

Advisor sees big tax benefits in Trump bill

PROGRESS NEWS STAFF

A Scottsdale asset manager says business owners “will see a significant benefit from the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act” signed by President Trump July 4.

Randy Stoltz, founder and lead advisor for Clear Direction Investments, says U.S. business owners called the law a “game-changer” for business owners and real estate investors.

“From enhanced deductions to expanded estate planning tools, the OBBBA has delivered a financial blueprint that rewards entrepreneurship, long-term investment, and strategic tax planning,” Stoltz said.

“It’s one of the most advantageous pieces of legislation for business owners in recent memory.”

Among the measure’s highlights, he said, is the Enhanced Qualified Business Income (QBI) deduction.

“At the center of the OBBBA is a significant increase in the Qualified Business Income (QBI) deduction for pass-through business owners. Married filers now enjoy up to a \$150,000 – up from \$100,000.

“This means most business owners earning \$300,000 in qualified income may pay



Randy Stoltz is the founder of Clear Direction Investments in Scottsdale. (Courtesy of Randy Stoltz)

taxes on only \$240,000 – a 20% reduction.”

The law also expands bonus depreciation, restoring for qualified properties the 100% “expense during year one” for items like machinery and equipment. It was going to be only 40% and declining.

“This opens the door for savvy tax strat-

egies, including Roth conversions during high-deduction years, to optimize tax efficiency for the rest of an investor’s life,” Stoltz added.

When it comes to Roth conversions and retirement planning the Scottsdale asset manager emphasized the strategic timing for Roth conversions during what he refers to as the “calm before the RMD storm” – the years between retirement and the age at which required minimum distributions begin.

With RMDs now delayed until age 73 or 75 (depending on birth year), “business owners have more flexibility to shift pre-tax retirement assets into tax-free Roth accounts,” Stoltz said.

“Roth accounts not only grow tax-free but also eliminate future RMDs, making them ideal for both retirement income and legacy planning,” Stoltz explained.

He added that for real estate investors, the law preserved and enhanced tax-deferral tools.

And, he added, “we still have cost segregation and accelerated depreciation to allow investors to frontload deductions in the early years of property ownership. When offset with other taxable events, it may pay off handsomely long term.”

“I personally completed a \$5,000 cost segregation analysis that resulted in over \$150,000 in deductions in my first year owning an investment property,” Stoltz shared. “It’s one of the most powerful tax tools real estate owners have at their disposal.”

The OBBBA also permanently raised the federal gift and estate tax exemption to \$15 million per individual, or \$30 million per married couple, which he called “a critical increase from the previous \$14 million figure and a safeguard against potential roll-backs to \$7 million.”

“This new threshold gives families more flexibility in passing along wealth without triggering estate tax liabilities,” said Stoltz.

“Whether you’re a business owner, real estate investor, or nearing retirement, the OBBBA provides a golden opportunity to optimize your finances for the long haul,” Stoltz said.

Clear Direction Investments is a Scottsdale-based financial advisory firm specializing in retirement planning, tax-efficient investing, estate planning strategies, and long-term wealth management.

Information: cleardirectioninvestments.com or 602-889-6500. 📞

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“No gas, no cheating,” Swann said.

He said wood-fired cooking applies more heat than other methods. It also allows the flavor of the pecan and oak to be included in the finished product. The oven reaches temperatures of 750 to 800 degrees, allowing them to cook a pizza in about four minutes.

The price of a pizza ranges from \$10.50 for a 9 inch with a single topping to \$25.50 for some specialty pizzas.

Swann said he was impressed with how seriously the Top 50 Pizza crew researches for their annual rankings.

“This isn’t some guy trolling on the Internet,” Swann said. “They have 150 adjudicators or inspectors from Europe, Italy and beyond. They get out there and they inspect places. I know it seems like every other day someone’s winning an award for something, but these guys are legitimate.”

The Scottsdale location recently re-



Craft 64’s pizzas are wood-fired. (Annalee Hull/Staff Photographer)

opened after closing for some renovations. It is located in an old adobe house off Main Street, close to the Valley Ho hotel.

“It’s the oldest remaining home in Old Town Scottsdale,” Swann said. “It was built in 1936.”

The Chandler location is also located in that city’s downtown, just off Buffalo across the street from the San Marcos hotel. It is the site of a former post office.

Swann said he was the general manager of the Santan Brewing Company before deciding to start his own restaurants.

He chose Craft as the name because he wanted to focus on hand-made, fresh food and beverages. They also had a license to sell 64 ounces of beer before most establishments did.

“Pre-COVID, growler laws were different,” Swann said. “I could fill any growler, any legal growler, with any beer that I had on tap. None of the other bars or restaurants could do so. For Saturday collegiate football, in between games people would line up for growlers and then run back home to watch their games.”

While they specialize in pizza, they do offer other dishes. Swann said they re-

cently started serving chicken wings at the Chandler location.

“Because we don’t have a deep fat fire, we’re a little more creative,” Swann said. “We have smokers in the back where we smoke the wings first, and then of course they get thrown in the wood fire overnight.”

He said they’ve been proven to be very popular, selling out the day before he spoke to this newspaper.

Swann said they can’t do them at this time in Scottsdale because that location only has one wood-fired oven and it is very busy making pizzas. 🍕

Craft 64

craft64.com

Chandler

68 W. Buffalo St., Chandler
480-247-3002

Scottsdale

6922 E. Main St., Scottsdale
480-946-0542