

UPSTATE BUSINESS JOURNAL



STRATEGIC SUCCESS

Greenville company uses historic battlefields as leadership training tool

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Tech and Innovation/
Focus on Finance Issue

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TO OUR READERS

One of my chief hobbies is photography. It's news-adjacent, appeals to my creative urges and sates the inner child who loves cool toys.

I did not expect it to be instructive from a leadership perspective.

When composing a news photo, I'm always seeking a different angle or perspective. My governing rule: Keep moving. If you don't shift the view regularly, every photo will begin to look the same and your output will stagnate. Sometimes success requires change - if you never move, you'll never know.

Innovation in business is much the same. You won't discover what might be better, or at least next, without fresh thinking. Does it carry risk? Sure. Every good thing does.

Inside this issue you'll find stories of people looking at things a different way. Bold approaches, unique perspectives and cutting-edge materials all fall firmly under the heading of innovation. They kept moving, changed the view and created something new.



—**Ryan Gilchrest**,
Director,
Editorial Content

DON'T MISS



photo provided by Mick Hunt

4 Upstate native returns to share lessons of success



photo provided by Timberlab

8 Q&A with Graham Montgomery of Timberlab

T B A

Could the developer of The Grand Bohemian Lodge Greenville, located next to downtown's Reedy River Falls, be looking at another project in the city? Richard Kessler, chairman and CEO of The Kessler Enterprise, said during February's Greenville City Economic Development Corporation breakfast that "we just need to find the right opportunity and fit it into our development schedule."

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PETER MILLAR



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ONLINE EXTRAS

What's trending?



Flock Shop Hot Chicken to replace Willy Taco in Simpsonville. tinyurl.com/flockshop



Boutique hotel planned for former Cafe and Then Some building. tinyurl.com/thebanterhotel



Greater Greenville Sanitation property on West Washington Street for sale. tinyurl.com/GGSDproperty

New to the Street

Are you interested in the latest business openings in the Upstate? Take a look at upstatebusinessjournal.com/new-to-the-street. You can submit yours to newtothestreet@communityjournals.com.



ICYMI

Q&A with Matthew Cabe, president and CEO of Michelin North America: Matthew Cabe assumed the role of president and CEO of Michelin North America Inc. in October 2024 and is responsible for coordinating all activities of the company, which encompasses approximately 23,500 employees across Canada and the United States. Cabe talked with Upstate Business Journal in 2025. upstatebusinessjournal.com/?s=Matthew+Cabe

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HUNT'S HOMECOMING

Upstate native returns to share lessons of success with other entrepreneurs



photo provided by Mick Hunt

by Jay King

Like many South Carolina natives, Mick Hunt thought he had to move away to find opportunities for a career and that in moving away, the “you can’t go home again” truism would apply.

But also like other Palmetto State sons and daughters in recent years, the vibrancy, growth and success of the Upstate offered compelling reasons for a homecoming.

Born in Easley, Hunt returned to the Upstate nearly two years ago and made his home in Greenville with his wife, carrying a desire to share the lessons from his success and help amplify the area’s innovation economy.

LESSONS LEARNED

Long before he became the host of one of the most popular leadership podcasts in the country, Hunt conceived a desire to become a successful businessman so he could take care of those he loved the most.

Inspired in part by the image of prosperity and self-sufficiency he saw on “The Cosby Show,” he went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees in business and communications.

Upon graduation he met the first of a series of mentors — Mark Vitali — who offered him a job in what would become the largest independent Nationwide insurance agency in the country. After eight years of helping to build that firm’s success, Hunt decided to open his own agency.

“That was my first real look at entrepreneurship, and I’ve never looked back,” Hunt said.

Building his own firm over several years and eventually selling it for a tidy profit, Hunt realized his talent was growing and scaling businesses and nurturing the leadership within them.

Pursuing that passion over many years led him to another mentor and friend, celebrity chef and entrepreneur Robert Irvine. Hunt said one of Irvine’s enduring lessons was challenging people to discover how they can make an impact.

Hunt remembers a conversation where Irvine asked him not only how he could make an impact, but an impact “where your heart is.”

It was at this point Hunt said he realized his heart was in Greenville, not only because most of his family lived in the area but because the city was the heart of a bustling region full of energy and potential.

“I want to help businesses, help leaders flourish in my hometown because that’s what matters to me,” he said. “That’s what drew me back.”

PURPOSEFUL HOMECOMING

Hunt's vision is to share his success as an entrepreneur, leadership consultant, podcaster and bestselling author with the community he now calls home.

To that end, he's partnering with Furman University's Innovation Lab, based at the Flywheel coworking space on Goldsmith Street off Poinsett Highway, and other local organizations to share both his experience and connections.

"We want, when people think of leadership and innovation and entrepreneurship, they think of Greenville and the Upstate," he said.

Hunt is bringing those connections together through his Lead Loud speaker series in March and hosted in Greenville. The aim is to inspire, motivate and amplify what is already going on in the Upstate.

"I want to help businesses, help leaders flourish in my hometown because that's what matters to me. That's what drew me back."

—Mick Hunt

"I'm not anything special," he said. "But what I do well is the connection piece. What I do well is see where things can go ... and that's what I'm proud and honored to bring here."

Hunt said most entrepreneurs and innovators think scaling and growth is almost entirely driven by financing, but another important factor often overlooked is messaging and communication.

He said that most innovative ideas and businesses don't flame out because the creative spark is gone but fail or cease to grow because connections — and useful friction — falter.

"We all know the saying 'iron sharpens iron...' but we miss the context," he said. "Iron sharpens iron, which means there's friction sometimes. There's challenge and you've got to work through it. We all go as far as we feel like we can go in those moments and you need that push, that inspiration — and that only happens with the collaboration and connection." [UBJ](#)

DISCOVER MORE ONLINE

Part of Mick Hunt's mission to catalyze success is sharing lessons about effective leadership through online platforms, including:

- mickhuntofficial.com
- youtube.com/@MickUnpluggedPodcast/videos
- howtobeagoodleader.com
- leadloudseries.com



An advertisement for Fifth Third Park. The top half features the text "HOST YOUR NEXT EVENT AT FIFTH THIRD PARK" in green and blue. Below this is the Fifth Third Park logo, which includes a shield with "5/3" and "FIFTH THIRD PARK" text, and a baseball field graphic with "Spartanburg" written across it. The background of the ad is a photograph of a large crowd of people walking on a paved area, likely at the park. At the bottom, the text "NO MATTER THE OCCASION, BRING IT TO THE BALLPARK!" is written in green and blue, followed by the website "HUBCITYSPARTANBURGERS.COM" in blue.

South Carolina's expenses and revenue

Figures from South Carolina's Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports, which show the total expenses and revenue reported by the state government. You can read the full report at bit.ly/4aP800W.

(All figures listed are in thousands of dollars.)

