

Amusement TODAY

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Your Amusement
Industry
NEWS Leader

INSIDE:

AT's Annual Park
Christmas Preview
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NEWSPAPER

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NEWSTALK

A new food trend?

It has become almost synonymous with the holidays. There's something inherent about quality time with family and friends being a more enjoyable gathering when it is shared with food.

In 1999, *Amusement Today* started reaching out to industry friends to share some of their favorite recipes with other colleagues in the field. This year, several of our contributors come from parks who now employ executive chefs to up their game when it comes to serving guests. If this is a new industry trend, then it's one we applaud here at AT.

When visiting a park, customers usually feel one of two ways. They either feel they are trapped and "have to" feed their family with whatever the park warms up. Expensive prices, slow lines, and small portions tend to make eating a meal the least desirable and least memorable part of the day. The flip side to that is the many parks that have embraced food into the park experience. People can't wait to eat their way through all the goodies on offer. Our Golden Ticket voters listed 26 parks on their ballot this year in the Best Food category. With such stiff competition, it is clear that many parks are doing it right.

Hopefully, as plans are being discussed for next season, each park is taking a step back and looking at ways to make dishes more tasty, to serve food even hotter, and to help food lines move quickly. Just as the holidays have become linked with food, like it or not, it is an integral part of a day at the park.

So, where Universal, Herschend Entertainment, Morey's, SeaWorld Entertainment, Disney, the Lego branded parks, Cedar Fair, Kentucky Kingdom and many more have found the business savvy to bring on board a professional chef (or chefs), this is a trend *Amusement Today* is looking forward to following.

Happy holidays, and bon appétit!

—Compiled from AT editorial staff

*From the entire staff at
Amusement Today
we wish all our world-wide friends
Happy Holidays!*

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Scott Rutherford, srutherford@amusementtoday.com

At season's end

It's finally that time of year when most of us in this industry are afforded a bit of a break from the action. While some find autumn and winter a depressing time of sadness, I am, of course, exactly the opposite. After spending a year in the land of eternal sunshine (i.e. Key West), I am now reveling in the colorful foliage and falling temperatures.

Like many park fans, I have a personal ritual that involves spending the official last day of the season at a place that's special to me in one way or another. This year it was a toss-up between Walt Disney World, or something more intimate and relatively quiet. For several reasons, I chose the latter and ended up at one of my favorite places on this planet — Knoebels Amusement Resort in Pennsylvania.

Presently, it's nearing that time of the day I refer to as the Golden Moment. This is when the sun has given all it can, and the mystery of twilight is about to descend. It's Halloween, and that makes a visit to this wonderful park all the more extraordinary.



Rutherford

As I write this, I'm doing so from the front porch of one of Knoebels' quaint cottages that are peppered around the property. Having the option to stay literally in the park is but one of many things that make this place so utterly unique. I love falling asleep to the muffled creak and clatter of a wooden roller coaster echoing through the trees. I am secretly thrilled at waking up and strolling through a sleeping park before it opens for the day. There's just something innately peaceful about Knoebels in the morning autumn mists. I'll do that tomorrow and then the park will open at noon, giving guests the chance to take that final spin on the Flying Turns or Phoenix or the Grand Carousel.

Finally, at the end of the evening the park will close for the season. The lights will wink out one by one and a comfortable calm will arrive as Knoebels settles into hibernation.

Here's to hoping you all find your special end-of-season place. Have a festive holiday season and a prosperous 2016.

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Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

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2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

Greg Scheid, Kings Island

Greg Scheid began his career in the amusement industry at the age of 15 when he accepted a summer job at **Cedar Point** working in the park's merchandise department. He has come a long way within **Cedar Fair** due to his work ethic and loyalty, serving as vice president and general manager of **Kings Island** for the last nine years. Greg is known to tell employees that "if you don't get goose bumps on Opening Day then something must be wrong"! His sense of humor keeps him in check and he is all about making sure the people he works with feel appreciated and enjoy what they are doing.



Greg Scheid, Kings Island

Title

Vice President and General Manager.

Number of years with Cedar Fair

35.

Best thing about the industry...

The diversity that can be found in our daily responsibilities. What other job allows you to sit in an office one moment discussing marketing strategy and five minutes later you are walking the midways and speaking to both the guests and associates?



Scheid

Favorite amusement park ride...

The Beast. Did you expect any other answer?

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be...

A scratch golfer (not really).

Biggest challenge facing our industry...

Staffing is becoming an increasingly tough challenge due to many factors. The ability to find high quality applicants who may grow into the next leaders of our industry is diminishing in numbers quicker than we feared.

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is...

Seeing the sun!

Favorite pizza topping...

Canadian bacon.

What aisle would we most likely find you in the grocery store?

Frozen foods searching for Graeter's ice cream (a Cincinnati legend)!

Cooldest place I have seen a sunset...

Maui.

The last thing I lost was...

My hair!

My next vacation will be to...

Hawaii.

The book I am reading right now is...

Rise - A Soldier, A Dream, and a Promise Kept (I started this book in the spring, but for some odd reason I have not read any since).

Biggest pet peeve...

Sagging pants.

The sport I enjoy playing the most is...

Golf.

If I were ever invited to the White House, I would...

Hopefully have a chance to shake Dr. Ben Carson's hand!

All-time favorite sitcom...

M.A.S.H.

Of the Seven Wonders of the World, the one I would most like to see is...

Great Pyramid of Giza.

Best fast food...

Chipotle.

Favorite Michael Jackson song...

You have to go back to 1970 with the Jackson 5 hit: I'll Be There.

Growing up, my nickname was...

Not a chance I reveal that one!

You live in Ohio. In three words describe your home state...

Defending National Champions (The Ohio State University)!

I would describe my work style as...

Competitive.

One thing on my Bucket List is...

To play a round of golf at Augusta National.

If I could be any Super Hero, it would be...

Raffi Kaprelyan (my good buddy at Knott's Berry Farm... does he count?).

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

COMPILED: Richard Munch



DECEMBER

•**1902:** During the construction of the new **Luna Park** in **Coney Island**, Brooklyn, New York, a worker fell 72 feet from a partially constructed tower. The early December incident was not widely publicized probably because **Bryan McGowan** survived to live another day. The storyline was simple. McGowan was arguing with another carpenter and accidentally fell backwards into the former Sea Lion Park Chute pond, which had two feet of water and four feet of soft silt. He was unhurt and when pulled from the silt, he spit out mud and immediately wanted to continue the argument with his coworker. Instead he was sent home. It was noted that had he fallen from the other side of the incomplete structure above hard pavement, the argument would have been his last.

•**1924:** Christmas would come early to Utica, New York, on Sunday, December 21, 1924, when the **New York Railway Company** leased **Utica Park** to **Miller and Baker**, although the details of the deal were not released. During the signing, the famous design/build company promised to make improvements over the winter, including the removal of old equipment and adding a new roller coaster — of the latest type. In addition, a new carousel and up-to-date lighting system were expected, with an overall expenditure of \$150,000. Along with nearby **Summit Park**, Utica Park would close during the next decade due to increased competition from then popular **Sylvan Beach**, which still operates today.

•**1942:** With war raging in Europe and Asia, both coasts of the United States were put on alert to keep their street and building lighting to a minimum. On December 3 an Atlantic City, New Jersey ordinance was passed and the Atlantic City area was ordered blacked out during evenings. In an effort to protect civilians and military from possible enemy attacks from German ships and submarines, all **Atlantic City Boardwalk** lighting was shut off and all building windows blacked out on three sides. It was the first time during its history that the boardwalk went dark. Local government had already cut night glare by 70 percent, but additional restrictions were necessary with more military personnel stationed near the Atlantic coastline of New Jersey.

•**1950:** A wind storm (some believe it was a tornado) hit **Muskego Beach Amusement Park**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on December 29. The Cyclone Coaster, the park's main attraction that had opened in 1927, would be considerably damaged during the storm (some accounts said it fell over like a set of playing cards) for the second time in the same year. This time most of the damaged structure was removed before the start of the 1951 season, although the ride would later reopen under a different name and design. Owner **Charles Rose** would use part of the Cyclone's remaining structure to build a new ride, called the **Tail Spin**. Muskego Beach Park would operate until 1977, although the Tail Spin would not be dismantled until 1983.

•**1958:** The December 15 issue of *Billboard* magazine contained a one quarter page size advertisement regarding the sale of equipment from **Puritas Spring Park** in Cleveland. Almost everything was available under the Liquidating All Amusement Park Equipment title. Beside equipment from the highly regarded Cyclone roller coaster and 70-horse **Philadelphia Toboggan** Merry go Round, there was a complete **Pretzel Ride**, Bug, Dodgem, Roll-O-Plane, Roto Whip, Comet Jr. Coaster and Flying Scooter available. A detailed list with pricing was available on request. The Roller Rink, benches, speakers, lighting and other equipment were also priced to sell. Today the park property contains mostly private homes, although a small section of the Cyclone continues to rot on the floor of the ravine located behind the housing.

Amusement TODAY

ANNUAL HOLIDAY COOKING GUIDE

Silver Dollar City

Branson, Missouri

Famous Ginger Cookie

Ingredients:

2 cups All-Purpose Flour
1 teaspoon Baking Soda
1 teaspoon Ginger
1 teaspoon Cinnamon
½ teaspoon Salt
½ teaspoon Cloves
¾ cup Shortening
1 cup Sugar
2 Tablespoons Molasses
1 large Egg
Additional ¼ cup Sugar (set aside)

In mixing bowl, sift flour, soda, spices, and salt. In a second mixing bowl, cream shortening and 1 cup of sugar

until fluffy. Add the molasses and egg. Beat the mixture for one minute. Add the flour mixture and mix at low speed until combined. Shape the dough into 1 ½ inch balls, then roll in a small plate with the remaining ¼ cup sugar. Arrange the balls of dough 3 inches apart on a greased cookie sheet or a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes or until light brown on bottom. Transfer to cooling rack.



Kaitlyn Turi

Six Flags Great Adventure
Jackson, New Jersey

Pumpkin Bars

- 4 eggs
- 1 2/3 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 15 oz can pumpkin
- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda

Use electric mixer at medium speed and combine eggs, sugar, oil & pumpkin until light and fluffy.

Stir together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and baking soda.

Add the dry ingredients to the pumpkin mixture and mix at low speed until thoroughly combined and batter is smooth.

Spread the batter into a greased 13x10 inch baking pan. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees F. Let cool completely before frosting with vanilla or cream cheese icing.

Cut into bars & enjoy!



Walter Jurusz

Morey's Piers & Beachfront Water Parks
Executive Chef

Holiday Cuban Spiced Crown Roast of Pork

Frenched Crown Roast of Pork (~10-12lbs)
½-1 cup Chef Walter J's Cuban Spice Rub®



• Your local butcher will be able to prepare the Frenched Crown Roast of Pork for you. Give them about 7-10 days' notice to order and butcher your roast.

• Preheat oven to 350°F.

• Rub crown roast with Cuban spice. Cover bone tips with foil to keep the bones from burning.

• Optional: Crumple about 4-5 feet of aluminum foil into a football shape and put inside the center of roast to help cook evenly and keep shape while cooking. Or, take a soup can with label removed, and put it in the center of roast to hold shape.

• Place roast on rack in a shallow roasting pan.

• Bake for 2 ¼-3 hours (12-15 minutes lbs.) or until an instant read thermometer reads 160-170°F when inserted into the thickest part of the roast. Check temperature of the roast after 2 hours. Remove foil from bones for last 30 minutes of roasting to brown bones.

• Remove roast from oven, let rest for 15 minutes before carving. Enjoy with roasted or mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes or yams and your favorite holiday vegetable. This is an easy roast that will taste delicious and impress your guests. Left overs make excellent sandwiches, tacos or even a kicked up omelet. If turning into an omelet use queso fresco or Manchego cheese.

Corn Fritters

- 2 lrg eggs lightly beaten
- 1/3 cup all purpose flour
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 6-8 medium ears of fresh corn (husks and silks removed)
- 1/3 cup stone-ground cornmeal (not self-rising)
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil

Cut and scrape kernels of corn from the cobs into a large bowl. Mix in the eggs, flour, cornmeal, cream and salt to create a thick batter. Heat oil in a 12 inch heavy bottomed skillet over medium-high heat. Drop the batter by heaping tablespoons into the oil and fry until golden brown (about one minute). Flip with a slotted spoon and fry for one additional minute. Transfer fritters to a paper towel-lined plate. Continue until batter is exhausted. You might need to add more oil to the skillet. Serve immediately.

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* "Restaurants & Institutions" magazine

Kris Siula

**Carowinds
Executive Chef**

Sweet Potato Dumplings

- 1 Sweet potato, canned
- ¼ cup Brown sugar
- 2 Tbl Bourbon
- 2 Tbl Molasses
- ¼ cup All purpose flour
- ½ cup Pecans, chopped
- 1 Egg
- 8 Puff pastry, cut into square
- 1 lb Butter
- 3 cups Sugar
- 1 cup Water
- 2 cups Cornstarch
- ½ cup Vanilla extract
- ¼ cup Cinnamon

1. Combine sweet potato, brown sugar, bourbon, molasses, flour, pecans and eggs.
2. Layout puff pastry sheet and cut into 6 squares. Place 2 oz of potato mixture into each square. Fold four corners over mixture. Place each dumpling seam side down in greased pan.
3. Combine sugar, water, butter and cornstarch in sauce pan, heat to melt and add vanilla last.
4. Pour sugar mixture over the dumplings, dust with cinnamon and bake 350° 35 to 40 mins.



Rosenzweig Family Chanukah Brisket

Ingredients:

- Whole brisket (due to shrinkage during cooking, plan on ½ pound of meat per guest)
- French Onion Soup Mix (1 packet per 2 pounds of meat)
- Whole Cranberry Sauce (preferably homemade, but any jarred variety will suffice- 1 jar per 4 pounds of meat)
- Dry Rub- equal parts garlic powder, kosher salt, cinnamon

Next Steps (2 day process):

- Apply dry rub to brisket ensuring an equal coating around the entire cut of meat.
- Place brisket fat side down in an aluminum tin and apply the French onion soup mix and cranberry sauce over top of the brisket spreading evenly to ensure the entire topside is covered.
- Cover with aluminum foil and bake "low and slow" at 325 degrees for 7 hours.
- Remove from the oven and let sit covered to cool on the countertop for approximately 1 hour before placing in the refrigerator overnight.
- The next day about 2 hours prior to serving, it is time to slice, trim, and skim.
- Remove brisket from the tin and trim the fat off of the bottom side.
- Slice the brisket into equally thick slices.
- Skim all of the fat sitting on top of the gravy in the tin.
- Place trimmed and sliced Brisket back into the tin, cover once again with aluminum foil, and bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees.
- Remove from tin, plate, and enjoy some wholesome family holiday gorging!

Mark Rosenzweig

Ride Entertainment Group



"EAS Sweden" Spritz

- 2 shots Aperol liquor
- ½ shot Campari
- 1 shot of sparkling water (Pelligrino preferred...)
- Fill the glass with Prosecco – lots of it.
- Twist of orange on the glass...
- Enjoy!

Gianluca Fabbri

Fabbri Group

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European parks offer plenty of festive fun this Christmas

CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

Christmas and New Year opening continues to be a popular option for parks around the world and European venues are no exception. Here we take a look at just a few of those venues that are offering some festive fun this Christmas.

Puy du Fou, France

France's second most-visited theme park will present a magical Christmas experience every weekend from Nov. 28 to Dec. 20 and on Dec. 20, 21 and 22.

The main show is *The Mystery of Christmas*, a musical spectacle featuring Egyptian pharaohs, Roman battles and exotic dances performed by a cast of 200 actors, dancers, musicians and singers.

The Prague Symphonic Ensemble will provide a live score of classic pieces that have been specially arranged for the occasion, while the set and lighting — including 3D video mapping — incorporates the best of Puy du Fou's expertise into the

1 hour 20 minutes show.

The Renaissance Castle will also open its doors, inviting visitors to discover the secrets hidden within the castle walls, all while solving a riddle about Puy du Fou. The interactive *Lovers of Verdun* show will also be open for exploration. The Imaginary World of La Fontaine — surrounded by a maze of paths, animals from well-known fables and talking trees — will reveal an icy surprise lit by millions of lights as night falls.

Visitors will also be able to wander around the Christmas villages where all the shops will be decorated. The 18th century village will be set aglow with 3,000 candles, allowing visitors to witness the skills of Puy du Fou's traditional craftspeople and to listen to Christmas carols in an enchanting setting.

Europa-Park, Germany

To celebrate Europa-Park's 40th anniversary year, the venue will this year provide special attractions and an unparalleled seasonal show program



The winter opening at Europa-Park will be extra special this year as the park continues to mark its 40th anniversary. A wide range of attractions will also be open during the venue's winter season. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

over the Christmas period, from Nov. 28 to Jan. 10, 2016.

The park will again be transformed into a haven of festive joy with sparkling white Christmas trees, 2,500 local fir trees, gingerbread houses framed by twinkling

fairly lights, 3D projections and ceilings adorned with 10,000 glitter balls. Guests will also be able to enjoy themselves on an ice skating rink and engage in a huge snowball fight!

Highlights also include the 2,500 square-meter indoor

winter wonderland for children within the Europa-Park arena, along with a breathtaking light show on the park's lake, Luna Magica — Sternensee. Adults can enjoy the

► See HOLIDAYS, page 8



Visitors to Puy du Fou will be able to wander around the park's Christmas villages where all the shops will be decorated. Indoors, the main show this season is *The Mystery of Christmas*. COURTESY PUY du FOU



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CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

►HOLIDAYS

Continued from page 7

newly designed two-story rustic Erdinger Urweisse Hütt'n, a cozy cottage where guests can sway the night away to live Swiss folk music.

Mercedes-Benz Hall is playing host to the grand James Rizzi Sonne, Mond, New York winter exhibition, while beneath the snow covered trees surrounding Historic Balthasar Castle Park a traditional German Christmas market will take place, within which will also be the Medieval Christmas market, conjuring up a majestic atmosphere of times long ago.

