

Next page >

Business

Sharon, Pa.
Sunday, December 10, 2006

The Herald c-7

Price doesn't always measure effectiveness of room air cleaner

Dear Jim: I need to get a room air cleaner for my son's allergies. I see advertisements on television for expensive ones with no fans and others called "HEPA." How can I tell what air cleaner is the best? — Janice F.

Dear Janice: There is a huge array of various room air cleaner designs and styles available. Unlike most home products, you cannot use the price of a room air cleaner as an indication of its effectiveness.



James Dulley
Cut Your Utility Bills

Also, some of the flashy television advertisements for air cleaners are long on claims, but the products are short on actual performance and specifications.

One of the best methods to compare air cleaners is by their CADR (clean air delivery rate). This rating indicates the effectiveness of a room air cleaner as determined by testing per the AHAM (Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers). The CADR is recognized as the standard by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Lung Association.

The CADR rating, if the room air cleaner manufacturer had its products tested, should be listed on the packaging. You will see three numbers referring to household dust, tobacco smoke and pollen pollutants. Even though there are other pollutants in a home, such as mold or pet dander, the range of sizes of the former three pretty well cover the gamut.

The CADR numbers can range from less than 50 for small air cleaners to more than 300 for large effective ones. Also some air cleaners are better at removing smoke, whereas others are better at pollen. For this reason, first talk with your allergist to determine to which allergens your son is allergic.

For effective air cleaning, AHAM recommends the CADR of a room air cleaner should be two-thirds of the square footage of the room. For example, if your son's bedroom is 10-by-12 feet and he is allergic to pollen, select an air cleaner with a pollen CADR of 80 as a minimum. You can also select one with a higher CADR to clean the air faster, but it will likely cost more and use more electricity.

In my own home, I use HEPA room air cleaners in my bedroom. You have to change the HEPA and carbon (reduces odors) filters periodically, but they are effective and reasonably quiet. Be sure to get a true HEPA model. To be a true HEPA, it must state it removes 99.97 percent of all particles 0.3 microns or larger.

Another effective design uses electrostatic precipitator technology with a circulation fan.

This gives the air one charge and a collection plate the opposite charge so particles stick to it.

These often include a wire mesh prefilter to capture large particles. Both the prefilter and the collection plates are periodically removed and washed. I use one near my corn stove during winter.

The following companies offer room air cleaners: Blueair, 888-258-3247, www.blueair.com; Cloud 9, 630-595-5000, www.4cloud9.com; Essick Air Products, 800-826-2665, www.essickair.com; Kaz, 800-447-0457, www.kaz.com; and LakeAir, 800-558-9436, www.lakeair.com.

Send inquiries to James Dulley, The (Sharon, Pa.) Herald, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

Starcott Media Service



David E. Dale/Herald

Beth Colbert, a presenter for Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, asks for help from Notre Dame students while giving a science program last week at the Hermitage school. Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh received part of a \$220,000 donation from Wheatland Tube Co. to present such programs throughout the area.

MERCER COUNTY

Wheatland Tube's donation 'sings'

It's sweet music to local children

By Michael Roknick
Herald Business Editor

Using a blowtorch, Beth Colbert fires up one end of a steel pipe.

Bill Kerins, executive vice president of Wheatland Tube Co., looks on as Ms. Colbert turns the pipe so the heated bottom faces the ground. Within seconds the pipe belts out a note sounding like something from a huge church organ.

"We call it the singing pipe," Ms. Colbert told Kerins.

Singing pipe isn't a new product niche for Wheatland Tube, a local pipe and tube producer. But part of a \$220,000 donation by the company is sweet music to local children.

Wheatland Tube is using the money through a state program called the Educational Improvement Tax Credit. Under the program, a Pennsylvania business can use tax credits and give those funds to a qualified scholarship or educational organization.

Funneling much of the money through the Shenango Valley Foundation, Wheatland Tube is splitting the donation by giving nearly half for local scholarships, with the remainder for education programs, such as that run by the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

It was one of the Carnegie's museums, the Carnegie Science Center, where the singing pipe was featured as part of a science presentation at Notre Dame Elementary School in Hermitage.

