

RESTAURANT

Industry Insight

CraftWorks plans to open 10 franchised locations in 2018.

Front Burner Restaurants hired Allyn Taylor (formerly with **Zoe's Kitchen**) as Chief Development Officer for **Velvet Taco**.

Jimmy Johns brought in Stephen Piacentini as the new Chief Development Officer.

Nekter Franchise Inc. hired Philip Notaro as Director of Construction.

Punch Bowl Social expects to expand from 14 locations to 25 in the next 18 months.

Wahlburgers franchisee Hy-Vee opened its first restaurant in Mall of America. None of the 26 planned Hy-Vee Wahlburgers locations will be located inside of a supermarket, but they will be located within markets that Hy-Vee operates.

Financial Focus

Carlisle, the tenth largest **Wendy's** franchisee, acquired 46 restaurants in Alabama and Florida from the Wendco Group, a Wendy's franchisee owned by Roger Webb.

FoodFirst Global Restaurants is the newly-formed parent company of **Brio Tuscan Grille** and **Bravo Cucina Italiana**. The company is headed by CEO Brad Blum, former **Olive Garden** President.

Manna Development Group acquired 38 Colorado **Panera Bread** locations from **Breads of the World**.

Meridian Restaurants Unlimited, a 100+ unit Burger King franchisee, was acquired by a newly formed private equity group, Polar Star Capital Partners.

On Location

Checkers is growing in New Jersey with plans to add 60 locations to its current count of 13 restaurants in the coming years.

Chipotle will move its corporate HQ from Denver to Southern California.

Fajita Pete's plans to open six Texas locations this year – Clear Lake, College Station, Cypress, Houston (Midtown), League City and Spring.

MOD Pizza will expand its Texas footprint with the opening of its first two Dallas/Fort Worth locations this summer. Chain Store Guide projects 100+ openings from MOD in 2018.

Nekter Franchise Inc. has stores slated to open this summer in the following markets - Jacksonville Beach, Coconut Creek, Tampa and Valrico, FL; Knoxville, TN; Eugene, OR; and Woodbury, MN.

Original ChopShop opened the third of seven new restaurants planned for 2018 with the next opening coming in Plano, TX.

Punch Bowl Social will debut a 12,500 sq. ft. concept, about half the size of its other locations, in Fort Worth this year.

Rise Biscuits Donuts will expand to the West Coast having entered into a franchise agreement with Bill Prosper to develop the San Fernando Valley and Ventura County.

Roy Rogers plans to increase its store count by 5 or 6 units per year in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Wendy's has a goal of remodeling 70 percent of its restaurants by 2020. To date, Wendy's reports that 44 percent of its existing stores have been remodeled.

RETAIL

Industry Insight

Home Depot will drop \$1.2 billion over the next 5 years to realign its supply chain, which includes adding 170 distribution facilities and direct fulfillment centers.

Home Depot has installed the largest, single solar rooftop array in Washington, DC at one of its area stores.

Hudson's Bay Company has announced plans to close 10 Lord & Taylor locations, including its iconic Fifth Avenue location in New York. The company said it would close the locations through 2019.

Lumber Liquidators opened its 400th store.

Menard Inc. is in the midst of expanding all 300 of its stores. The company has approximately 200 completed and looks to wrap up the process early next year.

Sears Holdings Corporation released a list of 63 underperforming Sears and Kmart stores set to close by September, after originally saying it planned to shutter 72 locations.

On Location

A.C. Moore Arts & Crafts Inc. will open a new format, to be called A.C. Moore Essentials, at Westmont Plaza, Haddon Township, NJ. The store, which will be about 12,000 sq. ft., is scheduled to open in July. The retailer is opening 13 stores this year, including its first locations in OH, and a second small format store, in Wall, NJ.

Dollar General Corp. has opened its 15th distribution center. The facility is located in Jackson, GA.

Lands' End Inc. opened a 5,000 sq. ft. store in Burlington, MA. It is the second of five stores the company plans to open in 2018.

Macy's Inc. plans to open a **Backstage** outlet store in two more malls in Dallas-Fort Worth, at Galleria Dallas and North East Mall in Hurst. Both stores will be almost 20,000 square feet of the existing buildings. The retailer plans to open 100 additional Backstage stores this year, and is also soon opening a distribution center for Backstage specifically in Columbus, OH.

Target Corporation signed a deal for its eighth Manhattan store. The store is expected to open in 2019.

GROCERY, DRUG, HEALTH & BEAUTY

Industry Insight

Southeastern Grocers announced that it has successfully completed its financial restructuring and has emerged from bankruptcy protection. The supermarket operator has nearly 100 remodels planned for 2018, with 28 already completed.

Financial Focus

Global Partners LLC has signed an agreement to purchase 10 company-operated gas stations and convenience stores from **Cheshire Oil Co. Inc.**

Global Partners LLC agreed to purchase 37 gas stations with Jiffy Mart-branded convenience stores in Vermont and New Hampshire from **Champlain Oil Company**.

Keith's Superstores has completed the acquisition of 12 gas stations and convenience stores in the southern Mississippi region from **Burns & Burns Oil Co.**

Yesway acquired 11 Pick A Dilly convenience stores in northeast Missouri from **Niemann Foods Inc.**

Yesway has acquired 13 Chisum Travel Center and Fast Stop convenience stores in Texas.

On Location

H-E-B announced plans to open a new distribution and manufacturing center in San Antonio, TX. The one million sq. ft. facility is set to open in 2020.

MOM's Organic Market opened its 19th location on June 1. The new 16,000 sq. ft. store is in Gaithersburg, MD.

Rutter's Holdings Inc. has opened its 70th convenience store, and its first outside of Pennsylvania, in Inwood, WV.

Stew Leonard's announced it will expand in New Jersey with a new location at the Paramus Park Mall.

Wawa Inc. announced it opened its 800th convenience store on May 24.

CHAIN STORE GUIDE

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