

MDA E-News January 4, 2010**Schulz to Locate Seamless Pipe Manufacturing Facility, Millions Awarded for Improvement Projects, Wilkerson to Lead MDA Tourism Division, National Media Journalists Visit/Write About Mississippi****In this issue:**

- [Schulz to Locate Seamless Pipe Manufacturing Facility in Mississippi, Create 500 Jobs in Five Years](#)
- [MDA Awards Nearly \\$4 Million for Infrastructure/Capital Improvement Projects around the State](#)
- [Wilkerson Assumes Position of MDA Tourism Division Director](#)
- [National Media Journalists Visit Mississippi through MDA Tours](#)

Schulz to Locate Seamless Pipe Manufacturing Facility in Mississippi, Create 500 Jobs in Five Years

Governor Haley Barbour and officials from Wilh. Schulz GMBH, a global supplier of piping components, have announced that the company has selected Tunica County, Miss., as the location for its new pipe manufacturing facility. The company's Mississippi division, which will be known as Schulz Xtruded Products, or SXP, will create 500 new jobs at the facility over the next five years. The Tunica County operation will be the company's first production facility in North America.

Governor Haley Barbour welcomed the industry leader to Mississippi and commended company officials for their commitment to doing business in the state and for the jobs they are creating in the Mississippi Delta. MDA Executive Director Gray Swoope stated that the company's new facility in Tunica County will employ state-of-the-art pipe manufacturing processes, and the company found in Mississippi the skilled and dedicated workforce necessary to make these operations a success.

Headquartered in Krefeld, Germany, Schulz produces and supplies stainless steel and alloy steel seamless pipe products, including seamless and welded pipes, fittings such as elbows, tees, reducers, caps, bends and flanges, and specialized pipe components. Established in 1945, the company is a recognized leader in the industry, specializing in serving the up- and downstream oil and gas sectors and the nuclear and fossil fuel

power plant industry. The company also serves the water treatment industry, with a focus on desalination, as well as facilities in diverse areas of the chemical industry. For more information regarding Schulz, please visit the company's Web site at www.wschulz.com/english/index.php.

MDA Awards Nearly \$4 Million for Infrastructure/Capital Improvement Projects around the State

MDA's Community Services Division recently awarded **Capital Improvements Revolving Loan Program (CAP)**, **CDBG Economic Development (CDBG ED)**, **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities** and **Mississippi Rural Impact Fund (RIF) Program** funds for **eight** infrastructure/capital improvement projects throughout Mississippi. The **CAP Loan Program** provides loans in order to finance capital improvements. **CDBG ED** funds help local units of government ensure basic community services, environmental quality and economic opportunities for their residents. To receive **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities** funding, a project must prove a particular urgency due to existing conditions that pose a threat to the health or welfare of a community. The **RIF Program** is designed to assist with the location or expansion of businesses in rural areas by providing grants to rural communities. The awards, which total nearly \$4 million, include:

- **CAP Loan**
 - Clay County (Advantage Cabinet/Metal Craft) - \$600,000 for building improvements
 - Lawrence County - \$150,004 for a new fire truck
 - Tishomingo County - \$2,000,000 for a new building for economic development
 - Tishomingo County - \$125,000 for a new fire truck
 - Tishomingo County - \$148,000 for two mini-pumper fire trucks
- **CDBG ED**
 - Tishomingo County (Dennen Steel Corp.) - \$770,864 for infrastructure improvements
- **CDBG Emergency Public Facilities**
 - Town of Crawford - \$100,000 for infrastructure improvements
- **RIF Program**
 - Pontotoc County (American Furniture Manufacturing, Inc.) - \$103,000 for infrastructure improvements

To learn more about the funding programs available through MDA's Community Services Division, please visit www.mississippi.org, and click on the Community and Asset Development link located near the top of the page.

Wilkerson Assumes Position of MDA Tourism Division Director

Mary Beth Wilkerson has assumed the role of director of MDA's Tourism Division, succeeding Craig Ray who resigned from the position at the close of 2009. In her new position, Wilkerson is responsible for the overall management of the division as well as the development and implementation of short- and long-range plans and activities that will create economic growth and opportunity through the promotion and development of Mississippi as a tourism destination. The division also houses the Office of Film and Culture and the Welcome Centers/Visitors Services Bureau.

Wilkerson joined the MDA team in 1991, coordinating Mississippi's domestic and international travel trade sales efforts. In 2000, she became the manager of the division's Sales and Marketing Bureau where she worked to create industry cooperative marketing and promotional endeavors. In 2002, she was appointed deputy director of the division, and for the past seven years, she has managed the daily operations of the division and provided extensive tourism development and marketing experience to the state's tourism industry. She also has had operational oversight of the division's Communication and Advertising, Sales and Marketing, Outdoor and Leisure Industries Development, Golf Marketing/Sports Development, Hometown Mississippi Retirement, Research, Grants and Heritage Trails programs.

MDA Executive Director Gray Swoope commended Wilkerson for her dedication to promoting Mississippi as a travel destination to the world, and he stated that her experience in tourism will serve the division and the state well.

National Media Journalists Visit/Write About Mississippi through MDA Tours

MDA's Tourism Division recently hosted travel writers from national media outlets, highlighting Mississippi cities such as Canton, Corinth, Port Gibson, Vicksburg and areas throughout the Delta region.

The division hosted a journalist from AAA Insurance Company's *Southern Traveler* magazine, who toured Civil War sites from the northeast corner to the south central region of the state, and a *Southern Living* writer who visited Clarksdale and the Mississippi River as part of the magazine's award-winning *Tales from the Road* series. *Southern Living* also recently finished a photo story covering Canton and its annual "City of Lights" Christmas festival.

In addition to Civil War tours, stops in the Delta and holiday festival events, the Tourism Division showcased sports and recreation on the Mississippi River when it hosted the art director and associate editor of *Canoe & Kayak* magazine. A video teaser entitled "Mississippi Wandering"

from the canoe and camping trip may be viewed at the following link:
<http://www.canoekayak.com/av/flash/ck-on-assignment-mississippi-wandering/index.html>.

For more information about Mississippi tourism opportunities, please contact MDA's Tourism Division at (601) 359-3297 or visit www.visitmississippi.org.

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