



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

June 30, 2016

Following is a summary of recent and upcoming economic development news, stories and events.

#### [Top Stories:](#)

- GuideWell CEO Pat Geraghty to Keynote Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Meeting
- Broward County's High Wage Job Growth Continues
- Advertise in Alliance's 2017 Economic Sourcebook & Market Profile
- Alliance Port Everglades Action Team Travels to Washington, D.C.

#### [Education News](#)

#### [Business Briefs, Alliance Member News](#)

#### [Upcoming Alliance Events](#)

#### [Upcoming Enterprise Florida and Member/Partner Events](#)

## Top Stories

### [GuideWell CEO Pat Geraghty to Keynote Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Meeting](#)



The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance announced today that Patrick "Pat" Geraghty, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GuideWell Mutual Holding Corporation, a \$12 billion, not-for-profit health solutions organization headquartered in Jacksonville, will be the keynote speaker for its 2016 Annual Dinner on Thursday, October 20 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Signature Grand in Davie.

GuideWell is the parent to a family of healthcare companies including Florida Blue, the leading health insurance company in Florida; GuideWell Connect, a consumer engagement and marketing firm; GuideWell Health, a healthcare delivery company; and GuideWell Source, a provider of administrative services to federal and state healthcare programs, including Medicare. GuideWell serves 15 million people across 14 states, including more than 4 million individuals in Florida.

Geraghty was the architect of the strategic restructuring that created GuideWell from the foundation of a 70+ year old health insurance company, transforming it into a health solutions organization at the forefront of reimagining the future of health in America. The GuideWell restructuring is considered a model of strategic reinvention and is featured as a capstone business case in the curriculum of Harvard Business School. A dynamic speaker, Geraghty is an expert voice on a range of health care topics including health care reform in the U.S., next-generation payment strategies, innovation in health care and the benefits of wellness and prevention programming. To read more, please [click here](#).

### [Broward County's High Wage Job Growth Continues](#)

Broward County's job report indicated a 4.1 percent unemployment rate in May 2016. This is a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the year ago rate of 5.2 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 30,600 jobs (+3.8 percent) over the year, with an employment of 827,000 in the Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region's jobless rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than the state rate (4.4 percent). Out of a labor force of 1,005,374, there were 40,843 unemployed Broward County residents. To read more, please [click here](#).

### Advertise in Alliance's 2017 Economic Sourcebook & Market Profile

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, in partnership with the *South Florida Business Journal*, is producing its annual *Economic Sourcebook & Market Profile* of Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County. Our flagship marketing publication, the *Sourcebook* is sent to national and international business executives when they contact the Alliance regarding a potential company relocation or expansion. It debuts at the Alliance Annual Dinner and is also mailed to all Alliance members, distributed to all *South Florida Business Journal* Broward subscribers, placed in select hotels, and distributed to Chambers and business resource organizations. In total, 11,000 copies will be distributed and it is [available for download](#) on the Alliance website. To advertise, please contact Christine Gieson at [cgieson@bizjournals.com](mailto:cgieson@bizjournals.com) or 786-533-8203.

### Alliance Port Everglades Action Team Travels to Washington, D.C.

The Alliance's Port Everglades Action Team, chaired by Eric Roth, Breakthru Beverage Group and co-chaired by Terry Stiles, Stiles, is a collaborative community business initiative to support Port Everglades. Several representatives of the team traveled to Washington, D.C. on June 8 - 10 to continue to advocate for the passage of the federal WRRDA bill, which authorizes the widening and deepening of Port Everglades. Participants included: PEAT Chair Eric Roth, Breakthru Beverage; Broward County Commissioner Chip LaMarca; Port Director Steve Cernak; Assistant Port Director David Anderton; Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs & Professional Standards for Broward County, Eddy Labrador; Alliance CEO Bob Swindell; along with Sean Kolaskar, Gail Bulfin, Sam Stephenson, Rich Vogel, Brendan Barry, Nancy Leikauf, Bob Ledoux and Ali Amirhooshmand.

The group met with Congresswoman Lois Frankel and Congressman Ted Deutch, along with most of the Florida delegation, and both the majority staff of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, and the majority staff of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. The team left confident that the project will remain in the bill.



[Back to top](#)

## Education, Workforce Development and Educational Excellence Builds Business (E<sup>2</sup>B<sup>2</sup>) News



- [NSU Family Therapy Program Turns to Horses as Therapy for Children in Foster Care](#)
- [Broward College Awarded \\$100,000 Achieve the Dream Open Educational Resource Degree Grant](#)
- [Broward College Recognized by Governor Rick Scott with Leadership Award at Jobs Summit](#)
- [FAU Approved for Surgery, Emergency Medicine Residencies](#)
- [Renowned Neuroscientist to Lead FAU's New Brain Institute](#)
- [26 BCPS High Schools Rank as America's Most Challenging High Schools](#)
- [Broward County Public Schools Announces National Merit Scholarships](#)
- [Businesses Support Broward Education Foundation Annual Tools for Schools Back to School Supply Drive](#)
- [Congratulations to Cooper City High School for Winning the 2016 School Duel Championship for a Second Year](#)
- [State Releases Results for Florida Standards Assessments and End of Course Exams](#)

[Back to top](#)

## Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

**BankUnited** presented a check for \$10,000 toward the BankUnited Legacy Scholarship Fund, created in 2013 as the first scholarship program for high school students enrolled in the mentoring program of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Broward, Inc. (BBBS). To read more, please [click here](#).