The park's numerous iconic attractions will also be available for guests to enjoy, while for those wishing to stay at the park overnight, all the park's hotels will be available, suitably decorated and offering traditional culinary delights.

Alton Towers, U.K.

The Alton Towers Resort's Christmas experience is back for 2015 and will this year be open for Festive Days Out. There will be a selection of rides in CBeebies Land, Mutiny Bay and Cloud Cuckoo Land on offer along with Christmas activities to keep all the family entertained over the festive season.

Visitors enjoying a Day Out can also join the cheeky Elves in the new for 2015 Elves Emporium, as they help Santa and Mrs. Claus with preparations

for Christmas, while guests will also be able to extend their stay in one of the Alton Towers Resort's festive themed hotels for a Santa's Sleepover.

Also this Christmas, and new for 2015, the resort will present the pantomime *Cinderella*. Featuring numerous songs, dazzling sets, spectacular costumes and lots of comedy, the 50 minute family show is exclusive and free for all hotel guests taking a Santa's Sleepover.

Special festive breaks are also being offered to keep the fun going after Christmas, while a New Year's Eve party will help to bring in 2016 in style.

Disneyland Resort Paris, France

Disneyland Resort Paris is offering 62 days in which to celebrate Christmas, from Nov. 7 to Jan. 7, 2016, during which time guests will be fully immersed in the magic and atmosphere of Christmas.

Snow will fall every day on Main Street, USA, not far from Sleeping Beauty Castle, and there will be lots of festive entertainment available. For example, more than nine decades of princely couples will take to the stage at the Castle Theatre in a new show, *Royal Christmas Wishes*, featuring favorite princes and princesses from a variety of Disney fairytales, while Disney's Christmas Parade will also be making a return to the Disneyland park.



Visitors will be able to enjoy a variety of rides and attractions over the Christmas season at Alton Towers. Left, guests to Alton Towers can stay at the resort for a Santa's Sleepover.

COURTESY ALTON TOWERS

After singing with visitors throughout the summer, the *Frozen Sing-Along* production began Nov. 14 at Frontierland, in the heart of the Kingdom of Arendelle, and Merida, the Brave Princess from Disney-Pixar studios, are also at Frontierland. Guests will be able to meet her in a setting inspired by the film to take selfies and family photos by her side.

Father Christmas will, of course, also be present in his own decorated lodge and will join Mickey and Minnie every

evening for an all-new tree lighting ceremony, Mickey's Magical Christmas Lights, when the 24 meter high Christmas tree will have its lights switched on in song as night falls.

And to cap it all, a special night-time show, *Disney Dreams! of Christmas*, will also be held every night with spectacular projections on Sleeping Beauty Castle, fountains, special effects and fireworks and an invite to guests to celebrate the festive season's traditions from around the world.

Warner Bros. Studio Tour, U.K.

This festive season, film fans are being invited to discover how special effects experts make snow that never melts, how set dressers transform locations for Christmas scenes and how flames are created without fire, as Warner Bros. Studio Tour London opens the doors on what the venue is describing as "its most magical makeover yet."

Launched on Nov. 13 and running for a limited time only, Hogwarts in the Snow offers visitors the opportunity to see the *Harry Potter* film series' most iconic sets decorated for festive scenes. Eight Christmas trees will line the Great Hall, the Gryffindor common room will be dressed for the season and a blanket of film-making snow will be meticulously applied to the majestic Hogwarts castle model.

In the Hogwarts Great Hall, visitors will see wreaths and garlands, trees decked with golden baubles and topped with witches on miniature broomsticks, as well as a replica feast. For the first time this year, the Goblet of Fire will emerge from its original jewelled casket, rigged by special effects experts, and will be "lit" with flames that change from blue to red.



Left, *Disney Dreams! of Christmas* is a special night time show at Disneyland Resort Paris. Above, Disney's Christmas Parade will be making a return to the resort this holiday season.

COURTESY
DISNEYLAND PARIS

► See HOLIDAYS, page 9



The Hogwarts castle model at Warner Bros. Studio Tour will be transformed for Christmas season visitors. Right, The Great Hall at Warner Bros. Studio Tour will feature a replica holiday feast. COURTESY WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR



►HOLIDAYS

Continued from page 8

The Hogwarts castle model will be transformed for the occasion by a team led by Model Effects Supervisor José Granell, who worked on the *Harry Potter* film series. The snow is hand-sprinkled onto the incredibly-detailed model and is made from a combination of granulated paper and grains of salt — chosen because it clumps like real snowflakes and catches the light like ice. Visitors will be able to touch samples of the different types of snow used during production, each selected for its abil-

ity to float like falling snow, crunch under foot or glisten in the light.

Fireplaces throughout the attraction (including those in the Leaky Cauldron and Great Hall) will be lit with special effects fire and the Gryffindor common room and Weasley kitchen will also be suitably dressed for the occasion.

Hogwarts in the Snow will run from Nov. 13 to Jan. 31, 2016.

Efteling, the Netherlands

Winter Efteling returns from Nov. 12 until Jan. 31,

2016. For more than 11 weeks Efteling Park will be bathed in a winter atmosphere, with hand- and heart-warming bonfires, garlands with thousands of twinkling lights and special winter attractions, including an ice skating rink and a cross-country skiing course.

The residents of the enchantingly lit Fairytale Forest will all be wrapped up warm and as evening falls, The Flying Dutchman and Villa Volta will take on an entirely different appearance, as impressive illusions bring their walls to life. Apart from the water-based attractions, the Piraña and The Flying Dutchman, all attractions will remain open as long as weather conditions permit. Additionally, the *Aquanura* water show can also be seen during Winter Efteling, as can *Raveleijn*, another show based on the battle against the wicked ruler of the magical city of Raveleijn.

The *Pinocchio Fairytale Musical* family show is also being staged throughout the winter months in the Efteling Theatre, while special tickets are available for the New Year's Eve party at Efteling.



There will be a warm winter atmosphere at Efteling over Christmas thanks to this holiday season bonfire. COURTESY EFTELING

CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

Goddard Group's Hollywood-inspired Studio City opens in Macau

CHINA—Gary Goddard, Chairman/CEO of Goddard Group has just added his latest mega-destination project to the company's portfolio - a major new \$3.2 billion casino and resort project called Studio City – which opened to the public on October 27, 2015. With Goddard Group acting as the lead design firm, and Leigh & Orange as the Architect of Record, the two firms have jointly created a new resort that is sure to stand the test of time.

Studio City International Holdings Limited, a company led by Lawrence Ho and a subsidiary of Melco Crown Entertainment Limited, a developer, owner and operator of casino gaming and entertainment resort facilities in Asia, selected Gary Goddard Entertainment (a unit of Goddard Group), to create the Master Planning and Exterior Design Concept of the thrilling, new, cinematically-themed gaming and leisure destination resort, Studio City in Macau.

The Hollywood-inspired Studio City complex transports the visitor into a stunning cinematic world with awe-inspiring attractions, positioning this new destination resort as Asia's entertainment capital.

"Because we share a unified vision when it comes to Hollywood and the world of motion pictures, our cooperation with the Studio City management team was highly productive, resulting in one of the most exciting, dynamic and architecturally stunning integrated resorts ever created, not only in Macau, but in the world," said Goddard. "Now that the doors have opened for the first time, with its art deco inspired towers and the spectacular Golden Reel at its center, we fully expect this new resort to become instantly iconic, capturing the imagination of the international audience. This memorable new symbol for Macau will be seen in newspapers, blogs, social media and television news around the world."

Building upon Mr. Lawrence Ho's vision for a resort inspired by the world of motion pictures, Goddard worked closely with Mr. Ho to ensure the Studio City project would be completely unique and apart from anything else in Macau, Hong Kong, or anywhere else on the planet. With 1,600 rooms, this multi-billion dollar project is destined to become the new iconic resort casino in Macau.

"The design for Studio City is so fantastic, that not only will it draw visitors from Macau, I believe it will also act as a magnet for visitors staying in Hong Kong and in cities throughout China who might not otherwise have planned a visit to Macau," added Goddard.



Goddard Group has just added its latest mega-destination project to the company's portfolio, a major new \$3.2 billion casino and resort project called Studio City. Opened to the public on October 27, 2015, the Hollywood-inspired Studio City complex transports visitors into a cinematic world with awe-inspiring attractions. COURTESY GODDARD GROUP

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Golden Ticket Awards
registrations due,
hotel deadline passes

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. — Amusement industry professionals planning to attend the 2015 Golden Ticket Awards in New York City, Sept. 11 and 12, are reminded to get their registration and hotel reservations in immediately.

The cutoff date to receive the 2015 Golden Ticket Awards discounted room rate at the Park Lane Hotel at Central Park is August 21, 2015. Event online registration will continue through Sept. 2, 2015.

For hotel booking information or for event registration please go to: www.GoldenTicketAwards.com. For more information on the schedule of events, see pages 26-27.

This is the 18th year for the Golden Ticket Awards, which are presented to the "Best of the Best" in the amusement industry and are calculated from an international poll conducted by Amusement Today. Complete results of the 2015 survey will be posted at www.amusementtoday.com following the conclusion of the Saturday, Sept. 12, awards ceremony.

Unique Utah diving coaster debuts
Cannibal emerges from Lagoon, hunts thrill-seekers
AT: Dean Lamanna
dean@amusementtoday.com

FARMINGTON, Utah — The beast may have missed half the summer, but after seven years of development encompassing three years of construction, Lagoon, the historic amusement park in northern Utah, finally uncaged its wildly anticipated diving coaster, Cannibal, in early July.

The park's 10th roller coaster, Cannibal boasts a vertical lift inside a 200-foot-tall tower with a nearly inverted 116-degree major first drop, an underground tunnel and three inversions — including an Immelman-style loop (copping out at 140

feet) and a diving loop — along 2,735 feet of track. The ride, lasting two and a half minutes, achieves a top speed of 70 mph and pulls as much as 4.2 Gs.

Cannibal is Lagoon's latest in-house coaster design effort since the installation of Bombera, a surfing-themed steel family ride, in 2011. It also represents the park's second collaboration with ART Engineering GmbH of Oberried, Germany.

Following an extended period of tweaking and sandbag testing that carried well past the park's 2015 season opening in late March — a delay that fueled all manner of parkgoer and local media speculation —

Cannibal sprang to life during the July 4th holiday weekend. Immediately, thrill ride superlatives like "nuttygasser" and "super-scary" were flying and dramatic front seat POV footage appeared online.

For Lagoon enthusiasts who'd grown impatient for the promise that had been spreading — and then sprawling — in the park's North Midway section for so long, the wait was truly over.

Lagoon president David Freed, still catching his breath from the marathon that was Cannibal's conception and realization, told Amusement Today that he's probably the

See LAGOON, page 4



After plunging down its way-beyond-vertical, 116-degree first drop (lower right, counter-clockwise), Cannibal steals riders' collective breath with several soaring loops and eventually "kissles" with a heartline roll. The coaster opened July 2. COURTESY LAGOON


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WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► WhiteWater to supply Asia water park — Page 14 / Polin introduces Space Race — Page 14

Water park association's 35th year of service feted

Learning opportunities, lively marketplace lift WWA Show 2015

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Blue skies and balmy temperatures greeted attendees from five continents at the **World Waterpark Association's (WWA) Annual Symposium & Trade Show** here in October.

The event, which marked WWA's 35th anniversary, welcomed more than 1,400 owners, operators, developers, suppliers and designers who were eager to discover new ideas and products.

"From our invigorating education program to the re-launched Women of Water Breakfast event to the exhibit hall filled with product innovations, Palm Springs was an intimate host venue that really delivered for our attendees," said WWA president Rick Root.

Attendees traveled to Southern California from parks large and small, public and private, indoor and outdoor, from all over the world. Active leisure markets were represented from 30 countries.

"We were pleased to have such strong international attendance and to be in a venue that provides so many opportunities to connect with other operators," Root said. "We always expect some retraction in attendance following a Las Vegas year, but from the feedback we've received, our 35th show was another homerun."

"In Palm Springs, people were surrounded by their fellow water park professionals virtually everywhere they went," said Aleatha Ezra, director of park member development for WWA. "Plus, our attendees interacted with WWA's social media feeds in a major way — with close to 10,000 impressions generated just during the week of the show."

Education and honors

The WWA gathering is well known for the breadth and depth of its educational events, and this year's pro-

gram continued the tradition of providing attendees with access to the best speakers sharing their most successful ideas on the things that matter most: guest safety, operational excellence, quality customer service, top-line employee training and much more. Throughout the show, many rooms were filled to capacity.

This year's program highlights included the new WWA University: In-Park Revenue School and the Developing and Enhancing Your Marketing Plan workshop, as well as updated content for the WWA University: Waterpark Maintenance School. Attendees also had the option to select from dozens of breakout sessions on timely topics such as EMS updates, using social media more effectively, ensuring lifeguard vigilance, training and retaining right-fit employees, and motivating staff.

In addition to various beneficial programs and seminars, WWA's board of directors presented its annual industry awards and WWA Hall of Fame inductees. (Full honoree lists for both are available at waterparks.org.) Among the latter was Andrew Wray, chief business development officer and partner at the most honored company at this year's WWA event: **WhiteWater West Industries Ltd.** of Richmond, British Columbia, Canada.

"Through his work at WhiteWater, Wray has been an industry leader in designing and building some of the world's most memorable attractions," said Mark Moore, chair of the WWA Board of Directors. "He also played an early role in pioneering wave pool technology and design, which has led wave pools to become an attraction staple for water parks."

Indeed, a wave pool is the dynamic centerpiece of **Wet 'n' Wild Palm Springs**, where WWA held the last of the show's three social and networking affairs following a reunion party the previous



WhiteWater West's exhibit at WWA Show 2015 (above) was awarded Best of Show, while the company's chief business development officer, Andrew Wray, was inducted into the WWA Hall of Fame. WWA's reunion party was held poolside Oct. 21 at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA (TOP);
COURTESY WORLD WATERPARK
ASSOCIATION

evening at the convention's host hotel, the Renaissance Palm Springs, and a golf outing at Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort on opening day. But in contrast to the busy floor at the Palm Springs Convention Center, food, drink and fun comprised the first order of business at each venue.

On with the show...

Amusement Today welcomed many industry friends, old and new, at WWA Show 2015. Of the 350-plus exhibiting companies presenting products and services there were numerous innovators and standouts.

Arihant of Maharashtra, India, was promoting its extensive line of water park equipment, particularly a new ultra-disco version of its



UFO-like Aqua Disc — first introduced two years ago — that is enhanced with added special effects. "It's a spaceship concept with artificial rain, flashing lights and music that encourages dancing inside," said Mangesh Taksale, deputy general manager of marketing. "It's a good product, and we've already applied for a U.S. patent." Additionally the company has entered into a tentative agreement with Larry Stottlemeyer, CEO of **Adventure Park USA**, to open a stateside sales office at the 35-year-old New Market, Md., family entertainment center.

Water park-goers have a friend in the maker of Adventure, Fla.-based **AquaVault**. The identically named product is

a compact, combination-secured personal safe designed to hold small valuables such as smartphones, keys and wallets and locks to a chair, chaise or baby stroller while you're away having fun. "It offers peace of mind, and it's a great revenue generator, too," said Avin Samtani, co-founder and managing partner. "We have a lease model, where we charge the park or hotel a monthly fee, for which we refurbish or replace the unit." Also now available is a slash-resistant, reinforced cloth version that is customizable and ideal for retail sale. AquaVault got a big boost last March, when it appeared on the hit ABC-TV reality program **"Shark Tank"**;

► See WWA, page 12

►WWA

Continued from page 12

the show's host entrepreneurs made a \$75,000 investment for a 25 percent stake in the company.

Attendees famished from pounding the convention floor for hours on end flocked repeatedly to food and beverage exhibitors. Especially popular was **Bill's Lemonade**, which was served up generously by Brad and Valerie Barkley of Peoria, Ill.-based **Barkley Beverage, LLC**. As a product, the all-natural beverage has been around for more than 60 years. "What sets us apart is that we're a low-sugar lemonade with a proprietary sugar blend that compliments the fruit," said Valerie. "We use a whole lemon in every serving — and it's a delicious 32-ounce drink containing only 140 calories." Park and entertainment venues that sell the product typically see "very high" profit margins, she added.

Finding a thirsty adult beverage niche in water park cabana sales and concessions (not to mention a lot of repeat samplers at the WWA trade show), **Lost Vineyards Sangria** of Rochester, N.Y., offers its product in unbreakable plastic bottles. "The end consumer of this sangria typically is women," said John Dorminey, national sales manager. "A lot of water parks can serve beer and wine but don't have a license for spirits, so this sangria appeals to people who don't necessarily like beer." Lost Vineyards Sangria is available in Classic Red, Citrus White and Berry flavors and contains six percent alcohol by volume.

Specialty ice cream sup-



John Dorminey, national sales manager of Lost Vineyards Sangria, poured lots of samples of the company's appealingly fruit-flavored, safely bottled adult beverage aimed primarily at the water park cabana market.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA

pliers also appealed to attendees' taste buds. **Dippin' Dots** of Paducah, Ky., was on hand with several new treats, including a "sweetly sour" Sour Patch Kids Redberry Sherbet and a Pick Your Colors / Create Your Flavor customizable ice cream product. "It allows you to tie the flavor and color combination of the ice cream to a ride, an area of a park, a sports team — you can theme Dippin' Dots however you want," said Adam Gross, director of sales, core business. Schlitterbahn, Hersheypark and Fun Spot in Orlando, Fla., are among the theme park clients dipping into the clever concept.

Meanwhile, Norwich, Conn.-based **Mini Melts U.S.A., Inc.** is holding fast in the same beaded ice cream category, offering wholesale, retail and vending options along with park concession

availability worldwide. "It's a quality, cryogenically frozen ice cream," said Charlie Hanna, executive vice president. "We flash-freeze it with liquid nitrogen, which results in various shapes." Mini Melts comes in nine prepackaged and 12 scoopable cold flavors, including Cotton Candy.

