How IBM is making Buffalo an analytics mecca

Innovation Center takes shape in Key Center; 500 workers to be hired

By David Robinson

NEWS BUSINESS REPORTER

I
n the north tower of the Key Center in downtown Buffalo, one of the quietest parts of the Buffalo Billion in taking shape. Inside, on the fourth floor in temporary space that is less than half filled, IBM Corp. is slowly building what the company and state officials hope will be a key cog in efforts to build up the Buffalo Niagara region’s emerging tech sector, with a goal of creating 600 technology and support jobs by the fall of 2010.

For IBM’s new Innovation Center in Buffalo, it’s all about data. Building mountains of data. Sifting through it. Organizing it. Making sense of it.

“We’re drowning in data. The key is using that data effectively,” said Jay Goodway, the executive director of the IBM Buffalo Innovation Center that is slowly ramping up its operations in the Key Center. “How do we use this information to become smarter? To do something different.”

From supermarket loyalty cards that record every grocery purchase to e-mails that allow customers to track a product through each step of the manufacturing process and even traffic cameras, businesses and government agencies now know more about what’s going on than ever before.

But knowing too much can be just as confounding as knowing too little.

That’s the crux of the plan behind the IBM technology center, which is

And ultimately, helping its clients, both government and business, use all that information in a way that makes them more efficient, helps them develop new products or identify what works, and what doesn’t.

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8-year-old Treasure dies of injuries from fire

I can’t believe it,” anguished mom says

By Mark Becker

NEWS REPORTER

For 68 days, Treasure Brighton fought for her life. The 8-year-old girl was burned, nearly 80 percent of her body on Feb. 18, when a fire ripped through her family’s apartment on Humber Avenue. Demetrious Delkison, her mother’s fiancé, who

Cruz-Kasich alliance against Trump

GOP insiders wary of new plan

By Sean Sullivan and David Weigel

WASHINGTON POST

BORDEN, Ind. — A sudden political alliance between Ted Cruz and John Kasich against Republican front-runner Donald Trump quickly ran into speed bumps Monday that exposed the plans’ risks and called into question whether it would work.

In their unconventional last-ditch scheme, Kasich said he would call the way for Cruz to face Trump in Indiana while

Cruz would return the Oregon and New Mexico plans aimed to produce anti-Trump Republican victories for Cruz who would be ahead in the delegate count.

But less than 12 hours earlier, the pact was announced as the underdogs were hoping to end Trump’s run.

Cruz, meanwhile, seemed to be keeping the pact alive on Monday in a statement. Kasich was "pulling together a plan that will make it difficult for Donald Trump to win enough delegates in Indiana to secure the nomination."

Inside The News

Disputed petitions roiling races for city School Board

Russell loses East District ballot spots amid court, political, labor firewalls

By Tiffany Lanier and Deirdre DeRosa

NEWS STAFF REPORTERS

Another candidate aligned with the Buffalo School Board majority was knocked off the ballot Monday in the latest twist in a fierce contest for control of the board.

The continued challenges to petitions of would-be candidates underscore the dramatic politics that make this an unusually tense election, drawing interest from local political, labor and business factions not typically involved in School Board races.

Although attempts to knock people off the ballot are not unusual, this year’s challenges have been particularly aggressive, with those opposing candidates aligned with the board’s current majority showing up at homes and calling voters who signed petitions to verify their authenticity.

The outsiders jumping in to sway the outcome of the race represent an influential group of political leaders, including Erie County Executive Russ Tedesco, State Sen. Carl Paladino, D-Buffalo, and the local affiliate of the AFL-CIO, which represents all of the union’s labor unions.

It’s highly unusual for School Board President M. Sampson, who was fighting for his re-election, to lose two ballot challenges in the same week.

Russell showed up by the early morning executive to defend herself against allegations she does not live in the East District in which she ran.

She was running in the race to replace incumbent Brenda Tull.

Instead, Amherst Centric Chairman James Arthur, the attorney representing her opponent, presented the ballot challenge to remove her from the race.

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