

Amusement TODAY

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NEWSPAPER

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NEWSTALK

EDITORIAL: Tim Baldwin, tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Good will and good messages



Baldwin

There is no question that Halloween is one of the most popular seasons when it comes to theme park attendance. Crowds can be huge. But now that the horror and gore are behind us, I find it reaffirming each year to close out the calendar with the sparkle of the holidays and the feelings of good will. Admittedly, in today's world, good will is sorely needed and can go a long way. It is a message well worth holding on to.

In the world of theme parks, letting an attraction have its own storyline has led to many spectacular rides. I have numerous favorites where an attraction delivers a tale so efficiently that, as the rider, I am drawn into the experience even more so.

In the past months, I've noticed a few stories slightly different, ones that contain a good message.

This past summer, SeaWorld San Antonio opened Wave Breaker: The Jet Rescue Coaster. While waiting in line, guests learned of serious threats to specific marine life and how we can be better stewards of the oceans. Simple, but thought-provoking.

Waldameer's new water play structure, Battle for Lake Erie, could have had any theme: pirates, Hawaii, etc. Owner Paul Nelson opted for something better. In order to tell Erie's story, and more pointedly, bring attention to the city's maritime museum and bolster tourism, there was an underlying message of community. It was a move worth applauding.

Silver Dollar City has often incorporated a strong message in its high-profile attractions. Support for law enforcement came with Outlaw Run, as well as praise for volunteer firefighters with Fireman's Landing. Next year, the park will debut Time Traveler, which has its own tagline: "Dream Big, Do Good." The message is conveyed through an inventor to his daughter within the ride's storyline. What a delightful thing a parkgoer might be inspired to do — dream big, but make sure you do good.

A visit to a theme park is a form of escapism, but as new ideas and new themes are conceived, perhaps the idea of adding an inspiring message might be an opportunity to enhance the storyline a little further. It would be wonderful to see.

The staff at *Amusement Today* wishes all its readers the very happiest of holidays and the best possible season in the year ahead.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Dean Lamanna, dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

The enduring dark ride

It wasn't until I reached my late teens that I realized how lucky I was to have spent all my summers through adolescence in Wildwood, N.J. Growing up in that colorful beach town, with its amusement-packed, one-of-a-kind boardwalk, the 1960s-70s was a kid's ultimate fantasy existence.

My reflections on those carefree Wildwood days formed an increasingly wistful mental time capsule as the responsibilities and preoccupations of adulthood settled in. Everything about the place — from all-day dunking in the seasonally Gulf Stream-warmed Atlantic to the pervasive atmosphere of carnival-style fun heavy with the smells of salt air, Coppertone, Mack's Pizza and Marlboro cigarettes — could be described as "immersive." Including, especially, the dark rides, the best of which were located over the beach on Hunt's Pier.

The Golden Nugget Mine Ride (John Allen / Philadelphia Toboggan Co.), the jauntily amusing Keystone Kops and the amusingly haunting Whacky Shack were among the pier's deservedly advertised "super-custom" themed attractions. The Whacky Shack, featuring the work of celebrated dark ride and funhouse designer Bill Tracy (who also contributed to the pier's Jungleland boat ride and Pirate Ship



Lamanna

Skua funhouse), contained marvelously fake scenes and stunts involving skeletons, dismemberment, gobs of cobwebs and even a deadly outhouse.

With the latter-day wizards at Sally Corp. now celebrating 40 years of reinvigorating this attraction genre through the latest interactive technology and popular IPs (e.g., Justice League: Battle for Metropolis), and

other companies contributing fresh ideas, it's as good a time as any to support classic dark ride historical documentation and preservation. Laff in the Dark (laffinthedark.com) and dafa.org have been doing passionate work in this area for nearly two decades. More recently, The Dark Ride Project (darkrideproject.com), following a successful crowdfunding campaign last year, has set out to record vintage dark rides using virtual reality (VR) and cutting-edge filming techniques so that future generations will be able to enjoy them.

There's poetic circularity in the idea of using VR to save dark rides, which originally set out to create 360-degree alternate realities of their own. And the three-dimensional sights both new and old-fashioned media offer certainly become sweeter in memory — our natural repository of immersive experiences — the moment we return to honest-to-goodness daylight.