From coating stomachs to coating pools and water park surfaces: WWA Show 2015 featured a number of companies offering durable, colorful products designed to maximize park appearance and patron safety.

Creative Polymers of Hazelwood, Mo., displayed its new generation of high-performance polyurethane elastomer base coats and finishes specifically designed to perform in pool immersion-related applications. "Our competitors' materials will fade and degrade very quickly — ours will not," said Jeff Jarboe, vice president. "We have a system that is highly chlorine resistant." The company offers a flexible series of base coats and finishes for protecting soft, flexible foam elements and another series for protecting hard surfaces. Both have long-term pool chemical resistance.

For more than 70 years, Rockaway, N.J.-based **Ramuc Pool Paint** has supplied the pool and recreation industry with chlorinated and synthetic rubber, epoxy and acrylic pool, deck and fountain coatings. The City of Austin, Texas, and **Land of Make Believe & Pirates Cove** amusement and water park in Hope, N.J., are among the company's many, and varied, clients. **Ultra Poly One Coat**, a product of **Poly Solutions, Inc.**, of Gibsonia, Penn., showcased samples of a hybrid epoxy coating, which creates a long-lasting finish on concrete, plaster, fiberglass, metal and previously painted surfaces. **Six Flags**, Canada's **West Edmonton Mall** and the City of Eugene, Oregon, have been customers.

(For more safety-related WWA Show 2015 product news, see page 39.)

WWA's 36th Annual Symposium & Trade Show will be held in New Orleans, La., Oct. 11-14, 2016. The event will be headquartered at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, which is adjacent to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

•waterparks.org



The combination-secured AquaVault, for keeping small valuables like smartphones and wallets safe while you're in the water, is shown locked to two chaise lounges (above) and held by company co-founder Avin Samtani. The innovative product scored a \$75,000 investment on the hit reality TV show "Shark Tank" earlier this year.

COURTESY AQUAVALT (TOP);
AT/DEAN LAMANNA



Between their deliciously fresh drink and the warm Palm Springs weather, Brad and Valerie Barkley of Barkley Beverage, LLC (above), the company that now owns Bill's Lemonade — first introduced more than six decades ago — had a busy show. So, too, did Charlie Hanna, executive vice president of Mini Melts USA, Inc. (below), whose cryogenically frozen beaded ice cream treats delivered several kinds of cool.



Creative Polymers presented its line of high-performance coating products "covering" everything from pools and soft play systems to fiberglass components. Jeff Jarboe, vice president (left), and Dave Hunsicker, vice president of research and operations, impressed attendees with their expertise.



Mangesh Taksale, deputy general manager of marketing for India-based water park equipment company Arihant, and Larry Stottlmyer, CEO of Adventure Park USA, have tentatively agreed to allow Arihant to open a U.S. sales office at Stottlmyer's New Market, Md., property. Adventure Park USA also will host working sample models of Arihant products as part of the deal.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA



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WhiteWater becomes exclusive supplier to Asian water park



Above, the latest addition from WhiteWater includes six slides, two drop capsules and a FlowRider. At left, WhiteWater's (from left to right): Sean Hinton, Paul Chutter, Geoff Chutter, Santo Gulino.
COURTESY WHITEWATER

BALI, Indonesia — Ever since Waterbom Bali opened its doors nearly 23 years ago, its vision has been to be the safest, greenest and cleanest water park in the world.

Santo Gulino, Waterbom Bali's GM & owner, has been very thoughtful in ensuring that every decision made in regard to the park stays in line with his vision. When the park opened 23 years ago, there was not a single WhiteWater product in sight, but it soon became clear that WhiteWater's water park products were a good choice to support the long term vision of Waterbom Bali.

"My first step in working with WhiteWater was purchasing our AquaPlay from Andrew Wray. His approach was very different from the previous companies I had worked with," commented Santo Gulino.

A natural partnership formed between WhiteWater and Waterbom Bali as two companies that consider safety their number one priority along with excellent service and satisfied customers. "My goal is to make people happy and working with WhiteWater supports that goal. It's not about the theming that makes the park, it's the product the customer is using," explains Santo.

After the initial installation by WhiteWater at the Balinese water park in the early 2000s, as existing attractions were in need of replacement, Santos turned to WhiteWater products. On its quest to offer the best to its guests, Waterbom Bali underwent multiple phases of renovations and unveiled a number of WhiteWater innovations including a

Boomerango and AquaLoop looping water slide.

In 2014, after an expansion that revealed the world's first Constrictor + Python Fusion water-slide, 80 percent of Waterbom Bali's products were supplied by WhiteWater. Following the demolition of the last non-WhiteWater slide complex, Santo introduced his guests to six brand new high-thrill water slides and a FlowRider this past July.

The original Smash Down slide was replaced with Smash Down 2.0 that increased the height by almost five meters and added an AquaDrop capsule. Double Twist, a translucent Flatline Loop also begins with an AquaDrop capsule for added excitement. Twin Racers adds an enclosed AquaTwist translucent tube to the beginning of a two-lane, head-first, mat racer. Fast N' Fierce, a pair of open, multi-dip body slides round out the new additions.

For Santo, it was an easy decision. "The WhiteWater team has stood behind us over the past 15 years and continuously provided us with a safe product for our guests to enjoy," said Santo. "We are proud to be 100 percent a WhiteWater park."

The tropical water park is one of the most popular in Asia. The park has incorporated eco-friendly operations including energy efficient LED lights, intensive water recycling and a sustainable environment where 68 percent of the park's footprint is gardens. These efforts have also granted them the Silver EarthCheck certification, a global benchmark for sustainable tourism.

— Jeffrey Seifert

Polin introduces competitive Space Race water slide

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Family slides have always been an important part of the water slide world. One of the greatest benefits of water parks is the opportunity for families and friends to enjoy time together and share the experience. Operators favor these slides as well, since the higher capacity helps to avoid long queues. With the Space Race water slide there is yet another incentive for friends and families to gather at the water park: the adrenaline rush of competition.

Polin Waterslides is introducing a unique, new, signature ride: the Space Race water slide. The ride's geometry is similar to other bowl-type slides, such as Polin's own Space Boat — a tube ride that launches from a tower, shoots riders down a chute and into a bowl where they gain ever-increasing velocity as centrifugal force sends them shooting around and around before they plummet through the bottom.

But that's where similarities end between the Space Race and all other family slides.

The Space Race introduces a new opportunity for fun by giving groups of riders a chance to compete as they urge their teammates to be the fastest and cross the finish line ahead of the competition. The slide pits two, four-rider family rafts against



Polin has introduced this new unique Space Race waterslide where riders, traveling in opposite direction in the bowl portion, compete with each other to see who is faster in a race to the finish line.

COURTESY POLIN

each other. The rafts enter the bowl from opposite directions at a speed of more than 27 miles per hour. Separated by a patent-pending divider, the eight riders follow identical helical routes, starting at the perimeter and ending at the center of the bowl. The giant specially designed basin allows the racing teams to see each other as they careen around the bowl, providing incentive for them to lean, bend, crouch and



tilt in every way possible to give them an advantage in increasing their speed to gain an edge over their opponents.

Eventually, the teams exit the bowl at the center, shooting in opposite directions as they finalize

their sliding adventure via two separate but identical dry or pool run-outs.

Another distinctive characteristic of the Space Race is its entry tower. Riders begin building excitement even before they

step into their rafts due to the tower's design. It allows all riders to see other teams competing against one another as they wait their turn to enter the race. As

► See POLIN, page 15



NEWS SPLASH

COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

American Wave Machines of Solana Beach, California, is bringing surfing to central Florida with the addition of **Sky Surf Park** to Orlando's **Skyplex**. Sky Surf Park will feature a casual beach and beach side cafe with a large patio seating area. True to its name, Sky Surf Park will be in the sky, 10 stories high on rooftop deck. The surf park will utilize American Wave Machines' SurfStream Technology to create a variety of waves from training to intermediate to the signature six-foot barreling wave.

Skyplex, first revealed in 2014, has continued to announce elaborate expansion plans, including Skyscraper — the world's tallest coaster, SkyFall — the world's tallest freefall ride, an indoor theme park, restaurants, night clubs and event space. However, ground has yet to be broken, and the project's completion date keeps getting pushed back from what was originally 2016 to now 2018.

Best Sunshine International Ltd., a Hong Kong-based company, wants to build the world's largest water park in the Northern Mariana Islands. Officially known as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the 183.5 square mile island is a commonwealth territory in political union with the United States.

Imperial Pacific Holdings Ltd., of which Best Sunshine is a wholly-owned subsidiary, has an exclusive casino license for Saipan, CNMI's largest city, where approximately 90 percent of the population lives. The company wants the proposed water park to be part of its \$7.1 billion integrated resort project in Saipan. Phase one of the project, the \$190 million, 373-room **Grand Mariana Resort** had been granted "official notice to proceed" by the division of coastal resources management of the CNMI.

Korea-based **E-Land Group** also has water park plans for Saipan, CNMI. In October, the company announced a three-stage plan that includes upgrades to its existing properties in the city. Stage 1 of the project includes the renovation of the former **Palms Resort Saipan** and its rebranding as the **Kensington Hotel**, a six-star hotel that include a water park. The renovation is expected to cost \$50 to \$60 million. A soft-opening is planned for May 2016, with a grand opening the following month.

Stage 2 calls for redeveloping parts of the existing San Antonio Village. Once a separate village, it is now part of the municipality of Saipan. Plans include another water park, water-themed resort, as well as a renovation of the elementary and middle schools to make the village more of a master-planned community.

Royal Caribbean Cruise Line is going all in when it comes to water parks on its ships. Following the previously announced (AT Nov., Issue 8.1) addition of a large water park to the new **Harmony of the Seas**, the cruise line has revealed that **Liberty of the Seas** will also receive an expanded water park. Liberty entered service in May 2007, and is scheduled to enter dry dock in January for a month-long refurbishment. During that time three water slides

will be installed along with a kids-only water play area. The slides, supplied by **WhiteWater West**, include a Boomerango and racing slides.

A third Royal Caribbean ship, **Majesty of the Seas**, built in 1997 and last refurbished in 2012, is scheduled to be outfitted with a water park in April 2016.

Boulder Beach Water Park at **Silverwood Theme Park** in Athol, Idaho, will be adding a giant racing slide to the park for the 2016 season. The six-lane slide from **WhiteWater West** combines a spiral aqua tube with a mat racer. Guests will first spiral through a translucent tube before racing side-by-side to the finale. The new slide will stand 60 feet tall and provide more than 400 feet of sliding surface. As with all mat racers, guests will lie down head first on specially designed mats. A naming contest for the new slide will be held during construction of the project.

Wavegarden, the surf-wave generating company with two operating facilities in Europe and a project under development in Austin, Texas, could be making waves at a fourth facility in the land down under. Plans call for the transformation of **Subiaco Oval** from West Australian Football to an urban surfing village. Located in Perth, Subiaco Oval has been one of the main stadiums in Western Australia, but a new, larger facility, Perth Stadium, is scheduled to open in 2018.

Plans for the new facility include a 300 meter long by 120 meter wide freshwater lagoon, six zones of different-sized waves, an elevated parking structure, market hall, plaza, unique apartment living and a permanent home for the **WA Hall of Fame**.

Wave Park Group chairman **Andrew Ross** said the plan would enable Subiaco to retain a sporting identity after the loss of the football team to the new Perth Stadium in 2018.

The long-awaited **Gaylord Rockies Hotel and Conference Center** in Aurora, Colorado, has finally secured financing. Originally announced in 2012 with an expected opening this year, the project ran into problems with Denver hoteliers and statewide critics attempting to keep the project from going forward.

The 1,500-room hotel will be the largest in the state. It is located just 25 minutes away from Denver International Airport and will feature breathtaking views of the Rocky Mountains. The resort will feature an indoor/outdoor water park with multiple pools, water slides, play zones, a lazy river and a Colorado "Hot Springs" experience.

The **Greendale YMCA** in North Worcester, Massachusetts, broke ground in October on a \$3.5 million expansion. By next summer, guests to the facility will be able to enjoy an outdoor family splash pad as well as improvements to the inside of the facility including updates to the locker room. The new family splash pad will bring families and children together while providing a fun and friendly environment to cool off during the summer months.

►POLIN

Continued from page 14

they view other riders, they can start to develop their secret competitive advantages for racing through the 715-foot attraction's slide path.

Once they reach the top, riders face the exact same challenge as their opposing team, providing a rush as they speed through every twist and turn while safely separated from collisions. When riders exit the bowl they can see exactly which raft finished first.

Advantages to the Space Race ride include:

- Maximum capacity: 960 rider per hour.
- A variety of theming and patterns on the slide's surface.
- Unique tower centered between the two raft entry points.
- A shared slide experience with others in the queue.
- A distinctive, attention-grabbing appearance with the attraction's massive size.
- Exclusive options when combined with other slides via specialty design considerations offered in consultation with Polin's design team professionals.

- Translucent applications.
- A 13 to 20 percent slope.
- Resin-transfer molding (RTM) technology to create perfectly smooth, shiny slide components inside and outside with perfect component alignment.

•Space requirements of 20 meters high and 66 meters by 52 meters wide (65 feet high and 216 feet by 170 feet wide)

•Bowl size of 5 meters (16 feet) high by 26 meters (85 feet) in diameter and an angle of 15 degrees.


The new Space Race also offers a number of theming possibilities through the use of natural light effects that allow the sun's rays to stream into the tube via translucent stripes and/or other designs to create a different experience on every ride. Special pattern effects — virtually any type of shape or pattern can be incorporated into the translucent section of the slide to add even more visual enhancement, and sound effects or music can be incorporated to further create an immersive theme.

— Jeffrey Seifert,
Amusement Today


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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Majestic unveils Back Spin — Page 24 / Ski Mountain Coaster opens — Pages 24 / Fairs — Pages 25-32

U.S. parks light up the 2015 holiday season

AT: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Amusement and theme parks across the U.S. that offer holiday cheer try hard to make the season bright and merry for all.

These parks transform into holiday wonderlands. For example at Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Vista, Calif., the Wilderness Dance Hall in Ghost Town becomes Santa's Christmas Cabin for the holiday.

Officials at Hersheypark, Hershey, Pa., add a two-mile holiday drive-through so those guests that want to stay warm can participate in the celebrations from the warmth of their cars.

Moody Gardens, Galveston, Texas, creates a land of ice with two million pounds of the cold stuff and skilled ice carvers all inside of a 28,000-square-foot tent in the parking lot.

The parks also offer millions of lights, a plethora of holiday performances and musical entertainment, and rides and attractions, weather permitting.

Following is just a sampling of what some amusement and theme parks are planning for the 2015 holiday season.

Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Park, Calif.

Knott's Berry Farm's seasonal event, Knott's Merry Farm, kicked off November 21 and will run through January 3, 2016.

The holiday event includes park-wide holiday decorations, Santa, Snoopy, live entertainment, festive food, and a shopping wonderland filled with local artisans.

Some highlights parkgoers are already enjoying include: A new ice spectacular show, *Merry Christmas, Snoopy!*, performed by



Knott's Berry Farm's holiday celebrations kicked off November 21 and will run through January 3. It will include, of course, visits from these Peanuts characters including a performance by Snoopy himself called "Merry Christmas Snoopy!" and park-wide decorations, live entertainment, festive food and a shopping wonderland filled with local artisans. COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

Snoopy and friends; an expanded evening snow fall in Ghost Town with more snow than ever; and the return of the popular Ghost Town and Calico Railroad Christmas celebration on Engine 41, where parkgoers climb aboard a vintage rail car and meet an ever-changing group of Ghost Town residents eager to share their Christmas plans and songs.

Other ways to enjoy the holidays at Knott's Merry Farm is to experience a live performance of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* or O. Henry's *A Gift of the Magi* in an intimate setting of the historic Bird Cage Theatre.

There also is a musical tree lighting featuring toy soldiers, snowmen, elves and, of course, Snoopy as well as comedy and bluegrass music from Krazy Kirk and the Hillbillies, whom continue their residency at Knott's Berry Farm.

And, not to be forgotten is the Wilderness Dance Hall in Ghost Town, home to Santa's

CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

Christmas Cabin for the holiday season. Here, the young and the young at heart can share their wish lists with ol' St. Nick and take home a picture of the occasion.

Holiday food and beverages abound throughout the park.

Moody Gardens, Galveston, Texas

Moody Gardens held a media preview in October of its *Ice Land: Ice Sculptures with SpongeBob SquarePants* that kicked off to the public November 14 and runs through January 10.

As the only holiday ice exhibition on the Gulf Coast, a skilled team of 30 internationally-ac-

claimed professional ice carvers from Harbin, China, used two million pounds of ice to create majestic marvels featuring holiday scenes with the characters from Nickelodeon's *SpongeBob SquarePants*. A new feature to Ice Land this year is Glow Ice.

Ice Land, held inside a 28,000-square-foot tent in the Moody Gardens parking lot, complements the park's Festival of Lights, holiday films, ice skating, Arctic Ice Slide, holiday dinner and shows, gift market and newly renovated four-diamond hotel as one of the largest holiday destinations in the Southwest.

► See CHRISTMAS, page 18



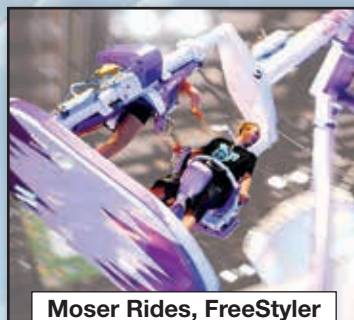
Visitors to holiday celebrations at Hersheypark, Hershey, Pa., have twice as much to see and do as the celebrations were expanded this year. The event began November 13 and will run through December 29. New additions for this year include the opening of select roller coasters that include the Wildcat, sooperdooperLooper, Cocoa Cruiser and Laff Trakk, weather permitting. And, there were two million more lights added to the two million seen last year. COURTESY HERSHEY PARK

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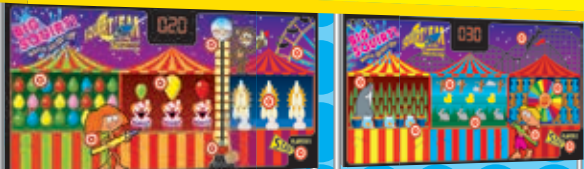
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►CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 17

Hersheypark, Hershey, Pa.

