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Landing

New Business

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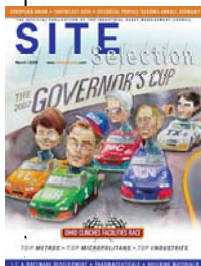
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FOUR COMMITTEE OF 100 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

COMMITTEE OF
ONE HUNDRED
GREATER STATESVILLE

Statesville-Mooresville Ranks #2 Among Micropolitans

For the fourth consecutive year, Statesville-Mooresville finished in the top 2 among micropolitan areas in the US, according to Site Selection magazine. Approximately



674 micropolitan areas, defined by the magazine as those with a population between 10,000 and 50,000, were ranked according

to the number of economic development projects where the

capital investment was worth at least \$1 million, create 50 or more jobs or involve new floor space of at least 20,000 square feet.

Statesville-Mooresville recruited 21 projects in 2007, including Newell Rubbermaid corporate aviation, the Pratt Industries expansion, Doosan Infracore's purchase of the former Dana Corp. plant, Dana's move to downtown Statesville and RF Micro Devices.

Overall, North Carolina had six micropolitan areas, including

Lincolnton and New Bern, listed in the top 100. Lexington-Thomasville was ranked #1. "North Carolina's metropolitan and 'micropolitan' communities throughout the state are well-represented in our rankings this year," said Mark Arend, editor-in-chief of Site Selection, in a news release.

"This tells me that North Carolina is successfully transitioning its economic base from one that was dependent on a couple of

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GREATER STATESVILLE MANUFACTURING UPDATE...



Zimmer Holdings Inc., parent company of Statesville-based **Zimmer Orthopaedic Surgical Products**, has been awarded new supply contracts with Premier Purchasing Partners.



Statesville-based **Speedball Art** announced in March the acquisition of Houston Art, a manufacturer of art and craft products located in Houston, Texas. Houston Art was established in 1965, and is recognized for its Mona Lisa, Messenger, and Athena brands.



CommScope Inc. reported a rise in fourth-quarter net income to \$37.6 million, or 51 cents per diluted share, from \$27.2 million, or 38 cents per diluted share, in the year-ago period. Excluding one-time items, the Hickory-based company, which has a significant presence in Statesville, earned \$40.6 million, or 55 cents per diluted share, in the latest quarter.



Kewaunee Scientific Corp. reported a 150 percent increase in earnings for its third quarter ended Jan. 31. The Statesville-based company posted net income of \$802,000, or 31 cents per diluted share, in the latest quarter, up from \$321,000, or 13 cents per diluted share, in the year-ago period.



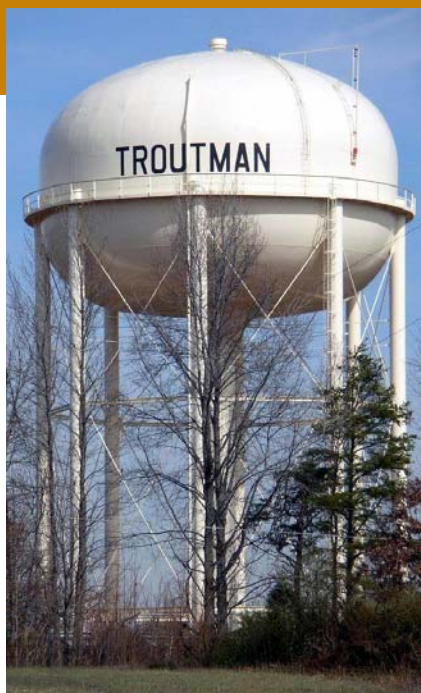
Fitch Ratings assigned an AA rating to **Iredell County's** \$5.3 million general-obligation community-college bonds. The series 2008 bonds went on sale in March.



Paramount Flight Services opened its operations at Statesville Regional Airport in February. Paramount provides pilot training for commercial and private pilot certificates, instrument and multi-engine ratings, certified flight instructor, certified instrument flight instructor, multi-engine instructor and ATP ratings. Paramount also offers aircraft rental, pilot services and photo photography flights.



