



Players

▶ Wachovia Bank has named **Costas Liatsos**

its new Broward County regional president. Liatsos takes over for Jorge Gonzalez, who became regional president for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties last July.

▶ **Christopher Pollock** resigned as president and CEO from the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. Pollock accepted a management position with a new,



Liatsos

unnamed resort venture in Fort Lauderdale. The chamber is searching for a replacement. ▶ Bristol West Holdings

has promoted **Robert Sadler** to senior vice president and CFO. He replaces Craig Eisenacher, who left the automobile insurer to serve as executive vice president and CFO at Everest Re Group, a reinsurance firm headquartered in Bermuda.

▶ The Economic Council of Palm Beach County has appointed **Robert "Budd" Kneip** its 2007 chairman. Kneip founded The Oasis Group and served as a senior executive of The Wackenhut Corp. for more than 20 years.



FAU student Vanessa L. Diaz inspects a component of the IBM Blade Center, part of the university's supercomputer cluster.

EDUCATION

FAU-IBM Alliance

Boca Raton's Florida Atlantic University is joining with the IBM-led Latin American Grid to bolster information technology opportunities for Hispanics and advance research in life science, weather modeling and prediction. The alliance gives FAU access to IBM's supercomputing resources for independent research on the human genome, video processing and information security.

POLITICS

Judgment Call

The Florida Supreme Court has recommended adding one circuit court judge to the Treasure Coast in 2007. The 19th Judicial Circuit includes Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

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are planning a commercial project on a 3.5-acre waterfront parcel of the **Royal Poinciana Plaza**. Plans call for a five-star hotel and a state-of-the-art theater complex.

▶ Each of the seven companies involved in operating the day-cruise gambling ship **Palm Beach Princess** filed for Chapter 11 reorganization, listing about \$30 million more in debt than assets. Palm Beach Princess' operators include Riviera Beach-based ITG Vegas. ▶ Yale University School of Medicine is developing plans for a major **outpatient facility** in Palm Beach County to meet the needs of snowbirds and others.

**PALM BEACH GARDENS** — CFO2 Palm Beach II of Houston purchased more than 10 acres for an office tower at **City Centre on PGA Boulevard** for \$36.78 million.

**PEMBROKE PINES** — Costume jewelry and accessory retailer **Claire's** has hired Goldman Sachs to help the 3,000-store chain explore strategic alternatives to enhancing shareholder value, including a possible sale of the public company. ▶ Aventura-based Sky Development has bought **Memorial Hospital Pembroke** for \$32 million. Sky plans to build an office building on a nine-acre neighboring site.

**PLANTATION** — Boston-based Stephen James Associates has purchased **Kramer Professional Staffing**. Kramer's clients include Office Depot, Burger King and Bacardi. It already has offices in Boca Raton and Miami. Financial terms were undisclosed.

**PORT ST. LUCIE** — The **Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution** received a grant from ResearchChannel.org to produce "Corals at the Crossroads," a documentary that will examine the threats modern life poses to coral reefs worldwide.

**STUART** — The **Visiting Nurse Association of Florida** plans to build an independent- and assisted-living facility to serve 110 seniors.

**VERO BEACH** — **I-95 between Indrio Road and State Road 70** in St. Lucie County will be expanded from four lanes to eight beginning as soon as 2010. The project is expected to take three years. □