

Meetings

UB Management School sets cyber seminar

The University at Buffalo School of Management Alumni Association will hold a breakfast seminar exploring cyber security for small businesses and nonprofit organizations from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 19 in the Center for Tomorrow on the UB North Campus. The seminar, "Cyber Crashes, Disasters and Hackers: Be Prepared," will be part of SOMAA's Smart Business Practices Breakfast Seminar Series. It will include a full breakfast, panel discussion, presentations, and a question-and-answer period. Topics that will be addressed include wireless security, software patches, spam messages and filters, password security, network monitoring, directory security, user permissions, data backups, encryption and disaster-recovery planning. Presenting will be Kristopher Meier, director of information technology for Algonquin Studios; David J. Murray, assistant professor of management science and systems in the UB School of Management; and Gregory S. Gartland, IBM-certified administrator, developer and trainer for The PCA Group. The cost of the breakfast seminar will be \$25 for SOMAA members, \$30 for nonprofit representatives and \$35 for others who are not members of SOMAA. Reservations are required and must be made by March 14 at 645-3224.

Buffalo Niagara Partnership to hold social

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership will hold Networking with a Twist, an informal cocktail party for members and nonmembers of the organization to network with other area business owners. The event will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13 at the Buffalo Launch Club, 503 E. River Road, Grand Island. The cost is \$10 for members or \$20 for nonmembers and walk-ups. Registration for the event is available online at www.thepartnership.org. For more information on Networking with a Twist, call Charlene Janiga at 541-1770.

Area's first indoor go-kart track is a hit

by **TIMOTHY CHIPP**
Reporter

AJ's Grand Prix is the first of its kind in Western New York area.

The high speed, indoor go-kart track takes the fun of slow karts and pumps adrenaline into them.

They are like go-karts on steroids.

The quarter-mile track, at 1888 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda, is filled with twists, turns and spots to accelerate to speeds of up to 40 mph.

"They are the fastest cars in Western New York," said managing partner Ali Asgari.

Asgari and his business partners — there are five — are looking to franchise the name. But they needed a flagship location and chose the Buffalo area because "the communities are so tightknit."

The business is booming despite a lack of advertising, Asgari said. The track has been open for four weeks, but it has already booked events and parties.

The kitchen isn't operational, but AJ's has been getting food delivered from vendors.

Asgari, who has lived in Hamburg for 23 years, was an insurance executive before he noticed a lack of indoor go-kart tracks in the area.

The track, which is located

behind the carpet store across Niagara Falls Boulevard from the Interstate 290 exit, is designed to eliminate emissions.

Fresh air is pumped into the building and stale air removed, keeping the air clean despite the number of gas engines running in an enclosed area.

As for the cars, which are the real stars of any racing, there are two sizes. The adults use 6.5-horsepower, gas-engine karts that reach the full speed of 40 mph. Children use a slower, 5.5-horsepower kart.

"Children that wish to ride must meet a 51-inch height requirement," general manager Thomas Laciusa said. "They must also be 10 years old. These karts move fast, and the kids need to be safe."

"The kids need to be able to control them, too," Asgari added.

There is also the need to be able to reach the peddles of the car, the reason for the height requirement.

Safety is also a concern with go-karts. AJ's employs safety precautions that reduce the risk of injury, including racing helmets and neck guards.

"The cars are built so low to the ground," Asgari said. "There is no flipping or rolling."

"Safety is important to us, so we make sure each car is properly inspected and handled with the



A.J.'s Grand Prix staff members include Scott Kreutter, Andrew Forrestel, Deb Hamby, Melissa Lobur, managing partner Ali Asgari, Rebecca Bender, Dustin Schallpose and Kelly McDonald, who is seated in the go-kart. They are on the quarter-mile track located at 1888 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda.

Photo by Timothy Chipp
 Purchase color photos at www.beenews.com

utmost care," he said.

AJ's offers memberships to ride, or the ability to come in off the street. It offers both an adult and junior membership, based on age and height. There is a yearly charge, which gets the racer two free races — including one in the birthday month — and reduced pricing on all subsequent visits.

The prices for the memberships range from \$10 to \$40 depending on what the customer wants.

The company will eventually start competitive racing leagues — in various age ranges — to recognize the area's best drivers.

Eventually, Asgari wants versions of his company in the Cleveland and Erie, Pa., markets.

For more information or to book a party or team get together, visit www.ajsgrandprix.com or call 693-7433.



OOH, IT'S SO GOOD — Mr. Food, Art Ginsburg, attended the grand opening of Mr. Food No Fuss Meals in the Northtown Plaza, 3061 Sheridan Drive, on Monday. He is joined by, from left, co-owner James Kulwicki, President Carol McMahon and co-owner Deborah Murray. The company features home-cooked meals that guests assemble and take home to enjoy at any time. For information, visit www.nofussmeals.com.

Business News

The Skimmersville Cemetery Association Inc. will hold its annual lot owners/trustee meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 17 in the White Chapel on the cemetery grounds, 490 Frontier Road, off John James Audubon Parkway near the University at Buffalo North Campus. All lot owners are welcome to attend and participate in the discussions for ongoing business the cemetery conducts. Call 472-7120.

The National Association of Women Business Owners will hold a member trade show at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12 at

Fairdale Inn, 672 Wehrle Drive, Amherst. The cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for guests. Reservations must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, March 7 and can be made online at www.nawbowny.org. Reservations can also be made by contacting Jamie Jordan by phone at 580-1135 or via e-mail at Jamie420@roadrunner.com.

Fiserv's (NASDAQ: FISV) Amherst operating center raised \$8,100 at its 2007 holiday auction to benefit Meals on Wheels for Western New York, Upstate New York Transplant Services and Roswell Park Alliance Founda-

tion. The silent auction was held Dec. 11-13, and donation proceeds were equally divided among the three charities. Donations were presented to the organizations on Feb. 14 by Edman and Kevin Collins, president of Fiserv Automotive Solutions.

Weinberg Campus, located in Getzville, has appointed Dana Notaro as administrator of its Dosberg Manor Adult Home and Assisted Living Program. She has been a staff member since 2004 and was previously the director of community services. She has more than 20 years' experience in

program management and development, staff training, administrative responsibility and classroom instruction.

Picone Construction Corporation, located in Williamsville, was recently awarded the general construction contract by Ben Garelick Jewelers to complete the interior renovations at its Transit Road store. In addition to the new design of Ben Garelick's interior space, the renovations include 70 percent more jewelry case space. New bridal, refreshment and children's areas will debut when the store reopens in early April.

Gilman Ciocia to hold workshops on tax planning

Gilman Ciocia Inc., a provider of federal, state and local tax planning and preparation services, will hold seminars in March.

The complimentary workshops are designed to educate individuals about the importance of tax planning not only in April, but throughout the entire year. Session facilitators demonstrate ways to reduce current income taxes, possibly recover back taxes, protect personal assets and achieve financial security.

The Gilman Ciocia tax planning workshops take place year round in Williamsville and Snyder. Attendees receive a free lunch or dinner during the presentation.

The following is the March workshop schedule:

- 6 p.m. Thursday, March 6 and Tuesday, March 11 at the Eagle House Restaurant, 5578 Main St., near Cayuga Road, Williamsville.
- 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 18 and Tuesday, March 25 at Sonoma Grill, 5010 Main St., near Kensington Avenue, Snyder.
- 3 p.m. Thursday, March 20 at Sonoma Grill.