	2025	2022	2019	2016
EXPENSES				
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	11,488,739	8,029,072	6,770,289	4,697,228
EDUCATION	9,174,964	8,413,741	5,423,877	4,906,919
HEALTH	13,419,601	9,775,171	8,388,003	7,683,019
SOCIAL SERVICES	2,921,449	3,416,209	1,602,584	1,832,743
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	1,817,651	1,124,187	1,013,366	883,458
RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	2,182,278	618,983	473,172	463,630
TRANSPORTATION	2,918,439	1,467,938	1,524,462	1,052,559
INTEREST EXPENSE	6,625	8,423	18,211	23,537
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES EXPENSE	43,929,746	32,853,724	25,213,964	21,543,093
REVENUE				
INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX	6,697,254	6,932,111	4,835,821	3,884,855
RETAIL SALES AND USE TAX	9,413,123	7,092,123	5,004,470	4,279,959
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	1,350,878	1,048,315	396,207	408,297
GAS AND MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	1,571,486	1,427,195	1,198,220	698,090
INSURANCE TAX	295,106	236,704	204,755	156,766
HOSPITAL TAX	984,000	266,581	261,448	265,689
OTHER TAXES	996,245	923,472	731,276	666,017
UNRESTRICTED GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	39	0	14	90
UNRESTRICTED INVESTMENT INCOME	1,236,950	(573,226)	365,453	109,748
TOBACCO LEGAL SETTLEMENT	64,333	88,544	80,723	71,119
OPIOID LEGAL SETTLEMENT	23,228	N/A	N/A	N/A
OTHER REVENUES	877,248	751,363	723,194	53,026
TRANSFERS	4,409	32,272	21,016	918
TOTAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY REVENUE	23,514,299	18,225,454	13,822,597	10,594,574
STATE TOTAL REVENUE*	41,234,043	34,947,825	24,767,518	21,539,330
STATE TOTAL EXPENSE*	41,524,793	30,414,009	23,665,530	20,442,791
REVENUES OVER (OR UNDER) EXPENDITURES*	(209,750)	4,533,816	1,101,988	1,096,539

*Grand totals include federal funding, income from fines and penalties, local and private grants, and more.

Helping Greenville businesses grow with confidence

Greenville's business community thrives on innovation, growth and strong partnerships, and Landrum is quickly becoming an integral part of that story. It's mission is simple: help companies focus on what they do best by taking the people challenges off their desks.



Greenville Landrum Ribbon Cutting, Provided by Landrum Inc.

From payroll and benefits administration to recruiting, staffing, risk management, compliance and day-to-day HR support, the firm works alongside employers of all sizes, combining practical expertise with a personal touch.

It's the kind of partnership that lets business owners focus on growth and people, knowing the behind-the-scenes details are handled by a team that understands how work gets done.

According to Landrum CEO Britt Landrum III, that approach makes Greenville a natural fit. A longtime visitor and admirer, he sees the region's energy, welcoming business community and economic momentum as a strong match for the company's culture.

"We're a people-first business, and that aligns so well with the Upstate area's culture," he said. For years, Landrum said he watched the city grow into one of the Southeast's most dynamic business hubs. Opening in the Upstate felt inevitable.

Founded in 1970, Landrum has been a constant presence in Britt's life. He watched the realities of running a family business up close. He pitched in early, starting from the ground level, cleaning offices in high school, delivering payroll during the summer, and leveraging his computer skills in IT.

As the company grew, so did his leadership role. "My focus on growing our organization is heavily dependent on communities like Greenville that align with our culture and have business challenges we can solve," he said.



Britt Landrum, Provided by Landrum Inc.

"I can't say enough good things about the community, and the way they've embraced us," he said. "We're a people-first organization that prioritizes relationships, and we've enjoyed meeting and getting to know the business community."



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RISING DEMAND FOR MASS TIMBER

Graham Montgomery, Timberlab vice president and director of preconstruction

Q&A

Graham Montgomery serves as vice president and director of preconstruction at Timberlab and is based out of the company's East Coast mass timber office and fabrication facility in Greenville. A licensed structural engineer, Montgomery focuses on project-driven, efficient design while advancing mass timber through ongoing research, testing and industry collaboration.

A South Carolina native, Montgomery began his career in consulting engineering at Britt Peters and Associates in Greenville. He is a two-time Clemson University graduate, earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering. His work integrates technical engineering expertise with construction and business insight, contributing to the continued growth and scalability of the mass timber market across the United States.

Montgomery and his wife, Anna, reside in Greenville with their five children.

by Jay King

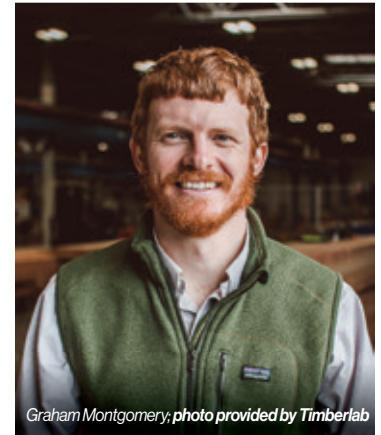
Q. Mass timber and glulam (glue laminated timber) have experienced tremendous growth as an industry in recent years. What has been driving that and do you see it continuing?

A. The differences in the qualities of mass timber versus the historic timber industry are why mass timber has been expanding. Its extra strength, clean look and faster construction speed compared to other building materials are game changers. A big part of what is driving growth is prefabrication from advancements in digital modeling, robotics and automated manufacturing, and mass timber components can be fabricated offsite with an extremely high level of precision. The invention of cross-laminated timber has made it possible to produce large-format timber

panels from standard dimensional lumber, dramatically expanding what timber can do structurally. Really, timber has risen to a new level, creating opportunities to gain advantages across a host of building types.

When you look at the growth on a graph, it looks really impressive, but in some ways, it's been more of a steady, intentional climb. That's normal with any adoption of something new — it takes time for people to realize it, for the word to spread and for people to gain experience with it. Mass timber works in so many building applications and is not a niche market of the past, and I truly believe it is still in its infancy. There is an endless supply of projects waiting to be built with it.

Q. It seems much of the demand for mass timber products has come from commercial building



Graham Montgomery; photo provided by Timberlab

projects. Are there opportunities on the residential side of the market and what might that look like?

A. Yes, we have built several residential projects from the Heartwood project in Seattle, Washington, which is the first Type IV-C mass timber building to adopt the new IBC building codes, to over 1 million square feet of living space in Charlotte, (North Carolina) and

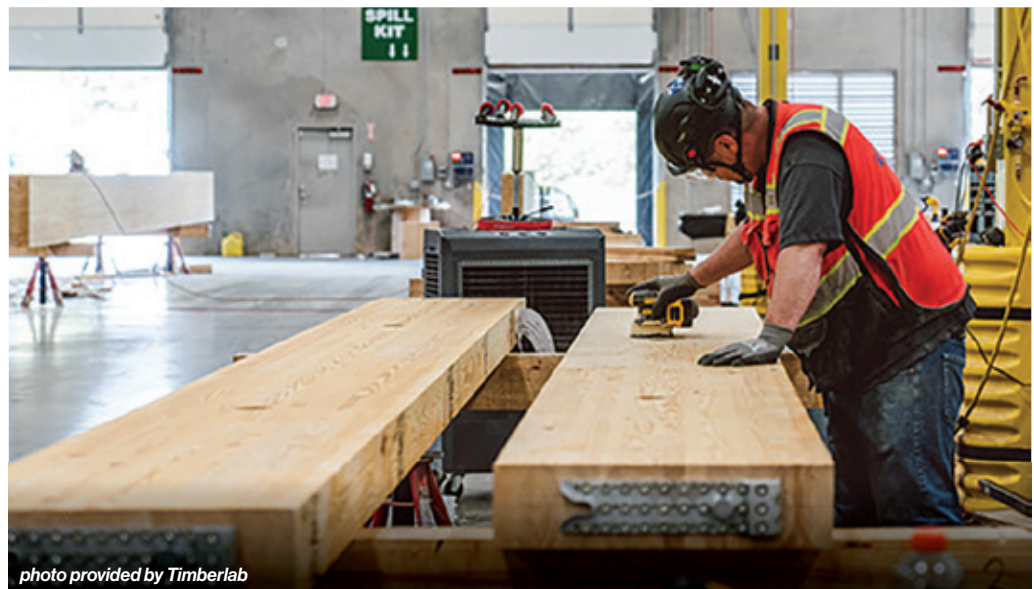


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CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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Continued from page 8

to the tallest timber-hybrid tower in the world, Ascent in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Residential is a different market and really takes early involvement and experience from the mass timber partner to do well. In our experience, 12- to 18-stories works best for fully mass timber residential structures.