Visitors this year at Hersheypark's Christmas Candy-lane are having twice as much to see and do as park officials have expanded the celebration almost two-fold. The event began November 13 and will run through December 29.

New additions for the 2015 season include the opening of select roller coasters that include the Wildcat, sooperdooperLoop-er, Cocoa Cruiser and Laff Trakk, weather permitting, of course.

Two million more lights have been added to the festive environment for a total of four million sparkling lights across Hersheypark.

In addition to the new, tried and true favorite activities have returned including Santa and his live reindeer, Rudolph's Skating Pond, and the popular Noel light show.

Hershey Sweet Lights, the two-mile holiday lighted drive-through, also kicked off November 13 and will stay open on select dates through January 1.

Being offered this year is a Hotel Hershey & Hershey Lodge Christmas in Hershey Package that includes deluxe accommodations, milk and cookies for four on night of arrival, one-day admission to Hersheypark Christmas Candy-lane per person, admission for one vehicle to Hershey Sweet Lights, seasonal admission to Hershey Gardens, and admission to The Hershey Story's Museum Experience.

Breakfast with Santa and Lunch with Santa are available at The Hotel Hershey, as well as the Gingerbread Children's Tea.

There is a variety of family



Busch Gardens' Christmas Town in Williamsburg, Va., transforms the park into a winter wonderland with more than eight million Christmas lights, miles of garland and Christmas decorations as far as the eye can see. The holiday celebrations in Williamsburg began November 27 and will run through January 3. COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS

CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

friendly shows featured at the Hershey Theatre during the holiday season including Hershey Symphony Presents Holiday Spectacular and Rudolph the Musical.

Being featured inside the Hershey Story Museum are the Little Elves Workshop, Snowball Saturdays, Holiday-Themed Chocolate Lab Classes, and Hershey's Chocolate World Attraction.

Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

A seven-time award winner of America's Best Christmas Event, Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas Festival began November 11 and will run through January 3.

The celebration is featuring four million lights and more than 20 rides and attractions. It

also includes an abundance of live performances such as Dollywood's *A Christmas Carol*, *Christmas in the Smokies*, *An Appalachian Christmas*, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, *O' Holy Night*, *Christmas with The Kingdom Heirs*, and *Carol of the Trees*.

Holiday foods and beverage also are available. And, of course, the celebration at Dollywood wouldn't be complete without the traditional Parade of Lights featuring Christmas floats adorned with brightly colored lights. Holiday characters add to the excitement to the daily parade. The parade includes special characters Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer and his friends such as Clarice, Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster and Yukon Cornelius.

► See CHRISTMAS, page 20

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CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

►CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 18

**Busch Gardens
Williamsburg, Va.**

Holiday celebrations began at Busch Gardens Williamsburg on November 27 and the fun will continue through January 3.

The smell of Christmas trees coupled with the dazzling light display of Polar Pathway bring Williamsburg and area visitors closer to the holiday season.

Existing attractions are transformed into holiday seasonal attractions. For example, in Williamsburg, the waterfalls of Italy's Escape from Pompeii are turned into a cascading icy wonderland that shimmers under the moonlight.

And, the rustic Scottish countryside at the park becomes the perfect setting for a stable of beautiful animals including the Scottish blackface sheep, Border collies and Clydesdales.

Rides that are open at the Virginia park include: Battering Ram, Davinci's Cradle, Kinder Karussel, L'il Clydes, Little Balloons, Little Gliders, Flying Machine, Der Wirbelwind, Der Autobahn, Der Autobahn Jr., Le Catapult, Snowman Summit, Train, Skyride, Wirbelwind Chen, Roto Baron, Peppermint Twist, Reindeer Run, Verbolten and Nacht Tower. The last two rides mentioned do not run when temperatures fall below 36 degrees.

Santa and Mrs. Claus are on

hand along with their elf attendants for photos.

And there is no lack of shows along the way. Some of those include: *Deck the Halls*, *Miracles, Gloria! Scrooge No More*, *T'was that Night* and *O' Tannenbaum*. The latter features a light show.

Busch Gardens, Tampa, Fla.

Busch Gardens, Tampa, also has its halls decked. The celebration there runs 20 select dates that began November 27 and will run through December 31. Because of the celebration's popularity in Florida, officials decided to extend operational hours to 10 p.m. every event night.

Christmas Town transforms this Tampa park into a holiday wonderland with more than a million twinkling lights, Christmas entertainment, live music, festive treats and holiday shopping.

It is filled with cheery surprises including Santa's House presented by Coca-Cola, where guests meet the big man himself as he takes a break from his busy holiday schedule to take photos with families in his private study.

**Stone Mountain
Atlanta, Ga.**

Visitors to Stone Mountain Christmas, which began November 7 and runs through January 3, are finding an abundance of holiday cheer with two million lights, festive music and visits from some favorite holiday characters. Among these charac-



Stone Mountain Christmas began November 7 and will run through January 3 this year. During the holiday celebrations, the park features over two million lights, festive music, live holiday performances and visits from some of the Stone Mountain Christmas' favorite characters such as Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Bumble the Abominable Snow Monsters and, of course, Santa and Mrs Claus and the magical Snow Angel. COURTESY STONE MOUNTAIN

ters are Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster, and, of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus along with Stone Mountain's Snow Angel.

Visitors may experience *Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas 4-D*, which is an adventure in 3-D with added in-theater effects that transport parkgoers of all ages back into the Ice Age.

There is always room aboard the Singalong Train where riders have a chance to either hear or sing along to some of the season's most popular songs. Or holiday parkgoers may enjoy a ride on

the Summit Skyride.

One of the most popular attractions is the Wonderland Walkway, a dazzling tunnel of lights guiding parkgoers to the Snow Angel Palace. The nightly parade also is a hit with its floats and the arrival of Santa Claus. There is the magical Snow Angel Snowfall and the Fireworks Finale to wrap up the evening.

Holiday shopping includes items such as hand blown glass ornaments, homemade fudge, unique toys and seasonal apparel.

Christmas shows include: *The Littlest Christmas Tree*; *Forever Christmas*; *Holly Jolly Cabaret*; *A Christmas Carol*; *Toyrific*; *Forever Christmas*; *Holly Jolly Cabaret*; *A Crossroads Christmas Carol*; Visit with Santa Claus, Crossroads Christmas Parade, and the Snow Angel Snowfall and Fireworks Finale.

Snow Mountain is another very popular attraction with tubing sessions available as well as some snow play in the Snow Play area.

Six Flags Corp.

Six of Six Flags Corp. U.S. parks celebrate the holiday seasons with Holiday in the Park. With very similar fun and attractions, these festivities include millions of lights, rides, live performances, the best of holiday foods and beverages, and lots of holiday shopping.

The Six Flags parks holding holiday festivities for 2015 are: Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, N.J., November 21-January 3; Six Flags Discovery Kingdom,

November 27-January 3; Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia, Calif., November 21-January 3; Six Flags Fiesta Texas, San Antonio, November 21-January 3; Six Flags Over Georgia, Atlanta, November 21-January 3; and Six Flags Over Texas, Arlington, November 21-January 3.

In addition, Six Flags also holds a Holiday in the Lodge at the Great Escape Lodge, running November 27-December 27.

Even though many of the holiday celebrations are similar to its sister parks, each has its own twist on special rides that are open, weather permitting. Live shows and performances and light shows transform the parks into a winter wonderlands.

**Cliff's Amusement Park,
Albuquerque, N.M.**

This Southwest amusement park began its holiday celebrations on November 27 and will run through December 30 on select dates.

Cliff's Magical Christmas features holiday lights, seasonal food and beverage and live entertainment from performers within its community. There is also Santa's Workshop where visitors are able to see Santa and his elves hard at work. However, Santa does take the time to stop and chat with all visiting parkgoers.

Afterwards, visitors can stroll to Kiddieland to Mrs. Claus cottage, where she sits in her rocking chair telling stories.

The park also features its inventory of thrill rides, family rides and kiddie rides.



Here is a scene from the parade at Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, Tenn., held nightly during the park's holiday celebrations that began November 11 and will run through January 3. Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas Festival not only features the parade but also features four million lights, more than 20 rides and attractions, live musical performances, shows, and holiday food and beverage. COURTESY DOLLYWOOD

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Passion, reverence fuel quest to rebuild classic Cyclone Racer

Southern California coaster enthusiast dreams big

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Nostalgia is powerful. Beyond diverting our thoughts to a past happy place, it can influence our choices in everything from entertainment to avocation to employment.

For Larry Osterhoudt, nostalgia — mixed with awe and missed opportunity — is a driving creative obsession.

The Downey, Calif., resident has made it his mission to resurrect the Cyclone Racer roller coaster on the waterfront in the port city of Long Beach. The classic dual-tracked ride, created by Frederick A. Church as a replacement for the 1915-built, Fred Ingersoll / John Miller-designed Jack Rabbit Racer, served from 1930 to 1968 as the centerpiece of a popular former amusement area called The Pike (later officially known as Nu-Pike and Queen's Park).

"The project started out as a curiosity 20 years ago," said Osterhoudt, an electronics engineer, unfurling his painstakingly rendered Cyclone Racer blueprints for *Amusement Today* at a restaurant just outside Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park. The original blueprints were apparently lost with the dismantling of the ride. "I'd heard that Fred Church's warehouse, where the backup set was, burned down. So I had to reverse-engineer the coaster. It was tricky."

How Osterhoudt arrived at this point, and how he has attracted key project partners and, most importantly, the support of Long Beach city leaders, can be traced to 1966, when nine-year-old Larry visited The Pike for the first and only time.

"It was my parents' old haunt in the 1930s and '40s, and I guess they wanted to see what it looked like again," he recalled. "We didn't have much money and couldn't afford Disneyland, so they piled all of us kids in the car and we went down there for a Saturday."

The visit became one of thrill-seeking indoctrination, with Osterhoudt's father taking him first on the bumper cars and then on the double Ferris wheel. Freaked out by the second ride, young Larry balked when they arrived at the Cyclone Racer.

"My dad says, 'You want to

go on that?' I said, 'Nooo way.' The coaster still had two years left to live, but my parents never took us back. So I never did get the chance to ride it. That's one of the reasons why my blueprints are so detailed, because I want to feel the original thing.

"When I started drawing it up," he admitted, "I never would have believed it was going to get turned into all this."

Recreating the Cyclone Racer on paper found Osterhoudt gathering old film footage and hundreds of historic photos. But fate, he said, led to his key in breakthroughs figuring out the ride's intricately layered track plan — which totaled 7,400 feet between the two racing sides in an area only 550 feet by 120 feet in size, set directly on pilings above the water.

After a few months of creating Cyclone Racer drawings, in the summer of 1996, Osterhoudt saw an article about the Walt Disney Company's plans for a second park, Disney California Adventure, next to Disneyland. "It said they wanted to put in a wooden coaster like the ones that used to dot the coastline. I thought that was interesting, since I'd been working on this. And I really wanted to work for Disneyland in engineering or technical."

Osterhoudt contacted Walt Disney Imagineering and, to his surprise, got several contacts to whom he could send his idea for resurrecting the Cyclone Racer at the company's new park. Before submitting anything, at his brother's urging, he transferred his design into an AutoCAD 3D computer drafting program.

"Because of my engineering background, I learned AutoCAD all by myself. And by that October, I had a good-enough drawing that I felt was going to impress them."

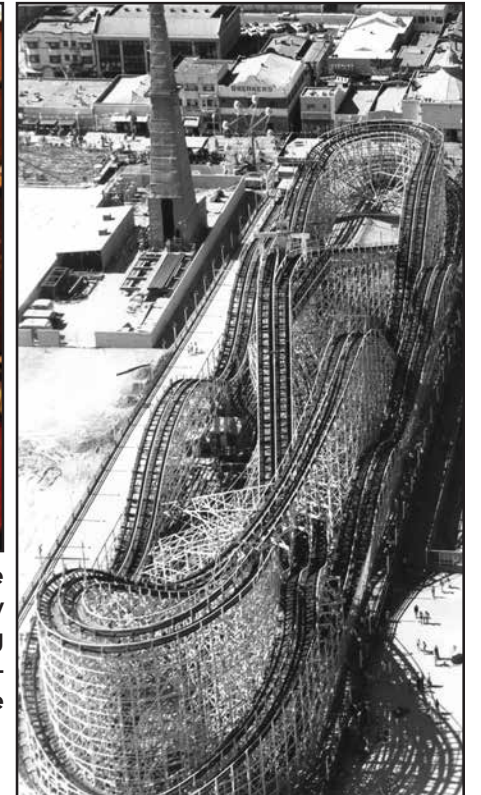
Whether it did or not, Osterhoudt will never know. In January 1997, Disney returned his materials through its legal department along with a form rejection letter. "They said it was an outside idea and they couldn't accept it. It chops you down... like you're nothing."

Undeterred, he continued adding mathematical details to his AutoCAD rendering. The files became so huge in his circa-late 1980s computer that it took about 10 minutes to rotate the image in 3D. So he dropped \$5,000 on new equipment. By late 1997, he reached what he thought would be the end of his design quest



Fernando Dutra and Larry Osterhoudt, partners on the proposed Cyclone Racer project in Long Beach, proudly display Osterhoudt's coaster train model. A rebuilding of the Frederick A. Church-designed ride — shown several years after its 1930 debut (below) and in 1959, nine years before its demise.

AT/GARY SLADE (ABOVE); COURTESY OF LARRY OSTERHOUDT COLLECTION (RIGHT); AT FILE PHOTO



when, without a surviving section of the Cyclone Racer's track to measure, he was unable to determine, among other things, the exact degree of the track's dynamic banking.

Then, "a window opened... that literally made the whole thing possible."

While attending a meeting of the Historical Society of Long Beach, Osterhoudt met an antiques collector who had rescued an original Cyclone Racer car from an area dump for \$20. And he began the reverse engineering process in earnest — spending six hours a day, three days a week visiting with the vehicle for six months, measuring every inch with precision devices and loading the data into his AutoCAD.

This intensive research phase and his subsequent, frequently revised 3D digital modeling of the train, the coaster footprint, its 17 hills and various structural heights were "really grueling," taking several years. He then spent an additional two years constructing a 1:15-scale, almost five-foot-high model of the front end of the Cyclone Racer in his garage.

"Luckily, I've got the patience of steel," Osterhoudt said with a laugh.

In December 2011, through an acquaintance at his gym —

where he typically wore a custom Cyclone Racer T-shirt — Osterhoudt and his project attracted the interest of a builder and developer, Fernando Dutra, currently mayor of Whittier, Calif. Dutra, a Goldman Sachs partner who works with domestic and foreign investors, was floored by Osterhoudt's materials and agreed to join him on the project — as long as Osterhoudt could get it okayed by the Long Beach City Council. Which, in 2013, he did, following a well-prepared presentation during a public session attended by some 200 mostly supportive residents.

"I've been around a while," Dutra told AT. "I wouldn't spend five minutes on a deal if I thought I was wasting my time. I'm investing in this because I think it has wheels. Excuse the pun."

What the proposed \$60 million, four-acre Cyclone Racer project doesn't yet have are all the necessary land entitlements — including, since the coaster and its adjoining 15-ride amusement area would be on the water, a final go-ahead from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. An initial meeting between Dutra and the Army Corps in Washington, D.C., with the blueprints, according to Osterhoudt, "impressed" the federal agency. If and when this approval is secured, the proj-

ect can proceed to an environmental impact report, which will take about year.

On the construction side, Osterhoudt has been consulting with Leonard Adams of Structural Technologies, Inc., who has examined the Cyclone Racer project materials, model and surviving coaster car and has expressed interest in building the new ride.

An avowed purist when it comes to the Cyclone Racer, Osterhoudt is adamant about not allowing any modern systems to creep into the proposed rebuild. "When Fred Church came up with this design, it was mathematically perfect. There's nothing unsafe about it."

And he doesn't feel there is any ride, anywhere, that can touch the Cyclone Racer's performance.

"Coaster designers were geniuses back then, and this was the reason people came to The Pike," Osterhoudt said. "The Cyclone Racer wasn't worn-out when Long Beach tore it down; the city just wanted to move on to something else. But it shot itself in the foot because it didn't know what it had."

"I think it was eighth wonder of the world. It was the modern equivalent of tearing down the Golden Gate Bridge."

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Majestic Rides to sell new Back Spin coaster for 2016 season

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

NEW WATERFORD, Ohio — Majestic Rides has had a 35-year relationship with Preston Barbieri, with the latter manufacturing the bumper cars Majestic has been utilizing on its attractions for years.

So, with Preston Barbieri's purchase of roller coaster manufacturing L & T Systems in 2009, Majestic will now offer the Back Spin roller coaster to the industry for 2016.

Majestic's Jeff Kudler said Preston Barbieri will manufacture the coaster to his company's specifications. Then, Majestic will receive the coaster and

do all the electronics, signage, scenery, entry platforms, exits, and mount it on either one trailer or two for the portable version.

"We think this will be a very smooth transition for us," Kudler said. "With our existing partnership with Preston Barbieri and with Preston Barbieri's experience in the industry, we think this will be very easy for us to go into."

Kudler said there will be two sizes of the portable version: 45 feet by 60 feet fitting on one trailer, and 85 feet by 50 feet fitting on two trailers.

The smaller unit will have four spinning tubs with four to a tub. The larger will have five tubs with four to a tub.

