

November 15, 2011

Spotlight on the Market

[Founder of fitness company gets nod](#)

Tulsa World (OK) – November 16, 2011

For the first time in five years, women swept the SpiritBank/Tulsa Community College Entrepreneurial Spirit Award competition, walking away with all three cash prizes. Kristen Ross, founder of PregoFIT, was awarded the \$30,000 grand prize from SpiritBank.

[Timing success in Tulsa: Developers assess downtown's growth, potential](#)

Journal Record, The (Oklahoma City, OK) - November 8, 2011

Momentum is growing for downtown, according to a diverse panel of Tulsa business leaders, developers and economic development officials. -It is a good time to invest in a downtown Tulsa business,- said Delise Tomlinson, executive director of downtown development for the Tulsa Metro Chamber. -Momentum is growing and businesspeople need to get on the boat now before they miss out.- The Metro Chamber sponsored the panel, -Investing in Downtown Tulsa,- Tuesday at Tulsa Community College downtown. The five panelists discussed opportunities, challenges and regional economic benefits of investing in downtown Tulsa.

[Tulsa is No. 4 for job hunting](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - November 8, 2011

Tulsa is among the nation's 10 best places to find a job, according to a report on the The Fiscal Times website. The site ranks the Tulsa metro No. 4 among the 100 largest U.S. metros based on its rate of job generation over the past 12 months compared with the number of jobs it had in September 2010. The Fiscal Times used information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

[Oklahoma Gov. Fallin previews clean-energy initiative](#)

Journal Record, The (Oklahoma City, OK) - November 7, 2011

Gov. Mary Fallin said on Monday she will announce a major clean-energy initiative creating hundreds of jobs in Oklahoma and several other states. Fallin previewed her energy initiative while addressing 435 government and civic leaders at a Broken Arrow Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Monday at the Broken Arrow campus of Northeastern State University. Fallin will make the announcement with Democrat Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper.

[Oklahoma ranked 13th in state business climate](#)

Tulsa World (OK) - November 2, 2011

Oklahoma ranks lucky No. 13 in Site Selection magazine's Top Business Climate for 2011 list, up from No. 23 last year. The annual business climate ranking, which appears in the magazine's November issue, is determined 50 percent by a tax climate criterion and the states' performance in Conway Data's New Plant Database, which tracks new and expanded business facility activity, and 50 percent by the survey of corporate site selectors. The data-driven part of the survey is comprised of five subcategories: the state's ranking of total new and expanded facilities the previous year, total projects per million population, competitiveness, qualified new plant projects year to date and the states' 2011 business tax climate, according to the magazine.

[Google makes websites free for local businesses](#)

Tulsa Business Journal—November 1, 2011

Google today announced the Oklahoma Get Your Business Online program, which will help drive economic growth by giving Oklahoma businesses the tools and resources to establish a website and find new customers.

[Tulsa to host entrepreneurship events](#)

Journal Record, The (Oklahoma City, OK) - October 31, 2011

Every year there is a growing number of people who want to kick the tires of entrepreneurialism and explore the potential of creating their own job through starting a company, said Sean Griffin, co-founder and CEO of BizXe and chairman of Tulsa Global Entrepreneurship Week. Each year during the third week in November, GEW provides a dependable

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avenue to better understand what is required to start a company and quickly plug into the expanding collection of entrepreneurial programming, said Griffin.

Report: Oklahoma among top states adding wind capacity

Journal Record, The (Oklahoma City, OK) - October 25, 2011

Oklahoma ranked third highest in adding wind capacity in the most recent quarter, according to the American Wind Energy Association's report issued on Tuesday. Oklahoma added 130 megawatts during the three-month period of July, August and September, the AWEA reported. It followed Colorado, which installed the most wind capacity with 501 MW; then Minnesota, with 163 MW. West Virginia followed Oklahoma with 98 MW. Texas rounded out the top five states with 88 MW.

Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department executive director: Regional travel boosts tourism department, state

Journal Record Legislative Report (Oklahoma City, OK) - October 24, 2011

With state tourism growth exceeding national averages, Deby Snodgrass voiced cautious optimism Monday on both Oklahoma industry fortunes and her departmental operations. -While there's been an economic downturn nationally, what we're seeing is more people are traveling regionally,- the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department executive director said Monday after opening the two-day Governor's Conference on Tourism, sponsored by the Oklahoma Travel Industry Association.

BA gives \$20,000 to Tulsa Future II

Tulsa World (OK) - October 22, 2011

BROKEN ARROW - Consolidating police and fire services is a controversial idea, but the city of Tulsa and its suburbs agree on the regional approach when it comes to attracting jobs. The Broken Arrow Economic Development Authority took action earlier this week to make its first \$20,000 contribution to the Tulsa Metro Chamber's "Tulsa's Future II," a five-year economic development plan with a goal of creating 10,000 jobs in the region with annual salaries of at least \$50,000.

