



June 5, 2009

- COMMUNITY
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MISSOURI COMMUNITY NEWS

SEMO Performing Arts Center Undergoes Renovations



The SEMO Little Theater Group in Kennett continues to invest in restoring its Performing Arts Center by renovating the exterior of the former Vavak Printing and Office Supply Building. The purchase of the building and the renovations taking place have been made possible through assistance from the Neighborhood Assistance Program, available through the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

(Photo credit: Deanna Coronado, *Daily Dunklin Democrat*) [Read more...](#)

Old Town Cape Endorses DREAM Initiative Plan

The Old Town Cape Board of Directors has voted unanimously to endorse a downtown revitalization plan, which targets three areas in central Cape Girardeau for investment and potential redevelopment under the state's Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri (DREAM) Initiative. The plan proposes a Mississippi River aquarium and a university village of shops near Southeast Missouri State University, among other ideas. [Read more...](#)

City of Cape Girardeau

Warrensburg Plans DREAM Kick-Off Meeting



Representatives from the Missouri Development Finance Board (MDFB), the Missouri Department of Economic Development, and the Missouri Housing Development Commission will be in attendance at the city of Warrensburg's DREAM Initiative kick-off meeting on June 9. Keynote speaker will be Mike Hurlbert of PGAV, Inc., the planning firm under contract by MDFB to provide the DREAM planning components. [Read more...](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June, July, August
[Outstanding Missouri Women Traveling History Exhibit](#) at [Arrow Rock State Historic Site](#)

June 17, 2009
["Profitable Sponsorship Training for Nonprofits"](#)

June 23 - 25, 2009
[2009 Joint CBRN Conference and Exhibition](#) (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear)

June 30, 2009
[Missouri Women's Council Award of Distinction - deadline for nominees](#)

July 7, 2009
[Wind Energy Supply Chain Workshop](#)
 Springfield-Joplin

July 9, 2009
[Innovation Conference: "Innovation in Turbulent Times"](#)

July 16, 2009
[NAP Workshop](#)

July 26 - 29, 2009
[Summers @ Mizzou](#)

FOCUS ON MISSOURI

Gov. Nixon Announces Opening of Applications for Small Business Loan Program



Gov. Jay Nixon announced this week that applications and guidelines for the [Missouri Small Business Loan Program](#) are now available to Missouri businesses. Created by the Governor's executive order and approved by the Missouri Development Finance Board, the start of the Small Business Loan Program marks another advance in Gov. Nixon's agenda for economic development by providing much-needed capital to small businesses during these difficult economic times. [Read more...](#)

Governor's Conference Exhibitor Information Available

Exhibitor information for the 2009 Governor's Conference on Economic Development is now available. The conference will be held September 9-11 in St. Louis



at the Hyatt St. Louis Riverfront Hotel. Anyone interested in reserving a display booth should fill out the exhibitor form and mail it, with complete payment, to: Andrea Sporcic, Exhibit Hall Manager, Dept. of Economic Development, P.O. Box 118, Jefferson City, MO 65102. You may e-mail questions to [Andrea Sporcic](#) or contact her at (573) 751-6573. [Exhibitor Information...](#)

Missouri Arts Council Issues Call to State Arts Organizations for Applications for Economic Stimulus Funds



Arts organizations across Missouri may begin applying for economic stimulus funds provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) with the assistance of Gov. Jay Nixon's Transform Missouri initiative, the Missouri Arts Council (MAC) announced

this week. The National Endowment for the Arts is providing these funds to the Missouri Arts Council, who will regrant them to qualified organizations. These grants are intended to retain arts jobs that have been threatened or eliminated during the current economic downturn. [Read more...](#)

SBA Will Offer Floor Plan Financing to Auto, RV, Other Dealerships

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will offer government guaranteed loans to finance inventory for eligible auto, recreational vehicle, boat and other dealerships under a new pilot program announced last week by SBA Administrator Karen Mills. Dealer Floor Plan (DFP) financing will be available beginning July 1, according to Mills. [Read more...](#)