Q. Are there specific types of timber that are more suitable for mass timber applications? If so, does that create any constraints or opportunities for market growth?

A. There are three main timber species that make up most of today's mass timber production. southern yellow pine, which is grown from East Texas through Virginia; Douglas fir, primarily from the Pacific Northwest and parts of Canada; and spruce, largely from Canada and Europe, with limited availability in the U.S. These species are used widely because they're well-suited for mass timber applications. They're commercially available at scale, sustainably abundant, and offer the strength and consistency needed for engineered-wood products. All three of these species are on display at full scale in our Greenville office and fabrication facility so that people can touch, see and understand the structural and aesthetic differences firsthand.

Q. How much of a role does aesthetics play in driving demand for mass timber products? Are tastes and preferences changing as more people see mass timber used in high-profile projects?

A. It plays a large role. Just look at the fact that almost every mass timber project is leaving most of the timber exposed. People inherently love being in timber buildings. It is hard to describe the feeling and experience. We say that you don't understand it until you have walked through one. I always get the comment, "I don't want my building to be like a log cabin," and I haven't yet seen a mass timber building that looks like one. That is partially why there is a new name for this type of construction. It is not old-school heavy timber; it is mass timber. Clean lines, precision cuts, engineered wood and larger spans make these spaces feel completely different.

While high-profile buildings and public projects have helped introduce mass timber to a



photo provided by Timberlab

broader audience, that's not where the story ends. Mass timber is being used more frequently in everyday, highly functional buildings — maintenance facilities, libraries, museums, sports complexes, transit centers and many other structures. Even in those uses, the benefits still resonate: better working environments, sustainability, faster construction, promoting regional supply chains, local timber industries, and a level of pride and durability that people don't often associate with those types of buildings.

Q. For people who may not be familiar with mass timber's use as a building material, can you highlight a couple of notable projects and what aspects of those projects make them stand out?

A. There are so many great projects in the Southeast and beyond. One is Live Oak Bank's fourth office building in Wilmington, North Carolina. To me, it's similar to our first project on the West Coast for First Tech Federal Credit Union, right outside of Portland, Oregon. Both have similar stories of valuing their employee experiences and use mass

timber to create a warm, inviting workplace designed to reinforce company culture, and retain and attract talent.

In Charlotte, (North Carolina), Space Craft has developed several hybrid mass timber apartment buildings. These are excellent examples of creating unique spaces that utilize the structure for aesthetics as well as efficiency, through thinner floor structures that allowed an extra level on these buildings.

The Andy Quattlebaum Outdoor Education Center in Clemson is an excellent example of a higher education use, reinforcing its connection to nature. The building provides lounging and event space, as well as its other uses as a teaching environment and a space to facilitate a connection to the outdoors, starting with the building itself!

Lastly, the T3 West Midtown office building in Atlanta, Georgia is a part of Hines' nationwide T3 portfolio. Its success helped demonstrate that mass timber is a scalable, repeatable solution that works across different major U.S. cities. [UBJ](#)

Clemson University Brook T. Smith
Launchpad - Hanbury - Interior
Architecture - Honor Award



117 Welborn St. GMC Office - Goodwyn
Mills Cawood - Adaptive Reuse/ Historic
Preservation - Honor Award



Judson Mill - McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture - Adaptive Reuse/ Historic Preservation - Honor Award

The Upstate chapter of the American Institute of Architects, AIA Greenville, recognized outstanding achievements in architecture and professional service at its 2025 Design Awards. The event celebrated projects and individuals from the chapter's 300-member community whose work elevates the built environment and advances the profession across the region.

Founded in 1970, AIA Greenville has long advocated for architects, designers, and students throughout Upstate South Carolina, promoting design excellence, community engagement, and leadership. Its biennial Design Awards program highlights exemplary work by local firms while honoring individuals whose service, mentorship, and advocacy have made a lasting impact.

Three projects received Honor Awards in 2025. The Clemson University Brook T. Smith Launchpad, designed by Hanbury, earned an Honor Award for Interior Architecture for its flexible, student-centered environment supporting entrepreneurship and interdisciplinary collaboration. Judson Mill, by McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture, received an Honor Award for Adaptive Reuse and Historic Preservation for transforming a

historic textile mill into a vibrant mixed-use destination while preserving its industrial character. The 117 Welborn Street GMC Office, designed by Goodwyn Mills Cawood, also received an Honor Award for Adaptive Reuse and Historic Preservation.

Additional jury recognitions included a Citation Award to Hanbury for The Dream Center (Unbuilt); a Merit Award to Jake Frame by Fathom Firm (Small Project); a Merit Award to Architecture 224 for Watersheds (Residential Construction); a Citation to Goodwyn Mills Cawood for Iva Branch Library (Adaptive Reuse/ Preservation); and a Merit Award to Craig Gaulden Davis | PBK for Ebenezer Park (New Construction). The South Carolina National Organization of Minority Architects received the Community Patron Award for its Project Pipeline summer camp.

Service Awards honored Brad Benjamin, AIA (James A. Neal Distinguished Service Award), Ali McClure, AIA (Young Architect Award), and Sophia Delgado, AIA (Board Service Award). Together, the 2025 recipients reflect the depth of talent, leadership, and commitment within AIA Greenville.



aiagreenville.org

FEATURED

Battlefields AND BUSINESS



How a Greenville company uses military history to train leaders

story & photos by Megan Fitzgerald

Battlefield Leadership utilizes history to shape today's business leaders.

The Greenville-based company specializes in providing experiential leadership training to business executives nationwide. Retired Col. Kevin Farrell, president and CEO of Battlefield Leadership, said the qualities of a successful leader can be found throughout history.

"Battlefield Leadership uses historic events and figures to illustrate the timelessness of the human condition; that is, that leadership always matters

and that individuals always want to be part of a high-performing team," Farrell said. "Individuals want to be respected, and they want to be part of something bigger than themselves."

Farrell joined Battlefield Leadership in 2012 after retiring from a career in the U.S. Army. He served for more than 30 years in uniform and was also a tenured professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Today, Farrell uses his leadership experience and academic background to help individuals and organizations reach their full potential.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14





LEADERSHIP LESSONS

Battlefield Leadership's clients receive more than a basic history lesson when participating in a leadership development program. Business executives have the opportunity to immerse themselves in historic events while standing on the battlefields where they occurred in order to glean important leadership lessons.

Farrell and his team offer experiential leadership programs at more than 30 battlefields and historic sites across the United States and the world. Program sites include Gettysburg, Little Bighorn, Pearl Harbor, Yorktown, Normandy, Waterloo and more. The battlefield programs can be customized to fit a client's specific needs and can cater to groups ranging from 12 to 40 individuals.