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2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow



Dorney Park's Michael Fehnel enjoys hopping on his park's roller coasters for a ride just as much as his guests do. COURTESY DORNEY PARK

Michael Fehnel, Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom

Michael Fehnel's career plan was to be a teacher. That all changed after the amusement industry got in his blood while working summers at **Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom**, and today, Michael is vice president and general manager of this historic amusement and water park in Allentown, Pa. He loves the ever-changing work days that his job brings and is known for his quick wit and devotion to the park's employees. And he enjoys hopping on a roller coaster whenever he has the chance!

Title: Vice President and General Manager.

Number of years in the industry: 26.

Best thing about the industry: It is our job to give our guests a break from the daily grind. Everyone remembers their first ride on a roller coaster, and we get to take part in that memory!

Favorite amusement ride: Fury 325 at Carowinds in the Carolinas is definitely my favorite, but I'm fortunate to be able to jump on Steel Force right here at Dorney Park whenever I want.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be... I actually have a degree in education, so I would probably be teaching middle school Math and Science. Of course with summers off, I would probably still be either working or enjoying this industry.

Biggest challenge facing our industry...

There is no doubt hiring and retaining talent has been the biggest challenge. We have a great park with amazing rides, but without our associates to bring the park to life, we are just a collection of steel and wood.

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is... I absolutely love seeing the reactions from our guests as they conquer our thrilling rides. There is nothing better than seeing a youngster after finally gaining the courage to ride Steel Force.

It's December! My favorite holiday song is... Christmas / Sarajevo 12/24 by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

I will celebrate New Year's Eve doing this... It is a longstanding tradition that we host a large party with all of our friends, including children. There is no shortage of food, drinks and family activities for all.

To me, the most influential person in history is... For me, it would have to be Jesus Christ.

Favorite dessert... Anything that is sweet and has peanut butter! Most restaurants have something labeled "Peanut Butter Lover's Dream," and that normally hits the spot.

When I say exercise, you say... I plan on starting that this January... again... just like last January... and the one before.

The best pizza I have ever eaten was at... We have a local pizza shop named Mama's Brick Oven Pizza. They are really passionate about their ingredients and the quality of the food they create. They are definitely my favorite.

Right now, the ring tone on my cell phone is... Currently it is "Thunder" by Imagine Dragons, but I mix it up often.

My dream vacation is... I love escaping winter to anywhere warm, especially if there is an ocean nearby. Landing in a new city where the grass and trees are green is very uplifting. I would love to explore more of South America.

Growing up, my nickname was... I've always just been 'Fehnel.' For some reason the only time my wife or friends call me "Mike" is when I'm in trouble.

When on an airplane, I typically... Enjoy a Diet Coke and explore on my iPad.

The food I crave most often is... Seafood... and bacon... especially when they are mixed together.

The concert I would really want front-row seats to is... I would love to see Pink Floyd set their differences aside and reunite for a tour, but since that won't happen I would love to see U2.

In 10 years, I hope to be... I'm still not sure what I want to be when I grow up!

People say I remind them of... I've been accused of looking like Bill Gates and Steve Forbes.

If I could be part of any TV family it would be... *The Simpsons* ... they never age.

The one thing I never leave home without is... My cell phone. I'm addicted.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

COMPILED: Richard Munch

DECEMBER

•**1907: Charles Merrill**, who owned several concessions in the New York Metropolitan area, lost his most lucrative ride to a major storm. Summoned by his watchman, who witnessed the coaster swaying in the wind, Merrill rushed up to the amusement area in **Fort George**, at the northern end of Manhattan, on the morning of Dec. 14. With his roller coaster battered by high winds, he hired two laborers to brace the structure of the 75-foot-tall structure. They completed their work by afternoon, but it didn't make a difference. Entering his office under the coaster, Merrill barely escaped minutes later after hearing the snapping of wood timbers and supports around him. As the ride collapsed to the ground, it hurled parts of the structure into a grove of trees, leaving a heap of lumber. Merrill remembered this day, as he saw his office flattened under the weight of the wooden structure.

