

# Amusement TODAY 1997-2017 YEARS OF NEWS

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## Mark Moore Memorial Fundraiser tops \$322,490

*National Roller Coaster Museum plans new building honoring Moore; industry donations ongoing*

The Mark Moore Memorial Fundraiser kicked off Nov. 17, at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016 with a \$100,000 donation from Uremet, the company founded by the late Mark Moore. On hand to receive the generous donation were several board members of the National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives (NRCMA), along with representatives from Uremet and Moore's family. The fundraising campaign — still ongoing — has since welcomed additional donations, bringing in \$322,490 total as of press time. NRCMA is proposing to double the size of its current archive facility.

▶ SEE STORY/HOW TO DONATE, PAGE 46



## 2017 MARKS START OF SAFETY SEMINARS



AT: Pam Sherborne  
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NORTH AMERICA — As 2017 gets underway, so do the various annual seminars focusing on safety, maintenance, certification and education.

Here is a preview of five upcoming key seminars:

### AIMS Safety Seminar Orlando, Fla. Jan. 8-13, 2017

The 2017 AIMS Safety Seminar will offer a variety of new topics during its annual run set for Jan. 8-13, at the Doubletree by Hilton at Sea-World, Orlando, Fla.

Some of the new areas to be covered include security, active shooter, terrorism, total productive maintenance programs, ASTM standards and guest behaviors, as well as classes specific to ride accessibility, climbing walls, family entertainment centers and more.

"I guess it is a sad commentary of our

time," said AIMS Executive Director **Karen Oertley** regarding the increase in sessions on active shooters and terrorism.

AIMS International is a non-profit organization dedicated to industry safety. It consists of manufacturers, suppliers, organizations and individuals that have an interest in supplying products or services to the amusement industry.

In early December, Oertley said seminar registration was ahead of last year during the same time period. **Holly Coston** is the AIMS seminar manager and **Karen Strahl** is the certification manager. Classes are taught by volunteers.

The 2016 seminar hosted about 350 attendees.

The annual AIMS International Safety Seminar is a comprehensive safety-training experience for individuals responsible for the care and safety of the amusement industry's guests.

Attendees build tailored course curricula

▶ See SEMINARS, page 4



Holly Coston (left), AIMS International seminar manager, and Karen Oertley, AIMS executive director, promoted the upcoming AIMS Safety Seminar during IAAPA Attractions Expo. The seminar is set for January 8-13 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Orlando at SeaWorld in Florida.  
AT/PAM SHERBORNE

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# NEWSTALK

## MAILBAG

### River Country or Wet 'n Wild?

To the editor,

Read the great article on Wet 'n Wild and George Mally. Taking nothing away from him – as he was definitely a genius and trendsetter – but Wet 'n Wild was not technically the first “water park” or even “themed water park” – I believe Disney's River Country (opened in June of 1976) was the first “combination of water slides, pools, and related water-based experiences” making it the first true “water park” as we define them today. I was working in show design at W.E.D. Imagineering (the forerunner of Disney Imagineering) during that time and remember the teams coming back from Orlando with pictures of “the ol’ swimming hole” and other features. Fred Joerger headed up the rock sculpting team and did a great job. While water parks have advanced a great deal since then, that first prototype was a pretty nice family experience and I think anyone who visited has fond memories. I'm pretty sure that River Country probably helped motivate, or to reinforce, George's idea that a “collection of water themed experiences” would work, and he was certainly the first guy outside of Disney to create a stand-alone venture. Wet 'n Wild, on the heels of River Country, started an entirely new industry. Hats off to him, and to the Imagineering team before him, for creating this entirely new kind of family entertainment park.

#### Gary Goddard

Goddard Group Founder, Chairman, CEO  
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*Editor's note: This has been the ongoing debate among historians as to who should be credited with the first water park and it may never be settled. Somewhere along the way it seems the industry scholars labeled George Millay as the 'father of the water park industry' for his innovative design in creating Wet 'n Wild which took River Country one step further by adding the wave pool and much more. Even Tim O'Brien wrote in his book The Wave Maker: "George walked away from the company he created (SeaWorld) and took out his frustration by inventing an entirely new attraction form, the world's first interactive water park" —GS*

#### Letter Policy

Letters should be no longer than 200 words and must have a full name, company name and valid phone number and email address. Letters may be edited for style to AP Stylebook Guidelines. Letters may be sent:

**Email:** gslade@amusementtoday.com

**Mail:** P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005

#### FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



**INDUSTRY OPINION:** Dean Lamanna, dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

### Maintaining public trust in the wake of tragedy

As evidenced by the record-breaking participation at IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016 in Orlando this past November, the business of fun just wrapped one of its most technologically expansive and successful years.

