

Friday, April 11, 2008

It's up on the roof for entertainment at the EpiCentre

Charlotte Business Journal - by Ashley M. London

Bar Management Group is finalizing plans for its latest EpiCentre project -- a 25,000-square-foot rooftop patio and bar.

The new music and events venue, dubbed the Pavilion at EpiCentre, is situated atop the three-story entertainment building in the \$100 million complex at Trade and College streets.

"It has a great view -- it's breathtaking," says Shiela Fletcher, Pavilion sales and marketing director. "It's all about the atmosphere."

Fletcher comes to the Pavilion from Live Nation, where she was director of sales.

The Pavilion can host crowds as large as 2,000 for festivals and private or corporate events.

The rooftop can be accessed via elevator, escalator or the stairs and full catering services will be available to patrons.

EpiCentre is anchored by bars and restaurants that include Whiskey River, Black Fin, Howl at the Moon and a 20-lane bowling alley. Fletcher says she has already booked 44 events for the Pavilion, which opens early next month.

Bring it on: **Bank of America** is banking on Beijing -- and would-be cheerleaders, according to sister paper *SportsBusiness Journal*.

The bank, a longtime sponsor of the U.S. Olympic team, plans to promote its Team USA-themed products with a marketing campaign that includes entreaties for homemade videos, letters and other support from customers. The tagline, "If you cheer, they'll hear," plays on the bank's promise to pass along the grassroots cheers to Team USA before the Games begin this summer.

In addition to tie-in Web pages at Facebook, Flickr and YouTube, BofA will take an Olympic-themed caravan to 19 cities across the country, starting at New York's Rockefeller Plaza.

David Furman is known for his intense, no-nonsense approach to building condos. Apparently he's in touch with his comedic side too, at least when it comes to the competition.

"Anyone here familiar with the Portman project?" he asked the crowd gathered for the April CREW luncheon this week.

In January, Atlanta-based **Portman Holdings** postponed plans for its 40-story One Charlotte condo tower, citing the downturn in the housing and credit markets. It was to feature 99 residences costing \$1.5 million to \$10 million.

The postponement "was not a reflection of a poor market -- it's an indication of a smart market," Furman cracked. "This is not Dubai."

Furman's TradeMark condo tower on West Trade has proved popular with an unanticipated audience. A large sculpture at the front of the building is now "a wonderful piece of art that has become a skateboard ramp," Furman said, firing a mock shotgun. "It's a losing battle."

The developer and architect opened his presentation with a striking black-and-white photo of a snappily dressed woman walking down Tryon Street in the 1920s. Turns out it was Furman's mom.

Furman's family rented a house on College Street for 25 years. Today, Furman and his wife live uptown at The Ratcliffe.

Architect Stephen Overcash has issued a plea for help regarding the fate of Jockey Boy. On April 1, the erstwhile company mascot was kidnapped from the South End offices of **Overcash Demmitt Architects**.

A blurry photo and note soon followed, promising demands. But Overcash says he hasn't heard anything since. And time is running out.

The lawn jockey statue is due a paint job for an upcoming Kentucky Derby party. "We are offering a handsome reward for any information leading to his return," Overcash says.

Local marketing exec John Powell and his band, Underground Detour, are cranking up their amps again to raise money for A Child's Place.

They get together every Thursday night in attorney Ralph McMillan's basement for a jam session.

Underground Detour has been together for over six years and plays mostly for friends and charitable events. Over the past three years, the band has helped raised more than \$25,000 for

various charities, and it hopes to continue doing so with its third annual event at the Double Door Inn.

Last year, more than \$2,500 was raised, but this year the band hopes to reach the \$5,000 mark. This year's event will also feature The Jim Garrett Band.

The music starts at 3 p.m. Sunday at 218 E. Independence and runs till 6:30 p.m. The suggested donation is \$10 at the door, and all proceeds go to the nonprofit, which helps homeless and at-risk children get schooling and family services.

Wachovia's top lawyer, Mark Treanor, thought of his former boss when he recently visited Capitol Hill and met with government officials who were still digesting Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson's proposal to overhaul the nation's financial regulatory system.

Watching them absorb the news, Treanor was tempted to mention former First Union CEO Ed Crutchfield's rapid-fire acquisition spree in the 1990s and how it ever-so-frequently affected the bank's legal department.

"He'd go out in the woods and tickle a bear until it chased him in here, then he'd leave it to the rest of us to skin it," he jokes.

Charlotte/Douglas International officials expect the new runway under construction to generate billions in economic impact when it opens in 2010. But city Aviation Director Jerry Orr was hoping for a little quicker return.

Part of the massive runway project is being built on top of long-abandoned gold mines, remnants of Mecklenburg County's gold rush history.

"I laid claim to any gold they found there," he says. "I told them to call me if they found anything." Orr is still waiting. "They haven't called me, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed."

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