Each battlefield program is facilitated by a military historian with Battlefield Leadership. The facilitator will walk through the events of the battle and discuss the successes and failures of key military leaders involved in the conflict.

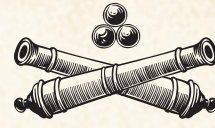
Program participants are then guided to connect the lessons and themes from the battle to their personal experiences as leaders in a business environment. Sarah Huber, vice president of U.S. sales for Pulmonx, a California-based medical technology company, said anyone who leads a team can benefit from the principles taught by Battlefield Leadership.

"Leadership is a journey and not a destination. You have to work on it all the time," Huber said.

The Battlefield Leadership team also travels to corporate headquarters to facilitate leadership workshops, executive coaching, keynotes and other customized engagements. Farrell said the firm developed webinars for companies as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When clients sign up with us, it's a significant investment, but they're getting something that they can't get anywhere else," Farrell said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



ABOUT COL. KEVIN FARRELL

Retired Col. Kevin Farrell is the president and CEO of Battlefield Leadership, a leadership consulting and training business headquartered in Greenville. He has led more than 400 leadership experiences with the company.

Farrell previously spent more than 30 years serving in the U.S. Army. During his military service, Farrell led soldiers in three wars and commanded a 1,000-soldier combined-arms battalion in East Baghdad, Iraq. He holds a Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and the Combat Action Badge.

Farrell was also a tenured professor at his alma mater, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He holds two master's degrees and his doctorate from Columbia University. He also wrote a book, "The Military and the Monarchy: The Case and Career of the Duke of Cambridge in the Age of Reform."



"When we think of somebody who makes a good leader, they exhibit tremendous character, courage and competence, and that builds trust. Trust is the lubricant that makes everything easier. When it's absent, an organization will never perform to its highest potential."

—Retired Col. Kevin Farrell, president and CEO of Battlefield Leadership

Continued from page 14



PROGRAM SITES

Battlefield Leadership offers leadership programs across battlefields and historic sites across 33 American states and nine countries.

COMMITTED CLIENTS

Battlefield Leadership’s clients range from Fortune 500 companies to municipalities and philanthropic organizations. Some of the company’s past clients include USAA, Milliken & Co., State Farm, Elliott Davis, and BASF. Farrell said the mainstay of the business is derived from high-level C-suite executives at large corporations, but the team can also service other levels.

“One of our clients, when I started with them about 10 years ago, they were \$500 million a year in revenue. This year, they’ll be a \$10 billion company, and they attribute that to their investment in leadership,” Farrell said.

Farrell and his team strive to conduct approximately 100 leadership programs and engagements each year. Approximately 85% of the programs organized by Battlefield Leadership are for repeat clients.

One of the ways Battlefield Leadership reaches new companies is through its open enrollment programs. Farrell said companies will often send one employee to participate in the program before committing to planning a larger trip for their leadership team. The planning process for a regular leadership program can take from three and eight months to complete, depending on the location and size of the group.

In November 2025, Battlefield Leadership conducted an open enrollment program in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Attendees, including Rusty Smith, chief of the South Spartanburg Fire District, had the opportunity to learn leadership lessons tied to the events of the Civil War’s Battle of Chickamauga and the Battle of Chattanooga. After going through the program, Smith said he plans to hire Battlefield Leadership to conduct a workshop for the rest of his fire department.

Looking to the future, Farrell hopes to continue growing Battlefield Leadership while also maintaining the high-quality leadership training for its clients. He said Battlefield Leadership would not exist if companies didn’t see value in its offerings.

“Everybody on our team is very passionate about leadership and helping organizations and individuals get better at what they do. That’s what drives us,” Farrell said. [UBJ](#)

Sterling Sales

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What communities should do immediately about AI

Artificial intelligence has moved quickly from curiosity to reality. For community leaders, the uncertainty is real. Is AI a threat to local jobs? An opportunity for entrepreneurs? Or something leaders assume will matter somewhere else before it matters here?

The answer is simpler and more urgent. AI is already here. The only real choice is whether communities learn the way into it or react after the fact.

The first step is mindset. Communities need to build AI literacy before they attempt to build AI strategy. Too many leaders want a plan before they understand the terrain. That order doesn't work. The goal isn't expertise, it's familiarity. Lead-

AI is already here. The only real choice is whether communities learn their way into it or react after the fact.

ers, business owners and educators need shared understanding grounded in practical examples, not abstract.

Second, leaders should learn directly from innovators already using AI. In every community, there are founders and operators quietly using AI to move faster, make better decisions and stretch limited resources. These people aren't outliers. They reflect where the market is already moving. Pulling them into the conversation early replaces fear with facts and speculation with experience.

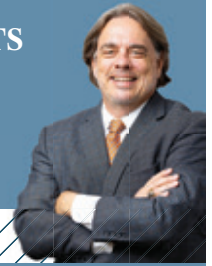
Third, leaders need to use AI themselves, not as a technical exercise, but as a daily tool for drafting communications, summarizing reports and preparing for decisions. Firsthand use changes perspective and improves understanding.

Finally, communities should encourage small, visible experiments that are easy to start and easy to stop. For example, hands-on sessions that help small-business owners use AI for marketing or customer communication or encouraging local economic-development organizations to use AI to improve research and drive operating efficiency. These experiments lower risk, build confidence and turn individual learning into

INSIGHTS

Thoughts
from Industry
Professionals

John Moore



shared learning. The most important question afterward is simple. What did we learn?

Taken together, the message for community leaders is straightforward. This moment doesn't require perfection or bold proclamations. It requires curiosity, participation and a willingness to learn. The emergence of AI will reward communities willing to learn and strain those that wait. [UBJ](#)

John Moore is a principal with Momentum Strategies, an Upstate-based consulting firm.



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Spartanburg organizations announce justice, public safety learning initiative



Breeze Airways adds nonstop flight to Ohio from GSP



Breeze Airways will offer nonstop flights to Columbus, Ohio, from the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport starting in May.

The new route will run on Mondays and Fridays beginning May 8. Fares will start from \$49. David Neeleman, founder and CEO of Breeze Airways, said the route is currently underserved and the company is confident of passenger interest.

Breeze Airways launched at GSP in 2024. Kevin Howell, president and CEO of the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport District, said Breeze has made a meaningful impact at the airport in just two years.

The airline currently offers nonstop flights from GSP to Hartford, Connecticut; Providence, Rhode Island; Orlando, Florida; Tampa, Florida; and Fort Myers, Florida. Seasonal service to Los Angeles and Pittsburgh will also return in May.

Spartanburg County high school students will soon be able to pursue work-based learning opportunities in the justice and public safety sectors thanks to a new initiative announced Jan. 21.

The Institute for Youth Justice and OneSpartanburg Inc. have partnered to launch a program that seeks to create 50 work-based learning experiences within the county's judicial and public safety systems.

The new initiative builds on the work of the Institute for Youth Justice, which was founded in 2016 by former Spartanburg County clerk of court Hope Blackley in partnership with the Spartanburg County Foundation. The institute exposes Spartanburg County high school juniors and seniors to a five-

month leadership-training program designed to provide a better understanding of the justice system.

The new program is part of a broader initiative OneSpartanburg has been building over the past two years to give county students meaningful work-based learning opportunities across a variety of fields. With the new justice and public safety component, the broader initiative will surpass 600 WBL positions in the public and private sectors by this summer.