But shadowing the celebratory mood and sense of industry pride were two high-profile park tragedies that occurred in the weeks leading up to the event. The deaths of a 10-year-old boy on the Verrückt waterslide at Schlitterbahn Kansas City in Kansas last August and four adults on the Thunder River Rapids raft ride at Dreamworld in Coomera, Queensland, Australia, in late October sent shock waves globally.

Amid the public's sorrow and anger, these accidents were met with difficult — yet necessary — decision-making by the properties involved as well as a sharpening focus on amusement ride safety.

In a Nov. 22 press release, Schlitterbahn expressed both heartbreak and a renewed commitment to safety while pledging full cooperation with the Verrückt investigation, which was still underway as *Amusement Today* went to press.

“Once the investigation is concluded and we are given permission by the court, Verrückt will be decommissioned — closed permanently — and the slide removed from the tower,” the statement read. “In our opinion, it is

the only proper course of action....”



Lamanna

The raft-flipping disaster at Dreamworld, Australia's largest theme park, also has brought the eventual dismantling of the 30-year-old ride, plus the promise of a permanent memorial to the victims. The park remained closed until Dec. 10 as a rigorous, multi-tier safety review of its rides was undertaken by independent consultants and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, which has since tightened amusement inspections statewide. Reports from the entities conducting audits will be shared publicly after they are filed.

With the U.S. and Australian investigations appearing to lean toward flawed design or mechanical / maintenance failure, as opposed to rider misbehavior or operator error, and with public reaction being intense, ride decommissioning — for these parks, under these circumstances — is the right thing to do. They understand that continued patron loyalty and public trust requires nothing less.

The public's ongoing faith in our industry also demands that manufacturers, operators and safety organizations (including those noted in this, AT's annual safety-focused issue) make these accidents case studies — ensuring similar tragedies cannot happen again.



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# INTERNATIONAL

► Djurs Sommerland adding Intamin coaster — See Page 24

## Legoland and Bollywood Parks debut at Dubai Parks and Resorts

AT: Andrew Mellor  
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DUBAI, U.A.E. — The huge development that is Dubai Parks and Resorts (DPR) opened two of its theme parks within the space of two weeks at the end of October and early November, with Legoland Dubai and Bollywood Parks Dubai making their much-anticipated debuts.

The first of the venues to open was the Legoland park, which also incorporates Legoland Waterpark, along with another of the DPR's attractions, Riverland Dubai, a uniquely themed retail and dining destination at the heart of the location which connects the entire destina-



Dubai Parks and Resorts features three theme parks, a waterpark, Riverland Dubai, a themed retail and dining destination, and the Lapita Hotel, a Polynesian themed resort.

COURTESY DUBAI PARKS AND RESORTS

tion. Siegfried Boerst, general manager of Legoland Dubai, officially opened the region's first Legoland theme park, along with Nick Varney, CEO of Merlin Entertainments and Raed Kajoor Al Nuaimi, CEO of DXB Entertainments, owner of Dubai Parks and Resorts.

Boerst commented: "We are excited to celebrate this historic day with friends of Legoland Dubai as we officially open the region's first theme park aimed at families with children aged two to 12. We are committed to offering memorable experiences and we look forward to welcoming families from the region and international guests to experience days filled with adventure and fun."

Legoland Dubai is the ultimate world of Lego adventures for families with young children. It features over 40 interactive rides, shows and attractions and 15,000 Lego model structures made from over 60 million Lego bricks.



As well as some of the more familiar Legoland areas and attractions, Legoland Dubai also incorporates Legoland Waterpark. COURTESY LEGOLAND DUBAI



Employees at DXB Entertainments, owner of Dubai Parks and Resorts, join in with the celebrations to mark the official opening of Bollywood Parks Dubai.

COURTESY BOLLYWOOD PARKS DUBAI

► See DUBAI, page 24



The opening of Bollywood Parks Dubai was held two weeks after the opening of Legoland Dubai. COURTESY BOLLYWOOD PARKS DUBAI

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# WATER PARKS & RESORTS

▶ World Waterpark Association 2016 Wave Review winners announced — Page 28

At Waldameer Park for 2017

## Water World continuing water park expansion with third phase

AT: Jeffrey Seifert  
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ERIE, Pa. — Waldameer & Water World has announced that the third phase of its planned water park expansion will be a historical-themed “Battle of Lake Erie” water play structure.

