

QUARTERLY NEWS

Superior Linen Services Announces Plant Expansion

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Superior Linen Service's Muskogee Division held a ribbon cutting ceremony and hosted an open house on Tuesday, May 20, 2003 to celebrate their new plant and equipment expansion. The \$1.8 million expansion included the addition of a second tunnel washer and 10,500 square feet of building space. Guests were invited for the special ceremony, a plant tour, and lunch following the event.

Special guest speakers included Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson, Tom Grey representing the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Sharon Keasler representing Senator Don Nickles, Curt Price representing Senator Jim Inhofe, Mayor Hershel McBride representing the City of Muskogee, Superior Linen President Douglas Waldman and Muskogee General Manager Jim Owens. Superior Linen Service was also presented with a proclamation signed by Oklahoma State Speaker of the House, Larry Adair, Oklahoma State Representative Barbara Staggs, and Oklahoma State Senator Ben Robinson. Other guests included several of Superior Linen's clients, as well as Muskogee community leaders. Superior Linen Service is a third generation family owned-and-operated business that originated in the late 60's as a small company with a handful of employees, primarily servicing the Tulsa metro area. During the past 30 years, it has grown to employ approximately 350 people in 3 separate production facilities located in Tulsa, Muskogee and Springdale, AR and four distribution centers located in Oklahoma City, Ft. Smith, AR, Springfield, MO, and Wichita, KS.



Superior Linen Company President Douglas Waldman, along with several special guests, cuts the ribbon after announcing their expansion.

specifically for the healthcare industry, in order to maintain sanitation standards. Each week 275,000 pounds of clean linen is sent to Superior Linen customers. Each item processed through Superior Linen is cleaned, sanitized, inspected, and pressed. Other facilities are responsible for other linens such as napkins, table clothes, kitchen linens and garments, restroom supplies, non-slip and walk-in mats, dust control supplies, first-aid supplies, protective gloves and hotel sheets and towels.

As part of Superior Linen's superior service, the company also assists customers in determining what products they need, how much, and how often they need them. Their quality products and excellent reputation have contributed towards their growth, and made them a standard bearer in their industry, as well as a company that Oklahoma and the City of Muskogee is proud to call their own.

THREE FORKS HARBOR CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

A groundbreaking ceremony held at Three Forks Landing on Friday, March 28, 2003 kicked off the construction of a major project that was envisioned nearly 30 years ago. The Three Forks Harbor Project entails the development of a harbor complex which includes the development of a marina, a river center, an amphitheatre, a boat ramp with capabilities to launch 80 foot water craft, opportunities for private investment, and the development of a trail system reaching along the banks of the Arkansas, Grand and Verdigris Rivers through the towns of Ft. Gibson and Okay to Vann's Marsh and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife office located on Highway 69. Phase One, due to be completed in October of 2004, is currently underway with a majority of the work to be completed by October of this year. The site of Three Forks Harbor, located east of the Arkansas River and south of Highway 62, is rapidly changing as the infrastructure for the project is constructed.

The physical location of the project offers many unique advantages and will make the project one-of-a-kind for water resource development in the nation. The location offers an opportunity to take advantage of a body of water along the Arkansas River that was already in existence. During the construction of the Highway 62 bridge over the Arkansas River, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation dug material from the site to build up the banks of the bridge, creating what is known as a borrow pit. The pit will become Three Forks Harbor after it is dewatered, deepened and a 50-foot channel is cut between the Harbor and the Arkansas River.

The physical location of the project also offers unique educational and historical opportunities that will increase the value and use of the navigation system, highways,

flood plains, historical sites and trails that already exist. The banks of the Arkansas River have lain undisturbed for over 100 years, creating an opportunity to view nature and wildlife in its truest form. In the 1800's, Three Forks was a nationally known geographic feature considered the Gateway to the West as some of American's largest corporations (fur traders) set up shop and traded across the river with the Osage Indians who roamed the plains west of the Arkansas River. Furthermore, the development of the harbor will allow visitors easy accessibility to passive waterfront activities on the McClellan-Kerr Waterway meaning that one would not have to own a boat or a fishing pole to enjoy the recreational opportunities surrounding the waterway and the harbor, as well as take advantage of Oklahoma's invaluable water resources created over 50 years ago by the US Army Corp of Engineers.

Three Forks Harbor is largely federally funded through a variety of different government agencies. Approximately \$7 million in federal and local matching funds are currently available for the Three Forks Harbor Project with \$1million needed in private investment and other funding sources to complete all aspects of the project.

Three Forks Harbor will be a main attraction for Muskogee, surrounding communities and the State of Oklahoma, providing opportunities for growth, economic development and tourism. For more information or if your organization would like a presentation on Three Forks Harbor contact the Port of Muskogee at (918) 682-7886 or Lisa Clark at (918) 683-2816.

