Business briefs

Former Detroit Deputy Mayor Freman Hendrix was named Wednesday as vice chairman of the Greektown Casino-Hotel board of directors.

Hendrix, who stepped down last month as chairman of the Detroit Charter Revision Commission so he could serve Greektown, was also appointed chairman of the casino's Nominating and Governance Committee.

Advertisement

Home heating costs will rise this winter

U.S. households will spend 2.5 percent more on heating this winter as fuel prices rise and colder weather than last year in the Northeast increases demand, the government said.

The average cost to heat a home will rise $24 to $986, the Energy Department said in its annual Winter Fuels Outlook, reflecting moderately higher prices for all fuels except electricity.

Atlas Oil celebrates with special gas prices

In celebration of Taylor-based Atlas Oil's 25th anniversary and new ownership of a local gas station, Atlas will be holding a promotion at a "to be announced" location for special gas prices and prizes.

Today at 10:30 a.m., radio station 93.1 DOUG FM will announce the location, 30 minutes prior to the event.

Along with discounted gas, the company will be signing up customers to win a free year of gas.

Faygo honored for workplace safety

Detroit-based Faygo Beverages received the state of Michigan's Consultation Education and Training Bronze award for workplace safety, reducing its incident rates by 62 percent over the last three years.

China's pecan appetite may stunt U.S. supply

China's massive economic clout could be felt by U.S. consumers this holiday season if pecans become as hard to find as expected.

No one is outright predicting there won't be enough pecans to go around for holiday cooks and candy makers to share with a Chinese population that increasingly has turned to the nut in recent years for nutrition.

Pecan prices are expected to be high and the market tight.

Twitter pledges to increase membership to 1 billion

Twitter Inc., the third-largest social-networking site, pledged to boost its membership more than sixfold to 1 billion, helping the microblogging service compete with Facebook Inc. in attracting advertisers.

The company, whose users send more than 100 million short messages daily, said last month that it will seek more advertisers after a successful trial with such brands as Starbucks Corp., ESPN and Coca-Cola Co.

Social-networking services, capitalizing on their millions of users, are increasingly targeting ads as a main source of revenue.

Apple stock tops $300 a share for first time

Apple's shares topped $300 for the first time in the company's history Wednesday as stellar iPad sales and a planned expansion into China give investors all the assurance they need for the iPhone maker's already healthy prospects. Shares of Apple Inc. climbed $1.60 to close at $300.14 after peaking at a record $301.96 earlier.

Plan on table to alert cell phone users about fees

Washington — Federal regulators want to stop cell phone "bill shock" by requiring wireless companies to alert subscribers before they run out of minutes, hit data usage or text messaging caps, or start racking up international roaming charges. The Federal Communications Commission is expected to vote today to seek public comment on such rules, which are on the table after a flood of consumer complaints about overage fees.

The proposed regulations would require wireless companies to send voice or text alerts to customers as they approach usage limits.

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