The custom-designed ProSlide Ridehouse 500 will be highlighted by more than 102 water features and offer visitors history lessons as they splash their way through the attraction. Walkways throughout the structure will feature historical locations and references to the Battle of Lake Erie and the city of Erie’s role in the War of 1812.

Commonly known as the War of 1812, the conflict between the United States and Great Britain and its British-governed North American colonies lasted until February 17, 1815. The Battle of Lake Erie was primarily fought off the coast of Ohio, but the ships were launched from the naval base at Presque-Isle, just down the road from the current location of Waldameer. Com-



**New for the 2017 season, Waldameer Park is continuing its third-phase expansion of its Water World water park. The highlight attraction will be Battle of Lake Erie, a historical-themed ProSlide Ridehouse 500 water play structure.** COURTESY WALDAMEER PARK

modore Perry’s victory was a turning point in the war, placing the Northwest Territory under control of the United States.

“It’s really going to be a historical lesson for all of the kids that come in,” said Paul Nelson, CEO of the Waldameer & Water World.

The new attraction continues the expansion started in 2015 with the addition of a giant, 500,000-gallon wave pool designed to accommodate up to 1,000 people. The following year, Kidz Zone was added with attractions geared toward children six and younger. The Battle of

Lake Erie water play structure, which will be located between the wave pool and the Kidz Zone, will have fort-themed devices suitable for the entire family. Along with its 102 interactive water features, the structure will offer seven slides including pint-size versions of ProSlide’s

popular adult rides such as the dueling corkscrew Kidz Twister and a Kidz Bowl.

The attraction has multiple levels and eight-foot wide hexagonal decks. The structure is topped with a 40-gallon dumping feature in the shape of a sailing ship that will periodically douse guests in the center of the structure.

Off to one side, and away from the dumping feature, is a well-defined area for younger kids with three gentle slides — a twin racing slide, and a covered slide. This section has its own smaller tipping bucket with a gentler downpour. The Battle of Lake Erie is expected to debut at the beginning of the 2017 season in May.

Along with the new playhouse, Water World is adding more cabanas for daily rental, more lounge chairs and additional lockers.

The ride park at Waldameer will receive an expansion of its catering preparation facility and significant tune-up maintenance to both the Comet and Ravine Flyer II wooden coaster structures.

## Schlitterbahn Kansas City to remove Verrückt



Verrückt as seen at Schlitterbahn Kansas City. The ride is being decommissioned following the death of a young boy on the record-setting ride. AT/TIM BALDWIN

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Following the tragic death of a young boy at its Kansas City water park, Schlitterbahn has announced that the attraction will be removed.

The following statement is from the Henry family and Schlitterbahn Waterparks and Resorts regarding Verrückt in Kansas City:

“All of us at Schlitterbahn have been heartbroken over the tragedy that occurred on Verrückt. In our 50 years of providing an environment for families and friends to gather, we’ve never experienced this kind of devastating event. The safety of our staff and our guests is our top priority. We are parents and grandparents ourselves and many of us have ridden Verrückt with our own children and grandchildren over the years it operated.

“Once the investigation is concluded and we are given permission by the court, Verrückt will be decommissioned – closed

permanently – and the slide removed from the tower. In our opinion, it is the only proper course of action following this tragedy.

“We will, at some point in the future, announce what will be built in its place.

“We continue to fully cooperate with investigative teams and work with the families, their attorneys and our staff impacted by this accident. As we move forward, we assure everyone who works for us and the community: we remain wholly committed to our Kansas City park and the original vision of Schlitterbahn – providing a great place to work and an environment for families and friends to gather together.”

Opened in 2014, Schlitterbahn Kansas City Water Park’s Verrückt was certified by Guinness World Records as the world’s tallest waterslide. The 168-foot-tall ride featured multi-passenger rafts that dropped down a 17-story drop, before being blasted up a 50-foot speed hill.





# PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Dutch Wonderland, Kentucky Kingdom announce new for 2017 projects — Page 32 / Fairs — Pages 39-41

## Casino Pier goes big for 2017 with new pier and rides

AT: Tim Baldwin  
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SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. — The images following Hurricane Sandy, which struck on October 29, 2012 were horrifying. None more so than pictures of the Star Jet roller coaster tossed into the Atlantic following the collapse of a pier. It was an image that haunted America and summarized the devastation to the New Jersey coast.

Over the past four seasons, Casino Pier — as well as all of the Jersey shore — has worked hard to rebuild, not only their property, but the tourist clientele that keeps this famous coastline turning profits.

“Casino Pier was devastated significantly from Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Our team has worked extremely hard to rebuild and expand since then,” said Maria Mastoris, marketing manager. That following summer we opened with a brand new pier and new rides and attractions. Since 2013, we have added two new slides and a wave pool to Breakwater Beach, a 36-hole miniature

golf course, nine new rides and expanded the go kart track.”

For 2017, Casino Pier has embarked on a major expansion to reposition the pier as a primary destination. Two new rides will debut this year. In addition, a brand new pier will extend the existing one at the north end.

For the thrill-seekers, a new roller coaster manufactured by Gerstlauer will reside on the new pier. Mastoris said Casino Pier has yet to name the ride. Any potential moniker could emphasize the ride’s pulse-pounding first drop. Following a 72-foot vertical lift, the initial drop is taken at 97 degrees, giving daredevils a dramatic dive back toward the shoreline.

“The ride will be Gerstlauer’s first Euro-Fighter 320 model,” says Adam Sandy of Ride Entertainment, which represents Gerstlauer in North America. “What will make it unique is the awesome beachside location. The view as the coaster crests the vertical lift and riders look off into the Atlantic before flying down to the new deck with that amazing first drop will

Casino Pier in Seaside Heights, N.J., is installing this Gerstlauer Euro-Fighter 320 roller coaster for 2017, replacing the Star Jet coaster which was lost to Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

COURTESY GERSTLAUER



be second to none.”

Two eight-passenger cars will be equipped with lap bar restraints without over-the-shoulder harnesses. This adds to the comfort to the experience as will the magnetic brake system and ergonomic bucket seats.

“We wanted to be able to give the most excitement

based on the footprint we had to utilize and we wanted to work with a proven manufacturer,” Mastoris said. “Gerstlauer has been putting in great coasters in parks across the globe for many years. The Euro-Fighter will be a great heir to its predecessor (Star Jet).”

Adjacent to the coaster

will be a 131-foot tall Ferris Wheel manufactured by Technical Park. Gondolas will offer visitors more tranquil views of the Atlantic Ocean in comparison to the roller coaster. Passengers will rise high above the surf in six-passenger gondolas offering

► See CASINO PIER, page 32



## Chance Rides supplies Unicoaster for Galaxyland in West Edmonton Mall

WICHITA, Kan. — Zero Gravity, a Unicoaster model by Chance Rides, debuted Dec. 1 at Galaxyland, located in the West Edmonton Mall in Alberta, Canada.

A Chance Rides Unicoaster, named Zero Gravity, recently opened at Galaxyland inside Canada's West Edmonton Mall.

COURTESY CHANCE RIDES

The Unicoaster is a rider-controlled experience that allows riders to customize the vehicle motion — from mild to wild — with a joystick. Pressing the joystick forward makes the vehicle spin forward, while pulling the joystick backward creates a corresponding roll. Keeping the joystick steady or untouched lets a calmer experience unfold as the vehicle

travels around the undulating circular track.

Zero Gravity is decked out with 15,360 RGB LED lights provided by EWorks Pro of Winter Park, Fla. Each individual light can produce up to 32 different colors — a display that is enhanced as the lights are reflected by the ride’s chrome-finish center hub and sweep.

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# BUSINESS, SAFETY & CLASSIFIED

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## NEAAPA unveils new association logo during IAAPA

SACO, Maine — The New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) unveiled a new association logo at its booth during IAAPA attractions Expo 2016 in Orlando, Fla.

The new design came out of the association board of director's most-recent strategic plan. The board felt that as the industry continues to evolve beyond amusement parks, the logo needed to be updated.

The previous iteration had the association's full name, New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, encircling NEAAPA with the states in the background. In order to better describe its mission and reach out to emerging segments of



the entertainment industry, the board believed that the logo needed to reflect that and it was time to make a change in its design.

NEAAPA's membership ranges from large amusement and water parks, to natural attractions,

to ski resorts, to skating centers, to arcades, to mobile amusements, and more.