Mixing it up in Tulsa's Brady District: Project positions SJS, neighborhood for growth

Journal Record, The (Oklahoma City, OK) - October 20, 2011

Thursday's \$11 million hotel construction launch gives developer SJS Hospitality a set of unique growth opportunities. The 104-room Fairfield Inn and Suites project delivers several benefits on its own. Its 11,000 square feet of first-floor retail opens doors to more service businesses just across the street from American Residential Group's \$11 million Metro at Brady Arts District apartment project and Tribune Lofts.

More investors eyeing energy-related properties in Oklahoma

Journal Record, The (Oklahoma City, OK) - October 18, 2011

Not only is the strength in the energy sector boosting Oklahoma's economy, it also is having a tremendous impact on the state's commercial real estate sector. Expanding energy firms have been responsible for a bulk of the office and industrial sales and leases that have transpired over the past year in both Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Expansions, Openings, Relocations, Acquisitions

Direct Energy set to hire 115

Tulsa World (OK) - November 16, 2011

Direct Energy announced Tuesday it will hold a job fair later this week as it prepares to hire 115 new employees in Tulsa over several months. The new jobs, part of Direct Energy's planned expansion of its customer operations center in Tulsa, will add \$7 million in wages to the area, the company estimated. The positions include customer contract management, information technology and training, among others.

Finishing touches

Tulsa World (OK) - November 11, 2011

The address is familiar to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma employees, but the office definitely isn't. The Tulsa-based insurance provider, which has a 430-member workforce just south of downtown, is putting the finishing touches on a sweeping \$13 million renovation of one of its two office buildings. Mercedes Millberry, a company spokeswoman, said the seven-story office building at 1400 S. Boston Ave. was gutted and renovated to help cut overhead, as well as improve the work experience for employees.

Local insurance company makes offer

Tulsa World (OK) - November 11, 2011

Tulsa-based Trinity Life Insurance Co. announced Thursday it has begun a tender offer to acquire all outstanding shares of common stock of Jefferson City, Mo.-based Family Benefit Life Insurance Co. The offer being made is at a price of \$11.05 per share net to the holder in cash, without interest and less any required withholding taxes. Shareholders of Family Benefit Life will be mailed materials soon. Trinity Life's tender offer update follows recent news that it had signed an agreement to acquire for cash all of the issued and outstanding common shares of Family Benefit Life from its shareholders.

Casino kicks off work on 3rd tower

Tulsa World (OK) - November 9, 2011

The next step in the ongoing growth of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa officially kicked off Tuesday with the ground-breaking of the resort's \$52 million third hotel tower. When complete, the 10-story structure will add 100 suites to the existing 356 rooms and more than 55,000 square feet of entertainment and gaming space. The lower gaming area is slated to be finished in nine months, with the upper hotel area following three months later.

Cherokee Services Group ranks No. 1 on Tulsa's Fast 40 list

Journal Record, The (Oklahoma City, OK) - November 9, 2011

With three-year revenue growth of more than 10,000 percent, Cherokee Services Group on Tuesday night received the top award at The Journal Record's inaugural Tulsa's Fast 40 event at the Hyatt Regency Tulsa. Rounding out the top five were BrightStar of Tulsa, Eagle Energy Company of Oklahoma LLC, Check-6 Inc. and Eloté Café & Catering.

Longtime restaurateur buys the French Hen

Tulsa World (OK) - November 9, 2011

Veteran restaurateur Kathy Bondy has purchased the French Hen, for three decades one of the finest fine-dining spots in Tulsa. "I just couldn't stand it anymore; restaurants are in my blood," said Bondy, who spent the past few years in the corporate world at Arby's. Bondy purchased the French Hen, 7143 S. Yale Ave., from the Clark family, which includes well-known chef Richard Clark.

Tulsa's Fast 40 profile: Eagle Energy Company of Oklahoma LLC

Journal Record, The (Oklahoma City, OK) - November 8, 2011

A third-generation oil and gas man from Oklahoma, Steve Antry has more than three decades of experience in the industry. Antry has used the lessons he has learned from past successes and failures to help him succeed in the industry. His latest venture – Eagle Energy Company of Oklahoma LLC – ranks as one of Tulsa's fastest-growing private companies.

Credit branch to locate downtown

Tulsa World (OK) - November 5, 2011

Tinker Federal Credit Union plans to open a downtown branch at 702 S. Main St., which once was the location of a Bank of America office. The Oklahoma City-based credit union says the site will likely open during the first quarter of 2012. The facility will have six drive-through lanes plus an ATM. It also has a small building to provide walk-in service, said Matt Stratton, senior vice president of marketing for the credit union.

Freddy's to open location Sunday in Broken Arrow

Tulsa World (OK) - November 5, 2011

A Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers location that will open Sunday in Broken Arrow is the first of seven new sites planned for the area. Freddy's has a corporate-owned location at 9311 E. 71st St. The Broken Arrow location at 1151 E. Hillside Drive is owned by Nick Esterline of Wichita, along with some partners. According to a news release, Esterline plans to open six more stores in the Tulsa metro area.

CFS joins state job program, predicts major expansion

Tulsa World (OK) - November 4, 2011

With a projection to hire 10,000 people over the next three years in five states, Tulsa-based debt collection company CFS II announced Thursday it has been accepted into the Oklahoma Quality Jobs Program through the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. CFS II says it plans to expand its operations from Tulsa to at least five states, with each of those states averaging 2,000 employees within three years.