In January, **Jeff Reed** was named chief executive of **Fischbein**, a manufacturer of packaging and material-handling equipment based in Statesville. He succeeds Mike Siddons, who has left the company to pursue other opportunities. Reed will also serve as Fischbein's chairman.



TROUTMAN TOWER A BUSINESS BEACON

Nothing says OPEN FOR BUSINESS like a shiny new water tower, and the newest, in Troutman, has already generated a lot of interest. Rising high above the pines along I-77 between exits 42 and 45, the tower is hard to miss. Water towers are a natural beacon for manufacturers, since a lot of manufacturing equipment relies on steady, reliable water pressure. For even a smaller manufacturing operation, low or inconsistent water pressure can lead to thousands of dollars in annual repairs to pumps, seals, valves and fittings.

The 145 foot tall, one million gallon Troutman tower, was completed this past autumn. Each foot of height provides 0.43 PSI (pounds per square inch) of pressure. A typical municipal water supply runs at between 50 and 100 PSI and most industrial machinery requires a minimum of 30 to 40 PSI. Typically, a water tower's tank is sized to hold about a day's worth of water for the community served by the tower. If the pumps fail (for example, during a power failure), the water tower holds enough water to keep things flowing for about a day. At one million gallons, the Troutman tank is sized to service significant residential, commercial and

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Statesville Regional Airport Celebrates 68 Years Serving the Greater Statesville Area

OPPORTUNITY EXPANDS ALONG WITH AIRPORT

“Really, airports are
economic engines.”

If you're like me, you've probably never flown out of the Statesville Regional Airport and you're much more familiar with Piedmont Triad or Charlotte Douglas than you are with the airport in your own back yard. But aviation is alive and well in Statesville despite the fact that we haven't had the demographics to attract a regularly scheduled commercial carrier like Delta or U.S. Airways. Air traffic is growing in large metropolitan areas and spilling over into the top-tier regional airports, including SVH (the FAA designation for Statesville).

Thousands of people use the Statesville airport every year. Company officials from Lowe's, Rubbermaid, DEI, Inc. and Gillett-Evernham Racing use the airport on a daily basis, and representatives of many other local companies arrive and depart from SVH when visiting Iredell and North Mecklenburg plants and companies. Last year, a site adjacent to the airport was Honda Jet Engine's second choice (Burlington was their first), for its assembly plant; and several other large manufacturing companies have inquired about sites near the airport.

This past march, Statesville Regional (Municipal) Airport marked its 68th year of operation, making it one of the older airports in the state.

A \$14 million runway expansion completed in 2006 opened the airport up to larger passenger jets, but the airport also has become a potential link in global freight transportation.

The 7000 foot runway can accommodate a fully-loaded 737. Imagine auto parts getting from Statesville to Detroit in an hour and a half by air or doctors flying in from around the country to harvest organs donated at Iredell Memorial or Davis Regional Hospitals.

Visitors who use the airport are likely to buy jet fuel there, rent a car, stay in a hotel and eat at local restaurants. All of that generates a modest but growing economic impact in Statesville, and the estimated tax benefit of the local airport is equal to more than 100 homes. “Really, they're economic engines,” said Mike Smith, Director of the Greater Statesville Development Corporation.

Why is SVH so popular with business? Obviously, some of it has to do with location. The airport is situated less than 2 miles from I-40, just a few minutes from the critical intersection of I-40 and I-77, and is less than a 40 minute drive from Mooresville and Huntersville, where the Lowe's and Rubbermaid headquarters are located. Perhaps equally important, however, is the quality of the facility and the critical fact that the airport is also controlled from Atlanta, not Charlotte, providing faster clearances for take-offs and landings. Several of the sites also offer “through the fence” access. This means that aircraft departing the company's facility can move directly from their hangers onto the taxiway—an important consideration for many corporations.