"At least, we think that is what the larger one will have," Kudler said. "We are waiting on the engineering report on that."

Kudler said they have seen a lot of interest in the Back Spin. In fact, one of the smaller models is already promised to Corky Powers, Powers Great American Midways.

Kudler is looking forward to selling the Back Spin.

"We have built just about every type and shape of bumper car building that is possible," he said. "We have been using Preston Barbieri bumper cars for many years. We are looking forward to selling the coaster."

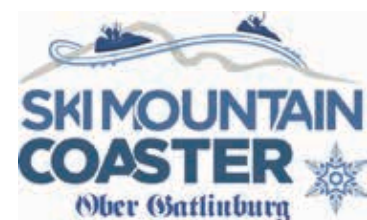
Ski Mountain Coaster at Ober Gatlinburg ski area opens

Aquatic Development Group provides newest mountain thriller

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

GATLINBURG, Tenn. — On the last day of August, Ober Gatlinburg Amusement Park and Ski Area opened its newest attraction to the public, nestled just below the peak of Mt. Harrison. The Ski Mountain Coaster, built by Aquatic Development Group, Inc. (ADG) of Cohoes N.Y., joins the other rides already open in the Smoky Mountains region. (They include: Smoky Mountain Alpine Coaster and Coaster at Goats on the Roof, both Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg Mountain Coaster in Gatlinburg.)

The Ski Mountain Coaster begins near the Tubing Park with a 1,000-foot ascent providing a stunning view of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Once at the



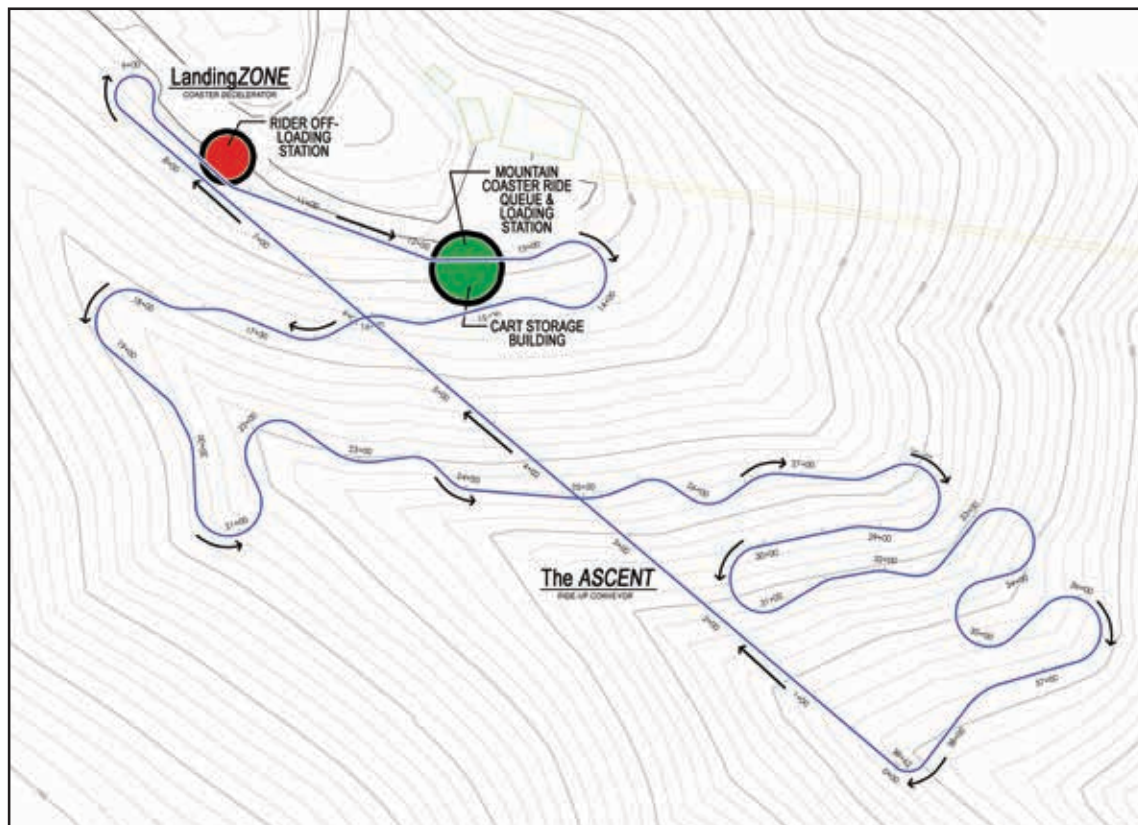
top, riders travel a 2,750 foot course with a variety of track features to delight everyone — kids, parents, grandparents and everyone else in between. Riders can choose the pace they want on a ride than can go as fast as 25 mph.

Amusement Today talked with Ken Ellis, president and CEO of Aquatic Development Group (ADG) about the Ober Gatlinburg installation and how this project progressed compared to others: "Taking into consideration the challenging site and extreme slopes, the construction of the coaster was a bit more difficult than some of our others but the end result was fantastic. The Ober Gatlinburg Ski Mountain Coaster provides guests with an exciting, feature filled experience.

"With extremely severe grades, simply getting the coaster's ride path properly cleared and prepared for the actual track installation was a challenge. Once clearing and site prep were completed, the slope of the ride path proved to be a bit more difficult and time consuming than the typical coaster installation," Ellis said.

The ADG carts used on the Ski Mountain Coaster that can carry two passengers, feature higher back rests and shorter brake levers for easier handling and control. The rolling stock is designed with built-in collision avoidance along with a seatbelt monitoring system.

Ellis is proud of their end result for the resort. "With



The Ski Mountain Coaster at the Ober Gatlinburg Amusement Park and Ski Area was supplied by Aquatic Development Group, and features 3,900 feet of track spread out over a 325 foot descent down the mountain.
COURTESY ADG



its outstanding vistas, twists, turns and dips and rugged topography, the Ober Gatlinburg Coaster provides a unique and exciting ride experience. From the moment that guests are seated in the cart for the uphill pull to the end of the ride, there is something different at every turn", said Ellis. He continued, "The overall

goal with the Ober Gatlinburg Coaster was to provide their guests with a premier coaster experience that is unlike any other in the Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge area. With this coaster, we believe we accomplished this goal."

ADG designs and builds water parks and recreational water and mountainside at-

tractions for all types of venues from amusement parks and resorts to ski mountains and small aquatic settings.

Editor's note: A comprehensive article on the other area attractions appeared in Amusement Today, April 2015, page 38: "Smoky Mountains Explode with Alpine Coaster installations."

FAST FACTS

Name/Park

Ski Mountain Coaster/
Ober Gatlinburg
Amusement Park and
Ski Area
Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Type/Opened

Alpine Mountain Coaster/
August 31, 2015

Stats

Lift length: 900 feet
Descent length: 3,000 feet
Descent drop: 325 feet
Max. grade: 10.8 percent
Track length: 3,900 feet
Number of sleds: 30

Supplier

Aquatic Development
Group, Cohoes, N.Y.

2015 State Fair of Texas keeps raising the bar

Fair generates new \$53.6 million record in food and ride sales; up \$10 million from 2014

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

DALLAS, Texas — The 2015 State Fair of Texas delivered unprecedented results with record-setting crowds, coupon sales, scholarship donations, and community contributions during this year's 24-day run.

The fair generated in excess of \$53.6 million in coupon sales for food and rides — an all-time record, making the event the most successful in its 129-year history. That figure is a \$10 million increase over 2014's total, which had been the previous record.

"People started coming early and they never stopped," Mitchell Gieber, the fair's president, said to local reporters near the fair's end. "We kept thinking, 'Are we going to hit a wall at some point?' And we haven't hit it yet."

The net proceeds from the fair are reinvested in Fair Park, in the form of capital improvements; given as scholarships to deserving youth throughout the state of Texas; used to support Fair Park museum facilities and community outreach programs; and used to improve the fair's operation.

The fair's impact on the community is huge. It provides jobs for more than 6,000 seasonal employees every year and encourages economic growth in the surrounding area. It's economic impact was estimated at more than \$600 million.

The independent midway

sported 74 rides and 71 games, said Rusty Fitzgerald.

"The rides and games grossed \$21.6 million," Fitzgerald said. "And, that is a record."

Fitzgerald said there were some changes made to the midway this year.

"We opened the back end of the midway some and it worked out well," he said.

There were many highlights this year, but one of the most noticeable included the new LED lighting system on the 212-foot (64.6 meters) tall Texas Star Ferris wheel, owned by Mary and Tom Talley and manufactured by S.D.C. This wheel has been on the fairgrounds for 20 years and continues to be one of the most popular rides during the fair. This year, it was the top ride. It holds 264 riders in 44 gondolas enclosed with stainless steel tubing.

The second and third top rides this year were both owned by the State Fair of Texas. Coming in second was the Texas Skyway, manufactured by Dopplemayr, and third was the 500-foot-tall (152.4 meters) observation Top 'O Texas Tower, manufactured by Intamin.

One new ride on the midway this year was one of Interpark's new Cyclon roller coasters. Owned by Kyle Brady, Playworld Amusements, who purchased it through Ital International, the coaster uses single vehicles on the ride. Brady received the new ride for the 2015 season. It is 32.8 feet (10 meters) tall and has a footprint of 131 feet (39.9 meters) by 50 feet (15.24 meters). It has a track length of 1,100 feet (335 meters).



The Texas Star, number one ride on the Midway at the State Fair of Texas received a new LED loght package this season, making for stunning views of 212 foot tall ride.

AT/GARY SLADE

Another new midway attraction this year was the New York New York fun house, manufactured by Gosetto. Owned by Bobby Myers, Myers International Midways, the fun house has been a huge hit since he took delivery of it during the summer in time to debut it at the Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis, Aug. 6-16. The Texas State Fair was the attraction's third stop.

"It has done really well," Myers said. "I think it was in the top five rides at the Wisconsin Fair and in the top five or six at the Minnesota State Fair (St. Paul, Aug. 27-Sept. 7)."

He wasn't sure what

2015 State Fair of Texas Top Rides

1. **Texas Star**, owned by Mary and Tom Talley, S.D.C.
2. **Texas Skyway**, owned by the State Fair of Texas, Dopplemayr
3. **Top O' Texas Tower**, State Fair of Texas, Intamin
4. **Love Bugs**, State Fair of Texas, Mack Rides
5. **Crazy Mouse**, S.J. Entertainment (Steve VanderVorste), Reverchon
6. **Pirate Ship**, State Fair of Texas, Huss
7. **Fast Trax Super Slide**, Talley Amusements, Fabbri
8. **Log Ride**, State Fair of Texas, Arrow Development
9. **Starship 3000**, Kyle Wisdom, Wisdom Mfg.
10. **Scooter** (bumper cars), Patrick Sheridan, Majestic Mfg. Inc.
11. **New York New York**, Bobby Myers, Gosetto.
12. **Windstar Roller Coaster**, S.J. Entertainment (Steve VanderVorste), S.D.C.

number the ride ranked at the Dallas event when contacted by AT but he was very happy with how it performed. Myers bought the attraction through Intermark Ride Group, which represents Gosetta in North America.

This year's State Fair of Texas featured an array of new foods, exhibits and enter-

tainment. Among those making a debut this year was Beer Haven, a 53-foot-long truck serving a wide variety of craft beers on tap. Throughout the run of the fair, this mobile brewery featured 60 different beers on tap every day, including a special collection of fair-themed brews like a cotton

► See TEXAS FAIR, page 26



New to the fair this year was this New York New York funhouse (left) by Gosetto which has been outfitted with a safety control system (above) giving the operator full view of all floors. Right, Gina Guglielmi, IRG and representative for Gosetto, with Bobby Myers in front of his busy NYNY funhouse in Texas. AT/GARY SLADE



Ital International having a very fruitful year

DALLAS, Texas — One new ride seen at the 2015 State Fair of Texas was one of Interpark's Cyclon portable roller coaster.

Owned by Kyle Brady, Playworld Amusements, this Cyclon is just one of four that Ital International delivered for Interpark this year.

Ital International's Carlo Guglielmi said at the end of October that the other coasters went to Reithoffer Shows, Ray Cammack Shows and an amusement park in Mexico.

Reithoffer Shows and Ray Cammack Shows both purchased the Super Cyclon, with the only difference between the two being that the Super Cyclon has three vehicles that can be connected together to make a coaster train as opposed to the one single operating vehicle.

The park in Mexico purchased a single like Playworld Amusements.

The Cyclon stands 32.8 feet (10 meters) tall and has a footprint of 131 feet (39.9 meters) by 50 feet (15.24 meters). It has a track length of 1,100 feet (335 meters).

Guglielmi said he expects to deliver a fifth Cyclon coaster to an entertainment facility in Alabama. This will be another Super Cyclon.

"The structure of the coast-



Interpark has introduced this new Cyclon portable coaster to the park and carnival markets through its U.S. representative Ital International. Here Playworld Amusements operates the Supernova at the State Fair of Texas.

AT/GARY SLADE

er is being built in Romania," Guglielmi said. "So, it has a good price."

Guglielmi's business has been on the upswing over the past couple of years. Along with the coasters, he has sold several new Bertazzon wheels — a 40-meter (131.2 feet) to Casino Pier, New Jersey, and two portable wheels, both 22-meters (71.28 feet), to Strates Shows and Dreamland Amusements. He expects these

to be delivered before the end of this year.

He sold a new Bertazzon Musik Express to Martin's Fantasy Island, Grand Island, N.Y., and the ride was delivered for the 2015 season.

A new Bertazzon carousel swing was delivered to Beech Bend, Park, Bowling Green, Ky.

Guglielmi also told AT that his used ride business has been going very well.

—Pam Sherborne

►TEXAS FAIR Continued from page 25

candy-flavored ale.

Fairgoers got the chance to taste local brews while sitting and relaxing at the picnic tables in this shaded grassy locale. As an added attraction on weekends, Beer Haven featured live music and entertainment.

Other new additions to the fair this year included the Lone Star Horse Spectacular in the Pan Am Arena, the Illumination Sensation, a remastered nightly fireworks show, and a new location and more activities for Big Tex's Farmyard.

A new competition that concluded the fair this year was the Rooster Crowing Contest.

The Big Tex Choice Awards proved again this year that there is no shortage of imagination when it comes to food creations. After tasting all eight foods and carefully evaluating each item, the all-star panel of judges made its tallies and cast its final votes. Winners are: Best Tasting went to Christi Erpillo for Fernie's Holy Moly Carrot Cake Roly, while Isaac Rouso took the title of Most Creative for his Smoky Bacon Margarita.

Helping to announce the Big Tex Choice Award winners was the new State Fair of Texas mascot. Named Little Big Tex after the iconic figure that has greeted fairgoers to

the grounds since 1952, the mascot was donned in complete cowboy gear.

Other new foods included East Texas Sausage and Pepper Jack Cheese on a Stick, Coco Rita, Deep Fried Cheeseburger Basket, Deep Fried Tailgate Party, Fried Flan Cake, Fried Kettle Corn, Funnel Dunker Shake, Milk Chocolate Bacon on a Stick, Pumpkin Spice Donut Chip, Pulled Pork Mash and S'more Beer.

Among a variety of discounts offered to fairgoers this year, a new daily discount program aimed at food fanatics was added this year. Called Thrifty Thursdays, participating food vendors offered one of their signature menu items at a reduced price, ranging from mini versions to regular-size items. Perfect for fairgoers wanting just a tiny taste rather than a full-size meal, or families looking for new ways to save while still getting to enjoy their fair food favorites.


Featured items included fair classics like corny dogs and funnel cakes, plus many more.

Grounds entertainment included returning acts like Ronald McDonald and Buford Buzzard joining new additions such as an interactive magic show and a comical cowboy puppet, along with games, crafts and face painting.


There were over 85 free musical concerts this year.

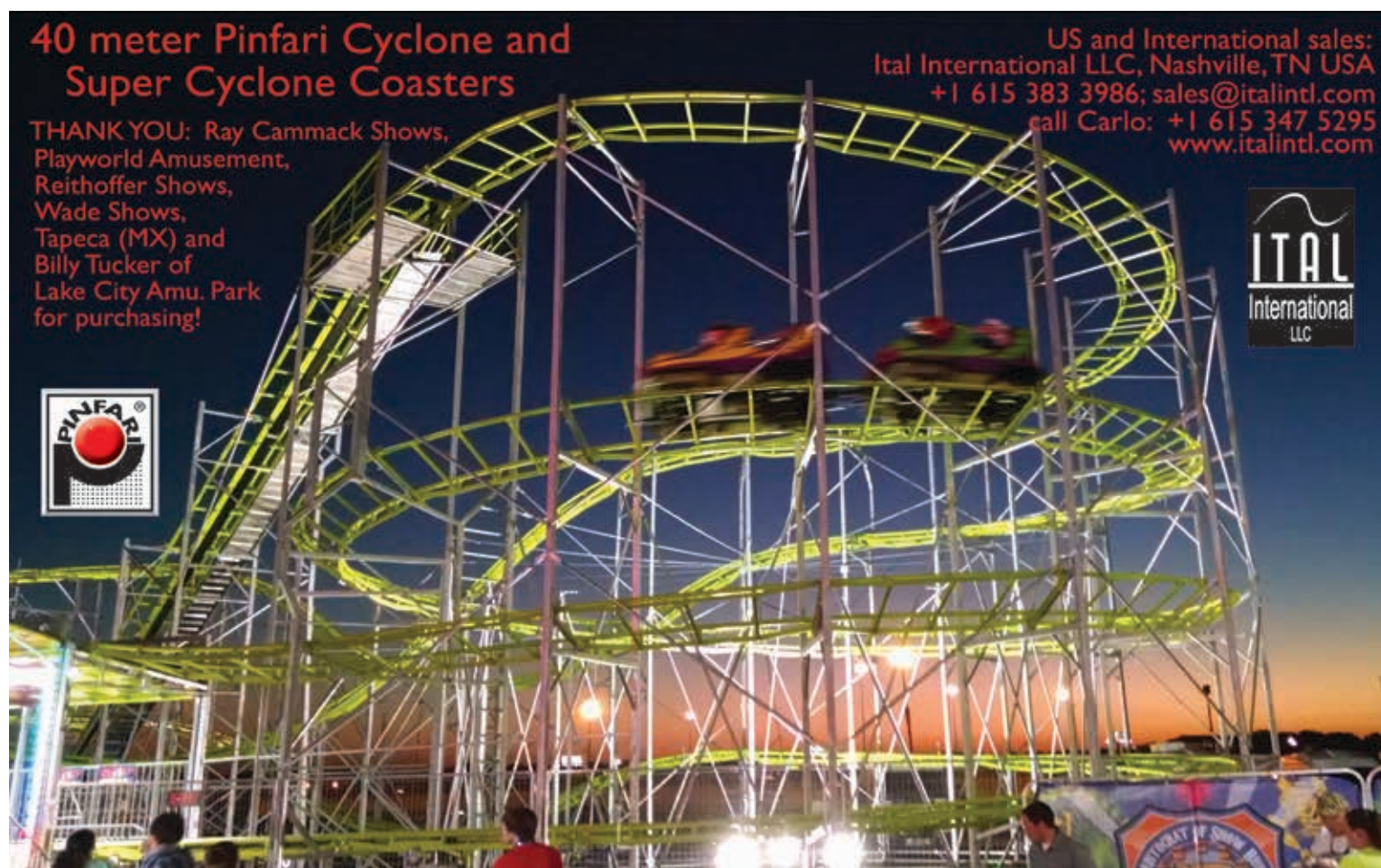
40 meter Pinfari Cyclone and Super Cyclone Coasters

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This year's North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh, which ran Oct. 15-25, drew a total of 1,019,735 visitors to the grounds, the second highest attendance in the fair's history. It's massive 96 ride midway was provided by Powers Great American Midways.
COURTESY NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR

Attendance strong at fall state fairs

AT: Pam Sherborne
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Attendance to fall fairs this year seemed to show fairgoers still enjoy supporting their local state fairs.