In addition to opportunities through county court and judicial agencies and Spartanburg city and county law enforcement agencies, the initiative also seeks to create WBL opportunities with private law firms and other organizations that interact with or involve components of the justice system.

Huwell US Inc. selects Cherokee County for first U.S. operation

Huwell US Inc., a cosmetics and hair-care-products manufacturer, has announced it will invest \$11.6 million to build its first U.S. production facility in Cherokee County.

Based in Italy, Huwells will renovate a 120,000-square-foot facility at 14 Commerce Drive in Gaffney to produce a range of lighteners for a range of customers.

The facility is expected to be operational by June and is expected to create 25 new jobs. According to the company, the new production facility will provide the company with greater access to the U.S. market.

Founded more than 60 years ago, Huwells is a private-label manufacturer of lighteners and is one of the world's leading pro-

viders of bleaching powders. The company also distributes raw materials used in cosmetic products.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development approved job development credits related to the project. The council also awarded a \$100,000 set-aside grant to Cherokee County to assist with the costs of building improvements.

Economist warns of looming labor shortage

While there are some signs national economic uncertainty may be easing, the recent drastic reduction in immigrant labor poses immediate and long-term challenges for the American economy, according to a keynote speaker at the Outlook Spartanburg conference Jan. 30.

Demographic shifts in the U.S. population over the past few decades mean fewer native-born workers are available to meet labor needs, said Jeffrey Korzenik, chief economist at Fifth Third Bank, during his talk before a sold-out crowd of 400 business leaders.

Uncertainty continues to be the backdrop against which local and national economic decisions are being made, but Korzenik said there are signs the business community is forging a path forward.

Korzenik began his presentation with a discernible bright spot developing in the economy, namely the growing number of business leaders who are deciding “we have to simply move on.”

He described this “tariff fatigue” as business leaders shaking off the paralysis brought on by

federal economic policy decisions that have led to unpredictability over the past year.

The issue of tariffs imposed or even discussed by the Trump administration during 2025 created an uncertain economic picture that made business leaders leery of making significant capital investments. This is beginning to shift, Korzenik said.

“This is really good news,” he said. “Tariff uncertainty does not go away, but it is no longer an impediment to dealmaking, to investment.”

While this is encouraging, Korzenik said he and other economists believe too much capital investment is being made in artificial intelligence, which accounts for about one-third of current capital expenditures in the country.

He said the hope for the year ahead is that other sectors in the economy will see investment growth.

While the investment picture shows signs of improvement, Korzenik warned that the major driver of the U.S. economy is consumer spending. That picture is far less optimistic.

He said that while a number of factors affect consumer confidence and thus consumer

spending, one key driver is the level of employment across the economy.

Data shows job losses for three of the past eight months but data adjustments and revisions could show the employment picture is actually worse. Part of the issue is a drastic drop in the number of foreign-born workers available to meet labor needs.

Korzenik said the economic consequences of immigration policy decisions are significant. He said foreign-born workers are no longer coming to the U.S. in sufficient numbers to meet the economy’s labor needs.

“That inflow of workers is gone,” he said. “It’s clear to us this is a point of vulnerability ... in the economy.”

Korzenik emphasized he was talking about the economic impacts of immigration policies and not the policies themselves. He described it in terms of a disruption in the labor supply chain.

As a consequence, he said businesses nationwide have begun “labor hoarding.” This means firms are training themselves to avoid layoffs and to hold on to employees.



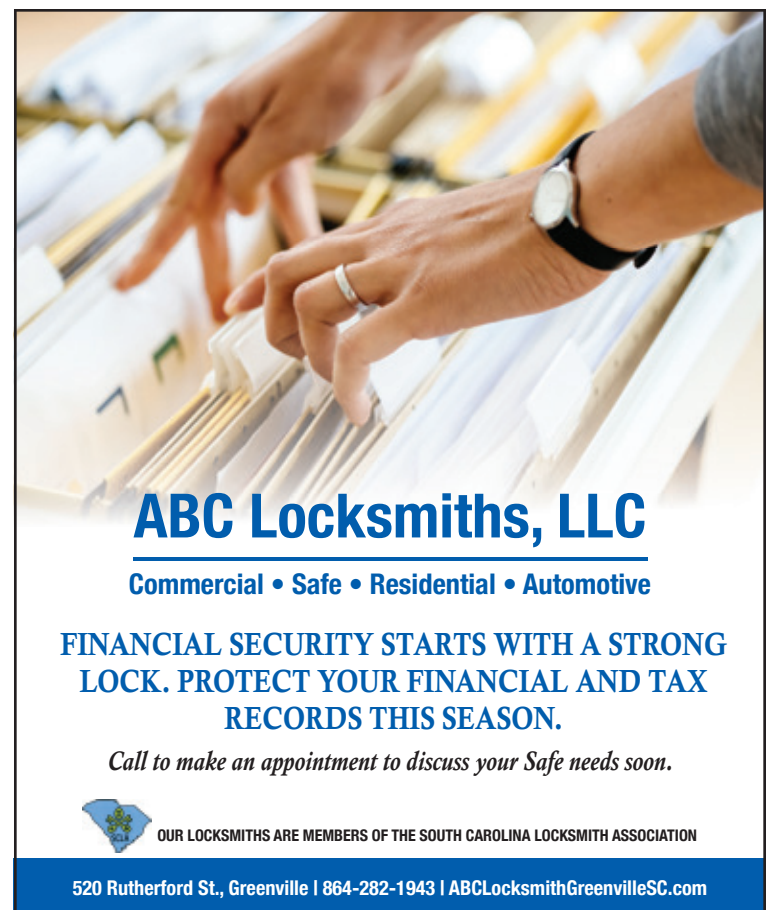
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Auro Hotels adds Courtyard by Marriott to downtown Greenville portfolio



Flock Shop Hot Chicken opens in Simpsonville

Flock Shop Hot Chicken replaced Willy Taco in downtown Simpsonville in January.

The new restaurant opened Jan. 19 at 129 N. Main St. Flock Shop Hot Chicken's menu features fried chicken, sandwiches, bowls, brunch, beer and cocktails.

Flock Shop Hot Chicken and Willy Taco are both owned by Hub City Hospitality, a Spartanburg-based restaurant group. The hot chicken brand first opened its Spartanburg location in 2019.

Auro Hotels announced Feb. 2 the addition of the Courtyard by Marriott Greenville Downtown to its portfolio in partnership with T2 Hospitality.

The Greenville-based hospitality company owns and operates five other properties in

Greenville, including the Hyatt Regency Greenville, AC Hotel Greenville, Residence Inn/SpringHill Suites Greenville Downtown and the Greenville Marriott on The Parkway.

The Courtyard by Marriott, located at 50 W. Broad St., fea-

tures 135 guest rooms, meeting space, a fitness center and on-site restaurants. DJ Rama, president and CEO of Auro Hotels, said the Courtyard Greenville is an exciting opportunity for the company to contribute further to the momentum of downtown Greenville.

Greenville-based United Community realigns Florida operations

United Community completed a strategic realignment of its Florida operations, the Greenville-based company announced Jan. 28.

The realignment divided the state into two markets: North Florida and South Florida. Evan Wyant was promoted as the North Florida state president for United Community. The bank promoted Matthew Bruno as the South Florida state president.