The Great Biofuels Debate

Imagine how amazing petroleum must have seemed back when it was an emerging alternative fuel (to coal, wood and whale oil) in the U.S. Drill a hole in the ground in some parts of Texas and Pennsylvania, and rich black stuff would come gushing up, loaded with energy. What could possibly be the problem with such bounty?

In some quarters, biofuels inspire similar wide-eyed wonder today. Others see biofuels in a far less positive light. They cite concerns over water, air and land pollution, the distortion of agricultural commodity prices and the destruction of sensitive ecosystems. Several proposals to build biodeisel plants in the Greater Statesville area have been floated... and have been vehemently opposed by some local landowners. So what is this debate really about? What are the facts, and how can we use them to make intelligent decisions about the future of biofuels?

Biofuels originate from some type of biomass, or biological matter that can be used for fuel. The two most common types of biofuels are

In many ways, Greater Statesville is ideally suited as a site for biofuel manufacture. We have a strong agricultural sector, a prime location for distribution across the eastern half of the United States and a skilled and able workforce. But what are the drawbacks? The risks to the environment? And most importantly the future of biofuel, in general.



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The **Greater Statesville** Committee of 100
Welcomes our **Newest** Members

The following companies have joined the Committee of 100 at the Corporate Level:



monoxide in vehicle exhaust, and in its pure form, ethanol has a very high octane rating, which generally means it will provide more power.

However, although ethanol is considered a cleaner burning fuel with less carbon monoxide and other toxic emissions, the troubling thing about using corn for energy is that the fossil fuel energy used to create ethanol is very high. According to a 2002 report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, ethanol yields only 34% more energy than is used in its production; however, other studies, such as one by David Pimentel and Tad W. Patzek published in Natural Resources Research in 2005, suggest that corn and other ethanol crops require more fossil fuel energy than the fuel they produce. In addition, corn production also requires herbicides and fertilizers, which can contribute to soil and groundwater pollution.

Biodiesel is a non-petroleum product made by mixing biological oils with several other ingredients such as methanol to create a stable fuel which can be used alone, or blended with conventional petrodiesel in unmodified diesel-engine vehicles. While it is certainly true that some of these additives, methanol in particular, are volatile and poisonous, they are no more so than chemicals used in most manufacturing operations, and indeed are far LESS volatile than the gasoline we fill our tanks with. Also, despite public perception, biodiesel manufacture, unlike petrodiesel manufacture, is a relatively clean process, generating little in the way of fumes or waste products. Corn kernels and sugarcane juice are common feedstock for creating ethanol, while palm oil has a central role in biodiesel. What these commodities all have in common is that they have a competing purpose of being a source of food and fuel. The obvious concern is that this competition may lead to higher food prices and decreased availability of some food stocks.

The Great Biofuel Debate

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bioethanol and biodiesel. Bioethanol is created by fermenting sugar or starch; corn and sugar cane are most often used. Biodiesel, on the other hand, is made by combining alcohol, usually methanol, with vegetable oil, such as that found in soybeans, palm oil, animal fat or recycled cooking grease. Once biomass is converted into liquid fuel, it can be used for a variety of energy needs. Ethanol and biodiesel are often blended with gasoline and diesel as additives to reduce vehicle emissions or may be used in their pure forms as renewable alternative fuels.

In corn-belt states like Illinois, ethanol additives appear in close to 50% of the gas sold in the state, according to the Illinois Corn Growers Association. Ethanol is a home-grown fuel, but it is also an attractive additive for several other reasons. Adding ethanol to gasoline reduces the amount of hydrocarbons and carbon

Statesville-Mooresville Ranks #2

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industries in the past to one that is attracting investment from a wide variety of industries today."

Troutman Tower a Business Beacon

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industrial growth. Another interesting fact about water towers -- they can affect your insurance rates! During a fire, the water demand increases significantly and may greatly exceed the capacity of the pumps at the water plant. A water tower guarantees that there will be enough pressure to keep water flowing through the fire hydrants. Fire insurance rates are normally lower in an area in which the water system has water towers.



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