NEAAPA's Ed Hodgdon told *AT*: "Our new tagline, Advocacy + Information + Networking, are the three pillars that NEAAPA is built upon. The association works with our members to identify state legislation that will affect the industry, using resources to make sure that the entire industry is well represented. The association is always working to educate our members through targeted seminars and workshops throughout the year on a variety of topics. Our networking events, both in the region and at the IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando, are not to be missed as members connect and share knowledge."

## ARM drop tower going virtual for festival

*Outfitted ride to be featured at Super Bowl Host Committee's Fan Festival*

**AT:** Pam Sherborne  
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WINTERSVILLE, Ohio — ARM Rides is kicking off 2017 in a very big super way or, even more specifically, an out-of-this-world way.

ARM's drop tower is to be the centerpiece of the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee's Fan Festival, a public free event being held Jan. 27 and run through Feb. 5.

The Houston Super Bowl Host Committee unveiled its plans last November. The 10-day festival features music, food, games and attractions in downtown Houston's Discovery Green Park.

Among other specifics given at the time of announcement, the host com-

mittee called ARM's ride its "Wow" factor for the fan event. It will take riders on an excursion through space to Mars and back again.

Using virtual reality and actual NASA footage from Mars, guests will take off to the Red Planet and experience some of its mysteries. Following, they will re-enter the earth's atmosphere as the ride drops. Following, they will complete their ride on the virtual 50-yard-line of NRG Stadium.

"I was contacted by Ideas Orlando (a media and experience design company, based in Orlando, Fla.) seeking one of our portable drop towers as the main feature in the Super Bowl Live festival," said ARM's Mike Gill. "This project became a perfect fit for us as we are able to offer manufacturing of a new customized attraction and contract the operation of the ride with Bates Brothers Amusement Company."

Named appropriately Journey to Mars, the 90-foot-

tall portable drop tower should be on location in Houston by mid-January. Riders will don virtual reality goggles for the adventure, which will last just over two minutes.

Gill said HD Interactive, a Tampa-based software development company, is the virtual reality company contracted with Ideas Orlando. The audio portion of the virtual reality experience will be synced via WiFi to an audio system mounted on the passenger vehicle.

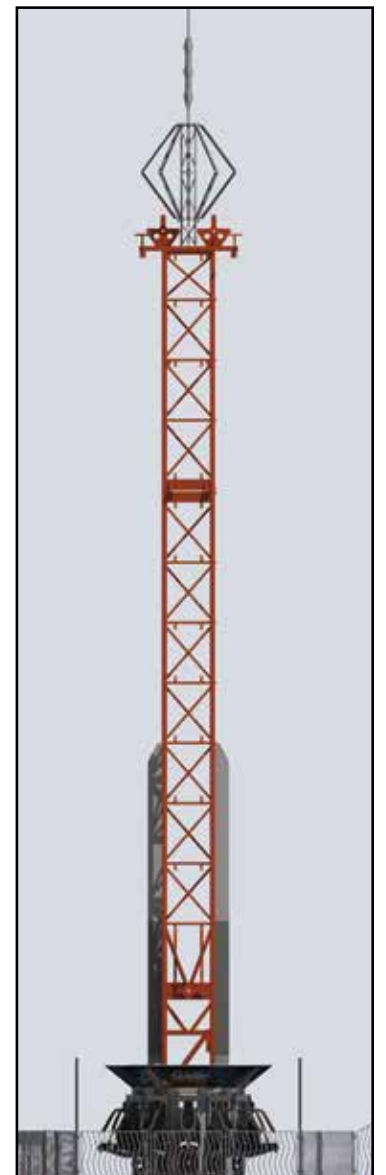
"Ideas, HD Interactive and members of the Houston Super Bowl Committee will be visiting our facility for fine-tuning and testing of the virtual reality experience," Gill said, in December.

Gill said that plans are to bring the tower back to the ARM plant in Wintersville to re-theme it and place it for sale at the completion of the festival.

"It may be offered for sale to include the virtual reality experience," he said.



From Jan. 27 to Feb. 5, visitors to the Super Bowl Host Committee's Fan Festival in Houston's Discovery Green Park will have the opportunity to ride this virtual reality drop tower ride from Ohio-based ARM (right). Tampa-based HD Interactive and Ideas Orlando are providing the virtual portion (above) for the Journey to Mars ride experience.  
COURTESY ARM



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