United Community also announced the following regional leadership appointments:

- Crane Holland, Central Florida regional president
- Carlos Perez, Miami-Dade regional president

Rich Bradshaw, president and chief banking officer at United Community, said the realignment is about meeting Florida where it is today and where it's going next.

"By creating two Florida markets and elevating leaders who know their communities deeply, we're strengthening our ability to stay personal and closely connected to the customers and communities we serve," Bradshaw said.

GADC secured \$725M in investments in 2025

The Greenville Area Development Corp. secured \$725 million in new corporate investments in 2025.

The nine organizations that announced investments include GE Vernova, Isuzu North America, KADIA USA, Safe Industries, Span America Medical Systems, DartPoints, Aran USA and Vermeer Corp. The companies are expected to create 1,293 new job opportunities in Greenville County.

Last year's investments represent 8% of South Carolina \$9.15 billion in capital investments and 16% of its 8,100 new jobs. Greenville County also saw \$13 million in capital investments and 140 new jobs from confidential projects.

TD Synnex named to Fortune's 2026 World's Most Admired Companies list



TD Synnex was named one of Fortune's 2026 World's Most Admired Companies.

The global company, which has a significant presence in Greenville, has been included on the list for the past five consecutive years. Patrick Zammit, CEO of TD Synnex, said the recognition reflects

the dedication of the company's 23,000 co-workers who show every day what it means to put partners first.

"Their expertise and commitment keep TD Synnex at the forefront of a fast-moving industry and fuel the trusted relationships that drive shared success," Zammit said.

Candidates for Fortune's annual World's Most Admired Companies list include 1,500 of the largest companies worldwide. The winners are selected based on a corporate reputation survey administered to top executives and directors in the financial community.



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Tri-County Tech gets an expanded campus in Anderson



Dave's Hot Chicken opens in Anderson

Dave's Hot Chicken opened Jan. 30 in Anderson at 100 Fritz Drive, near the intersection of East West Parkway and Clemson Boulevard.

"Anderson made it clear they were ready for Dave's Hot Chicken, and we were happy to answer the call," Kal Gullapalli, CEO of Built Different Brands, said in a written statement. "People here in this thriving and growing market have been asking for it, and opening this location is our way of responding to that enthusiasm while also thoughtfully expanding our footprint of exciting food brands across the Southeast."

The first Upstate location for the chain opened in Greenville in July 2024.

Anderson will get a campus for Tri-County Technical College with a goal for completion in late 2027. The project broke ground on the \$31 million expansion Jan. 16. The school's president, Galen DeHay, celebrated the milestone with members of the college's commission and Anderson County government.

The campus will focus on professional development. To accommodate the expansion, it will add eight programs to the school concentrated on manufacturing, utilities, transportation and logistics. The programs will all be located on the new campus.

"As an Anderson County resident, today's announcement is particularly exciting for me," said Hamid Mohsseni, chair of the school's commission in a released statement. "This expansion will provide greater access to high-quality programs and resources, helping students gain the skills they need to succeed and strengthening the economic vitality of our region. We are proud of the partnerships that made this possible and grateful for the community's support. Together, we are building opportunities that will benefit genera-

tions to come."

The institution has an existing campus in Anderson, which broke ground in 2005 and opened in 2007. The 42,000-square-foot campus accommodated co-working/studying space, classrooms and labs.

The plans call for a relocation of the automotive program from the Pendleton campus to the Anderson campus and housing it in a to-be-constructed 25,000-square-foot facility. This move will also facilitate a new one-year, heavy-duty diesel program.

The school will expand its mechatronics program to a 13,000-square-foot facility and consolidate the two-year program to one site.

The campus will consolidate other programs including the power line worker, forklift operations and safety, certified logistics technician, and heavy equipment operation into an 11,250-square-foot study facility, and the CDL program into a 5,200-square-foot facility along with sizable outdoor labs.

The corporate and community education buildings will expand to 18,000 square feet.



Dutch Bros expands to Clemson

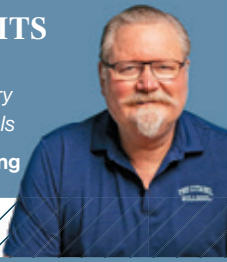
Dutch Bros Coffee is continuing its expansion in the Upstate with a drive-thru location in Clemson at 118 Pinnacle St., just off Tiger Boulevard. The location was previously an A&W-Long John Silver's.

News of the Clemson location comes months after new Greenville and Mauldin locations were announced in 2025, and after Dutch Bros bought out Clutch Coffee Bar and added its Upstate locations to the portfolio. Dutch Bros was founded in 1992.

INSIGHTS

Thoughts
from Industry
Professionals

John Sterling



What makes a salesperson worth calling back?

Sales teams have spent decades optimizing for volume — more calls, more emails, more follow-ups.

But heading into 2026, buyers are quietly rewriting the rules.

The question many sales leaders are now confronting isn't how to reach more prospects. It's why a prospect would choose credibility over convenience — and return a call at all.

Across industries, a consistent shift is emerging: Buyers are no longer responding to persistence. They're responding to competence.

BUYERS HAVEN'T GONE SILENT — THEY'VE BECOME SELECTIVE

Modern buyers rarely enter a sales conversation unprepared. By the time a salesperson reaches out, prospects have often reviewed websites, quizzed Grok and ChatGPT, compared competitors, and discussed budgets internally.

As a result, initial conversations are no longer about discovery in the traditional sense. They are about validation.

Buyers aren't asking what a product does. They're assessing whether a salesperson under-

stands their operating reality — and whether the interaction will reduce or increase the complexity of making a decision.

Sales conversations that add friction are increasingly ignored. Conversations that create clarity are the ones that continue.

CREDIBILITY IS REPLACING CHARISMA

Charisma still matters but it no longer carries deals on its own.

In today's environment, buyers respond to salespeople who demonstrate an understanding of constraints: internal approvals, competing priorities, timing pressures and risk tolerance. Those who acknowledge tradeoffs early tend to earn more trust than those who rush toward solutions.

The shift is subtle but significant. Where past sales cultures rewarded enthusiasm and urgency, buyers now gravitate toward calm, structured guidance — like a good doctor.

Salespeople who can frame decisions clearly — even when that clarity slows the process — are increasingly the ones invited back into the conversation.

STRUCTURE OVER PRESSURE

Another defining characteristic of sales conversations that continue is structure.

Buyers are signaling fatigue with urgency-driven tactics. Artificial timelines and repeated follow-ups without new information tend to stall engagement rather than accelerate it.

In contrast, salespeople who provide clear agendas, summarize decisions and outline realistic next steps help buyers navigate internal discussions more effectively. This approach positions the salesperson less as a persuader and more as a guide through a complex decision.

For many organizations, this has prompted a reassessment of how sales teams are trained and evaluated.



photo provided by iStock

RETHINKING HOW SALES TEAMS ARE MEASURED

The evolving buyer mindset has implications beyond individual sellers.

Organizations that continue to measure success primarily through activity — calls made, emails sent, meetings booked — may be misaligned with how buyers now engage.

More companies are beginning to focus on conversation quality, deal clarity and long-term customer fit as leading indicators of performance. The emphasis is shifting from speed to judgment.

This doesn't eliminate discipline or accountability. It reframes them.

Sales teams that prioritize understanding over output tend to see fewer stalled deals, higher close rates and stronger customer retention over time.

A CHANGING DEFINITION OF 'GOOD' SALES

Perhaps the clearest signal of this shift is how buyers respond to honesty.

