

### **Gov. Gregoire details Washington state job creation through ARRA funds**

Gov. **Chris Gregoire** announced today that approximately 14,500 jobs were created or sustained in Washington state during the last quarter of 2009 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“Washington state is proving that the Recovery Act is working,” Gregoire said. “We have been transparent and responsible with our investments to put people to work, keep businesses afloat and improve our communities. I know many Washingtonians are still looking for work, and I am focused on helping our businesses hire more people. But without the stimulus funds Congress invested in Washington state, we would have more people unemployed and more businesses hurting.”

As required by the federal government, on Saturday, January 30, Washington state completed the second round of quarterly reporting on job creation/retention and expenditures, covering the period of October 1-December 31, 2009. Since the Recovery Act was signed in early 2009, approximately \$7.4 billion of Recovery Act grants and contracts have been awarded in Washington state to help spur job creation.

“Success of the Recovery Act must be judged by our ability to dodge the second Great Depression, and we believe we succeeded at that,” said Rep. **Jay Inslee** (D-WA 01), who joined Gregoire today at a news conference. “We aren’t celebrating, we have constituents that are still looking for work. But our economy is showing signs of life, and that has been made possible because of the recovery package.”

Of the jobs created in Washington state, about 7,300 result from funds coming through state agencies and break out into the following areas:

- Transportation: 690 (9%)
- Public Safety: 3,283 (45%)
- Education: 1,975 (27%)
- Workforce: 763 (10%)
- Health and Human Services: 387 (5%)
- Energy and Technology: 110 (2%)
- Other: 86 (2%)

Gregoire today also highlighted the state’s Recovery Act website, [www.recovery.wa.gov](http://www.recovery.wa.gov), which increases the state’s transparency in using Recovery Act funds. Visitors of the site can see what projects have been supported by Recovery Act dollars and how many jobs have been created.

### **Driving the future: Testing the next generation of auto technicians**

In the next 10 years, jobs for trained automotive service technicians and mechanics are expected to increase by five percent. To help meet that future demand, Clark College will host Future Tech 2010 on Friday, Feb. 5.

Fifty students from 12 regional high schools will participate. Washington students from the Clark County Skills Center, Mountain View High School, and Prairie High School will be joined by students from Aloha High School, Benson High School, David Douglas High School, Hillsboro High School, and Sabin-Schellenberg Technical School in the greater Portland area. In addition, students from Estacada High School, Silverton High School, Siuslaw High School in Florence, and West Lane Technical Learning Center in Elmira will participate.

The Future Tech Competition comprises a written Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) style exam and a series of bench tests covering steering and suspension, brakes, electrical diagnostics and engine performance. Students will rotate through all of the tests.

Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. in Clark’s Automotive Technology Building, located on the southwest corner of Clark’s main campus in Vancouver. The building is located on McLoughlin Blvd. between Fort Vancouver Way and E. Reserve Street. Parking will be available in the college’s orange parking lots. Parking maps and driving directions are available at [www.clark.edu/maps](http://www.clark.edu/maps).

Testing will begin at 8:30 a.m. The awards presentation will take place at 3:00 p.m. The winning team will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the National Automotive Technology Competition, which will be held in New York City on April 6-7. Trophies, plaques and certificates will also be presented to the top finishers. Additional information about the National Automotive Technology Competition is available at [www.nationalautotech.com](http://www.nationalautotech.com).

### **YWCA Clark County to be beneficiary of Red Dress Party 2010**

The YWCA Clark County has been selected as one of three organizations to benefit from this year’s Red

Dress Party. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Red Dress Party is a fundraising event presented by Red Dress PDX, a charitable not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to local organizations supporting important issues in the gay community. Red Dress events are held in communities throughout the nation. Each year since its inception in Portland in 2001, the event has grown in numbers of attendees, raising over \$152,000 in ten years.

The SafeChoice LGBTQ program of the YWCA Clark County, along with the Q Center and the Men's Wellness Program at Cascade AIDS Project, will share proceeds from this year's event, to be held from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, April 17, in the Bison Building, NE 10th and Flanders, in Portland. Tickets are \$50, or \$125 for VIP (which includes early admission, VIP lounge with entertainment, and special cocktails), and may be purchased online at [www.reddresspdx.com](http://www.reddresspdx.com).

## News Briefs

Keller Williams Realty is hosting "First Friday Artwalk Reception" from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5. RSVP to **Kristy Weaver** at 735-3707 or [firstfriday.artwalk@yahoo.com](mailto:firstfriday.artwalk@yahoo.com) by Feb. 4. <> The Misty River Band, a popular fixture on the Northwest folk, country, bluegrass and Celtic music scene, is making a return visit to Vancouver with a Valentine's Day concert at 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 14, at Skyview High School. This is the sixth consecutive Misty River Band winter concert produced by the Salmon Creek Kiwanis Club. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the following locations: All Salmon Creek Kiwanis Club members; all Columbian Credit Union branches; Music World, 502 E. Main Street, Battle Ground; Music World, 7916 NE 6th Avenue, Hazel Dell; Beacock Music, 1420 SE 163rd Avenue, Vancouver; River City Music, 13215 SE Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver; Garside Florist, 6610 E. Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver. Same-day sales (\$18): 2:15 p.m., Feb. 14, Skyview High School, 1300 NW 139th Street, Vancouver. For more information about Misty River, visit [www.mistyriverband.com](http://www.mistyriverband.com). For concert and Kiwanis information, call **Darrell** at 693-7981, **Ron** at 699-1234, or **Gregg** at 574-3747. <> Commissioner **Steve Stuart**, chair of the Board of County Commissioners, is scheduled to present the 2010 State of the County address on Thursday, Feb. 4. The event will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Skyview High School, 1300 N.W. 139th St., Vancouver. It is free and open to the public. Stuart asks those attending to bring a non-perishable food item for the Salvation Army, which will have collection barrels and members on hand.

## Calendar

Battle Ground Civil Service Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. tonight, Feb. 2, in Council chambers, 109 SW 1st Street, 2nd floor. Call 342-5008 for more information. <> Community Choices forum "What Does It Take to be Healthy?" is being held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3, in Hudson's Bay High School, 1601 E McLoughlin Blvd. For more information, call 567-1087 or email [sharon@vancouverusa.com](mailto:sharon@vancouverusa.com).

## Tuesday on the air

Clark County Close Up (1-3)--5 p.m. CVTV  
**Clark County Board of Commissioners (live)--5:55 p.m. CVTV**  
Bravo! Vancouver: Beethoven, Brubeck & The Blues (1-24)--9 p.m. CVTV  
Clark County Animal Control Hearings (1-13)--10:15 p.m. CVTV  
Washington State Jail Industries Board: Working Inside-Out--11:30 p.m. CVTV

## Town Tabloids and Weather

**Alina Kerth** planning a "Sweet Sixteen". <> **Lynette Arnold** staying positive. <> **Tuesday**, mostly cloudy, 56-44. **Wednesday**, rain, 51-42. **Thursday**, few showers, 50-46.