

QUICK TAKES

Business Briefs From Across South Florida

With Benefits

On-site health and childcare services were among the employee benefits that put Baptist Health South Florida (No. 31) and JM Family Enterprises Inc. (No. 25) on the 2005 *Fortune* magazine list of "The 100 Best Companies To Work For." It is the sev-

BEST EMPLOYERS

enth consecutive time Deerfield Beach-based JM has made it on to the annual list. Some of the other perks the company provides are a free beauty salon, massages, and an indoor lap pool. "When you have a positive attitude about your job it shapes your outcomes and how you drive performance," says John Heins, JM vice president of corporate and benefit services. The high grade in *Fortune* for

Coral Gables-based Baptist follows the company's September ranking in *Working Mother* magazine's "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" – significant because 76 percent of the company's 11,000 employees are women. Baptist CEO Brian E. Keeley says these distinctions help attract and retain employees, especially now, during a critical worldwide shortage of health care workers.

– Jaclyn Alcantara



The Aviator's Repairman

Miami-based aviation services company Avborne Inc. announced Jan. 26 that Sargent, a key supplier of aviation parts to Boeing and the US military, will acquire it. Avborne president Eduardo Montalvo will remain as executive vice president of the Avborne Accessory Group unit and will report directly to Sargent president Tom Gibbins. Carolina Jones, Avborne vice president of marketing, says the 250 Avborne and 38 Sargent employees will be "integrated into a cohesive team. Since we have different customers, and an aggressive growth plan, we do not anticipate any layoffs." Avborne is among North America's Top 10 aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul companies.



AVIATION

Launched in 1982, it more recently was controlled by Miami-based equity firm Trivest Partners LP. Sargent is a division of Manhattan-based Dover Corp., a global diversified manufacturer of industrial products. – JA

BIG

DEALS

■ **Starwood Urban LLP** sold the final South Florida piece of its \$500 million, 1.2-million-square-foot, mixed-use real estate portfolio. The X Aragon/55 Miracle Mile property – now called 10 Aragon – in downtown Coral Gables, has 184 residential units and 65,000 square feet of retail and office space. It was sold to Connecticut-based **Prospect Capital Group** and New York-based **Robert Martin Co.** for approximately \$80 million, according to published reports. Starwood had asked for \$100 million.

■ Houston-based **Weingarten Realty Investors** purchased the Flamingo Pines Shopping Center, a 257,370-square-foot retail complex in Pembroke Pines, for \$43.75 million. **HFJ LLC**, a subsidiary of Connecticut-based **GE Capital**, was the seller.

■ In a \$67 million deal, New York-based **Tarragon Realty Investors** purchased the Yacht Club on the Intracoastal, a 380-unit apartment complex in Hypoluxo. **AEW Capital Management LP**, a real estate investment advisory firm with offices in Boston, Los Angeles and Washington, was the seller.

■ Wellington-based **Bainbridge Communities** paid \$44 million to Texas-based **Fairfield Residential LLC** for Laurel Gardens at Coral Square, a 384-unit apartment community in Coral Springs.

RIDE & BUY

One real estate developer is turning to taxis and sex to sell condominiums. It's not as odd a combination as it sounds. Deerfield Beach-based Boca Developers imported 10 oversized taxicabs from London, painted the cabs with images of its condos and scantily clad models, and deployed them in South Florida as mobile billboards. The marketing ploy is the brainchild of Rick Barrow, president of Miami-based advertising agency Barrow Beber

MARKETING

Silverstein. "You need to get people's attention" in a market that is saturated with real estate advertising, he says. The two-month marketing blitz targets high-traffic areas in Miami, and the taxis will also be used to chauffeur company executives and prospective buyers. In April, the cabs, which have been retrofitted to meet US standards, will convert to taxis for hire. – Barbara Perkins