Salespeople who are willing to acknowledge limitations, timing mismatches, or poor fit often find those moments strengthen — rather than weaken — trust.

Deals that survive early transparency tend to move forward with fewer surprises.

In an environment where buyers have access to information but limited attention, credibility has become the differentiator.

CLOSING PERSPECTIVE

Buyers haven't stopped answering calls. What has changed is the threshold for engagement.

As 2026 gets underway, sales conversations that continue tend to share the same qualities: clarity instead of urgency, structure instead of pressure and credibility built through an understanding of how real decisions are made inside organizations.

For sales teams and leaders willing to adapt, this shift presents an opportunity. For those clinging to volume-driven tactics, it may explain why once-reliable approaches are producing diminishing returns.

The rules haven't disappeared — they've evolved. [UBJ](#)

John Sterling is the Amazon bestselling author of "Sales for Noobs" and CEO of NOOB School, an online resource for new salespeople. Previously, Sterling helped build and sell Datastream for over \$200 million.

NEW TO THE STREET



Blue Ridge Bank

- 628 Ann St., Pickens
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Thursday; and 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday
- 864-897-9794, blueridge.bank

Blue Ridge Bank opened a location in Pickens. The financial institution offers personal and business banking, mortgages, cashier's checks, safe-deposit boxes, wire transfers and notary services.



Southern Vault Bistro

- 104 E. Main St., Downstairs, Pickens
- 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Thursday-Sunday
- 864-614-5670, southernvaultevents.com

Southern Vault Bistro offers various items including a spinach bacon quiche and Nancy's Famous Chicken Salad Croissant. The space also serves as an event venue.



Voda Cleaning & Restoration

- 864-732-4536, myvoda.com/greenville-sc

Voda Cleaning & Restoration offers 24/7 services, specializing in water-damage restoration and carpet cleaning.



AM-PM Farms Butchery & Market

- 202 S. Weston St., Fountain Inn
- 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday; and noon-5 p.m., Sunday
- 864-408-9478, amppmfarmsbutcheryandmarket.com

AM-PM Farms Butchery & Market reopened in downtown Fountain Inn. The business offers fresh, locally raised food, including meat from AM-PM Farms such as beef, poultry, pork and turkey.



Little Beginner's LLC

- 120 Gibbs Road, Wellford
- 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday
- 864-249-0227, little-beginners.com

Little Beginner's LLC provides in-home child care and an early care and education experience, which works to promote each child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.



Spavia Day Spa

- 1140 Woodruff Road, Suite 101, Greenville
- 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Saturday; and 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday
- 864-807-6886, greenvillesc.spaviadayspa.com

Spavia Day Spa offers various services including massages, facials, waxing and body treatments.



Longevity Center

- 103 Wade Hampton Blvd., Greenville
- 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday; and 8:30-5 p.m., Friday
- 864-520-5232, thecoa.com

Longevity Center offers services such as longevity testing, IV and infusion therapies, regenerative injections and cellular medicine, longevity and preventative medicine, and weight optimization.



Boot Barn

- 1489 W.O. Ezell Blvd., Spartanburg
- 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday
- 864-768-4499, bootbarn.com

Boot Barn sells boots, hats and accessories, and apparel for men, women and children.



Downtown Pizza

- 156 Magnolia St., Spartanburg
- 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Sunday
- 864-274-3893, downtownpizzasc.com

Downtown Pizza offers various appetizers, pizzas, calzones, sandwiches, salads and desserts.



Chase Bank

- 104 E. Blackstock Road, Spartanburg
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday; and 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday
- 864-641-2968, chase.com

Chase Bank opened a location in Spartanburg. The financial institution offers services, including checking and savings accounts, credit cards, mortgages and auto financing.



Rudolph Logistics

- 1061 Duncan Reidville Road, Duncan
- rudolphlogistics.com

Rudolph Logistics provides services such as warehouse, production and battery logistics and transportation.



Andy's Frozen Custard

- 2211 Boiling Springs Road, Boiling Springs
- 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sunday-Thursday; and 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday
- 864-586-4094, eatandys.com

Andy's Frozen Custard offers various frozen custard sundaes and concretes with a choice of toppings.

ON THE MOVE

FINANCE

Appointed



Thomas Freeman
Director of investments
3D Wealth Management

Thomas Freeman was appointed director of investments with 3D Wealth Management, an ensemble group affiliated with Northwestern Mutual. He is a graduate of Appalachian State University.

HOSPITALITY

Appointed



Vicki Wicks
General manager
The Shepherd Hotel

Vicki Wicks was appointed general manager of The Shepherd Hotel. She is a 30-year veteran of White Lodging.

TRANSPORTATION

Selected



William Petty
Chief of police
Greenville-Spartanburg Airport District

William Petty was selected as chief of police for the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport District. He has more than 30 years of law enforcement and public safety experience.

SPOTLIGHT

GENERAL CONTRACTOR // PROMOTED

Jeff Sines
Project development manager
Harkins Builders



Jeff Sines was promoted to project development manager at Harkins Builders, a 100% employee-owned general contractor. He will use field expertise to build partner relationships across the Carolinas region.

FINANCE

Hired



Madison Capps
Accountant
Stokes & Co. CPAs

Madison Capps joined Stokes & Co. CPAs as an accountant. She served as senior payroll specialist for PaySMART Payroll Services.

REAL ESTATE

Hired



James Miles
Director of HOA management
Bluefield Realty Group

James Miles joined Bluefield Realty Group as director of HOA management. He owned and operated CCM Management in South Florida until its sale in early 2025.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Hired



Kellany Moore
Regional sales manager
Landrum

Kellany Moore joined Landrum as a regional sales manager. She has experience in workforce solutions across manufacturing, distribution and logistics.

FINANCE

Hired



Steve Chacon
President
Banker Exchange

Steve Chacon joined Banker Exchange, a qualified intermediary specializing in Section 1031 exchanges, as president. He has more than 20 years of exclusive experience in 1031 exchanges.

LEGAL

Hired



Scott King
Project manager
Ogletree Deakins

Scott King joined Ogletree Deakins as project manager. He has nearly three decades of experience in operations management, continuous improvement and management consulting.

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ON THE MOVE

SPOTLIGHT

FINANCE // PROMOTED

Sharon Thompson
Chief commercial banking officer
United Community



Sharon Thompson was promoted to chief commercial banking officer with United Community. Since joining the financial institution in 2019, she has served as its Florida state president, president of the Central Atlanta Region and East Atlanta regional president.

FINANCE

Hired



Mary Michael Mouw
Marketing and business development specialist

Tax Credit Marketplace LLC

Mary Michael Mouw joined Tax Credit Marketplace LLC as marketing and business development specialist. She has a background in marketing, social media management and events.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hired



Merritt Fish
Account executive
Hughes Agency

Merritt Fish joined Hughes Agency, a full-service public relations, marketing, advertising and event management firm, as account executive. She has more than three years of experience.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hired



Brawley Crawford
Director of strategic growth
Crawford

Brawley Crawford joined Crawford, a full-service creative agency based in Greenville, as director of strategic growth. He served as commercial director for GLIMMA.

HOSPITALITY

Hired



Jay Burnett
EVP of investments and development
Auro Hotels

Jay Burnett joined Auro Hotels as executive vice president of investments and development. He has nearly 35 years of experience.

FINANCE

Hired



Sheyla Corona
Personal lines sales representative
Countybank Insurance

Sheyla Corona joined Countybank Insurance, a division of Countybank, as personal lines sales representative. She began her career at Countybank as a teller in July 2023.