While some of the country's fall fairs are setting attendance records, those that aren't are almost.

The following are more fair wraps from the 2015 season.

North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh, October 15-25

Even though the North Carolina State Fair didn't beat its top attendance figure set in 2010, the 1,019,735 fairgoers that visited the event this year was no small thing.

In fact, what was small was the difference between this year's attendance and the 1,091,887 visitors in 2010 — 72,152.

"In the last fiscal year, 2014-2015, the fairgrounds brought in around \$16 million in revenue and a good chunk of that was the result of the 11-day fair," according to fair spokesman Brian Long who was quoted in a local newspaper.

Long said that the rental of fairgrounds facilities, such as the new Tobacco Pavilion, that was built using money from last year's fair, makes up the rest of the revenue.

Powers Great American Midways had 96 rides on the massive midway. New rides included the Music Express (Quasar), manufactured by A.R.M., the Super Cylon, manufactured by Interpark; and the Mighty Mouse Spinning Coaster, by Zamperla, among others.

The 2016 dates are October

FAIR ROUNDUP

13-23.

South Carolina State Fair, Columbia, October 14-25

The 2015 South Carolina State Fair finished the year "SC Strong." The fair welcomed 429,947 visitors, including record setting numbers on the first Sunday, Oct. 18, and second Thursday, Oct. 22. The latter, Oct. 22, was designated as #SCStrong Day to recognize first responders and community volunteers and leaders that assisted those in need during Columbia's floods in September.

"We faced new challenges preparing for the fair in wake of the tragic flooding," said General Manager Gary Goodman. "However, we felt it was our duty to the community to open and provide the rides, entertainment, and foods so many look forward to all year long."

Stephanie Owens, director of marketing and communications, said luckily the fairgrounds suffered minimal damage from the floods.

"So we were able to open all of the grounds and buildings by opening day on the 14th," Owens said. "However, we did order large quantities of bottled water for our vendors due to the boil water alert. Luckily, the alert was canceled on opening day so we were able to donate the water to a local charity."

North American Midway Entertainment provided the midway with over 70 rides including the new Blitz roller coaster, manufactured by Pinfari.

"We're very pleased with the wonderful turnout," Goodman said. "Although we faced difficulties such as an incident that left a teenager injured, we saw more families enjoying the fair together, we saw more diversity, and we welcomed more out-of-town visitors from around the state and beyond."

Next year's dates are October 12-23.

Georgia National Fair, Perry, October 8-18

The 2015 Georgia National Fair shattered attendance records with 501,628 guests, topping the previous record set in 2010 with 465,053 visitors. The total attendance grew 10 percent over 2014, which had been the second highest with 456,023 fairgoers.

Organizers attributed the increase to a combination of weather, planning, and leadership.

"We were blessed with excellent weather conditions for the run of the fair," said Randy Moore, executive director, Georgia Agricultural Exposition Authority. "Good weather usually prompts our patrons to visit and enjoy the event with some coming multiple times throughout the 11 days."

"We also experienced a unique situation with Columbus Day falling during the event," he said. "The combination of the holiday falling on the Fair's Patriotic Day led to a crowd as large as a typical Saturday. A new Monday record was set with 42,361 visitors which was a 10 percent increase in the previous record from 2010."

The fair also offers free musi-

► See FAIRS, page 29

► FAIRS

Continued from page 28

cal entertainment.

Reithoffer Shows provided about 65 rides for the midway, including a new ride, the Cyclon roller coaster manufactured by Interpark. The ride's temporary name at the fair was the Galaxy.

The 27th Annual Georgia National Fair is scheduled for October 6-16.

Arkansas State Fair, Little Rock, Sept. 25-Oct. 3

Arkansas State Fair patrons enjoyed the best 10-day stretch of weather since 2010, so it was no surprise to fair officials that the event broke the all-time attendance record set five years ago.

The fair drew a total attendance this year of 473,106. The previous best attendance for the Arkansas State Fair was 472,194, which means this year's fair bested the 2010 total by 912 patrons.

General Manager Ralph Shoptaw and fair officials were enthusiastic about the fair's new record.

"What a great 10 days we had," Shoptaw said. "We were hoping to set a new attendance record and we got it done. In addition to the gate, though, we set new records for food vendor sales and the carnival."

Deggeller Attractions provided the midway with approximately 70 rides. Earlier this year the carnival and the fair announced the signing of a multi-year contract extension. The Arkansas State Fair is the furthest west Deggeller Attractions travels.

Big Fresno (Calif.) Fair, October 7-18

Attendance during the 12 days of the 2015 Big Fresno Fair was 608,269 people, a 5.3 percent increase from the annual attendance the last time the fair was 12 days, which was in 2012.

This was the first time in the fair's history that it broke 600,000 people when it was a 12-day event. In turn, the big crowds were the reason concessions were also up by 8 percent over last year comparing 12 days to 12 days.

The community's love of live horse racing was evident in this year's racing numbers, which increased from \$13.1 million in 2014 to nearly \$13.8 million this year in on-track handle (amount of money wagered) during the nine days of live horse racing.

"Our team worked incredibly hard to put on the best fair possible this year, bringing in a variety of new attractions and creating meaningful discount opportunities that not only provid-

FAIR ROUNDUP

ed savings, but gave back to our community," said John C. Alkire, CEO of The Big Fresno Fair.

Butler Amusements provided more than 50 rides this year including such rides as Chance Century Wheel, Super Shot Drop Tower manufactured by Larson International and A.R.M., Spin Out by KMG and the Eagle 16 by Eli Bridge.

New attractions this year included Egypt's Wild Side, Pollywood Bird Show, Wild West Tur-

key Stampede and the BMX Pro Bike Show and the new Fresno County Historical Museum, the latter which was a huge hit.

The fair will return October 5-16, 2016.

The South Carolina State Fair, Columbia, Oct. 14-25, drew 429,947 visitors this year and set two single day attendance records. North American Midway Entertainment provided a 70 ride midway.
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Bloomsburg Fair endures numerous wet days, down 14 percent

AT: B. Derek Shaw
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BLOOMSBURG, Pa. — Mother Nature attended the Bloomsburg Fair this year and not just once. Drenching rain and below average temperatures hampered three days of the nine day event, making final attendance total 61,851 attendees less than last year. This year the fair reported 364,037 versus 425,888 in 2014. "We lost 70,000 the last two days which are always good days" (due to the adverse weather), said Fair President Paul Reichart. The highest attended day this year was Saturday, September 26 with 67,158 fairgoers on the grounds.

The rainy weather equaled nearly \$400,000 in lost revenue throughout the fairgrounds. "The debt will be paid off," said Reichart. "We're solid." Rentals throughout the year will offset the \$1.4 million of the original debt.

"Overall the fair went very smoothly this year. No problems whatsoever," Reichart said.

Grandstand entertainment for the 160th edition of the fair was highlighted by: ZZ Top, Randy Houser, Chase Rice, Forte and Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles.

New this year was a technol-



ogy center that covered 30 percent of the floor space inside the Farm Museum. This was done to be reticent of this important facet in everyone's lives these days.

The entrance area to the Horticultural building was enhanced with the addition of six Allan Herschel carousel horses on loan from Knoebels Amusement Resort. They were an integral part of a carousel decorated with flowers, plants and ribbon surrounded by a decorative landscaped low brick wall. Knoebels sent a team of 12 from the park that spent 500 man-hours, to create an eye catching work of art.

Some of the highlights from the nine day fair included ZZ Top in concert, filling over 5,000 seats and Forte (Season 8 finalists of "America's Got Talent") a multicultural vocal force. Also, the return

of the fireworks on Wednesday evening was a welcome reunion by attendees. Fireworks last appeared over ten years ago. "I hope that they will again become a regular feature," Reichart said.

There were nearly 40 new vendors (food, craft and commercial exhibits) this year. Some of the unique foods included Caribbean style noodles, kolachy cookies (Polish/Slovak pastry with a dollop of fruit), snowboards, Kombucha Tea, handcrafted Himalayan textiles and even monuments (tombstones). Interestingly there were at least a half dozen hot tub dealers, most with sizeable displays.

Reithoffer Shows, Inc of Gibsonton, Fla. was again the ride midway operator. They brought 50 rides (20 of which were on the separate kiddie midway). When AT asked why no roller coasters were in the lineup, Rick Reithoffer, owner replied, "The footprint eats up too much," referring to the overall space the operator has to work in. He then quickly said, "With Knoebels down the street with wooden coasters, we can't compete."

Reithoffer proudly talked about his 100 car sky ride that was put up as a permanent attraction



Above, a portion of the Reithoffer Shows main midway. A kiddie midway was situated elsewhere on the fairgrounds. Below, Knoebels Amusement Resort loaned the Bloomsburg Fair six carousel horses and provided 500 man hours with a dozen park staff to create this nine day carousel inside the main entrance of the Horticultural building.

COURTESY BLOOMSBURG FAIR



four years ago. "It is the longest people mover of any U.S. fair. It has become an icon at the Bloomsburg Fair — the best thing they ever did."

The company founded in Duryea, Pa., in 1896, and has been playing Bloomsburg for over 50 years, is now being partially run by a younger set of Reithoffer's. Ricky has been on the road for more than four years and younger son Matthew for two years. "They are the heir apparent of the blue unit. The fifth generation is well at hand." (Pat Reithoffer, Jr. heads up the orange unit.)

The blue unit, prior to the Bloomsburg spot, played the New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque. This was their first time there. "We had 11 great days," said Reithoffer. The new ride they debuted was a Pinfari Super Galaxy, with a space requirement of only 150 feet by 60 feet. Twin cars make up each train

of eight passengers, requiring a heavier track. When in transit, the cars are in the station with two sets of stairs and roof top compressed into the same trailer, requiring fewer trailers to transport the ride.

The blue unit of the show also took delivery on a Wisdom Music Express and a Zamperla Kiddie Sky Ride. Both were in the New Mexico lineup.

Reithoffer said there were many in the industry (naysayers as he referred to them) who thought he couldn't easily make the cross country jaunt to Bloomsburg in time. "The day before opening every ride was up and inspected," he proudly stated.

This year the town of Bloomsburg began enforcing their 1990 Amusement Tax Ordinance on midway games. The taxation had many vendors very concerned. "Vendors definitely were upset. The vendors are really on the honor system," said Reichart. He continued, "The Bloomsburg Fair sent a letter of protest a week before the fair. At least we are on record."

AT asked Reichart what makes the Bloomsburg Fair unique. He said: "The food, the animals, clean grounds, free entertainment. We try to get outstanding grandstand entertainment. And what keeps people coming back to the Bloomsburg Fair? "People love the Bloomsburg Fair. Vendors love the Bloomsburg Fair. It's like a reunion, with food as the biggest item."

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Populous recently conducted a groundbreaking for the Williamson County Expo Center (above right) in Taylor, Texas. On hand (above) for the groundbreaking, l to r, are: County Commissioner Ron Morrison; Parks & Recreation Director Randy Bell; General Manager Clint Chitsey; County Judge Dan Gattis, who is the former General Manager of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo and also Past President & Past Chairman of the International Association of Fairs & Expositions (IAFE); AIA, ASLA, Senior Architect/Senior Principal of Populous, Charlie Smith and and Populous Project Manager, Bill Bourne.

COURTESY POPULOUS

Williamson Co. Expo Center groundbreaking recently held

TAYLOR, Texas — Populous, fairgrounds master planners and architects, recently participated in the groundbreaking of the Williamson County Expo Center in Taylor, Texas.

The new Expo Center development will include enhancements to the existing arena, numerous site improvements, a new expo facility, and a concessions building. The main focus of the project will be the new 48,000-plus square foot Expo Center. The building is a combination of approximately 24,000 square feet of covered expo facilities and 23,000 square foot enclosed arena. The spaces will be a combination of a food preparation area, administrative offices, a large group gathering space, and exterior show spaces.



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► **Herschell Carousel Factory Museum celebrates 100 years — Page 36 / CLASSIFIEDS — Page 43**

Dollywood's DreamMore Resort completing first season

AT: Scott Rutherford

srutherford@amusementtoday.com

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. — Herschend Family Entertainment and partner Dollywood Parton (The Dollywood Company) are rapidly transforming their burgeoning Pigeon Forge properties into a one-of-a-kind Smoky Mountain retreat. It began in 1986 with Silver Dollar City Tennessee being rebranded Dollywood with Parton onboard as co-owner and spokesperson. Success followed with the park continually evolving and enlarging. By 2014, the property included Dollywood's Splash Country water park, Dollywood's Dixie Stampede dinner attraction along with Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Cabins.

But it was in 2015 that one of the most impressive attributes premiered — the DreamMore Resort. Inspired by Dolly Parton's beloved childhood memories of growing up in the Great Smoky Mountains, this is a project that has long been a dream for the entertainer. The instant guests step onto the property, they are met with a welcoming down-home vibe infused with genuine hospitality. This sets the tone for their stay.

Surrounded by the beauty of nature, Dollywood's DreamMore Resort encourages guests to trade in the distractions of daily life to share stories, celebrate memories and create new ones. Resort guests receive exclusive park privileges including door-to-door shuttle service to the Dollywood parks.

Dollywood's DreamMore Resort is the second major capital investment in a 10-



year plan that includes more than \$300 million in future developments for The Dollywood Company.

The DreamMore Resort sits on 60 acres of wooded real estate a short distance from the entrance to Dollywood. It was designed by Fugleberg Koch of Winter Park, Florida, with interiors by Atlanta-based Foda Design. General contractor for the project was D&S Builders of Sevierville, Tenn. while Gemstone Hotels and Resorts is managing the property.

Offering 307 rooms with a wide variety of family-friendly layouts spread across six floors, DreamMore Resort's premium amenities include indoor and outdoor pools, landscaped gardens, and a sit-down restaurant, salon and spa. In addition to fire pits for cool evenings, wide porches with plenty of rocking chairs invite guests to sit and relax while they take in stunning views of the surrounding mountains. Sprinkled about the property are subtle as well as grand touches that reflect Dolly Parton's influence and unique character. Some of these include the Album Corridor where her 69 album covers showcasing her iconic career are displayed as well as the use of butterflies in many aspects of the decor.

Just as autumn was winding down, AT spoke with Kevin Osborn, general manager, Dollywood's DreamMore Resort, about how

guests were reacting to the resort's inaugural season. "Dollywood's DreamMore Resort is going well. The month of October featured nearly 100 percent occupancy most of the month with couples and families enjoying all we have to offer in the beauty of the Smokies. In total, through our first 90 days, we are ahead of where we thought we would be in regard to occupancy and are very pleased with our average room rate.

"We have an incredible restaurant called Song & Hearth that features southern cuisine with a flair. We are receiving rave reviews about the entire menu but especially our breakfast buffet and signature items like our fried chicken and bacon wrapped meatloaf.

"Dolly had a very clear vision what she wanted in the resort experience. The look is southern chic, but the feeling is home. She wanted a spa to be a part of the experience for ladies and for moms and daughters. It features products from Farm House Fresh that are really tailored to our spa program," added Osborn.

Dolly Parton is understandably extremely proud of her latest accomplishment. "Seeing DreamMore Resort open really is a dream come true for me," she said. "It brings me back to when my whole family would get together on the front porch catching up and swapping stories. I want families to spend the day experiencing the fun of our parks, then come to this beautiful resort to spend time together making even more family memories."



Dollywood's DreamMore Resort (top) opened to the public on June 27, 2015. The 307-room (above) property sits on 60 acres of wooded real estate a short distance from Dollywood. Premium guests amenities include indoor and outdoor pools, landscaped gardens, a sit-down restaurant, salon and spa, along with door-to-door shuttles from the hotel to the Dollywood parks. The Album Corridor (below) features 69 album covers. COURTESY THE DOLLYWOOD COMPANY



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When completed, SkyRise Miami will offer breathtaking views (top) and several thrill attractions, like this Flying Theater, above. At bottom, an artist's rendering of the SkyRise Miami tower. COURTESY SKYRISE MIAMI

SkyRise Miami tower construction underway

AT: Scott Rutherford
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

MIAMI, Fla. — As the largest city in southeastern Florida, Miami is primarily known for its pristine beaches and subtropical climate. It's a mecca for tourism and as a result features a number of attractions geared

for the annual influx of visitors. Among the most prominent diversions are the Seaquarium, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens and Zoo Miami. One enterprising Florida developer, however, is planning something that will be at the top of Miami visitors' must-do lists — SkyRise Miami.