The **Brightline** station in Fort Lauderdale marked a major milestone as the first large "V" columns of the building were lifted into place and set into their foundations along the rail right of way. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Brightline** announced that it is celebrating another milestone in the building of its trains as the engine was installed into its first diesel-electric locomotive at the Siemens manufacturing facility in Sacramento, where the trains are being built. The Cummins QSK95 engine weighs 31,000 pounds. Installation took approximately six hours during which the engine was lowered into the locomotive by an overhead crane. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Brightline** announced its President Michael Reininger was awarded the Vanguard Award by the Building Owners and Managers Association of Miami-Dade. The Vanguard Award is presented each year to community leaders who have made a difference in bettering the South Florida community through development and improvement of services, projects, products or programs. To read more, please [click here](#).

During an exclusive behind the scenes tour at the Siemens manufacturing facility in Sacramento, California, where the company's trains are being constructed, **Brightline**, the only privately-funded express passenger rail system in the country, unveiled the first look at its locomotive and passenger coaches, including key features of the car interiors. To read more, please [click here](#).

Over the course of two days, seven trucks carrying a total of 150 tons, delivered massive structural steel beams to the **Brightline** station at MiamiCentral. This marks the next significant step in the construction of the station, set to open next summer. The structural steel, originating in Montana, took several days to reach the station and a giant crane was used to lift the beams from the trucks and place them on site. The work is managed by **Suffolk Construction**, who is overseeing the overall construction of MiamiCentral.

Recognized for their credibility, diligence and unfailing commitment to excellence, 21 **GrayRobinson** attorneys were ranked by Chambers USA. The attorneys are considered leaders in their respective practices. Six of the seven practice areas received statewide recognition and one was recognized for national excellence. To read more, please [click here](#).

Two teams of local, budding entrepreneurs from Broward County competed on a national stage last week when they were selected to present at **Junior Achievement's** National Student Leadership Summit. The student-run companies, Alpha Essentials representing **NSU** University School and FitKit representing Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, took their innovative products and creative sales pitches to Washington D.C. to compete against the best teams from around the country. To read more, please [click here](#).

President Ken Morris, SIOR, of **Morris Southeast Group** announced three recently completed lease transactions that he managed in South Florida in Deerfield Beach, Sunrise and Miami. To read more, please [click here](#).

After several hours of deliberation and input from community leaders, residents, and clergy, **Broward County** Commissioners voted to unanimously pass Ban the Box legislation. "Ban the Box" refers to the checkbox on Broward County government employment applications that ask about a person's past criminal history. The new law means that a person would not be asked about a prior criminal record or authorization for a background check until they are among a pool of potential finalists for a particular job. The effort was supported by Alliance member Newton Sanon, President & CEO of **OIC of South Florida**. To read more, please [click here](#).

Crowley Liner Services has entered into a new 10-year, \$157.8 million lease and operating agreement with the Broward County Board of County Commissioners for a 99-acre marine terminal at **Port Everglades**. The agreement also includes two five-year extension options. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward County's **Port Everglades** welcomes the return of Crystal Cruises' luxury ships beginning in October 2017. "Fort Lauderdale is an ideal fit for our ships, itineraries and discerning guests, with its close proximity to an international airport and reputation for outstanding service that mirrors Crystal's own," said Crystal President and CEO Edie Rodriguez. "With these things in mind, we are relocating select fall sailings and look forward to working with Port Everglades to expand our itineraries in this market." To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward County's **Port Everglades** and its cruise line partners, Carnival Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean International, are working with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to launch two pilot programs this summer -- Automated Passport Control (APC) kiosks and Mobile Passport Control (MPC) - that are designed to expedite secure entry into the United States following a cruise vacation. Port Everglades is the first U.S. cruise port to test these programs. To read more, please [click here](#).

The 2016 Florida Economic Development Council annual conference, honored the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University** with the Innovation in Marketing Award for its 2015 Report to the Community. The award recognizes the outstanding contributions of organizations for economic development and innovative best practices for our communities and abroad. Alliance CEO Bob Swindell was also honored with the Eunice Sullivan Economic Development Professional of the Year Award at the conference. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Riviera Point Development Group** announced plans to build Florida's first Radisson RED hotel, the 155-room Radisson RED Miami Airport, to open in 2018. Riviera Point signed with Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group earlier this month and expects to break ground this fall to create the hotel at 3450 NW 25 Street, Miami, according to Rodrigo Azpúrua, Riviera Point Development Group CEO. To read more, please [click here](#).