CONSTRUCTION

Hired



Jackson Stone
Project engineer
Messer

Jackson Stone joined Messer as a project engineer. He has experience in health care, higher education and historical commercial renovation projects.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hired

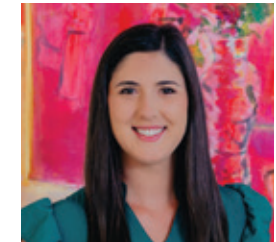


Nate Osbourne
Creative director
Crawford

Nate Osbourne joined Crawford, a full-service creative agency based in Greenville, as creative director. He served as art director with EP+Co.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Promoted



Anna Fisher
VP of events and creative services
Hughes Agency

Anna Fisher was promoted to vice president of events and creative services with Hughes Agency. She joined the firm in 2021 as a graphic design and event manager.

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ON THE MOVE

REAL ESTATE

Hired



Anna Mason
Realtor

Coldwell Banker
Caine

Anna Mason joined Coldwell Banker Caine as a Realtor in its Spartanburg office. She has 15 years of experience in early childhood education as a teacher and director.

EDUCATION

Honored



Bert McCarty
**Outstanding
Contribution Award**

Golf Course
Superintendents
Association of America

Bert McCarty was honored with the 2026 Outstanding Contribution Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He is a professor emeritus at Clemson University.

LEGAL

Transitioned



John Kuppens
Litigation team

Nelson
Mullins Riley &
Scarborough LLP

John Kuppens transitioned to the Greenville litigation team with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP. He has more than 30 years of experience.

SPOTLIGHT

ARCHITECTURE // HONORED

**Brad
Benjamin**
**James A. Neal
distinguished
service award**
Radium
Architecture



Brad Benjamin was honored by AIA Greenville with its 2025 James A. Neal distinguished service award. He was chosen in recognition of his leadership, mentorship and commitment to advancing the architecture profession and community. Benjamin works as a project manager with Radium Architecture.

LEGAL

Transitioned



Kelly Reid
Litigation team

Nelson
Mullins Riley &
Scarborough LLP

Kelly Reid transitioned to the Greenville litigation team with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP. She focuses her practice on complex litigation.

FINANCE

Earned



Neicole Murray
**Certified public
accountant**

Stokes & Co. CPAs

Neicole Murray earned her certified public accountant designation. She is an accounting professional with Stokes & Co. CPAs.

MEDICAL

Appointed



**Jan Childress
McCrary**
Chairwoman
MUSC Foundation

Jan Childress McCrary was appointed chairwoman of MUSC Foundation's board of directors. She is the owner of HMR Veterans Services Inc.

GOVERNMENT

Appointed



Chuck Garrett
Board member
U.S. Endowment
for Forestry and
Communities

Chuck Garrett was appointed to the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities' board of directors. He works as chief executive officer of Cherokee Nation Businesses.

ENGINEERING

Earned



David Rackley
**Professional
engineer license**
Hussey Gay Bell

David Rackley has earned his professional engineer license in South Carolina. He works at Hussey Gay Bell's Greenville office.

SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION: onthemove@upstatebusinessjournal.com



PLANNER



UPCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS

MARCH 6

First Friday Coffee

- 8:30-10 a.m.
- Mauldin Chamber, 101 E. Butler Road, Mauldin
- Mauldin Chamber at 864-297-1323 and info@mauldinchamber.org.

Enjoy coffee and pastries, sometimes door prizes, and an informal setting to meet, mingle and make contacts.

MARCH 11

Greer Means Business

- 8:30 a.m.
- Ideal HR, 7001 Pelham Road, Suite I, Greenville
- Register at: web.greerchamber.com/atlas/events-v4/register/15757

Join the Greer Chamber for this networking event.

MARCH 12

TATT Chat

- 10-11 a.m. | Virtual meeting
- Register at: lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/gf539tc

What: Join Ten at the Top for this monthly networking event featuring guest speaker Mary Hipp of Feed & Seed Co., who will discuss the topic "How Feed & Seed is Addressing Food Insecurity."

MARCH 17

Coffee Connections Referral Group

- 8-9:30 a.m.
- Mauldin Cultural Center, Rotary Room, 101 E. Butler

- Road, Mauldin
- Mauldin Chamber at 864-297-1323 and info@mauldinchamber.org.

Join the Mauldin Chamber to build valuable connections, share ideas and elevate your network.

Coffee & Connections

- 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- Spinx Market, 659 S. Main St., Greenville
- Brittney Kessler at bkessler@greenvillechamber.org or 864-239-3742.

Join the Greenville Chamber for this networking event.

Business After Hours

- 5-7 p.m.
- Fountain Inn Taproom, 101 N. Main St., Fountain Inn
- Free for Fountain Inn Chamber members and guests, \$5 per nonmember; Marnie Schwartz-Hanley at meshanley@fountaininnchamber.org.

Join the Fountain Inn Chamber for this networking event.

MARCH 18

GCYP Biz & Coffee

- 7:30-9 a.m.
- Tselia Coffee, 219 N. Main St., Greenville
- Free for GCYP Members, \$16 per nonmember; Cheryl Garrison at cgarrison@greenvillechamber.org.

Join the Greenville Chamber Young Professionals for this networking event.

MARCH 24

Business Before Hours

- 8:30-9:30 a.m.

- The Mill at Fountain Inn, Knowledge Perk, 100 Ellison St., Fountain Inn
- Free for Fountain Inn Chamber members, \$5 per guest; Marnie Schwartz-Hanley at meshanley@fountaininnchamber.org.

Join the Fountain Inn Chamber for this networking event.

Lunch & Learn Series

- 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Simpsonville Chamber, 105-A W. Curtis St., Simpsonville
- \$15 per Simpsonville Chamber, \$25 per nonmember; Whitney Ferguson at 864-688-9552 or wferguson@simpsonvillechamber.com.

Join the Simpsonville Chamber for this networking event featuring a guest speaker.

MARCH 25

Coffee With The Community

- 8:30-10 a.m.
- Fifth Third Bank, 3556 Pelham Road, Greenville
- Greer Chamber at 864-877-3131 or info@greerchamber.com.

Join the Greer Chamber for this networking event featuring guest speaker Gina Turcotte, director of philanthropy for the Spartanburg Regional Foundation.

MARCH 26

Business After Hours

- 5-7 p.m.
- BridgeWay Brewing Co., 610 Bridgeway Blvd., Simpsonville
- Free for Simpsonville Chamber

- members, \$10 per nonmember; Whitney Ferguson at 864-963-3781 or wferguson@simpsonvillechamber.com.
- Join the Simpsonville Chamber for this networking event.

MARCH 31

Coffee Connections Referral Group

- 8-9:30 a.m.
- Mauldin Cultural Center, Rotary Room, 101 E. Butler Road, Mauldin
- Mauldin Chamber at 864-297-1323 and info@mauldinchamber.org.

Join the Mauldin Chamber to build valuable connections, share ideas and elevate your network.

APRIL 1

Leads Group Meeting

- Noon-1:30 p.m.
- Mauldin Cultural Center, Rotary Room, 101 E. Butler Road, Mauldin
- Mauldin Chamber at 864-297-1323 or info@mauldinchamber.org.

Join the Mauldin Chamber to gain leads at this networking event.

For more business events, visit UpstateBusinessJournal.com.

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