Honor Brewing Company pays tribute to fallen soldiers

A beer company that recently launched two ales with Nittany Beverage Beer Distributors recognized two soldiers in conjunction with an event at the State College American Legion Post No. 245.

Honor Brewing Company and Nittany Beverage Beer Distributors, which sells the company’s Honor Golden Ale and Honor India Pale Ale, hosted the event on Nov. 13.

HBC goes a step further than making beer — they also honor veterans and give back to charities for the fallen and injured. In the past 16 months, the company recognized veterans by either raising a glass of their special craft beer, dedicating a six pack with their tribute story or by placing custom dog tags in their patent-approved Tribute Tap in their memory at respective locations in the veterans’ hometown.

Two veterans were honored at the event. U.S. Army Reserves Chief Warrant Officer Matthew Ruffner, of Punxsutawney, was killed in action in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan on April 9, 2013. U.S. Army 1st Class Sgt. Keith A. Callahan, buried in McClure, was killed in action in Iraq on Jan. 24. Honor Brewing Company is launching tribute taps in Pennsylvania to celebrate their lives. The locations of the tribute taps for both Ruffner and Callahan can be found on Honor Brewing’s website.

Pedal for the patriots

PYP Studio, in State College, will hold its second PYP Patriotic Pedalthon Sunday.
Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to the Special Operations Foundation, which supports special operations forces and their families by way of counseling, education, advocacy programs and college scholarships for children of special operations forces.

“Last year’s event was so amazing,” PYP Studio co-owner Kerry Bestwick said. “Our goal last year was to raise $2,000, and our community pushed that to $11,500.”

Sign-in and set up for the pedalthon will begin at 7:30 a.m. with flights at 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at PYP Studio, 1748 S. Atherton St. The format will be a revolving team-style ride led by PYP Studio instructors.

Teams must raise at least $200 to enter, will receive commemorative T-shirts and are invited to a post-event brunch. Coffee will be provided by Rothrock Coffee shop, which is also owned by the Bestwicks.

**Penn State SBDC earns top marks**

The Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers honored staff members and centers for their commitment and contributions at the 2015 Pennsylvania SBDC Small Business Growth Forum in Cranberry Township last week.

The Penn State SBDC was given the Creative Funding award for their success in innovative ways to raise program funding. The center was successful in winning a competitive grant as part of the U.S. Commerce Department’s 2014 Regional Innovation Strategies program, and the TechCelerator program received a $500,000 i6/Cluster Grant for technologists to explore entrepreneurship and commercialization.

It was the co-recipient of the Center Performance Award, which was based on metrics including hours spent working with small businesses, capital acquisition, businesses started and purchased, business sales increases, jobs impacted, client support letters written and client satisfaction.

**CBICC opens nominations for awards**

Nominations for the Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County/Pennsylvania Business Central 2015 Excellence in Business awards will be accepted through Nov. 30.

The awards will be presented at the CBICC’s annual Vision Dinner 5-8:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at Mountain View Country Club in Boalsburg.

There will be finalists and winners in five categories — Small Business of the Year, Technology Company of the Year, CEO of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year and Visionary Company of the Year — that will be selected by an independent panel of local business and community leaders.

The CBICC will also present two economic development-focused awards for Economic Development Champion and Centre County Economic Development Support Partner of the Year.

“The Chamber is pleased to partner with Pennsylvania Business Central in celebrating the best of Centre County business,” said CBICC President and CEO Vern Squier. “We also look forward to recognizing the local champions of economic growth, those individuals or organizations that go above and beyond in their support of the Chamber’s multifaceted economic development mission and in their commitment to improving Centre County’s economy.”

**TechCelerator to award prize money**

A startup will soon get a boost from the TechCelerator.

Four teams — Aleo BME, Biotransitions, Heliome and Spherical Acoustics — will give final presentations to a panel of judges from 5-6:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at 243 Technology Center in Innovation Park. It will be the culmination of a 10-week program in which the teams could be awarded up to $10,000.

Presentations may go up to eight minutes with a five-minute Q&A from the panel. Their presentations will detail the markets they are in, the problem they’re solving, their solution and how they plan on making money.
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