Proponents Look to Expand Film Tax Credit Program, Bring Movies to Missouri



The production crew behind an independent film, shot in Taney and Christian counties earlier this year, say Missouri's film production tax credits were vital to the project. Proponents of Missouri's film production tax credits are pushing to expand the program to attract more filmmakers to the state. "Winter's Bone" pumped an estimated \$800,000 into the Springfield-Branson area. [Read more...](#)



Missouri Career Guide 2009-2010 Now Available



The Missouri Department of Economic Development, Division of Workforce Development, MERIC, and the Missouri Connections Public Outreach Partnership are pleased to announce the updated Missouri Career Guide for the 2009-2010 school year. Its target audiences are primarily students in grades 10 and above, as well as adult job seekers and career changers. The 32-page guide is available online at: [Missouri Career Guide.](#)

Missouri Workforce Investment Areas Projected to Grow

The demographic composition of Missouri is constantly changing. The state is expected to grow at a consistent rate in population, income, households, and educational trends over the next five years, while excelling at high school graduation rates. These state and regional reports show projected changes in demographic characteristics around the state. [Read more...](#)



"Build-a-Business" Camp

July 30 - 31, 2009

[Environmental Conference at the Lake](#)

August 18 - 21, 2009

[Missouri Main Street Conference: Get Plugged In...Downtown](#)

September 9 - 11, 2009

[Governor's Conference on Economic Development](#)

October 4 - 7, 2009

[IEDC Annual Conference: Renewable Communities - Leveraging Your Competitive Resources](#)

PAST ISSUES

[Missouri Focus May 29, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus May 22, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus May 15, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus May 8, 2009](#)

DED PRESS RELEASES

QUICK LINKS

[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

[State of Missouri](#)

[Missouri Business Portal](#)

[Missouri Women's Council](#)

[Missouri Women Owned Business Network](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

[MissouriCareerSource.com](#)



**FOCUS ON
COMMUNITY**

Maries County awarded \$133,750 Community Development Block Grant by Department of Economic Development

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced that Maries County has been approved for a \$133,750 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The grant will be utilized to continue the Meramec Regional Planning Commission's revolving fund loan. [Read more...](#)

DED Awards NAP Tax Credits to St. Charles Non-profit Organization

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced that a St. Charles not-for-profit organization has been approved for tax credits under the Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). [Read more...](#)

DED Awards \$374,418 in YOP Tax Credits to Three Missouri Service Organizations

The Missouri Department of Economic Development has announced that three Missouri organizations that offer various services to Missouri children have been approved for a total of \$374,418 in Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) tax credits. [Read more...](#)

DED awards \$117,431 in EEZ Tax Credits to Houston Business for Creation of New Jobs, Investment

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced approval of state tax



**FOCUS ON
WORKFORCE**

StLCC Markets Summer Jobs Program

St. Louis Community College (StLCC) recently joined the chorus of agencies and associations in getting the word out about Gov. Jay Nixon's Next-Generation Jobs Team (NGJT), that connects youth and young adults with summer careers in cutting-edge companies across Missouri. StLCC added a feature on its "[My StLCC](#)" community web site to inform and connect its students and graduates with NGJT, exhorting viewers to "spend this summer exploring the careers of the future!" DWD's new Communications Specialist, Liz Sharpe-Taylor coordinated with the college to make the addition and commented that the staff were especially willing to take this step to provide their students another valuable career resource.

Northwest Workforce Board Receives Funds for Literacy Project

The [Northwest Workforce Investment Board](#) (NWIB) recently received a \$20,000 award from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to fund the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) Project, administered by the NWIB in partnership with North Central Missouri College (NCMC). The grant will assist some 600 students to improve reading, mathematics, and language skills, which will in turn help them to reach educational goals that



**FOCUS ON
BUSINESS**

FAG Bearings Creates Jobs, Major Investment

The push to promote wind energy is generating new jobs and a major investment at the FAG Bearings manufacturing plant in Joplin. A project by parent company Schaeffler Group USA is expected to create 71 new manufacturing jobs over five years and invest \$39.3 million in production improvements at the plant in order to manufacture large ring bearings for use in wind-energy applications. [Read more...](#)

BioDiesel Plant Begins Operations in Moberly

Producers' Choice Soy Energy is made up of nearly 300 investors, most of whom are soybean farmers themselves. The \$17 million plant will create 20 jobs and produce five products – biodiesel fuel, soybean hulls, soybean meal, soybean oil and glycerin, which will be used for fuel and animal feed across the nation. [Read more...](#)

