



March 20, 2009

## MISSOURI COMMUNITY NEWS

### 21 Missouri Counties get Tax Extension for Ice Storm



Due to the ice storm and power outages that affected large portions of southern Missouri, the Missouri Department of Revenue has extended the deadline for paying some state taxes in 21 counties. The extension applies to state sales and income taxes - such as Missouri sales tax, corporate income and franchise tax and Missouri employer withholding tax - due between Jan. 22 and March 20, 2009. [Read more...](#)

### Branson's Hollywood Wax Museum gets \$5M Upgrade

A \$5 million renovation is underway at Branson's Hollywood Wax Museum, which re-opened this week with its new look. The renovated museum will offer new interactive opportunities for visitors, including riding aboard the Titanic, sitting on the bus bench with Forrest Gump, wrestling with Nacho Libre and singing for American Idol judges. The Travel Channel recently named the museum the "Best American Wax Museum" and plans to feature it in a segment scheduled to air this spring. [Read more...](#)



### MEDC Brings "Entrepreneurial and Small Business Strategies" to Blue Springs



The Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDC) is sponsoring the IEDC course, "Entrepreneurial and Small Business Strategies," April 30 - May 1, in Blue Springs. MEDC worked with IEDC to bring the course to Kansas City with the hope that economic developers in Missouri and neighboring states could take advantage of a more convenient and reasonable cost location. It is important to register through the [MEDC Web site](#) to take advantage of the reduced membership fee that IEDC offers to the host organization. [Read more...](#)

COMMUNITY

WORKFORCE

BUSINESS

GLOBAL NEWS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 25, 2009

[Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission meeting](#)

March 31 - April 1, 2009

["Basic Training in the 4-Point Main Street Approach to Revitalization"](#)

March 31 - April 2, 2009

[2009 Heartland Conference "Preparing the Workforce for the Changing Midwest Economy"](#)

April 1 - 2, 2009

[Missouri's Climate Change Dialogue and the Utility & Energy Conference](#)

## FOCUS ON MISSOURI

### Missouri Receives \$2.2M Grant to Train Displaced Auto Workers



The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) will be receiving almost \$2.2 million in a federal grant to assist approximately 574 workers impacted by automotive industry layoffs in the last eight months of 2008. DED's Division of Workforce Development (DWD) will receive the award and apply it to meet Governor Jay Nixon's vision of training workers for new technology and next-generation jobs to transform Missouri's economy. [Read more...](#)

### DED Part of Groundbreaking Inter-agency Project to Link Education Curriculum with Workplace Skills

The Missouri Departments of Economic Development (DED), Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Higher Education (MDHE), and the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED) have teamed up in a first-ever project to track Missouri students as they move through the education pipeline and into the workforce. [Read more...](#)



### Missouri Partnership Offers Wind Industry Supply Chain Workshops



In an effort to help spark local interest in business-to-business opportunities in the wind energy sector, the Missouri Partnership is pleased to present the first in its series of wind industry supply chain workshops on Wednesday, April 8, in St. Louis. Additional workshops are scheduled in Kansas City in May, and the Springfield-Joplin region in June. The workshops are designed to help Missouri companies discover how to diversify into the fast-growing wind energy

industry. [Read more...](#)

### Missouri Women's Council Celebrates Women's History Month

*Women taking the lead to save our planet*

The theme for Women's History Month 2009 honors women who are at the forefront of the environmental or "green" movement and have shown exceptional vision and leadership to save our planet. [Read more...](#)



### St. Louis High School Student is 2009 Poetry Out Loud Missouri State Champion



A high school student from St. Louis was recently named the 2009 Poetry Out Loud champion at the state finals in Jefferson City. Pete Winfrey, from St. Louis University High School, defeated nine other school finalists to take the title and proceed on to the national finals in Washington DC.

Winfrey performed, "Mingus at the Showplace," by William Matthews; "I Am!," by John Clare; and "Detroit Tomorrow," by Phillip Levine. [Read more...](#)

April 8, 2009

Session 4 - "The Basics of Importing"

["The Basics of International Trade" Seminar Series](#)

April 19 - 22, 2009

[International Conference on Business Incubation - "Building on Best Practices"](#)

April 19 - 23, 2009

[Heartland Economic Development Course](#)

[Adams Pointe Conference Center - Blue Springs, Missouri](#)

April 21 - 22, 2009

[Complying with U.S. Export Controls](#)

April 22 - 23, 2009

[Energy Summit](#)

April 22 - 24, 2009

[Exploring Innovation: A Conference on Community Development](#)

April 23, 2009

[How To Develop an Export Management and Compliance Program](#)

April 30 - May 1, 2009

[Entrepreneurial and Small Business Strategies](#)

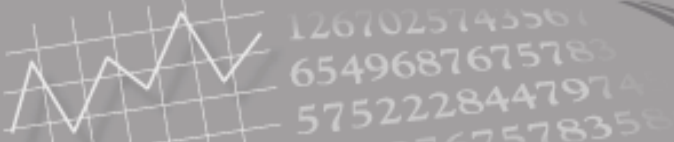
### [PAST ISSUES](#)

[Missouri Focus](#)

[March 13, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus](#)

[March 6, 2009](#)



### Global MarketPlace: International Trade and Investment in Missouri



Missouri businesses export to nearly 200 countries around the world and billions of foreign dollars have been invested in the state. Trends in international trade and investment for Missouri, and a closer look at some of the state's leading trade partners and emerging markets, are included in this overview of Missouri

in the global economy. [Read more...](#)

### Women in Missouri's Workplaces

There were more than 1.4 million women reported in Missouri's workforce in 2007, making up over 46 percent of the state's labor force. This report looks at the role of women in Missouri's workplaces and trends in traditionally female- and male-oriented occupations. [Read more...](#)



### DED Awards \$200,000 in Youth Opportunities Tax Credits to St. Louis Service Organization

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced that a St. Louis organization that offers various services to Missouri children has been approved for \$200,000 in Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) tax credits to provide an extensive continuum of education, support and life skills development services to homeless and endangered youth throughout the St. Louis region.