Makeover: Tulsa hotel gets an upgrade

Tulsa World (OK) - November 3, 2011

The Courtyard by Marriott at 3340 S. 79th East Ave. recently completed a \$1.2 million renovation. The three-month project involved upgrading the lobby, front desk, meeting rooms and fitness room, and adding The Bistro restaurant. The 122-room hotel was built in 1997 and employs 26 people.

CVR Energy to buy Oklahoma's Gary-Williams Energy Corp.

Tulsa World (OK) - November 3, 2011

Sugar Land, Texas-based CVR Energy Inc. announced late Wednesday a definitive agreement to acquire Gary-Williams Energy Corp., its Wynnewood refinery and related assets for \$525 million, plus working capital estimated at \$100 million. CVR Energy will fund the acquisition with cash and \$250 million of additional debt financing to be put in place prior to closing. The transaction is expected to close by year end.

BBI expected to surpass franchise sales record

Tulsa Business News—November 1, 2011

Beautiful Brands International reported record net sales and store openings of its franchised brands for the first three quarters of 2011. BBI anticipates even stronger figures to close out the year and in the first quarter of 2012.

CNG conversion outfit opens shop

Tulsa World (OK) - October 26, 2011

A Utah-based company focused on compressed natural gas vehicles is expanding to a new facility in Tulsa, company and city officials said Tuesday. Go Natural CNG's 7,000 square-foot facility is at 4116 S. 88th East Ave. The company is expected to hire 10 people initially and possibly expand its workforce to 20 within six months. "Compressed natural gas as a fuel is no longer a niche market," Mayor Dewey Bartlett said.

Verizon exec: Wireless innovation spurs job growth in Oklahoma

Journal Record, The (Oklahoma City, OK) - October 25, 2011

Innovation by wireless carrier Verizon Wireless is driving job growth in Oklahoma, according to Steve Smith, regional president for Verizon Wireless. Smith discussed Verizon's presence in Oklahoma during a speech at the Tulsa Press Club on Tuesday. Verizon first entered the Oklahoma market in 2007 and had established a strong presence by 2009, Smith said.

Natural gas car dealership opens in Tulsa

Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise (OK) - October 24, 2011

CNG Auto Sales, a natural gas car dealership, opened its first location in Tulsa on Saturday. As part of its grand opening, CNG Auto Sales is sending "The Tulsa Flyer," an 800-mile range Ford F-250 compressed natural gas vehicle, from Los Angeles, Calif., to Washington, D.C. to promote the use of natural gas vehicle and independence from foreign oil. The Tulsa Flyer began its journey from Tulsa to L.A. on Oct. 14 and should arrive in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 27, becoming the first CNG passenger vehicle to travel across the U.S. The Ford F-250 is equipped with a tank capable of driving an extended range of 800 miles before refueling.

New hotel, retail slated for location downtown

Tulsa World (OK) - October 20, 2011

SJS Hospitality, the Tulsa group that purchased the former Atlas Life Building and converted it to a Courtyard by Marriott, is ready for construction on its second downtown hotel project. Ground is being broken Thursday on the \$11 million Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, located along Main Street between Archer and Brady streets. When the hotel is finished next fall, it will feature 104 rooms as well as 11,000 square feet of retail, restaurant and entertainment space at street level.

Layoffs, Closings, Moves, Restructures

Blitz U.S.A. files Chapter 11 bankruptcy

Tulsa World (OK) - November 15, 2011

MIAMI, Okla. - An influx of product liability lawsuits has prompted an Ottawa County-based company that specializes in gasoline cans to file bankruptcy and try to reorganize, the company's attorney said Monday. Blitz U.S.A./F3 Brands filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy Nov. 9, according to the company's website.

\$2 million Arrow payout proposed

Tulsa World (OK) - November 11, 2011

Read previous stories on the Arrow Trucking Co. bankruptcy. Arrow Trucking Co.'s bankruptcy trustee proposes to distribute \$2.09 million of bankruptcy estate assets to 676 former employees who have filed wage and employment law violation claims against the estate, court documents show. In a motion filed this week in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Tulsa, bankruptcy trustee Patrick J. Malloy III said the proposed second distribution to former employees and his proposed trustee fee of \$94,772.86 will leave a balance of \$123,612.75 in estate accounts.

Whirlpool to shut down Arkansas facility

Tulsa World (OK) - October 29, 2011

Whirlpool Corp. is shuttering its Fort Smith, Ark., facility and laying off more than 970 employees as the company cuts 10 percent of its North American and European work force. Whirlpool's announcement came Friday morning as the company reported \$177 million in third-quarter earnings but pledged to cut costs. The company said the closure is due to the decrease in demand for side-by-side refrigerators because of the weak economy.

Current & archive issues available at www.researchwizard.org.

Comparative Unemployment Rates

Period	County %	MSA %	State %	U.S. %
2011 Sep	6.3	6.4	5.8	8.8

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