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Two new restaurants choose West Memphis for Mid-South debut



By [Susan Ellis](#) – Staff Reporter, Memphis Business Journal

Construction is set to begin in the fourth quarter of 2019 on two new restaurants in West Memphis.

The investment on the two projects is estimated to be \$3.5 million. The restaurants will be located on the I-40/I-55 service road.

Matchbox launched in the early 2000s and is known for its wood-fired pizzas and mini burgers. It has locations in D.C., Florida, Maryland, Texas, and Virginia.

Big Buns began when the founder considered regional variations and asked himself, "What is the best burger?" The restaurant, founded in 2017, serves classic burgers as well as designer burgers — The Mexican and Burger of the Moment, for example — as well as chicken burgers and burger bowls. It currently has two locations, both in Arlington, Virginia.

The deal was part of a West Memphis Economic Development incentive, offering \$30,000.

The 60 employees will have a combined salary of \$500,000, the company said.



It was unclear how many of the employees would be full-time salaried versus tipped employees. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Arkansas' minimum wage rate for tipped employees (those making more than \$20 in tips per month) is \$9.25 in basic combined cash and tip, with a minimum cash wage of \$2.63. The federal minimums are \$7.25 for basic combined cash and tip, and \$2.13 for cash wage. Tennessee and Mississippi do not have a state minimum wage, so the federal rates apply.