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Subject: MidlandsBiz: A Conversation with Jim Powell, Home Works of America

ON THE MOVE IN THE MIDLANDS

A Conversation with Jim Powell, Home Works of America

On December 3, more than half a dozen community partners announced a new program, ReBuild Together, to begin the flood recovery rebuild in the wake of record-breaking rainfall that devastated area homes in October. At the center of this story is a non-profit organization, Home Works, that is stretching beyond its historical mission in order to more expansively serve those in need. The major rebuild will take place in the Midlands area December 28-30.

[Read More](#)

Strong leadership continues at Children's Trust with the start of new officer terms

Brian Craven was recently selected as the chair of the board of directors for Children's Trust of South Carolina. [See More](#)

Late Senator Clementa Pinckney honored with Wilkins Award

Furman University's Riley Institute has announced that the late South Carolina Senator Clementa Pinckney, along with Governor Nikki Haley and Charleston Mayor Joe Riley, are this year's recipients of the David H. Wilkins Awards for Excellence. [See More](#)

Two shareholders at Bauknight Pietras & Stormer named 100 Most Influential People in Accounting

Bauknight Pietras & Stormer, P.A. announced that two of its shareholders, Thomas Pietras and Christian Stormer have been named as two of the 100 Influential People in Accounting by the South Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants. [See More](#)

The S.C. Philharmonic: A Concert for Columbia Tonight

A Concert for Columbia is dedicated to the City of Columbia, Richland County, and first responders who protected Columbia during the catastrophic flood. [See More](#)

A Conversation with Ryan Alford, iDrive on Demand

Started just three years ago in Greenville, SC, iDrive on Demand is transforming the car buying experience. On pace to hit \$8M in revenue in 2015, the company has achieved double digit growth in each of its first three years. It is the highest rated dealer on Cars.com in the entire country. It's key value proposition is "custom-ordered, pre-owned cars." [See More](#)

16 Customers Whose Business You Don't Want

Whether you are part of the retail, wholesale, or service spheres, any business leader, owner, or employee who deals regularly with customers knows that there are some who will waste your time, make your life miserable, rob you of profits, and distract you from serving better quality, more profitable clients. [See More](#)

Teens in South Carolina are delaying pregnancy, just not long enough

South Carolina's teen birth rate has declined 61 percent since peaking in 1991, the result of decades of success for communities across the state. [See More](#)

Women in Philanthropy reaches \$1 million milestone in community grants, celebrates impact at annual Leadership Breakfast

After 12 years of service in the Midlands, Women in Philanthropy (WIP), an affinity group of United Way of the Midlands in collaboration with Central Carolina Community Foundation, has granted more than \$1 million to programs benefiting women and children in the Midlands. [See More](#)

The Adjutant General of South Carolina to promote S.C. State Guard Commander to Major General

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston, the adjutant general of S.C. will promote Brig. Gen. Thomas S. Mullikin, commander of the S.C. State Guard (SCSG), to the rank of major general during ceremonies this Saturday, Dec. 5, at the historic Olympia Armory in Columbia. [See More](#)

Cypress Creek Renewables establishing solar power operations in Dillon County

Cypress Creek Renewables, a company that specializes in the ownership and development of long-term solar energy projects, has taken first steps toward investing \$10 million in a solar energy project in Dillon County. [See More](#)

Pack Like A Pro – With The Season Of Travel Upon Us These Tips Will Help Save Your Time And Your Sanity

Brian Maynor, Style Coach: "Traveling is inevitable this time of year, whether it's business, personal or both, and with all the other added stresses packing can push you over the edge. Save your sanity and the spirit of the season with a few genius hacks that you can use all year. Here is the perfect packing checklist to give you one less problem to worry about." [Read More](#)

USA eShop continues to grow European sales for US manufacturers

USA eShop LLC, an ecommerce business that exclusively sells 'Made in USA' products in Europe, has shown an average 25% increase in sales per month since August of this year. [See More](#)

National experts lead learning exchange with SC educators

Teams of educators from across South Carolina gathered at TransformSC's Learning Institute in Columbia yesterday to learn from national experts about one of the newest innovations in public education. [See More](#)

GOD AND FAITH

By W. Thomas Smith Jr.: A few days before the 74th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks, I was introduced to a little book which revealed to me one of the most amazing stories of Christian conversion I had ever heard or read. [See More](#)

Critical Sales Secrets - How to get what you want

Business Advice from Jerry Bellune: "The FBI uses five hostage negotiation tactics. These get hostage takers to change their minds. Why would those help you in sales?" [Read More](#)

Carolina Business Equipment recognized as a top provider by national publication

The national publication, CIO Review, recognizes Columbia, SC-based company, CBE, as one of the top 20 companies in the country for Managed Print Services. [See More](#)