•**1920: Ingersoll Construction Co.**, in Pittsburgh, Pa., was awarded a permit to put up a roller coaster at **Steeplechase Island**, in Bridgeport, Conn. Issued on Dec. 28, the permit also included a shooting gallery, carousel and old mill. The full cost for the building permits were reportedly over \$142,000, which was likely a misprint. Ironically the Skyrocket was the only coaster to open in 1921 at the park, although it was designed by **Miller and Baker**. As competing companies, what happened between Ingersoll's project and Miller's involvement is not known. In addition, a separate Bridgeport commission took control of the park, which returned Steeplechase Island to its original name in 1919 – **Pleasure Beach**.

•**1938:** The December 1917 edition of the *New York Times* reported that **Grover A. Whalen**, president of the **New York World's Fair Corporation**, had signed a contract for a new wood roller coaster for the **Amusement Zone** at the **1939-1940 New York World's Fair**, in Flushing, N.Y. Whalen suggested that it would be "the 'Thrillingest' giant ride ever, and absolutely safe, too!" He also promised that it would go 80 miles an hour. To assure that the fair would have the 'Greatest Outdoor Show' ever, he signed with veteran park men **Harry C. Baker** and **Harry G. Traver**, for the erection and operation of a "giant safety coaster" at the exposition. The new ride, the Cyclone, opened on the first day of the fair in April 1939; it was considered the greatest thrill at the exposition, next to the Life Savers Parachute Jump. After closing in late 1940, the plans were used to rebuild the ride in **Riverside Park**, in Agawam, Mass., with the original trains and hardware. It still operates today at **Six Flags New England** as the Thunderbolt.

CHARACTER CORNER

Holidog, Holiday World

Holidog, Holiday World's beloved mascot, evolved from a discarded costume.

Lori Koch worked with Showbiz International in the 1980s, which included a stint on Broadway in the production "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." She ended up bringing back with her a tan-and-brown Snoopy costume which someone at the park turned into Holidog. When Lori started managing entertainment and costume characters in the late 1980s, she decided Holidog needed a new look that was cute and lovable.

She turned to Scollon Productions, a company that supplies costumes to a number of theme parks.

Scollon gave Holidog a complete makeover, producing the now-familiar and beloved character.

CARTOON BUBBA FLINT;
HISTORY JEFFREY SEIFERT



Amusement TODAY

ANNUAL HOLIDAY COOKING GUIDE



Michael Mack

Europa-Park

Potato Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds small potatoes
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- ¾ cup quality beef broth (or homemade beef stock), heated until very warm
- 1 cup minced yellow onion
- ¼ cup white wine vinegar
- freshly ground black pepper
- 3 Tablespoons vegetable oil (such as sunflower or canola)
- finely chopped fresh parsley

Scrub the potatoes and place in a large pot covered with an inch of cold water. Set over high heat and bring to a boil. Add 1 teaspoon salt and boil until tender, which will probably take anywhere from 12 to 20 minutes depending on the size of the potatoes. Drain the potatoes and allow to slightly cool. Once the potatoes are just cool enough to handle, peel them using a small paring knife and cut them into 1/4-inch slices. Place the potato slices in a large bowl and pour the warm beef broth over the top. Top with the minced onion and white wine vinegar. Season with the remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste. Use a large spoon to gently stir until all of the potatoes are coated. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and allow to marinate at room temperature for 30 minutes. Stir in the vegetable oil and the parsley and serve immediately, using a slotted spoon if too much liquid remains at the bottom of the bowl. Alternatively, you may cover and refrigerate the potato salad overnight, then allow it to come to room temperature for 30 minutes before gently stirring and serving.

Schnitzel

Ingredients:

- 4 veal schnitzel, 150 – 180 g each (alternatively, use pork or turkey)
- 2 eggs
- Approx. 100 g coarse-ground flour
- Approx. 100 g breadcrumbs
- Salt, pepper
- Clarified butter and/or vegetable oil
- Slices of lemon, to garnish

