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This index lists businesses, organizations and people mentioned in news stories in the San Antonio Business Journal this week. It does not include People on the Move, Records & Leads, Week in Review, News Bytes or the Opinion pages.

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If you want to stay on top of the daily pulse of the business community, check out the San Antonio Business Journal's blog, called Alamo City Beat, which showcases the talents of staff journalists W. Scott Bailey, Tricia L. Silva, Mike Thomas and Donna J. Tuttle. Each writer brings his or her own unique voice and insights to the blog, but you can also expect their blog posts will be well-reported, fair, balanced and accurate. [http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/blog/].

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CPS Energy Seeks Candidates for Trustee Position

CPS Energy is seeking candidates to fill the expiring term of a current member of the CPS Energy Board of Trustees. This Trustee position represents the northwest quadrant of the CPS Energy service territory.

The CPS Energy Board of Trustees oversees operations of the municipally owned gas and electric systems of the City of San Antonio. Trustees meet regularly and may expect to serve approximately 10-20 hours per month, with an annual stipend of \$2,000. The Board of Trustees is made up of five members, one of whom is the Mayor of the City of San Antonio.

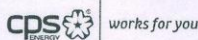
Trustee applicants must be United States citizens, permanent residents of Bexar County, and must live within the northwest quadrant of the CPS Energy service territory. The northwest quadrant is generally bounded by the Bexar County line to the north and west, IH-10 and Blanco Road to the east, and Woodlawn Avenue, Grissom Road and FM 471 to the south. Application forms may be obtained by calling (210) 353-2602.

The deadline for application submission is Monday, March 14, 2011.
Completed applications should be sent to:

CPS Energy Mail Drop 101014
Attn: Board of Trustees
P.O. Box 1771
San Antonio, TX 78296-1771

Or e-mailed to: eperez@cpsenergy.com

All applications received will be forwarded to the CPS Energy Board of Trustees for review as well as provided to the City of San Antonio. Interviews will be scheduled with individuals selected by a Board Committee for further consideration. A nominee to fill the vacancy will be selected by a majority vote of the CPS Energy Board of Trustees and will be submitted to the San Antonio City Council for confirmation or rejection.



Downtown tourist attraction venturing into 4th dimension



REAL ESTATE
ROUNDUP
TRICIA L. SILVA

The tourist attraction known for all things wax and weird has added a new sensory element for downtown tourists.

Ripley's Believe it or Not recently celebrated the grand opening of the Ripley's Moving Theater 4D, a four-dimensional, moving-movie theater that combines the 3-D experience with various physical effects — including motion and simulated effects for rain, wind and snow.

The new theater will help to make a great attraction for local tourists even better, says Mark Wohlfarth, principal of locally based construction firm The Sabinal Group — the general contractor on the project.

The Moving Theater will occupy roughly 1,500 square feet in the main lobby of Louis Tussaud's Waxworks, one of several attractions owned and operated by Orlando-based Ripley Entertainment Inc. The wax museum is located downtown at 301 Alamo Plaza.

The new theater is part of a larger rehab of the lobby area at 301 Alamo — a project that also included adding new lighting, floor tiles and wall treatments. Sabinal also renovated the snack-bar area — which now carries what Wohlfarth calls an "art-deco feel." Counter seating has been added at the bar as well.

Total costs for the project were not disclosed.

Sabinal has done several projects for the local Ripley's venue over the past three years. Other key jobs by the construction firm have included the renovation of 307 Alamo Plaza — the 30,000-square-foot building located adjacent to 301 Alamo Plaza that is home to the Believe it or Not! Odditorium. This homage to the odd features such displays as the car that Lee Harvey Oswald drove to the book depository in Dallas on the day of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's assassination.

All told, Ripley's leases roughly 60,000 square feet of space that is spread out over three buildings: 301, 307 and 329 Alamo Plaza. The wax museum and the odditorium are located at 301 and 307 Alamo Plaza, respectively. The building at 329 Alamo Plaza is home to the Guinness World Records Museum and Ripley's Haunted Adventure.

Unanticipated uptick

After enjoying a welcome surge in shoppers during the first month of the year, the country's chain retailers continued to feel the love throughout the month of February as well.

Retail industry organization the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) reports that February 2011 sales for U.S. chain stores were up 4.2 percent, compared to February 2010 figures.

"The breadth and the strength of the sales gain in February was encouraging as more retailers and retail segments participated in the improvement," notes Michael P. Niemira, chief economist and director of research for ICSC. "This widespread improvement is on the heels of improving labor markets, broader improving economic conditions, and the reduction in payroll tax — all of which are more than offsetting the potentially negative drag of high fuel and food prices on consumer mind-sets."

Looking ahead, ICSC expects that March figures may be less stellar. With Easter coming at the end of April this year, March sales are expected to be anywhere from unchanged to up a mere 2 percent compared to March 2010 figures. Come April, however, ICSC expects that sales will be on the rebound once again, by as much as 5 percent.

March could still, however, prove to be an eventful month for retailers — thanks, in part, to the tradition of celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

The Washington, D.C.-based National Retail Federation (NRF) is anticipating that total spending for this green tradition will reach \$4.14 billion this year — up from estimated spending of \$3.44 billion for St. Paddy's Day in 2010.

The figures are based on a recent survey conducted by Worthington, Ohio-based BIGresearch for NRF.

"Eager to shake off the winter blues, consumers will look to St. Patrick's Day as their first spring-related celebration, meaning great things for the economy, retailers and restaurants," notes NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay.

Getaway

The JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa was recently featured on NBC's Today Show as one of the best places to take the family for a spring break getaway.

"We love the Marriott in San Antonio," said Nilou Motamed, features director for Travel + Leisure Magazine, who spoke with NBC reporter Ann Curry earlier this month about the top five spring break getaways for the family.

"It has everything you would want on property — especially with tons of activities specifically for the spring break period for children," added Motamed, about the JW Marriott. "If you want your kids booked from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., you can do that. There are fun things (to do) with your kids, like family yoga, and fun activities — including smores at the fire pit and a water park on property."

The JW Marriott is located at 23808 Resort Parkway. For more reservations or more information, call 276-2500, or log on at www.jwsanantonio.com.

TRICIA LYNN SILVA's Real Estate Roundup column appears weekly. Silva can be reached via e-mail at tsilva@bizjournals.com, or by phone at 210-477-0849.