Business briefs

Business plan field narrows

Eight semifinalists have been selected in the 2010 Rochester Regional Business Plan Contest and will compete for $50,000 in cash and prizes. The contest is designed for early-stage entrepreneurial companies. This year's semifinalists, chosen from 25 applicants, are: Exiscan LLC, Floodwatch LLC, InfoPreserve LLC, Omniar Inc., QMB Biosystems, Tenrehte Technologies, TopDown Images LLC and Wi3 Inc.

Each company will present a full business plan to a review panel, which will reduce the field to five finalists. Then the finalists will present before a panel of judges on April 30 and winners will be announced the same day.

The contest is a joint effort of High Tech Rochester, Digital Rochester, Greater Rochester Enterprise, the University of Rochester's Simon School of Business, Rochester Institute of Technology and the Nazareth College School of Management.

To register for the April 30 awards luncheon, go to High Tech Rochester's Web site at www.htr.org.

Job information session at RIT

Rochester Institute of Technology will host an informational session on Tuesday, April 13, for people who have been laid off.

The event, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the university's Bausch + Lomb Center, will feature information about in-demand jobs, work skills, course work and tuition assistance. The event is free.

For more information or to register, go to www.rit.edu/dislocated or call (585) 475-2229.

Gasoline stable as oil soars

Although oil prices have risen to an 18-month high, gasoline prices have remained fairly stable in the Rochester area — albeit at a much higher level than a year ago.

Crude oil has gone up 23 percent since early February as the industrial sector leads a gradual economic recovery. Retail gas prices have stalled near $3 a gallon for regular but are expected to top that mark this spring or summer.

Prices for mid-grade and premium gas already are well above $3, averaging $3.15 in Rochester for mid-grade and $3.21 for premium.

— Staff reports