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News and notes



FILE PHOTO/VINNY TENNIS

Tim Kauffman of Kauffman-Gambler Physical Therapy in Lancaster County sits in front of a convenience store in his Honda Civic Hybrid last year. Pennsylvania has reinstated its hybrid-car rebate program.

Hybrid rebates return

Pennsylvania's rebate program for hybrid-car buyers is once again open for business.

The Hybrid Electric Vehicle Rebate Program had closed this year due to a lack of funding. The program, launched in March 2005, allows consumers to receive a \$500 rebate when they purchase a hybrid vehicle. The state set aside \$3 million for the fund this year, up from \$1 million last year. The rebate form, which is available at www.dep.state.pa.us keywords "alternative fuels," must be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection within six months of the date of vehicle purchase.

Because of the delay in the availability of the form, anyone who purchased a hybrid car after Jan. 1 is still eligible for the rebate, even if it's six months past the purchase date. However, DEP must receive the form by Aug. 14.

—Jessica Bair

Program targets piracy

A watchdog group representing U.S. software manufacturers has a bounty on companies and organizations involved in software piracy.

The Washington, D.C.-based Business Software Alliance has started a rewards program that pays individuals for reporting organizations illegally using software. To date, three people have received a combined total of \$15,500 after their reports led to piracy investigations and settlements. All three turned in former employers.

An alliance-sponsored study by International Data Corp. released in May showed that 21 percent of software in the U.S. is unlicensed.

The alliance's program has received about 2,000 piracy leads since it was initiated last fall. It encourages individuals with detailed information about software piracy to report infringements at their current or former workplaces. Qualifying reports may be eligible for rewards of up to \$200,000. Confidential reports can be submitted at www.no

piracy.com or by calling (888) 667-4722.

—Angela Doody

Making music

Harrisburg University of Science and Technology students will receive academic credit for singing with the Harrisburg Choral Society through a new agreement between the school and the musical organization.

University students may audition for positions as regular members in the choral group do. They will sing under the direction of Director Robert Hart Baker and receive two credits for singing with the group for one semester.

The Harrisburg Choral Society is one of Harrisburg's oldest arts organizations and is a resident company of the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. One-year-old Harrisburg University offers graduate and undergraduate degrees and continuing-education programs in various technology-based fields.

—Angela Doody

Hotels get top marks

Two Central Pennsylvania hotels received top honors for customer service and guest satisfaction.

Hampton Inn Manheim in Manheim, Lancaster County, was the No. 1-rated Hampton Inn in the 1,400-hotel Hampton chain, according to owner Willow Valley Associates Inc. The 95-room hotel is on Lebanon Road.

Another Willow Valley-owned hotel, Homewood Suites in suburban Harrisburg, was ranked No. 2 out of 200 Homewood Suites hotels in the U.S. The 105-room hotel is on TecPort Drive in Lower Swatara Township.

Hampton Inn's rankings are based on guest-satisfaction surveys and quality-and-service scores that Hampton measures quarterly. The Homewood rankings measure quality assurance, satisfaction and customer loyalty.

For more information, go to www.willowvalley.com.

—Jason Klinger

Candy company on TV

Wertz Candies of Lebanon County will be featured on the Discovery Channel's "Dirty Jobs" at 9 p.m. July 25. Mike Rowe, host of "Dirty Jobs," visited Wertz Candies Feb. 22 to film the show, which will illustrate how the company makes its signature sweets and confections. Rowe takes a hands-on approach during his behind-the-scenes look at what the candy makers do on a daily basis. "Dirty Jobs" is shown in 148 countries.

—Jessica Bair

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

■ W. Thomas Kennedy III is president and chief executive officer of High Industries Inc. The wrong executive was listed on the warehouse and distribution centers list in the July 14 issue.

■ A July 14 article incorrectly stated the previous employer of Jennifer Gibson, vice president of Community Catalyst. She used to work for the U.S. Department of State.

The Central Penn Business Journal will correct or clarify mistakes made in the publication. If you have a question, please call the editorial department at (717) 236-4300.