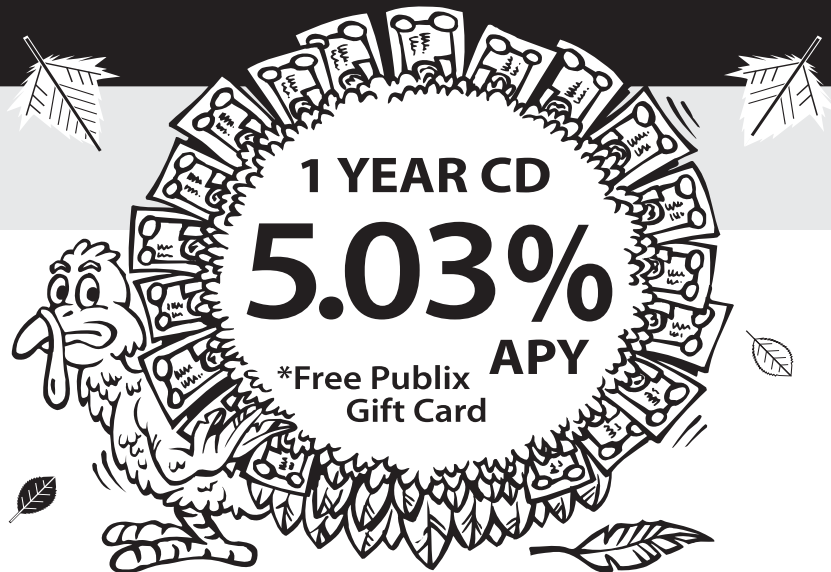


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Tax exemptions for manufacturers

BY ED REDLICH



Legislature recently approved two bills that will provide full sales tax exemptions on certain industrial machinery and equipment purchases for manufacturers – a consideration that some states have already provided to their business community.

House Bill 415 eliminated sales tax on industrial machinery and equipment used predominately for research and development activity. The second bill, House Bill 69, the “Florida Manufacturing Global Competitiveness Act”, eliminates sales tax for industrial machinery and equipment that can be proven to increase productivity by at least 10 percent.

The bills were crafted to promote

growth and trade within the manufacturing industry throughout the state.

Senator Mike Fasano (Republican/New Port Ritchie) indicated “...these two new bills put Florida manufactures on more equal footing with manufactures in other states and around the world.” Both went into effect on July 1st.

Redlich indicated these two new pieces of legislation supplement previous sales tax exemptions provided to the manufacturing sector. Earlier, Florida had provided manufacturers with sales tax and use exemptions for:

- Electricity usage
- Purchase of specific manufacturing machinery and equipment
- Parts and labor charges related to repairs on manufacturing machinery and equipment
- Certain boiler fuels
- Pollution control equipment

Local manufacturing firms desiring more information on these sales tax exemptions may contact Vision Council at 305-247-7082.

Ron Saunders on Health Care



Ron with son Ryan, 8.

“During my previous service as the State Representative for District 120 I sponsored and passed the Healthy Start Act which improves the health care of babies and provides prenatal care for at-risk pregnant women.

“When elected to my former seat in the Legislature, I will push for better State funding of Healthy Start and other prevention programs, and for Healthy Kids which provides health insurance to children in need of proper health care.”

Touch #73

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Speedway to host Inaugural Celebrity Golf Classic

BY JORDAN WILSON

Homestead-Miami Speedway announced that it will host the first Homestead-Miami Speedway Celebrity Golf Classic presented by Sprint Nextel Wednesday, November 15th, 2006. The Classic, which will be held at the world famous Doral Golf Resort and Spa, is an exciting new addition to the week of festivities celebrating NASCAR Ford Championship Weekend and the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series season finale.

The tournament is the first of several community impact programs being initiated by the Speedway, and will pair NASCAR celebrities, professional sports and entertainment figures with amateur golfers to play on Doral's legendary Blue Monster and Great White courses. All proceeds from the event will benefit The NASCAR Foundation, The Bouniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis (the Miami Project), and the Betty Jane France *Speediatrics* center at Homestead Hospital.

"With all the excitement building around our NASCAR Nextel Cup Championship, the Celebrity Golf Classic is a way for Homestead-Miami Speedway, Sprint Nextel, The NASCAR Foundation, and NASCAR to help two well-deserving South Florida health care projects," said Speedway president Curtis Gray. "The work and research being done by the Miami Project is world-renowned. All of us in auto racing are also very proud of the *Speediatrics* initiative, which began four years ago at Homestead Hospital, with the support of NASCAR."

Dean Kessel, director of NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series marketing for Sprint Nextel, shares Gray's excitement.

"Sprint Nextel's devotion to the NASCAR community and its many char-

itable causes is a commitment that has been met with much enthusiasm throughout our entire company," Kessel said. "What better way to celebrate the culmination of the 2006 season by partnering with Homestead-Miami Speedway and raising money for deserving charities like The NASCAR Foundation."

Nick Nicolosi, who has produced the Super Bowl NFL Golf Classic for over 20 years, will lend his expertise as Tournament Director of the Homestead-Miami Speedway Celebrity Golf Classic presented by Sprint Nextel. Under Nicolosi's management, the Super Bowl NFL Golf Classic has become one of the most popular and successful events of Super Bowl Week.

"With Nick's leadership, and the partnership of Homestead-Miami Speedway and sponsors like Sprint Nextel, this new event will become the premier golf tournament on the NASCAR circuit," Speedway president Gray said.