Ms. Colbert, a presenter for the museum's Science on the Road program, explained to the audience of elementary students that there's science behind getting a pipe to sing. It turns out a screen was placed inside the pipe to control air flow. By heating the pipe on end and then turning it upside down, the warmth inside the pipe rises quickly while at the same time cold air rushes in at the bottom, causing the pipe to sing.

"It shows the principle of warm air rising and how a hot air balloon works," Ms. Colbert said.

Such road shows offered by the Carnegie Museums are viewed at more than 120 schools with 300,000 students annually. Several of the educational programs offered by Carnegie Museums are largely supported by companies through the state's EITC program, said Doug Frederick, manager of corporate and foundation giving for the non-profit organization.



Michael Roknick/Herald

Beth Colbert heats up a pipe while Bill Kerins, vice president of Wheatland Tube looks on. As part of the science program, Ms. Colbert gave a demonstration to create a "singing pipe." Wheatland Tube donated funds for such programs under Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit.



David E. Dale/Herald

Katie Feeney, a Notre Dame student, gives a tiny bike a spin during the Carnegie Science Center program at the school.

Wheatland Tube's donation for this on-the-road program will enable Carnegie Museums to reach into areas such as Mercer County more often, Frederick said.

"It's a huge endorsement of our role as a major player in education services in southwestern Pennsylvania, especially in Mercer County," he said.



David E. Dale/Herald

Morgan Rice, a Notre Dame Elementary School student, holds onto a hot air balloon as part of an experiment to show how hot air rises.

PEOPLE & PLACES

Heidi H. Patterson named to teachers' 'Who's Who'

FARRELL — Heidi Herster Patterson, a teacher at Farrell Elementary School, was nominated to the 10th edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers."

Students nominate teachers who have shaped their lives and inspired them.

Robert Beach named Distinguished Citizen

HERMITAGE — Robert R. Beach, chief executive officer of the Arc of Mercer County and MCAR in Hermitage, has received a 2006 Mercer County Distinguished Citizen Award from French Creek Council, Boy Scouts of America.

The Sharon resident was honored for his leadership of the Arc of Mercer County as well as for his service to the community.

St. Joseph's School gets \$500 from Maurices Inc.

HERMITAGE — St. Joseph's School in Sharon has received a \$500 donation from Maurices Inc. in the Shenango Valley Mall, Hermitage.

The specialty retail store, in celebration of the chain's 75th anniversary, chose the school through the number of votes it got from customers in October.

Dr. Samuel Lightner attends physics meeting

NEW WILMINGTON — Dr. Samuel Lightner of New Wilmington attended a week-long professional meeting in Philadelphia of the American Physical Society's Division of Plasma Physics.

The physics professor and department chairman at Westminster College was a co-presenter for three workshops for high school teachers in conjunction with the group's Teachers' Day.

Dr. Timothy Cuff presents at history group event

NEW WILMINGTON — Dr. Timothy Cuff of New Wilmington attended the Social Science History Association meeting in Minneapolis where he presented a paper.

The assistant history professor at Westminster College presented "Takin' It to the Streets: One Person's Quest for a Wider Audience for Anthropometric History."

Dr. Russell Martin named head of scholarly group

NEW WILMINGTON — Dr. Russell Martin of Hermitage was elected to a two-year term as president of the Association for the Study of Eastern Christianity and Culture international scholarly organization.

He is an associate history professor at Westminster College.

People & Places is published Sundays. Items for consideration must be mailed to Box 51, Sharon 16146, or dropped off at The Herald, 52 S. Dock St., Sharon. None will be taken over the phone. Entries are used at the discretion of Herald editors as space permits.

ARMED FORCES

■ Pvt. Cortnee Braho, daughter of Ron J. and Tracy L. Braho, Penn Avenue, West Middlesex, completed basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

The Herald carries armed forces news in a column published Sundays. While the respective branches send information about service personnel directly to the newspaper, parents may want to submit their own information to avoid an oversight. Information should be dropped off at The Herald or mailed to Box 51, Sharon 16146. A phone number should be included. No armed forces news is taken over the phone.

Photographs submitted by families are used with promotions, significant awards or achievements and of those deployed to the Middle East.