



LOCAL HOME BUILDER MAINTAINS HIGH NATIONAL RANKING

The Mungo Companies has maintained its ranking as the 35th largest builder in the country according to Builder magazine. Mungo's ranking is in the annual Builder 100 edition and, based on closings, ranks all public and privately held builders from across the country. Builder magazine reports that success didn't come easily in 2010. "Builders redrew their house plans to match buyer demand for flexible and energy-efficient spaces. And some now compete with short sales and foreclosures after painfully lowering costs, thanks to cooperation and concessions from subcontractors and suppliers."

THE WRIGHT GROUP CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LAUNCHES HEATING AND AIR DIVISION

Local residential contractor The Wright Group is opening a new heating & air division, headed up by a 25-year veteran of the HVAC business, David Terry

According to Joe Wright, owner of The Wright Group, this expansion means the company can now offer an increased level of customer service and better pricing for Columbia-area homeowners.

"We're very excited about the opportunity to offer our clients an expanded service offering," said Wright. "With David Terry at the helm of this new division, I know we will be able to consistently offer top quality HVAC service and installations for our customers. David is an expert in his field, and his can-do attitude and professionalism fit perfectly with our company philosophy" he added.

Formerly the owner of a successful HVAC company, and a key leader of the HVAC division at a large local company, David Terry brings his expertise in installation, sales and service to The Wright Group. He is also NATE certified and is an air quality specialist.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 2011 "SALUTE TO THE MILITARY"

The Carolina Cup Racing Association is pleased to announce that the 42nd Second Annual Marion du Pont Scott Colonial Cup will feature a "Salute to the Military" on November 19, 2011.

Thousands of service personnel, active and retired, as well as their family members will be able to enjoy the fall steeplechase races free of charge. The CCRA begins complimentary ticket distribution on Tuesday, September 6th.

"After seeing all the military families enjoying the fall weather and festivities at last year's Colonial Cup, we knew we were on to something special," said Jeff Teter, Executive Director of the CCRA. "We are working to make this year even bigger and better. That's especially important because we want the festivities to welcome the newly arrived members of the Third Army at Shaw Air Force base."

In May, approximately 1,200 soldiers and 200 civilians, along with their families, began making their homes in Sumter. That bolsters the U.S. Military's annual economic impact on the Midlands, which was already estimated at more than \$7 billion annually.

Tickets to the Colonial Cup will be available at the discount price of \$20 until the end of October. After that, prices increase to \$30. Children younger than 12 are admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN AWARDED ADVANCESC GRANT

Southern Wesleyan University has received a \$50,000 grant for Chemistry Professor Pascal Binda's project entitled, "Designing new catalysts for the synthesis of polylactide polymers with enhanced degradation rate in composting environments for use in packaging applications." This project involves designing better catalysts that allow for varying rates of polylactide decomposition according to the type of packaging. Some types of polylactide polymer, a packaging material, require longer decomposition times, while other types of packaging materials require a quicker decomposition. The grant is awarded by AdvanceSC, a company that funds economic development projects in the Upstate. According to Binda, the grant will provide chemicals and financing for research. He said that most undergraduate students require technical skills in conducting scientific research to be successful in manufacturing industries and graduate school projects.

"Getting this funding is a huge advantage for us," Binda said. "We can carry out projects with students who are passionate about research and development in chemistry, but don't always have the resources and finances available to carry out the project."

In addition to providing first-year funding for the university's scientific research project, the AdvanceSC grant aids in promoting and developing student proficiencies for high-tech and highly skilled manufacturing jobs. Southern Wesleyan University's collaboration with Sealed Air Corporation for testing and evaluation is also an integral component of the project.

PALMETTO HEALTH NAMED TO 2011 LIST OF BEST PLACES TO WORK IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW

IDG's *Computerworld* announced Palmetto Health as a 2011 Best Places to Work in IT honoree, one of 100 top organizations that challenge their IT staffs while providing great benefits and compensation. Palmetto Health ranked 22 out of top 100 in nation which is fourth in employers from 2,500 to 9,999 and 5th in the South Atlantic region.

Some of the unique attributes of Palmetto Health's IT department that helped earn Computerworld's award include:

- Palmetto Health's commitment to leadership development (enhancing the skills of existing leaders and developing future leaders).
- Transparency (keeping employees informed and involved in decision making) via communication boards, weekly CEO updates and quarterly forums.
- Recognition of employee outstanding performance through Thank You notes, Kudos postings, letters home from CIO/CEO, Employee of the Quarter and a focus on internal promotions.
- Opportunities to implement technology that enhances our infrastructure, creates efficiencies, and reduces costs; providing a sense of purpose and value of our IT staff.