Contact Joyce at
Muskogee
Development
(683-2816)
for
information on
displaying *your*
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MUSKOGEE COUNTY SECOND ANNUAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY

The Muskogee Development in conjunction with the Indian Capital Technology Center, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the Muskogee Chamber of Commerce hosted the 2nd Annual Entrepreneurship Day on Tuesday, April 8th, 2003. The day-long event provided approximately 30 attendees valuable information on small business start-ups and on operating small businesses.

Sessions included: **Starting a Business in Oklahoma** presented by Michelle Thompson from the Oklahoma Tax Commission and Phil Harmer from the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, **Loans and Other Financing Options** presented by L.V. Watkins of the VerdArkCa Development Corporation, **The SBA's 8(a) Certification Program**

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WORKFORCE OKLAHOMA

NEWS FROM LABOR MARKET #22 MUSKOGEE CENTER

SUBMITTED BY: DEBI BUSCH

The workforce development system continually strives to meet the needs of local businesses as well as serve the job seeker in search of employment.

Dal-Tile has successfully utilized the services offered at the Muskogee Workforce Center to aid in staffing their new facility. Workforce Oklahoma has taken over 3,000 applications at the centers and processed 872 assessments for the new manufacturing plant. Indian Capital Technology Center, a partner in workforce development, has played a vital role in the training process for Dal-Tile which has hired 250 employees thus far. Jeff Garland, HR Manager for Dal-Tile, anticipates production of the first of their product line by month end.

The Workforce Oklahoma Centers in both Muskogee and Wagoner continues to experi-

ence a steady increase in the usage of their facilities with over with 5200 persons participating in various services during the months of April and May. Additional computer workstations were added to the Muskogee Center (717 So. 32nd) to facilitate job seekers in their search for employment. Enrollment in GED classes has increased as prospective employees strive to enhance their basic employment skills.

June is the beginning of the summer youth programs for the Muskogee labor market. Workforce partners provide local youth with learning based activities geared toward employment goals. This provides young adults with the opportunities to learn outside of the traditional classroom environment.

WORKFORCE OKLAHOMA

NEWS FROM LABOR MARKET #24 TAHLEQUAH CENTER

SUBMITTED BY: TIM HIGHT

With a record year of unemployment, the Tahlequah labor market has seen a dramatic increase in the number of people served for fiscal year 2003. With two months left, the Tahlequah system has recorded nearly 9370 total applicants. This number is up considerably from last year. Unemployment has seen a slight decline in the Tahlequah labor market with an average unemployment rate of

7.36%.

In other news, recently, members of the Stilwell Workforce Oklahoma center participated in the Stilwell Strawberry Festival. Center staff decorated and rode a float in the annual parade. Following the parade the Workforce Center was open to the public all day.

MUSKOGEE COUNTY SECOND ANNUAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY

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presented by Ella Banks of the Small Business Administration, OKC, **What is**

www.okonestop.com? presented by Richard Schwalbach of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, **Selling to the Government**

presented by John Hassler the Bid Assistance Coordinator from the Indian Capital Technology Center, **Workers Compensation**

& Business Insurance presented by Jeff Morrison from Worker Comp and Larry Hoffman a Business Insurance professional, **Home Based Business** presented by Glen Muske of the OSU Cooperative Extension Services, **Doing Business on the Internet**

presented by Carlos Moreno of Toy Drum Web and Media, **Advertising and Marketing** presented by Davie Spindle of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, **How to Write a Business Plan** presented by Glen Muske of the

OSU Cooperative Extension Service, and **LEAN Manufacturing** presented by Win Adams of the Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence.

Entrepreneurship and small business continue to be an important sources of job creation in the State of Oklahoma. According to the United States Small Business Administration's Office of Accountability, 97.4% of all businesses in Oklahoma are classified as small businesses, and an estimated 163,242 individuals are self-employed. Small businesses employ 54% of the state's 1,171,356 employees.

Additional information on small businesses and entrepreneurship can be found at **www.sba.gov**. For additional information on the sessions offered at the Muskogee County Entrepreneurship Day, contact Connie Cunningham at (918) 687-6383 ext. 255.

Thinking about moving to a new location?

Need a customer analysis?

Want to know where your customers are located?

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.muskogeedevelopment.org

Muskogee Development Q & A

Upcoming Events!!

Muskogee Development/ Oklahoma Center for Rural Development Economic Development Lab Open House

End of July- date to be
determined

Muskogee Parks and Recreation

Block Party- Rainbow Amphitheatre next to Honor Heights Park

July 24, 2004

Muskogee Development Staff:

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Lisa Clark- Director of Marketing &
Research
Joyce Wooten- Office Manager

Debi Busch- Operator, Muskogee
Workforce Center
Tim Hight- Operator, Tahlequah
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