Proteon Therapeutics Raises Series B Total to \$50M in Second Closing of Equity Financing

Proteon Therapeutics, Inc. announced last week that it has completed a second closing of its Series B equity financing, securing an additional \$12 million and increasing the total equity capital raised in this round to \$50 million. Proteon also disclosed its lead product candidate, PRT-201, received orphan drug designation from FDA, allowing for certain tax credits and an

[Missouri Workforce Investment Board](#)

[MERIC](#)

[Division of Tourism](#)

[Missouri Development Finance Board](#)

[Missouri Community Betterment](#)

[Missouri Community Service Commission \(MCSC\)](#)

[Missouri Main Street Connection](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Economic Development at Mizzou](#)

[University of Missouri Extension](#)

[Missouri Procurement and Technical Assistance Centers \(MO PTAC\)](#)

[Missouri Business Development Program](#)

[Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers \(SBTDC\) - {Schedule of training seminars at MSU...}](#)

[Missouri Economic Development Council \(MEDC\)](#)

[International Economic Development Council \(IEDC\)](#)

[Associated Industries of Missouri \(AIM\)](#)

[Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center](#)

[Missouri General](#)

credits for a Houston business under the Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) program to assist in the creation of new jobs and investment. [Read more...](#)

correlate to an improved quality of life, increased earning potential and an opportunity to pursue post-secondary education. Pictured [here](#) are Diana Barnard, store manager at the Dollar General Store in Trenton; Lisa Hostetler, Workforce Development Manager and Courtney Whitney, Self-Sufficiency Programs Manager, both at the NWIB and NCMC. For more information about the AEL Project, call 1-800-794-3535.

extended period of data exclusivity. [Read more...](#)

Advantage Capital Partners Named to Red Herring Global VC 200 List

Advantage Capital Partners has been named to Red Herring's Global VC 200 list. Red Herring chose the top 200 performers based on financial performance, global footprint and intangibles. The Global VC 200 list consists of the best VC firms from over 30 nations. Advantage Capital was among those selected from 1,800 candidates that have invested in two or more technology companies in the past five years. [Read more...](#)

[Assembly](#)

[Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)



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Questions or Comments?
Please contact:

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or email:
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GLOBAL NEWS

DED Recruiting Companies to Participate in BioJapan 2009



The Missouri Department of Economic Development is actively recruiting a limited number of Missouri biotech/life sciences companies to make up a Japan Trade Mission Delegation to participate in the BioJapan 2009 World Business Forum in Yokohama from October 6-9, 2009. This event also represents an opportunity to network and develop conversations with Japanese companies, potentially leading to investment prospects within your communities. Those interested should contact [Krista Zurkamer](#) at (573) 751-6728, or [Jessica Eads](#) at (573) 751-4982. [Read more...](#)

“Latin American Trade” Training Program

IM International Marketing, LLC, with support from Kansas City SmartPort, has developed [“Latin American Trade,”](#) a training program for small to medium-sized U.S. companies targeting Mexico, Central and South America. The program consists of nine (9) sessions and it meets once a month on the first Thursday of each month for four (4) hours in the evening. Start date is July 9 and the program ends March 4, 2010. [Read more...](#)



U.S. Trade Rep. Responds to Request for Small Business Assistant Rep.



In response to a March 24th [letter](#) from the United States Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, requesting the addition of an Assistant United States Trade Representative (USTR) to focus exclusively on small business export issues, USTR Ronald Kirk said that his office would look into creating the position to help small businesses. Committee Chair Mary Landrieu, D-La. said, “By establishing a senior position to focus on small businesses, I believe that USTR would give America’s more than 27 million small businesses a stronger voice as we remove barriers and open additional markets for U.S. goods and services.” [Read more...](#)

Mandatory Environmental Measures to roll out for Chinese Companies' Overseas Projects

A draft of mandatory environmental measures has been completed for the growing number of Chinese companies that invested in overseas projects, China Daily reported last week. If approved, Chinese companies would be required to follow international environmental treaties China has signed, as well as the green regulations in other countries. [Read more...](#)



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