[Read more...](#)



### New DWD Director Kicks off First Week

Nationally-known workforce authority, Julie Gibson took over as director of DED's Division of Workforce Development (DWD) on March 16. She held her first DWD staff meeting the same day, listening to employees' input and answering questions. DED Director Linda Martínez cited Gibson's "extensive experience with workforce issues" and "heart for excellence," in a DED [press release](#), noting the critical tie with Governor Nixon's Show Me Jobs Initiative. Gibson served in several leadership roles in Missouri state government between 1995 and 2005, specifically in workforce and economic development, and was a Special Assistant to the U. S. Department of Labor



### Ford Celebrates 100,000th Hybrid SUV at Claycomo Plant

Ford Motor Co. celebrated last week as its 100,000<sup>th</sup> hybrid sports utility vehicle, the Ford Escape, rolled off the line at its Kansas City Assembly Plant in Claycomo. The company stated in a news release that Claycomo has been the hub of hybrid SUV production since 2004 with the first Ford Escape, and it also began producing the Mercury Mariner Hybrid in 2005. [Read more...](#)

[Missouri Focus](#)  
[February 27, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus](#)  
[February 20, 2009](#)

[DED PRESS RELEASES](#)

[QUICK LINKS](#)

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

[State of Missouri](#)

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[Missouri Women's Council](#)

[Missouri Women Owned Business Network](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

[MissouriCareerSource.com](#)

[MERIC](#)

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[Missouri Community Betterment](#)

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

[Missouri Main Street Connection](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Economic Development at](#)

**DED Announces St. Louis Organizations to Receive \$1.65M in Brownfield Redevelopment Tax Credits**

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced that two St. Louis organizations have been approved for up to a total of \$1,658,570 in remediation tax credits through the Brownfield Redevelopment Program. [Read more...](#)

**DED Awards \$1.69M in Brownfield Redevelopment Tax Credits to Joplin Organization**

A Joplin organization has been approved for up to \$1.69 million in remediation tax credits through the Brownfield Redevelopment Program. [Read more...](#)

**DED Awards Small Business Incubator Tax Credits to Three Small Business Incubators**

Three Missouri small business incubators have been approved for a total of \$217,574 in tax credits by the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) under the Small Business Incubator Program. [Read more...](#)

Secretary Robert Reich during the Clinton Administration.

**DWD Sets up Recovery Act Webpage**

With specifics of the workforce training components of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("Recovery Act") continuing to come in, DWD has created a centralized [Recovery Act](#) Web page on its [WorkSmart](#) information Web site. The site contains new policy and informational documents from the U.S. Department of Labor on administration of the worker training projects from the Act, as well as Missouri-specific details. DWD is encouraging interested parties to [submit ideas](#) for additions to the Recovery Act Web page via e-mail.



**Jefferson City Entrepreneurial Team Tackles Fuel Efficiency**

Husband and wife business partners, Charles Ekstam and Dora Serrano, have reinvested \$1 million in equity and obtained \$900,000 in additional capital to reacquire and reinvigorate their business and market their fuel-saving device, the Fuel Preperator®. The Jefferson City-based company, PureFlow Technologies Inc., produces and markets the device that improves the efficiency of diesel engines by 8-12 percent, greatly reduces pollutants and increases engine power. [Read more...](#)

**Small Businesses See Profits for 2008**

Sixty-nine percent of U.S. small businesses posted profits in 2008, according to a new survey conducted by Network Solutions, based in Herndon, Va., and the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business. The survey is part of a new "Small Business Success Index," launched last week by Network Solutions and the Smith School, and designed to measure the health of U.S. small businesses. [Read more...](#)

**Mizzou**

[University of Missouri Extension](#)

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

[Missouri Small Business Development Centers \(SBDC\)](#)

[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 Assembly](#)

[Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)

**U.S. Trade Deficit Falls Sharply in January**



The U.S. trade deficit plunged to \$36 billion in January, the lowest level in six years. While U.S. exports, from farm goods to autos to civilian aircraft, fell sharply, imports fell at an even faster pace as the recession cut demand for goods from overseas. The Commerce Department said the trade imbalance declined 9.7 percent from December, the lowest since October 2002. [Read](#)

[more...](#)

**Labor Costs, Trends Could Increase Mexican Freight for Kansas City Intermodal Center**

According to Mark Long, a senior vice president of Zimmer Real Estate Services LC, Chinese labor costs are among the drivers behind “near-shoring,” an emerging trend that involves moving manufacturing and sourcing operations closer to end-users. More Mexican factories mean more freight on Kansas City Southern Railway’s lines between Mexico and Kansas City, and could mean more distribution centers at the local CenterPoint-KCS Intermodal Center. [Read more...](#)



**AT&T Investing \$18M, Creating 3,000 Jobs Nationwide**



AT&T Inc. plans to invest up to \$18 billion and create 3,000 jobs nationwide this year, to keep pace with the demand for wireless, broadband and video services. The company stated that about two-thirds of its 2009 investment will extend and improve the company’s wireless and wired broadband networks to provide more coverage, speed and capacity. [Read more...](#)



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