Lay out the schnitzel, remove any skin and beat until thin. Season on both sides with salt and pepper. Place flour and breadcrumbs into separate flat plates, beat the eggs together on a further plate using a fork. Coat each schnitzel on both sides in flour, then draw through the beaten eggs, ensuring that no part of the schnitzel remains dry. Coat in the breadcrumbs and carefully press down the crumbs using the reverse side of the fork (this causes the crumb coating to “fluff up” better during cooking). In a large pan (or 2 medium-sized pans), melt sufficient clarified butter for the schnitzel to be able to swim freely in the oil (or heat up the vegetable oil with 1 – 2 Tbsp of clarified butter or butter). Only place the schnitzel in the pan when the fat is so hot that it hisses and bubbles up if some breadcrumbs or a small piece of butter is introduced to it. Depending on the thickness and the type of meat, fry between 2 minutes and 4 minutes until golden brown. Turn using a spatula (do not pierce the coating!) and fry on the other side until similarly golden brown. Remove the crispy schnitzel and place on kitchen paper to dry off. Dab carefully to dry the schnitzel. Arrange on the plate and garnish with slices of lemon before serving. Serve with parsley potatoes, rice, potato salad or mixed salad. Cooking time: depending on the thickness and the meat, 4 – 8 minutes.

Susan Vaslev

Enchanted Forest



Chocolate Nuggets (Rum Balls)

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (6oz) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ½ cup cola beverage
- 3 Tablespoons light corn syrup
- 1 Tablespoon rum extract (or use real rum)
- 2 ½ cups (7 ¼ oz) finely crushed vanilla wafer crumbs
- 2 cups, sifted 10 times, confectioner's powdered sugar
- 1 cup finely chopped walnuts (If you like nuts)
- Chocolate decorating candies, or plain sugar

Melt chocolate in the top of a double boiler over hot water. Remove from heat. Blend in cola, corn syrup, and rum. Stir in crumbs, sugar and walnuts, mixing thoroughly until mixture is sticky stiff. Cover and chill two hours or until stiff enough to handle. Form mixture into small balls. Top with chocolate decorating candies or plain sugar. (Makes six dozen)

David & Kristy Dean

Joyland Park

Southwest Chicken Packets



Ingredients:

- 4 boneless, skinless, chicken breast halves (about 1-1/2 pounds). The more uniform in size the better.
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced sun-dried tomatoes in oil, not drained
- 1/2 cup canned diced green chilies, drained
- 1 cup frozen corn, thawed
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 cup shredded Mexican cheese blend, divided

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut 4 (12-inch) squares of aluminum foil. Evenly sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper and place each piece in center of a foil square. Evenly spoon sun-dried tomatoes, chilies, and corn over each chicken breast. Sprinkle cumin and chili powder evenly over vegetables. Wrap foil securely, leaving room for steam to circulate, and seal edges tightly. Bake chicken packets at 350 degrees for 15 -20 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink in center. Open packets carefully, as steam may be released. Sprinkle with cheese and continue to cook 1 to 2 minutes, or until cheese is melted.

Make 'em on the grill! - Preheat grill to medium-high. Follow all other instructions above.

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* "Restaurants & Institutions" magazine

Terry Capener

Lagoon Park

Terry's Award-Winning Carrot Cake

Ingredients:

Cake:

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups flour, sifted
- 2 Tablespoons baking soda
- 2 Tablespoons cinnamon
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- 1 Tablespoon salt
- 1 Tablespoon allspice
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 ½ cups vegetable oil
- 3 cups carrots, grated
- 1 cup nuts (optional)
- 1 cup crushed pineapple (well-drained)
- ¾ cup raisins (optional)

Frosting:

- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- a little milk as needed
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 16 oz. (2 ½ cups) powdered sugar (some may prefer slightly less)
- 1 Tablespoon vanilla
- ¼ cup chopped maraschino cherries (optional, but the make the cake look pretty!)

Combine dry ingredients. Stir in eggs, oil, and carrots. Mix in remaining ingredients. Pour into greased and lightly floured pan (9 x 13 or glass pan). Bake at 325 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool completely, then frost.



Paul and Lane Nelson

Waldameer Park

Chocolate Mint Bombe

Ingredients:

- 1 quart chocolate ice cream
- 2 egg whites
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1 cup heavy cream
- green food coloring



Fill 1-quart mold with ice cream, while retaining about 1 cup, packing equally to bottom and sides, leaving center hollow. Freeze to harden. Beat egg whites until stiff. Continue beating while adding sugar. Beat until glossy. Fold in whipped cream, extract and coloring. Place in center of mold and freeze. When mint filling is hard, cover with rest of ice cream. Cover with foil and freeze. Before serving, dip mold in cool water 5 to 10 seconds. Unmold. Cut in wedges.