The Homestead-Miami Speedway Celebrity Golf Classic is open to amateur golfers who may enter as individuals or as part of a foursome. The entry fee of \$750 is a tax deductible contribution to the NASCAR Foundation. Each participant will receive a gift bag as well as a commemorative souvenir plaque featuring his or her photograph taken with their team and celebrity captain. Lunch will be served prior to the golf tournament and an informal awards party and memorabilia auction will follow. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams on each course.

Please contact Tournament Director, Nick Nicolosi at 201-489-0049 or via email at n.nicolosi@verizon.net for more information or to obtain invitations for this event.

Bo Boulenger named CEO of Baptist Hospital

Bo Boulenger has been named CEO of Baptist Hospital of Miami, 8900 N. Kendall Drive. The announcement was made by Baptist Health President and CEO Brian Keeley. Boulenger has been CEO at Baptist Health's Homestead Hospital the past 15 years. He succeeds Lee Huntley who accepted a position with Covenant Health in Knoxville, Tennessee.

"Bo's experience and successful track record made him the best candidate for the job," said Keeley. "His vision, talent and personal qualities will ensure a seamless transition and the continued success of Baptist Hospital."

In his new role, Boulenger is responsible for all clinical and administrative operations for the 577-bed hospital that includes Baptist Children's Hospital and Baptist Cardiac & Vascular Institute. With 4,300 employees and a medical staff of more than 1,400, Baptist Hospital is the second largest hospital in South Florida. Nearly 34,000 patients are admitted to the hospital each year.

"We have great confidence in Bo's leadership," said Calvin Babcock, chair of the Baptist Hospital Board of Directors. "He is deeply committed to the mission and values of our organization and brings a wealth of healthcare management experience to Baptist Hospital."

Boulenger joins the executive leadership team of Baptist Hospital at a critical time. The hospital recently broke ground on a \$122 million addition to its east campus — the largest expansion in its 46-year history. Scheduled for completion in early 2008, the project will bring the hospital's total bed count from 577 to 673 and double the size of the Emergency Center, making it the largest in the state.

Under Boulenger's leadership, Homestead Hospital climbed to the top

10 percent of similar sized hospitals in the country for performance on National Quality Measures. Last year, Homestead Hospital received the Hospital Performance Achievement

Award from the State's Medicare Quality Assurance Organization. The hospital was also honored with the Fire Starter Award from the Studer Organization for outstanding patient satisfaction.

He began his career as an administrative resident at South Miami Hospital in 1985. Boulenger was named assistant administrator one year later. He then served as vice president of operations at Homestead Hospital before assuming the role of CEO. He was the recipient of the 2003 Citizen of the Year from the Homestead Civitan Club. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and serves on the South Florida Hospital Association Board of Directors. He also is a member of the Homestead Rotary Club and the Homestead-Florida City Military Affairs Committee.

Boulenger is a past Chairman of the Homestead-Florida City Chamber of Commerce, and director of the Homestead YMCA and Leadership South Dade. He also has provided leadership to the Early Childhood Development Foundation, City of Homestead Community Relations Board and Transportation Committee, Homestead Sports Activity Board, Florida International University President's Advisory Committee and the Miami Dade College President's Advisory Committee.

Boulenger earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and a master's degree in health administration from Washington University in St. Louis. He and his wife Jill live in Homestead with their children, Nicole and Allen.



Bo Boulenger

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• Chamber in Action •

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON



Bill Flynn, holding a ceremonial Main Street sign presented to him by members of the Homestead City Council. Pictured - Councilman Jeff Porter, Bill Flynn- Ford Motor Racing, Councilwoman Lynda Bell, Vice-Mayor Steve Losner and Homestead Miami Speedway President Curtis Gray.

Ford Motor Company's Bill Flynn presented the September program at the Chamber's monthly general luncheon. Flynn is the North America Marketing Manager for Ford Racing Technology, a division of Ford Motor Company based in Dearborn, Michigan. He is also an adjunct professor of marketing at Eastern Michigan University. Flynn told the enthusiastic crowd how important the racing industry is to Ford, and illustrated the history of Ford's involvement in NASCAR.

LUNCH AND LEARN



In September the Chamber's Lunch and Learn featured Business Etiquette: Are You a Polished Professional? Ms. Melody Tyler of Tea for You facilitated the workshop.

She addressed the importance of focusing on improving customer service skills in person, on the phone and on line. She noted that poor customer service always affects a business' bottom line. During the lunch, catered by the Capri Restaurant, she conducted question and answer scenarios for the participants.

Call Tea for You with questions or to arrange an etiquette training session for your employees.

GOALS CONFERENCE



Bob Farnes, Executive Director of ArtSouth and immediate past chairman of the Chamber confers with Dr. Jeanne Jacobs, President of Miami-Dade College, Homestead Campus and Mary Finlan, Executive director of the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce.

The Homestead/ Florida City Chamber of Commerce Annual Goals & Planning Conference was held in September at the Homestead Campus of Miami-Dade College. The annual conference brought members of the chamber, local government and community leaders together to strategize short and long-term goals for the economic growth of the business community. Issues that were addressed included: workforce housing, transportation, schools and insurance.

NETWORKING BREAKFAST



Mike Flink, owner of the Redland Rib House on Krome Avenue and South West 248th Street was the host for September's Network Breakfast. Mike served a big breakfast, but his restaurant is best known for its excellent ribs and other barbecued delights. Once again, an overflow crowd of enthusiastic chamber members packed the restaurant and stayed overtime for the networking opportunities.