

Meetings

Information sessions slated in Cheektowaga

Empire State College will hold public information sessions about its undergraduate degree programs at 10 a.m. Saturday Jan. 12; at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday Jan. 22 and at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday Jan. 30. All sessions will be held at the college's Niagara Frontier Center, located at the Apple Tree Business Park, 2875 Union Road, Cheektowaga. Additional sessions will be held at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14 at the college's Lockport location, 9 Ontario St., and at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22 at the college's Fredonia location, 112 Man St., Suite One, Fredonia. For more information on the program, call 686-7800 or visit the college's Web site at www.esc.edu.

Trade association to look at doing business in China

The Buffalo World Trade Association will hold a program titled "How to do business in China," at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21 at the Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. The program will feature protocols and etiquette for the Chinese market. For more information on the program, call 685-1781 or visit the association's Web site at www.bwta.

BNSME to hold culture workshop for executives

Buffalo Niagara Sales & Marketing Executives will hold a workshop titled "Creating a Culture of Champions: Engaging Your People with Their Head and Their Heart" from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Monday Jan. 28 at the Millennium Hotel: 2040 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. The program will be presented by Carol Dombrowski and Jason Steinhorn. The cost to attend the event is \$15 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. Register by calling 662-2279. The workshop will feature advice on promoting job satisfaction, teamwork and employee retention; driving innovation, performance and business results; and connecting employees more closely with the company, the customers and the community.

Pollack Furs returns

Third generation owner comes out of retirement

by **KIMBERLY M. KARCHER**
Clarence Editor

David Pollack has come out of retirement to once again head the family business and community staple of more than 100 years — Pollack Furs.

The company, which went on a brief year and a half hiatus when Pollack's successor backed out of running the business, is back in action at its new location in East Amherst.

"Lopack, a fur company, wanted me to continue this business," he said. "They bought the rights to use the Pollack Furs name, and in the process, I got a job as the managing director."

Pollack said the fur store is a full service, sales, restoration, cleaning and repairing company.

"With the union (with Lopack,) we have the capability to offer everything we did in years past, but now on a much grander

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— **David Pollack**

scale," he said. "It was a good fit, and we found that East Amherst is kind of becoming the center of business, so this location was also a good fit."

The previous location was on the corner of Niagara Falls Boulevard and Sheridan Drive on the edge of Tonawanda and Amherst, Pollack said.

Pollack Furs offers mainly outerwear, which, according to Pollack is "fur-line shells."

"We have cashmere, coats trimmed with fur, jackets ... anything that comes in association with fur," he said. "Suppose you

wanted a nice little fur jacket to go with a skirt; we can provide that."

Pollack added that the company has the ability to add fur to existing materials as well.

"We can remodel existing furs, add some fur lining or whatever the case to meet the customer's needs," he said.

Pollack Furs also offers a line of real crocodile-skin accessories including belts, purses and pocketbooks.

"Eventually it will become a lot more items that we can offer," he said. "Virtually anything that can

be made from fur or crocodile we will offer to customers."

Pollack said the addition of the company to the East Amherst community is one that will bring additional style and elegance to the opulent area.

Pollack added that he is "absolutely thrilled" to be back in the business that was started by his grandfather more than 100 years ago, the same company later operated by his father making him a third generation Pollack in the fur industry.

Pollack Furs is open from 10 to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday; and from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday. It is located at 9384 Transit Road, East Amherst, near Casey Road. For more information, call 688-1763. A Web site for the company is coming soon, according to Pollack.

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Adeptiv Solutions owners Scott Maybee and Mark Chandley help associate and Foresters Liberty Regional Council representative, Mary Ella Loos, pack suitcases with items for Jammies for GIs.

Williamsville business collects donations for wounded soldiers

Wounded U.S. soldiers will be recovering in athletic pants and pajamas as a result of a donation to the nonprofit organization, Jammies for GIs, formed by Adeptiv Solutions, a Williamsville-based company, and the Liberty Region of Foresters, a financial services group.

Through casual-day incentives and donation requests throughout the second half of 2007, an associate-managed group called the Care and Share Committee worked with volunteers from Foresters to collect \$1,960. The money was used to purchase 14 suitcases, along with tear-away pants, pajamas and personal-care products for injured military personnel who arrive for treatment without any personal belongings.

The Care and Share Committee at Adeptiv Solutions is dedicated to making a positive impact on the children and families in the communities where they live and work. This group has undertaken several additional charitable winter projects, including organizing a winter clothing drive to assist the homeless, destitute and working poor at the Friends of Night People and children at Gateway-Longview.

For information, visit www.jammiesforgis.org.

Birdair Inc. earns Outstanding Achievement Award

Birdair Inc. has earned the 2007 Outstanding Achievement Award from the Industrial Fabrics Association International for its innovative tension cable and fabric membrane roofing system, recently installed on Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium in Safat, Kuwait.

Birdair Inc., headquartered in Amherst, is a specialty contractor of lightweight long-span roofing systems throughout the world, providing design-build solutions for architects and clients in all aspects of project design, engineering, installation and maintenance.

The Birdair project competed in the 60th annual International Achievement Awards, garnering honors in the category of Tensile Structures 30,000 square feet or larger. IFAI received a record 387 entries from 14 countries, which were reviewed by a panel of industry experts, editors, architects, educators and design professionals.

Projects were submitted in 28 categories and evaluated for complexity, design, workmanship, uniqueness and functionality.

"The canopy structure on Jaber Al-Ahmad Stadium was a unique and complex undertaking, so we're thrilled that IFAI has recog-

nized Birdair's work on this distinctive project," said Kevin Mayer, vice president of business development, marketing and sales for Birdair.

Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium — also known as Kuwait Stadium — seats more than 64,000 spectators and is the largest soccer and Olympic-standard sports venue in the country.

Birdair designed, engineered and installed the canopy system for the stadium within one year, using 147,637 square feet of Teflon-coated fabric.

Using a highly translucent woven Fiberglass material, Birdair's team of engineers and designers capitalized on the membrane's daylight-harvesting properties. Due to its inherent high translucency, light pours through the material to brighten the stadium's interior space, reducing the need for supplemental electric lighting.

The bright white fabric also offers a strong defense against the extreme wind, dirt, sand and heat of Kuwait's harsh desert climate.

Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium was slated for completion in December 2007.

For more information about Birdair, call 1-800-622-2246 or visit www.birdair.com.

Business News

Gilman Ciocia, a provider of federal, state and local tax planning and preparation services, has set its schedule of complimentary workshops, taking place in Williamsville and Snyder in January: 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15 at the at the Eagle House Restaurant, 5578 Main St.; 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17 at Sonoma Grill, 5010 Main St.; 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22 at Sonoma Grill and 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24 at Sonoma Grill. For information, visit www.gilcio.com/seminars, or call 1-800-tax-team.