**South Florida Business Journal** is pleased to announce the introduction of a new awards program designed to recognize standout projects in both commercial and residential real estate. To read more, please [click here](#).

Cuban-American conductor Sebrina María Alfonso is the resident music director of the **South Florida Symphony**. In 1994, she won the Stokowski International Competition and made her debut with the American Symphony Orchestra. Alfonso is the first Cuban-American invited to conduct the National Orchestra of Cuba in Havana. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Stiles** Property Management is proud to announce that its managed Class A office building in downtown Fort Lauderdale, The **AutoNation** Building, has been upgraded to LEED® Gold certification, a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) distinction was awarded to the building during its five-year recertification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). To read more, please [click here](#).

**Stiles**, a Fort Lauderdale-based full-service real estate development firm, announced the completion of The Enclave Shops at Coral Ridge, a 27,300-square-foot retail shopping center located at the entrance of Coral Ridge's newest single-family home community. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Tripp Scott** announced that Kristopher Aungst, Paul Lopez and Stephanie Toothaker, all directors with the firm, were selected by their peers as **Florida Trend** Magazine's 2016 Florida Legal Elite. The Florida Legal Elite are the top lawyers practicing in Florida, according to the results of the magazine's statewide attorney surveys. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Tripp Scott** announced that 11 of its attorneys: Ed Pozzuoli, Ed Curtis, Mike Foster, Paul Lopez, Dan Taylor, Stephanie Toothaker, Ryan Lehrer, Ian Lis, Stephanie Mazzola, Henry Shomar and Lindsay Raphael have been recognized in the 2016 edition of Florida Super Lawyers Magazine. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Ultimate Software**, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced that Ultimate Software's CEO Scott Scherr has been named to Glassdoor's "Highest-Rated CEOs" list for 2016. Glassdoor, a jobs and careers marketplace, released its annual report highlighting the top executives; recognizing leaders in countries throughout North America and parts of Europe. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Ultimate Software**, announced that it has been ranked #8 on *Forbes* magazine's 2016 list of the "Most Innovative Growth Companies." Companies are ranked by their Innovation Premium—the difference between their market capitalization and the net present value (NPV) of cash flows from existing businesses. *Forbes'* method relies on investors' ability to identify firms they expect to be innovative now and in the future. To be included, firms needed seven years of public financial data and between \$2–10 billion in market cap. To read more, please [click here](#).

**JM Family Enterprises**, parent company to Southeast Toyota Distributors, is contributing \$100,000 to the OneOrlando Fund. The fund, established by Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, provides a way to locally respond to those in need by directing donations to nonprofits assisting in relief efforts. To read more, please [click here](#).

[Back to top](#)

## Upcoming Events



### Alliance Events

#### Alliance Annual Dinner

Thursday, October 20, 5:30 p.m.

Location: The Signature Grand, Davie

For more information, please contact Gail Bulfin at [gbulfin@gfalliance.org](mailto:gbulfin@gfalliance.org).

[Back to top](#)

### Enterprise Florida Events

#### Farnborough Air Show

July 11-17, 2016

Location: Hampshire, England  
For more information, [click here](#).

**Enterprise Florida (EFI)** conducts or participates in an extensive schedule of export marketing missions and exhibitions worldwide. These trade events are open to all businesses registered in Florida. For more information and to see more event listings, please [click here](#).

### **Member/Partner Events**

#### **Business for the Arts Broward - 2016 Cultural Tours**

Friday, July 8, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, [click here](#).

#### **BioFlorida Saturday Exchange sponsored by the Alliance**

Saturday, July 9, 8:15 a.m.  
Location: Innovative Endoscopy Components, LLC, Sunrise  
For more information, [click here](#).

#### **ArtServe - RedEye: Reality Reimagined**

Saturday, July 16, 6:00 p.m.  
Location: ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, [click here](#).

#### **SFBJ Critical Conversations - HR Overtime**

Tuesday, July 26, 9:00 a.m.  
Location: SFBJ Offices - Brickell City Tower, Miami  
For more information, [click here](#).

Calendar items are subject to change without notice. Please visit [www.gfalliance.org](http://www.gfalliance.org) for the most current calendar of events and meetings and for more information regarding the Alliance.

Connect and follow the Alliance on Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)  
Also join our [LinkedIn group](#) (for members only).

Looking for commercial properties and demographic information? Visit [www.greaterfortlauderdaleproperties.com](http://www.greaterfortlauderdaleproperties.com).

Why have so many companies relocated to Greater Fort Lauderdale? [Click here](#) to find out (90 second video).

[Back to top](#)