An entertainment and observation tower like no other, SkyRise Miami is the vision of real estate developer Jeff Berkowitz. His aim is to create a truly global icon for the city of Miami, a revolutionary structure that will be instantly recognizable and capture the energy of this southern city. Unlike other observation towers, SkyRise Miami is asymmetrical. It is decidedly directional, facing the Caribbean and South America. According to Berkowitz, it will welcome visitors from the South into North America and will be Miami's abstract version of the Statue of Liberty.

The project has the support of state and community lead-

The **TTIA Heritage Award** recognizes and honors outstanding businesses and organizations that have enriched the heritage of and made a lasting, positive imprint on the Texas travel industry by demonstrating a history of exceptional achievement, exemplary business practices, innovative corporate culture, and/or a commitment of excellence to their customers and their community. The **Texas Travel Industry Association** selected **SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment** as this year's recipient due to an extraordinary commitment to animal care, conservation, rescue and research that has advanced the well-being of animals in the parks as well as in the wild. SeaWorld offers educational programs that allow visitors to learn about these animals and get up close and personal with them. They have inspired generations of children to be better stewards of our world.

accesso recently completed the successful deployment of the accesso Passport ticketing suite at the **One World Observatory**, the observation deck at the top of **One World Trade Center** in New York City. The deployment is part of the technology firm's three-year agreement with **Legends Hospitality**, who operates the venue. The three-story Observatory opened in late May and occupies floors 100-102 at One World Trade Center, providing visitors with unique, panoramic views of the city, its most iconic sites, and surrounding waters from above 1,250 feet. A customized guest experience complements the seemingly endless views — which evoke feelings of the city's signature pride, hope and determination — and includes exhibits and dining options, including a sit-down restaurant.

Members of the **Darkride and Funhouse Enthusiasts**, a.k.a. DAFE, received a Halloween trick on the cover of their fall magazine in the form of the announcement of the "death" of the organization. Now, the board offers the treat: a newly-branded organization, magazine, and host of member opportunities for its sixteenth year in support of the amusement industry. Now formally called the **Dark Attraction and Funhouse Enthusiasts** (still DAFE), the group acknowledges the growing base of membership that includes fans and professionals who support seasonal haunted attractions, 4-D shows and simulators, other walkthrough experiences, and the growing list of hybrid dark attractions that do not fall under the traditional definitions of dark ride and funhouse.

Cirque Magique dinner theatre in Orlando, Fla., opened July 2015 with performers from the United States, Bulgaria, Russia and from other countries around the world. Featured acts are clowns, contortion, juggling, magic, plate spinning, rolla bolla and more, along with upscale dinner for the entire family all included in the price of admission. Patrons are up close to the performers, at the tiered 250 seats **Treasure Tavern Theatre**. Show performers are also guest servers, ushers, prop personnel and more. Cirque Magique is

located at **Pirates Town Dinner Theatre Complex**, one block off the world famous International Drive and within a 15 minute drive to area attractions.

Universal Studios Hollywood is inviting global visitors to preview a newly-launched interactive website and experience (www.universalstudioshollywood.com/harrypotter) that offers a virtual tour of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter opening in spring 2016. With just one click, the new land comes to life, transforming computer screens and smart phones around the globe into a virtual tour. Stylistically designed to be authentic to the tone and feel of the *Harry Potter* films, the website invites guests to virtually sample the land's many shops, establishments and attractions through an artfully recreated parchment map.

Australia's **Dreamworld** has revealed that its 2001-built **Arrow Dynamics** Cyclone roller coaster will be re-themed to **Hot Wheels** when the park's new motorsports precinct opens in January. Soon to be known as the Hot Wheels Hot Lap roller coaster, the Cyclone will receive various upgrades to its queue line and station theming, as well as trains with racing-style harnesses and dummy steering wheels. Opening alongside the Hot Wheels coaster will be an Australian motorsports museum featuring 30 authentic and replica **Peter Brock** vehicles.

Joyland Amusement Park in Wichita, Kansas and most of its rides are gone, but former **Chance Rides** employee **Marlene Irvin** is working to see that the park's carousel will be returned to service. Joyland owner **Margaret Nelson Spear** donated the carousel as a gift last year to **Botanica, The Wichita Gardens**. Irvin's **Custom Carving & Restoration** has finished eight of the 36 horses so far, and five of them are on display in Botanica's lobby. Botanica has raised \$500,000 for the project but still needs an estimated \$1 million for a building that will make it a year-round attraction behind the farm area of the **Downing Children's Garden**. The **Allan Herschell Company** built the carousel in 1949. It operated at Joyland until the park closed in 2006. Following its restoration, the carousel should reopen in late 2017 or early 2018.

Chef **Rick Bayless**, a six-time **James Beard Foundation** winner, is bringing **Frontera Fresco**, his table-service Mexican restaurant concept, to **Disney Springs** in Summer 2016. Frontera Fresco will showcase the gourmet Mexican cuisine that has made Chef Bayless a culinary legend. The new restaurant will feature authentic Mexican specialties such as hand-crafted tortas, tacos, salads, fresh-made guacamole and classic Mexican braised meat entrees, all prepared from time-honored recipes with natural, locally sourced ingredients. Frontera Fresco also will serve an extensive selection of margaritas, cocktails and craft beers and wine. Philadelphia-based **Daroff Design** is designing the 6,000-square-foot space, which will seat 200 guests. **Vista Springs LLC** will serve as the restaurant operator.

► See SKYRISE, page 35



►SKYRISE

Continued from page 34

ers. "SkyRise Miami has the potential to enhance Miami-Dade County's profile as a top destination for entertainment and leisure for both domestic and international visitors," said Debbie Wasserman Schultz, member of Congress.

"Like the Eiffel Tower and the St. Louis Gateway Arch, SkyRise Miami will be a strong, recognizable symbol and another element to solidify Greater Miami's leadership position among the top global destinations," added Barry Johnson, president & CEO, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. "And, it's so Miami."

The Tower

Physically, the tower is being built on the shore of Biscayne Bay adjacent to Bayside Marketplace. It will stand 1,000 feet tall and be fashioned of steel and glass with a paper-clip-like profile. Built upon 130 pilings driven 150 into the ground, it will be able to withstand wind speeds up to 186 mph.

Unlike other observation towers, SkyRise Miami will be more than a viewing deck. It has content. A cluster of functional levels at its top contain multiple entertainment opportunities. It emphasizes current thinking that architecture is not only about form, but also about content.

Nearly 1,000 feet above the ground, the passive tourist will enjoy incomparable views and entertainment in the form of SkyRise Club (exclusive private club); SkyRise Restaurant (fine dining); SkyRise Nightclub (bar and dancing); and SkyRise Ballroom (venue of elegant events).

There's also plenty to keep the true thrillseeker more than satisfied at SkyRise Miami. The more prominent adventures will include:

•**SkyRise Drop:** The world's tallest freefall drop tower ride. To be supplied by Intamin, SkyRise Drop will feature a 12-seat gondola that plummets 650 toward the ground at 95 mph before magnetic brakes bring riders to a smooth stop near the base of the tower.

•**Sky Plunge:** Controlled base-jumping using a sophisticated bungee-like safety system where jumpers are attached to a high-speed controlled-descent wire. Sky Plunge originated in Auckland, New Zea-

land's highest jump and only base jump by wire. Daredevils will plummet hundreds of feet through the interior of the tower at nearly 55 mph.

•**SkyRise Flying Theater:** Using the same technology as Soarin' at Walt Disney World's Epcot and at Disneyland, which is supplied by Canada's Dynamic Attractions, this motion-based simulator that handles 72 riders per six-minute show. Once the floor drops away, riders are suspended with legs dangling. After rising over 40 feet in the air, they then embark

on a hang-glider tour of South Florida with high-quality images projected onto an 80-foot domed screen. Special effects include a soundtrack, wind, noises and smells that match the surroundings.

AT spoke with Dennis Speigel of International Theme Park Services, Inc. (ITPS), whose company is a major player in the SkyRise Miami endeavor. "SkyRise Miami is one of the most exciting projects with which ITPS has ever associated. We've been involved with it for about four

years now. ITPS will be a major presence in the management of the tower as well as the amusements, ticketing and so forth. It is state-of-the-art as it relates to high rise attractions. It will have exhilarating participatory rides and shows. It will have restaurants, observation levels, and party/event areas for people to rent. It will also feature wonderful art and rotating shows. All in all, there's nothing like it in the southeastern United States. Miami is a great, exploding city catering to millions of tourists with virtually

no major tourist attractions."

"Jeff Berkowitz is a great guy and a true visionary. Once this thing opens, which I expect will probably be in 2019," added Speigel. "It's really going to be something special."

As of press time, construction is already underway on the tower's massive support columns while Jeff Berkowitz and his team are in the process securing the project's final funding. If all goes as planned, SkyRise Miami should welcome its first visitors within three to four years.



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Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum celebrates 100 years of the company

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

NORTH TONAWANDA, N.Y. — Industry-minded folk who have a passion for history can engage in the celebration of one of the early key players in the manufacturing of amusement rides. The Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum is operated by the Carousel Society of the Niagara Frontier. Located a mere 10 miles from the famous Niagara Falls, the facility is a premier national historic site that fosters an appreciation for the unique heritage of the carousel and related industries in the Niagara Region. In 1915, Allan Herschell purchased the building, and today — 100 years later — the Carrousel Factory Museum celebrates that 100th anniversary.

The Allan Herschell Company formed in 1915. Astonishingly, it was not the first to manufacture carousels in the community, but the fourth. Allan Herschell had previously been a partner in the earliest of the area's carousel firms: the Armitage Herschell Company, in 1873, and later with the Herschell-Spillman Company in 1901. In time, the Allan Herschell Company and Spillman Engineering Company split and the co-founders became competitors. Soon afterward, the Allan Herschell Company started specializing in producing portable carousels utilized by operators on the traveling circuit. In its history, the company produced over 3,000 hand carved wooden carousels, outproducing all of its rivals. The building at 180 Thompson Street in North Tonawanda had to be enlarged over the years to accommodate the successful demands placed upon the business. It contained a carving shop that enabled 50 to 75 carvers to perform their craft, as well as workers dealing with upholstery, woodworking, paint and more. A roundhouse was on property and all outgoing carousels were assembled and tested before being shipped off to awaiting customers. The very first ride was shipped from this site in 1916. Today, the complex of seven interconnected structures is listed on both



Above, the comparison to how the condition of the historic building was when discovered to how it stands in 2015. COURTESY ALLAN HERSCHELL MUSEUM



the New York State and National Registers of Historic Sites.

Other rides were created, expanding the company's repertoire. Children's rides, flat rides and junior coasters all were added to the production line. A specified assortment became known as a Kiddieland, and the children's rides would be placed inside the Little Dipper roller coaster which encircled the ride package.

For decades, the company resided in North Tonawanda until the late 1950s, when it moved to Buffalo. It conducted business there until the early 1970s until it was sold and acquired by Chance Manufacturing, a rival and prolific ride manufacturer who still operates today out of Wichita, Kansas.

Rae Proefrock, director of the museum, explains how the opening of the property unexpectedly

landed in her lap. She was one of the founding trustees in 1979. "In the beginning, it was a concept," said Proefrock, "and the museum opened in 1983. There was an arts council director that put an article in the newspaper, asking if anyone wanted to help bring a carousel back to North Tonawanda. My husband and I wanted to do that, so we went to the first meeting." Chuckling, she added, "Not too long after, that director left town; we were kind of left on our own. But, we just kept pursuing it. We thought it needed to be done."

Following that, the committee discovered the original building was still there, but somewhat buried and the current owner had filled it top to bottom with storage of junk. The grandson of Allen Herschell was part of the original committee and went through the facility with the founders. The roundhouse, however, was empty and the committee



was given permission to use it if they could find a carousel. They raised the money and eventually did move in a carousel, opening in 1983. Ironically, the roof collapsed under three feet of snow the following year. Always persistent, the preservationists repaired the building to a solid state and had to only

► See HERSCHELL, page 37

►HERSCHELL

Continued from page 36

make repairs to one sweep. It took two years to empty the main building after they purchased it. "We said 'What are we ever going to do with all this space?'" smiled Proefrock. "And now it is filled to the brim with exhibits and activities."

The Allan Herschell Carousel Factory Museum has been blessed with many volunteers, donors, foundation and public grant support. "We have been able to totally restore the entire building," stated Proefrock. "It's in really good shape."

Museum exhibits include carving demonstrations, painted carousels through time and Wurlitzer music roll production. All visits end with a ride on the 1916 No. 1 carousel, or if more appropriate, the Kiddie Carousel in the Children's Gallery.

In May of this year, the facility opened Kiddieland Testing Park. Located just outside the doors of the Carousel Factory Museum, the grassy parklike area features four kiddie rides

FAST FACTS

Herschell Carousel Factory Museum
180 Thompson St.
North Tonawanda,
New York 14120
(716) 693-1885
carrouselmuseum.org

• Admission

\$6 adults; \$5 seniors;
\$3 children ages 2 – 16
Admission includes one
ride token; additional
tokens are 50 cents.

• Hours

Spring:
Wed.-Sun. 12-4 p.m.
Summer:
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday 12-4 p.m.
Fall:
Wed.-Sun. 12-4 p.m. *Kiddieland open only on weekends*
Winter:
Closed January to March
Available for private parties, group tours or special events

that have been lovingly refurbished and look as good as new. The rides date back to the post-war baby boom era, the oldest from 1946. In

the lineup are a helicopter ride, miniature cars, floating boats and a horse and pony cart. A picnic pavilion has been erected as well.

"We have Canal Fest here every year, and the ride operator at the festival — Corky Powers of Powers Great American Midway — he took the helicopter ride to his shop in North Carolina over the winter, restored the whole thing and delivered it back to us," said Proefrock. "We've had tremendous help throughout the years."

Celebrating the centennial of the company, the Allan Herschell Carousel Factory Museum continues to look forward. They have received a grant to restore a separate neighboring building behind the museum, which was the original office for the Allan Herschell Company. Now used for storage, the restored facility will be a new education center and meeting space, such as for corporate lunches. Attendance at the site is about 15,000 per year. "We'd like to double that," Proefrock said, "but we'll get there."



Above, new for 2015 was the addition of beautifully restored Kiddieland rides outside the museum, including this Helicopter ride. Below, the Herschell Carousel Factory Museum also displays other rides made by the company, such as the Little Dipper roller coaster. AT/TIM BALDWIN



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MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 10/30/15	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	33.06	43.58	28.01
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	414.80	473.30	345.50
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	56.00	60.64	44.91
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	62.62	64.99	50.01
	CMCSK	NASDAQ	62.71	64.69	51.26
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	113.74	122.08	88.65
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1153.00	1318.00	1021.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	2255HK	SEHK	1.63	2.13	1.07
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	10.75	12.90	8.22
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	23.19	24.41	16.84
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	19.93	22.68	15.11
Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town Co., Ltd. (OCT)	000069	SZSE	8.17	14.78	5.43
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	52.04	53	38.88
Skyocean International	00593HK	SEHK	10.50	12.46	5.71
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	3320.00	4000.00	2990.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	7.53	7.68	5.08

STOCK PRICES ABOVE ARE GENERALLY QUOTED IN THE FOREIGN CURRENCY IN WHICH THE COMPANY IS LOCATED

Worldwide Markets: **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock Exchange; **TSEC**, Taiwan Stock Exchange, Corp.; **TYO/TSE**, Tokyo Stock Exchange —SOURCES: Bloomberg.com; Wall Street Journal

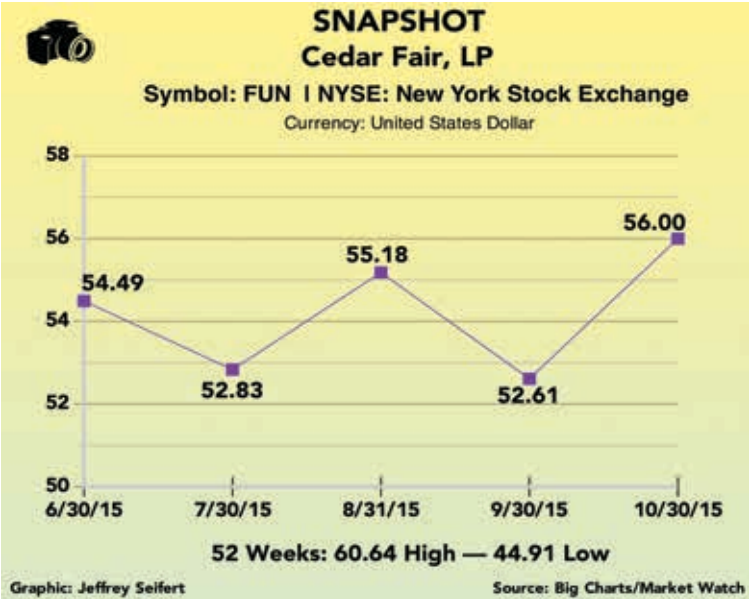
DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 11/02/15	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.492	- \$1.105
Midwest	\$2.516	- \$1.108
Gulf Coast	\$2.290	- \$1.242
Mountain	\$2.497	- \$1.216
West Coast	\$2.549	- \$1.155
California	\$2.817	- \$1.044

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0.9885	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3930	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3095	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

Cedar Fair releases Third Quarter earnings

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Cedar Fair (NYSE: FUN), reported on Nov. 5, 2015 record results for its third quarter ended September 27, 2015 and announced a 10 percent increase in its quarterly cash distribution.