Robyn Rudish-Laning named communications

coordinator

Robyn Rudish-Laning has joined the South Carolina Council on Competitiveness as its communications coordinator. [See More](#)

Wilkes Law Firm Attorney, Derek Newberry, receives AV Preeminent® rating from Martindale-Hubbell

The Wilkes Law Firm, P.A. announced that Derek Newberry has received the AV Preeminent rating from the Martindale-Hubbell legal rating service. [See More](#)

AT&T plans to launch gigabit Internet speeds in Columbia area

AT&T announced it is planning to expand the availability of ultra-fast speeds through AT&T GigaPowerSM to homes, apartments and small businesses in parts of 38 additional metros across the United States, which will total at least 56 metros served, including in the Columbia area. [See More](#)

Wallick Investments hosts private Georgia O'Keeffe tour

Nationally-ranked Wallick Investments, LLC, a South Carolina-based Registered Investment Advisory firm, continued its series of events connecting art and science by hosting a private tour on Thursday, November 19th of the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit at the Columbia Museum of Art. [See More](#)

Richland County names Youth Oratorical Award WINNERS

On Sunday, December 6, 2015, five (5) finalists competed for the master orator award hosted by Richland County Councilwoman Julie-Ann Dixon in partnership with the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. [See More](#)

Coker College Professor Shirley McClerklin-Motley honored with FBI Director's 2015 Community Leadership Award

Coker College Associate Professor of Social Work Shirley McClerklin-Motley has been selected as the 2015 recipient of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's annual Director's Community Leadership Award (DCLA). [See More](#)

RhythmLink's food drive delivers over 260 pounds of goods to Harvest Hope

Joining together for a food drive, RhythmLink International and companies in the Columbia Industrial Park donated 266 pounds of canned goods, food and non-perishable goods to the Harvest Hope Food Bank. [See More](#)

Construction firms add 46,000 workers in November as sector's unemployment rate drops to 6.2 percent

Construction firms added 46,000 workers in November for the biggest monthly gain in employment for the sector since January 2014, as the industry's unemployment rate declined to 6.2 percent, according to an analysis by the Associated General Contractors of America. [See More](#)

Johnston joins Flagship Properties

Caldwell Johnston recently joined Flagship Properties' commercial division as a sales and leasing broker. Flagship Properties is an Upstate-based real estate company that offers commercial sales and leasing, residential sales and property management services. [See More](#)

EdVenture Children's Museum expands community cooking classes Dominion Resources funds expansion of healthy life-style initiatives

EdVenture Children's Museum is pleased to announce that Dominion Resources is funding the expansion of the museum's community cooking classes to include Hammond Village. [See More](#)

Applebee's to open eighth restaurant in Columbia, South Carolina

Apple Gold Group, franchisee of Applebee's Grill and Bar, is excited to announce that December 8th, 2015 will be the grand opening of their newest Applebee's restaurant on Killian Road in Columbia, South Carolina. [See More](#)

The City of Columbia is accepting applications to fill several vacancies on the following boards and commissions

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC); Board of Zoning Appeals; Climate Protection Action Committee and more. [See More](#)

Science Cafe – “With Shale Gas, Do We Still Need Biofuels?” ~ Tonight

Dr. Regalbuto will lead the discussion in, “With Shale Gas, Do We Still Need Biofuels?” Due to the addition of shale oil and gas in the alternate energy research for transportation fuels, time horizon, underground environment effects, greenhouse gas emissions, and political implication have all become topics of interest. [See More](#)

Three Irish Tenors ~ Tonight

The Newberry Opera House presents the incredible holiday event, Christmas from Dublin with the Three Irish Tenors for two performances only. [See More](#)

Events around Columbia and the Midlands

See business and after hours events here. [Read More](#)

Political cartoons from Robert Ariail

Published on MidlandsBiz.com almost daily. [See More](#)

Robert Samuelson: Generational warfare, anyone?

"An enduring puzzle of our politics is why there isn't more generational conflict. By all rights, younger Americans should be resentful." [Read More](#)

Kathleen Parker: The pathology of Trump-itis

"Surely he's finally gone and done it now. Donald Trump, insulter extraordinaire, was bound to cross a line too far. Two days before Thanksgiving, he made many people feel nostalgic for the merely obnoxious Trump when he mocked a reporter with a physical disability, displaying a level of cruelty and meanness heretofore only suspected." [Read More](#)

Sales Advice from Jeffrey Gitomer: It's that time of year: "Call me back after the holidays."

"Humbug. Salespeople hate holidays. Holidays are an excuse for decision makers to put buying decisions on hold. But the worst of them are the Christmas to New Year." [Read More](#)

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