

January 20

[Fort Mill's Baxter Village evokes envy - Key to building boom: It's all in the design](#)

**The Herald (Rock Hill, SC)**

Baxter may have reached all-important critical mass, the right amount of rooftops and retail to keep the boom expanding.

"Critical mass, it's a little bit like pornography -- you know it when you see it," said **Chris Leinberger**, a fellow at the **Brookings Institution** and an urban land use strategist and developer. "It's a really tricky thing to pull off."

[New Orleans of Future May Stay Half Its Old Size](#)

**The New York Times**

The low population figure, 191,000, which was reported by the Louisiana Recovery Authority in November last year in the most credible survey to date, was about half the 444,000 count in a Census estimate before Hurricane Katrina. The number was surprising, dashing expectations of a "big return," as one economist put it, and was hotly disputed by local officials. Still, upticks, if there are any, are imperceptible: the percentage of prehurricane gas and electric users who were getting service, for instance, remained the same between April and November 2006, the **Brookings Institution** reported last month.

[Susan Gendron: Baldacci plan will reduce school costs](#)

**Bangor Daily News**

The LSRS Initiative is based on numerous reports and commissions involving key stakeholders and experts. **The Brookings Institution**, the Maine Children's Alliance and the Maine State Board of Education have all issued reports recommending regional cooperation to reduce administrative expenditures. And the 26 Regional Centers are modeled after the geography of the existing career technical education regions, collaborations that were designed to be easily accessible geographically and whose success has been proven.

January 23

[The single serving can be a lonely thing](#)

**Houston Chronicle**

Today's women, more educated and with better jobs, are less dependent on men — and their role as breadwinners — to survive. **Brookings Institution** demographer **William Frey** explained the shift to the Times this way: "... the culmination of post-1960 trends, associated with greater independence and more flexible lifestyles for women."

January 24

[Is it smart to raise taxes to grow smart?](#)

**The Village Soup**

In October, **Bruce Katz** of the **Brookings Institution** unveiled a comprehensive million dollar report "Charting Maine's Future: An Action Plan for Promoting Sustainable Prosperity and Quality Places". The study was commissioned by Grow Smart Maine to analyze our quality of life, economic development, the high cost of government and our highest in the nation taxes. The report is now serving as the Baldacci business plan for moving Maine forward. Lord knows the state needed some kind of a plan, and this one may be a good start.

January 25

[Finding a Fix: Reports point up impacts of addiction](#)

**Bangor Daily News**

The GrowSmart report discusses Maine's dwindling population of 25- to 34-year-olds, described as "a crucial cohort for the work force." Interestingly, and of significance, this age group also represents the largest portion of admissions in Maine for substance abuse treatment — 58

percent of the 16,706 total admissions in the year 2000, according to data from the Maine Office of Substance Abuse. Just what does this say about the state of our work force and Maine's ability to attract ambitious employers?

**January 26**

**[New immigrants turn to local agencies for job and lifestyle assistance](#)**

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

As **William H. Frey** points out in an article in the June 2004 edition of American Demographic magazine, 58 percent of Pittsburgh's immigrants are college-educated, the highest rate of any major city in the country.

Koshy Mathew is one example. Like Mr. Kurian, Mr. Mathew is a Kuwaiti immigrant who is highly skilled, having served as an assistant finance manager in Kuwait. Yet upon arriving in Pittsburgh, the only work he could find was at Wendy's.