Cedar Fair reported record net revenues of \$645 million in the third quarter. The 8 percent increase over last year's third-quarter results reflects the company's continued success in increasing attendance and average in-park guest per capita spending across all major categories. Net revenues through November 1, 2015, were up 7 percent, driven by a 5 percent increase in attendance, a 2 percent increase in average in-park guest per capita spending and a 10 percent increase in out-of-park revenues, including resort accommodations.

Cedar Fair's board of directors declared a 10 percent increase in the company's quarterly cash distribution to \$0.825 per limited partner (LP) unit, payable December 15, 2015. —PR Newswire

Six Flags increases annual cash dividend

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** (NYSE: SIX), announced on Nov. 3, 2015 that its board of directors increased the company's annual cash dividend 12 percent by declaring a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.58 per share of common stock payable to shareholders of record as of December 2, 2015. The dividend will be payable to shareholders on December 14, 2015.

TTIA honors given during annual travel summit

•AUSTIN, Texas — In honor of her outstanding contributions to the travel and tourism industry in New Braunfels and Texas, **Terri Adams**, chief operating officer, **Schlitterbahn Waterparks and Resorts**, was presented with the Tall in Texas Award by the **Texas Travel Industry Association** (TTIA). Adams received the award on September 22, 2015 during the association's 30th Annual Texas Travel Summit, held this year in San Antonio, Texas.

"Terri Adams has been a dynamic force on the growth of Schlitterbahn and the travel industry in Texas — from her teenage years when she was one of two ticket takers and lifeguards at a small water resort on the banks of the Comal River to her current role as COO for the Schlitterbahn Corporation," said **David Teel**, TTIA, president & CEO.

TTIA also honored **SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment** with its TTIA Heritage Award. The award recognizes and honors outstanding businesses and organizations that have enriched the heritage of and made a lasting, positive imprint on the Texas travel industry by demonstrating a history of exceptional achievement, exemplary business practices, innovative corporate culture, and/or a commitment of excellence to their customers and their community.

"For more than a quarter century, **SeaWorld San Antonio** has provided a world-class entertainment experience for Texans and visitors to our state. SeaWorld's corporate culture demonstrates the company's commitment to the animals in their care, to their employees, and to those who seek to connect to our natural world through SeaWorld's many programs offered in Texas and beyond," said TTIA's Teel. —Business Wire

In brief...

•ORLANDO, Fla. — On Oct. 23, **NBC Sports** commentators **Bob Costas**, **Cris Collinsworth**, **Hines Ward** and **Michele Tafoya** were joined by top sports figures to celebrate the grand opening of the first-ever **NBC Sports Grill & Brew** at **Universal CityWalk**. After walking the red carpet, the **NBC Sunday Night Football** travel team led attendees in a commemorative toast to mark the official opening of the all-new restaurant. NBC Sports Grill & Brew is located just outside the entrance of Universal Studios Florida.

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Water park safety played up alongside play at WWA Show 2015

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — As in previous years, safety was a key focus — together with fun — at the 2015 edition of the World Waterpark Association (WWA) Annual Symposium & Trade Show.

With park operation / safety and lifeguarding courses and seminars offered throughout WWA's six days in the desert resort beginning Oct. 18, the trade show dominated activities at the Palm Springs Convention Center on Oct. 21 and 22. Products and services geared toward improved safety at parks, aquatic centers and recreational facilities were presented at many booths around the hall.

The **American Red Cross** was on hand to extol its 100 years as the largest private non-profit service provider in the health and safety industry. Also the largest provider of lifeguarding in the U.S., it currently is in the process of writing a new, all-encompassing lifeguard program for release in January 2017.

"We're looking at expanding our Aquatics Examiner Service, which is our undercover audit program for water parks," said Matt Haynes, product manager, aquatics. "It is now moving to a benchmark model so that we can actually audit lifeguards from other disciplines, not necessarily Red Cross."

In its effort to become a "one-stop shop," the organization offers aquatics and dry land training and education in blood-borne pathogens, as well as OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 training. It is continuing to expand its water park industry partnership and client base, gathering statistics that enhance its research and services.

"SeaWorld, Kalahari, LegoLand and Wet 'n' Wild are among our clients, and what we try to do is listen to them," Haynes said. "Our Aquatic Attraction Lifeguard Program came out because our partners at SeaWorld came to us and said, 'We need a program for water three feet

deep and less.' And a year later, we rolled it out. We want to react to what the market needs and be as proactive as possible in response to changing trends, technology and where the market is going in general."

Cushioning the fun

Customization is one way the market is going in both services and products. **Fix Your Park** of Seguin, Texas, which specializes in durable, hand-crafted soft products such as granulated non-slip safety pads, crash pads, floats and log-building toys made from unique cross-woven foam with a chemically bonded surface, offer complete product flexibility.

"We can manufacture any shape you need, and I have an agreement with a lot of my clients that I won't reproduce [a custom item] for anybody else," said James Knoll, who co-owns the company with his wife, Alexandra. "It's a way to help each park establish its own identity,



Alexandra and James Knoll, owners of Seguin, Texas-based Fix Your Park, specializing in soft foam products, pose with daughter / "product tester" Allie and a custom-designed float they created for Strawberry Park in Pasadena, Texas.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA

because when you go into water parks now, the [water toy] frogs and turtles are basically the same."

Clients from coast to coast, including Cedar Fair, SeaWorld, Six Flags and a host of smaller parks and shopping malls, also appreciate Fix Your Park's budget friendliness and customer

service. The company, for example, does not charge an exorbitant additional fee for design work.

"We listen to what clients want and draw everything up for them," said Knoll, adding that his company's top product surface application, a patented

► See **SAFETY**, page 40



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SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

SAFETY

Continued from page 39

yellow-and-black caution tape design, arose from a customer's request to make safety pads more visible. "We're more inclined to help the client out because we enjoy what we do."

Slip-and-fall injuries are a challenge for any aquatic environment. While conventional solutions often involve an abrasively textured coating, Life Floor of Minneapolis, Minn., comfortably accommodates barefoot walking around aquatic areas.

Wielding a static friction coefficient of .92, as well as meeting and exceeding ASTM standards slip resistance, Life Floor products provide significantly greater and more comfortable traction than broomed concrete. The soft, yet firm, tiles can be affixed to concrete, wood, fiberglass, ceramic tiles, plastic and stainless steel.

"It's extremely slip-resistant, and it actually gets more slip-resistant when it gets wet," said Kyle Seeman, director of sales. "Additionally, it's an impact-absorbing product. So if somebody were to fall for whatever reason, ideally it prevents them from getting hurt."

To prove the product's cushioning effectiveness, Seeman and his colleagues were encouraging booth visitors to drop an egg onto a Life Floor



The splash pad at Geiger Lake Memorial Park in Babylon, N.Y., gets primed for an application of Tuff Coat's rubberized coating. The Montrose, Colo.-based manufacturer services various businesses from water parks to cruise lines. COURTESY TUFF COAT, INC.

tile from several feet up. (For the record, *Amusement Today's* egg test resulted in no breakage.)

Life Floor products, which have been manufactured at a plant in southeast Asia, opened its first U.S. manufacturing plant in South Dakota last July. "The benefit of that is that we're going to be able to deliver on much shorter lead times and do much more customizable products," Seeman said. "We'll also add a lot of different colors to our line, and potentially even more patterns."

Although water parks comprise its main customer base, Life Floor services a variety of markets — including fitness centers, hotels and resorts, municipal pools and senior living facilities. Cedar Fair, Great Wolf Resorts, Palace Entertainment and the Walt Disney Company

are among its clients.

Coating for caution

Careful surface preparation is an important part of water park and amusement park safety. Custom, non-abrasive non-slip coatings are the manufacturing specialty of Montrose, Colo.-based Tuff Coat.

"We use rubber granules as the aggregate," said Bill Duffle, company president. "It's different than sand and paint. Sand is like little diamonds; if somebody falls on it, it can potentially cause injuries."

Tuff Coat can be fully immersed and is available in multiple colors and textures. And according to Duffle, it's easy to use.

"This is a do-it-yourself product," he said. "You can apply it with a roller or a spray gun. It's all water-based; there are no solvents in it, and it's EPA-friendly. And being a single-component product — you don't have to mix the A and the B — there's no waste. Everything's in the can."

Duffle noted that Tuff Coat has been used in wave pools, restrooms, locker rooms, schools and recreation centers, among many other kinds of locations where no-slip safety is concerned. "We do a lot of splash pads," he said. "Kids are running on these, and there's no water being retained to any depth, so it's slippery. Several of our current customers have told us we've eliminated their slip-and-fall injuries."

As the actual manufacturer of its product, Tuff Coat sells directly to water parks and amusement parks. Clients include Disney, Knott's Soak City in Buena Park, Calif., Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels, Texas, Six Flags and the Stratosphere Tower in Las Vegas, Nev., as well as major cruise lines.



Kyle Seeman, director of sales, and Brian Howell, national director of water parks, put their best foot forward atop Life Floor's slip-resistant, impact-absorbing, soft-yet-firm tiles. The Minneapolis, Minn.-based company opened its first U.S. manufacturing plant in South Dakota this year. AT/DEAN LAMANNA

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2016 AIMS Safety Seminar: *Deadlines near for seminar registrations, hotel reservations and silent auction donations*

Karen Oertley

AIMS Executive Director
(714) 425-5747
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Oertley

ORLANDO, Fla. — In a few short weeks, more than 300 amusement industry professionals will gather to learn from the industry's leading experts. For some, this will be their first AIMS Safety seminar, others will return to achieve a higher level certification and to earn classroom training CEUs in order to renew existing AIMS Certifications. Everyone will take advantage of the wide array of classes (more than 400 class hours from which to choose!) and interesting topics covered by more than 100 individual instructors. They also will network with their peers and return to work refreshed, renewed, reinvigorated and, most importantly, more knowledgeable about safety issues in their chosen field.

Anyone who is responsible for the care and safety of amusement industry guests should attend this once a year safety education event. AIMS Certifications in Aquatics, Maintenance, Operations, and Ride Inspection are held by approximately 700 in-

dividuals from around the world. Please visit www.aimsintl.org for a complete schedule, list of classes and to register.

WANTED: SILENT AUCTION ITEMS It's not too late!

The AIMS Silent Auction is a highlight of the week during the Safety Seminar.

It gives everyone a chance to bid on all kinds of fun items and helps support AIMS' continuous effort to upgrade the seminar experience with state of the art A/V equipment for classes. Items from previous auctions have included all kinds of amusement industry merchandise such as shirts, bags, hats, etc. Plush and other industry souvenirs to bring home to the kiddos are always in demand. Please contact **Holly Coston** at h.coston@aimsintl.org for information on where to send your items.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Register for the seminar and book your hotel room by **December 31** to avoid extra charges. The \$595 **seminar registration** fee covers all five days of classes and materials, the opening reception, lunch every day, and all morning and afternoon snack

breaks. After December 31, registration increases to \$695. Book your hotel room at the Doubletree by Hilton by December 31st to get the special AIMS rate of \$99 per night.

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

AIMS International is a non-profit organization that relies on the support of our members and the tireless efforts of our board and volunteers. We all share the commitment to educate and promote safety throughout the amusement industry... undeniably a priority for each of us in this wonderful industry.

Please help us in our mission to expand our reach in safety education and certification and promote safety in the industry with a membership in AIMS International. Your company's \$360 annual membership helps further our efforts to promote safety in the amusement industry. Please visit our website for a description of our membership categories and to become a member.

From all of us at AIMS International, Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a SAFE and prosperous New Year!

We look forward to seeing you in Orlando January 10-15, 2016!

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New *Images of Modern America* Sesame Place celebrates 35 years of park's history

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

Sesame Place is a theme park in the truest sense of the definition. This unique place is themed to *Sesame Street*, the long-running children's television series that began in 1969.

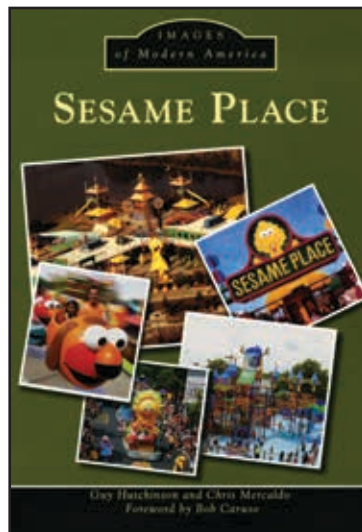
In 1978, Jim Henson, creator of the Muppet characters that populate the show, began talking about a theme park based on the popular TV series. After teaming with Busch Entertainment Corporation, the concept for the park began to take shape.

Creative forces brought in for the project included Eric McMillan, a Canadian designer known for his work on the Children's Village play area at Ontario Place. Milton Glaser, famous for his "I Love New York" (I ♥ NY) Logo, designed the Big Bird logo for the park as well as the Sesame Place typeface, park signage and several other elements used throughout the park.

A suitable location was found in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, midway between Philadelphia and New York City. The official ground-breaking ceremony for the park took place on June 27, 1979 and a year later Sesame Place opened to the public with Big Bird leading the elaborate celebration.

The 35-year history of this unique destination for fun learning and entertainment for children is the subject of *Images of Modern America Sesame Place*.

In keeping with the *Images of America* tradition, the story of this remarkable park is told through a series of photos and captions. Belonging to the Modern-series means that almost all of the photos are in full color. The book features some images that have never



been published and includes rare photos of the short-lived Sesame Place in Irving, Texas, as well as some of the Sesame Place pavilion at Expo '90 in Japan.

Images of Modern America Sesame Place is divided into five chapters and includes the requisite acknowledgements, foreword and introduction. Sesame Place Park President Bob Caruso penned the foreword. The brief introduction focuses on the *Sesame Street* generation and how those who grew up with the show now take their children and perhaps grandchildren to the park.

Chapter one highlights the concept brought to reality between the years 1978 to 1980, with concept drawings and final aerial photos showing how the park looked when it opened.

Chapter two covers the park's humble beginnings from 1980 to 1984 as the unconventional park — more of an exploratorium than theme park, sought to find its direction. The original park was designed to encourage kids to be active and explore, either by themselves or with a parent, the many activities found in-

side the park. Early attractions included net climbs, swimming pools filled with plastic balls (now known as ball-crawls) giant air mattresses to jump on and a cable glide to soar over the ground. A computer gallery allowed visitors to interact with a personal computer and the Sesame food factory sought to encourage healthy eating. Though commonplace nowadays, many of these activities were rare or unheard of in 1980.

As the park entered its fifth year, it focused its expansions on water attractions. The Count's Fount, introduced in the early 1980s featured a shallow pool, climbing nets and play structure. This first-of-its-kind attraction was somewhat of a precursor to the modern-day water play structures that now number in the hundreds if not thousands. The popularity of the Count's Fount showed that water play areas were popular even in a seasonal park.

The expansions from 1982 to 1992 brought another water play area to the park in the form of Little Bird's bird bath. This shallow pool had splashy fountains and one of the first water-umbrellas that kids could play under.

Tube slides such as Rubber Duckie Rapids led to the addition of more traditional water slides such as Slippery Slopes and the Big Slipper. These larger attractions had 42-inch height restrictions and were geared towards families with bigger children and for the adults to have something to play around in.

Ernie's Waterworks, added in 1990, featured a series of pipes, fountains, water wheels and a number of interactive water elements. It was a significant step up from the early Count's Fount and Bird Bath attractions and provided thrilling water interactions. Big Bird's rambling river, a lazy river ride, was added in 1991.

New lands and new experiences are the subject of chapter four and cover the park's continued expansion from 1993 to 2005.

This was an era of significant change for the park as many of the early attractions were finally retired and more dry rides started to appear, including the park's one and



Surging in popularity in the 1990s, a ball pit or ball crawl (above) was relatively new when the park opened in 1980. Designer Eric McMillan came up with the idea. Below, the Count's Fount, named for Count von Count, was an early type of water play structure. COURTESY ARCADIA PUBLISHING



only roller coaster. The new Twiddlebug land increased the area of the park. Shows and a parade offered new experiences for park guests.

Vapor Trail, a custom roller skater-style coaster from Vekoma, features a 56-foot drop and a top speed of 27 mph as it zips along 1,300 feet of track. It is themed to *Sesame Street* character Grover's superhero alter ego, Super Grover.

The final chapter looks at 2006 and beyond. Much like the *Sesame Street* characters, The park continues to grow and evolve. Following the boom in popularity of Elmo, a new land, Elmo's World opened at the park in 2006. Like most of today's theme parks, the season has been expanded into Halloween and in 2011, A Very Furry Christmas debuted. Sesame Place's operating season now extends from the beginning of May to the end of December.

Summer Nights Sparkle, a fireworks show, debuted on Memorial Day 2007 and the tradition has continued with fireworks displays on Memorial and Independence Day.

In 2009 the Count's Fount

and Little Bird's Birdbath were both replaced with The Count's Splash Castle, a modern, multilevel, water play structure with over 90 play elements including a tipping bucket.

As new characters are introduced to the television series, they also find their way to Sesame Place with Abby Cadabby and Murray as some of the newer additions to the park.

Images of Modern America Sesame Place offers a fun look at the unique and wonderful kids playland known as Sesame Place. Authors Guy Hutchinson, a theme park writer and broadcaster, and Chris Mercaldo, a theme park and attraction designer, are two avid Sesame Place fans who grew up visiting the park in different eras. This is Hutchinson's first contribution to the Arcadia series; Mercaldo previously authored *Images of Modern America Adventureland*. The 96-page *Sesame Place* book retails for \$22.99 and is available at local bookstores, online retailers or Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com, (888) 313-2665.



Super Grover's Vapor Trail brought coaster thrills to the park in 1998. COURTESY ARCADIA PUBLISHING



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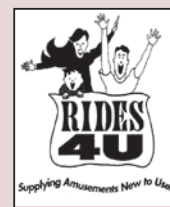
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