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Greetings Samantha,

The annual Women of Influence reception was, once again, the highlight of the year. Congratulations to Kim Damron, Marla Ostroff, Michele Montague, Debra Rathwell and Donna Julian. The joy was all ours. Our reception was preceded by a very frank talk by Donna, Kim Stone of the Miami Heat and Jeanie Buss of the Los Angeles Lakers. The energy was high and the laughter frequent. Asked their least favorite words, Actor's Studio

style, Kim said "puke," Donna said "tolerate," and Jeanie cracked us up with "nepotism."



G-Force, a similar ride to the Fire Ball ride that snapped apart at Ohio State Fair, Columbus, was shutdown at OC Fair, Costa Mesa, Calif.

Corrosion Blamed For Ohio Fair Tragedy

By Brad Weissberg

The Dutch manufacturer of the ride that killed one person and injured seven others has concluded corrosion was to blame for the deadly accident at Ohio State Fair, Columbus, on July 26. Fairs around the country are still being asked questions about ride safety.

Venues Today has tips for how to answer them.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“For a story that says we are taking affordable access out of the market, that could not be further from the truth. We have personal seat licenses (PSL). They own a seat. We went to great lengths to make it affordable.” — *Steve Cannon, CEO of the Arthur M Blank Group, which operates the new Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta.*

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Women of Influence and supporters sign in at Music City Center, Nashville, led by Kerry Painter and Mike Garcia and greeted by VT's Pauline Davis. (VT Photo)



Backstage Gun Debate Rages After Johnson Cancellation

By Brad Weissberg

Venues around the country are examining their back-of-house gun policies following a standoff between House of Blues, Myrtle Beach, S.C., and the outlaw-country star, Jamey Johnson, who scoffed at security protocols by refusing to go through a metal detector.

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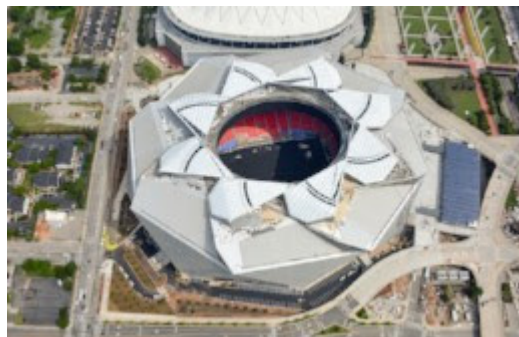
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No Single-Game Tickets At Falcons Stadium

Big3 Basketball Expands

By Tim Newcomb

Nearing the end of its eighth week, Big3 professional 3-on-3 basketball has been offering up its unique style of sporting event from Tulsa, Okla., to Seattle. Enthusiastic fans have been snatching up tickets, making the Ice Cube-owned league one to watch.

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By Tim Newcomb

The \$1.5-billion Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, won't be selling any single-game tickets because of the large amount of personal seat licenses (PSL) already sold. Falcons Stadium owners said that one-offs undermine the value of the PSL.

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Hot Weather Scorches California State Fair

By Mary Wade Burnside

More than half of the 17-day California State Fair, held July 14 to 30, registered temperatures over 100 degrees, and six of those days were weekends. A unique plan that advertised 10,000 square feet of shaded space and misters that had been added for the event is credited with the fair attendance only decreasing 5.4 percent from last year's normal-temperature event.

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MSG Acquires Counter Logic Gaming

By Diamond Leung

MSG has taken a majority interest in eSports venture Counter Logic Gaming, solidifying their move into the new sport league. Counter Logic Gaming (CLG) founder George 'HotshotGG' Georgallidis will continue to run the day-to-day operations of CLG's esports teams across games such as League of Legends, Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, Overwatch, Super Smash Bros. and H1Z1.

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Paw Patrol Paws It's Way To The Top

PAW Patrol Live! is proving the power of family shows. Dates at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., July 22-23, and David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, Tampa, Fla., July 29-30, grossed a combined total of \$750,000 with 16,000 PAWsome fans in attendance.

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TLCC and XLIVE In August, Stadia & Arenas in Sept.

TLCC 2017, Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, Aug 13-17; XLIVE eSports Summit, New York City, Aug. 22-24; Stadia & Arena Asia Pacific 2017, Makuhari Messe, Chiba City, Japan, Sept. 14-16; ASIS 2017, Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center, Dallas, Sept. 25-28.


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BSE Promotes Three Key Executives

Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment (BSE) has promoted Kari Cohen to EVP of programming; Keith Sheldon to VP of programming and Mandy Guttman to VP, communications. BSE runs Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., and NYCB Live, home of the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Uniondale, N.Y.

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SHORT TAKES

Swanson Moves To Columbia, S.C.

Cheryl Swanson has been named VP and GM at Columbia (S.C.) Convention Center. She replaces Mack Stone, who retired. She was formerly with the Alerus Center, Grand Forks, N.D.

Durham PAC Planning \$1.8 Million Renovation

Durham (N.C.) Performing Arts Center (DPAC) and City of Durham are planning a \$1.8 million improvement project. Heading the list of improvements are new carpet throughout the lobbies and seating area and 2,712 new seats.

Yakima Selects Spectra

The board of directors of the Central Washington State Fair, Yakima, has selected Spectra by Comcast Spectacor to provide food & hospitality services for the fair, Yakima SunDome and State Fair Park. Spectra will provide dining experiences for events at the SunDome and catering for other events at State Fair Park as well as off the grounds.

SMG Named Corporate Partner Of The Year

SMG has been named corporate partner of the year by College of Charleston, S.C. Dean of the Business School Alan Shao called the partnership "a perfect example of the public/private partnership."

Block Party Suites Sweet On New Name

Block Party Suites has changed its name to Blockparty. The Dallas-based company that provides turnkey pop-up VIP trailers recently secured a \$2 million investment from Live Nation.

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