ergon to acquire Blueknight's general partner

Tulsa World (OK) - July 21, 2016

Blueknight Energy Partners LP announced this week that its general partner is being purchased by a subsidiary of Mississippi-based Ergon Inc. The transaction is expected to close by the end of September. Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions Inc. agreed to purchase 100 percent of the membership interests of Blueknight GP Holding LLC, which owns all outstanding membership interests of Blueknight Energy Partners GP LLC. Blueknight Energy Partners is an Oklahoma City-based midstream energy company that employs approximately 45 people in its Tulsa office.

Harsco Industrial Air-X-Changers celebrates first shipment on heavy haul road

Tulsa World (OK) - July 19, 2016

Harsco Industrial Air-X-Changers reached a milestone last weekend when the company shipped its first cooler via a new heavy-haul road that connects southeast Tulsa's CenterGate Business Park to East 61st Street. Accompanied by an Oklahoma Highway Patrol escort because of the unit's size, the 95,000-pound cooler was sent on its way early Sunday morning. The 65-foot-by-24-foot cooler is expected to come online during the fourth quarter of this year at its final destination, a cryo processing plant in the Permian Basin.

Company buys engineering firm that has office in Claremore

Tulsa World (OK) - July 19, 2016

Olsson Associates, a national engineering and design firm, announced Monday that it has acquired Tri-State Engineering, a 20-person engineering firm with offices in Claremore and Joplin, Missouri. Olsson had made public its acquisition plans early this month. TSE will maintain its employees and its offices, including its site at 403 W. First St. in Claremore.

Jimmy's Egg planning 52 new locations

Tulsa World (OK) - July 19, 2016

EDMOND — Jimmy's Egg has signed six new franchise agreements to double the size of the Oklahoma-based restaurant chain and expand into three new states. Edmond-based Jimmy's Egg Franchise Systems said Monday that it had signed six new area development agreements to open 52 restaurants in Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Nebraska and Iowa. The chain currently has 51 locations across three states. Four Tulsa-area restaurants can be found in Brookside, at 31st Street and Memorial Drive, and in Broken Arrow and Bixby.

Magellan Midstream to construct new Gulf Coast marine terminal

Tulsa World (OK) - July 15, 2016

Tulsa-based Magellan Midstream Partners announced Thursday plans to construct a new high-capacity marine terminal along the Houston Ship Channel in Pasadena, Texas, to handle refined petroleum products, including various grades of gasoline and diesel fuel, and renewable fuels. The new terminal will be built on nearly 200 acres of recently acquired land and is supported by a long-term customer commitment. Magellan initially plans to build storage for approximately 1 million barrels of refined products and ethanol, as well as a new marine dock capable of handling Panamax-sized ships or barges with up to a 40-foot draft.

NORDAM selected as supplier for F-35 Joint Strike Fighter

Tulsa World (OK) - July 13, 2016

NORDAM announced Tuesday that it has been selected by Northrop Grumman Corporation to manufacture major structural components for the F-35 center fuselage. The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is a fifth-generation combat aircraft designed to replace a wide range of aging fighter and strike aircraft for the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, as well as allied nations defense forces worldwide. As a supplier to Northrop Grumman, NORDAM will produce three of the aircraft's internal parts made entirely from composite materials.

NORDAM announces new contracts with Airbus, Embraer

Tulsa World (OK) - July 12, 2016

NORDAM, the Tulsa-based aerospace company that employs 2,500 worldwide, announced Monday that it has received new contracts with two industry heavyweights — French company Airbus and Brazilian company Embraer. NORDAM CEO Meredith Siegfried Madden announced the company's newest contract with Airbus to supply a structural component for the aircraft manufacturer.

Two gas processing facilities completed in Oklahoma

Tulsa World (OK) - July 12, 2016

OKLAHOMA CITY — Two new natural gas processing plants have become operational in central Oklahoma, highlighting the continued focus on the region despite the ongoing two-year industry downturn. Enable Midstream Partners LP's newest natural gas processing plant is fully operational, capable of processing up to 200 million cubic feet of natural gas per day, the partnership announced Monday. The Bradley II Plant is in Grady County, where Enable's pipeline infrastructure and processing facilities can support natural gas production in the SCOOP and STACK plays.

EMSA beginning construction on headquarters expansion

Tulsa World (OK) - July 12, 2016

EMSA is making room for storage and training needs with a two-story addition to its longtime Tulsa headquarters, officials said. Steve Williamson, CEO of the Emergency Medical Services Authority, said the agency has outgrown the facility it moved into in 1986. Construction starts this month and is expected to conclude in one year. It will add 16,000 square feet of office space to EMSA's building at 1417 N. Lansing Ave., Williamson said.

Tulsa's NGL Energy Partners reports second open season for Grand Mesa Pipeline

Tulsa World (OK) - July 7, 2016

Tulsa-based NGL Energy Partners announced Thursday the launch of a second binding open season for its Grand Mesa Pipeline. The solicitation period for shippers to sign up for a portion of the capacity rights on the Grand Mesa lasts until 5 p.m. July 28. NGL Energy previously held an open season for the Grand Mesa, a 550-mile pipeline that will originate in northern Colorado and extend to Cushing, in the fall of 2014. The company said the current binding open season is a result of additional shipper interest.

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Comparative Unemployment Rates

Period	County %	MSA %	State %	U.S. %
2016 June	5.1	5.4	5.3	5.1
2015 June	4.4	4.7	4.8	5.5

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