Chris Deisseroth

Schlitterbahn Waterparks & Resorts

Jayne's Pumpkin Bread

Ingredients:

- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup oil
- 4 eggs – beaten
- 1 can pumpkin (16oz)
- 3 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 2/3 cup water

Combine sugar, oil, eggs. Beat until light & fluffy. Stir in pumpkin. Combine dry ingredients. Add to wet mixture. Add water, beat well.

Spoon batter into 2 well-greased loaf pans.

Bake at 350 for 65 - 75 minutes.



Tennyson Dickinson

Lake Winnebepesaukah BEST Bloody Mary Mix

- To 1 quart tomato juice add:
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
 - 1 ½ teaspoon celery salt
 - ¼ teaspoon pepper
 - ¼ teaspoon onion powder
 - ½ teaspoon lime juice
 - 2 Tablespoons A-1 sauce
 - 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
 - 1 Tablespoon horseradish
 - 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire

Mix all ingredients well and serve over ice.
Garnish with celery and pickled okra



Fresh Cranberry Casserole

Ingredients:

- ½ cup white sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 cup quick oatmeal, uncooked
- 3 Tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 ½ cups fresh cranberries, washed
- 3 medium apples, diced
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 4 Tablespoons margarine

Combine sugars, oatmeal, flour and cinnamon. Add fruit and nuts, mixing well. Spread in a casserole sprayed with cooking spray. Top with small pieces of margarine. Bake 350 for 30 minutes.





INTERNATIONAL

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European parks offer a variety of festive fun this Christmas

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

EUROPE — Many European parks continue to take advantage of opening over Christmas and New Year. Here we take a look at just a few of those that are operational during this time and what they are offering their guests over the festive period.

Paultons Park New Forest Hampshire, U.K.

New seasonal attractions have been announced for 2017 by Paultons Park in Hampshire, England, home to the hugely successful Peppa Pig World and the more recently introduced Lost Kingdom themed area.

Families can join a reindeer on its journey to find Santa in his grotto in time for Christmas Eve and return home with a gift, while parents enjoy a complimentary hot punch and a festive treat. Also included in the entry price is the chance to enjoy a daily, family festive show where visitors can meet rein-

CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

deers Frosty and Rudolph and elves Billy and Belinda.

For the first time at Paultons, families can stroll down the aptly named Snow Street as well as have the opportunity to discover the Jurassic-themed area Lost Kingdom during the festive season and take rides on the Flight of the Pterosaur and Velociraptor coasters, among other attractions. Visitors can also experience Peppa Pig World in a magical festive setting and see and hear the entertaining musical Christmas tree.

Also new for 2017 is Birds of a Feather 4D in the sensory cinema where guests can enjoy an adventure with straight-laced bird Brian and overweight, loudmouthed pelican Del as they fly south for the winter.

Christmas at Paultons will take place on selected days from Saturday, November 18, until Friday, December 23.



Above left, Birds of a Feather 4D will play in Paultons Park's 4D cinema while Peppa Pig World will be transformed over the festive season. COURTESY PAULTONS PARK



PortAventura World, Salou, Spain

Guests visiting PortAventura World on the Costa Daurada in Spain between November 25 and January 7 will find the park transformed with thousands of Christmas decorations to create the spirit of the season. And there will be plenty of festive entertainment on offer too.

Every night the Royal Emisseries will arrive at Mediterrà-

nia Lake following the star that guides them on their way from the east, while in the Christmas Parade, all the PortAventura World characters will join Santa Claus and the park dancers on a tour through the avenue of the Mediterrània themed area, accompanied by the rhythm of Christmas songs created especially for the occasion.

A variety of shows filled with magic, dancing and music

will be on offer and for the perfect finishing touch, every January 5, their Majesties the Kings of the East visit PortAventura World to collect children's letters and to hand out sweets to all the children who have been good during the year.

Alton Towers, Staffordshire, England

Alton Towers Resort plans to take guests on a fairy-tale adventure this Christmas, as it is transformed into a magical winter wonderland.

The Staffordshire-based resort will provide Santa Sleepovers in a woodland lodge or CBeebies Land Hotel, from November 26, including the opportunity to meet Father Christmas, in a range of festive settings.

Fairy-tale grottos, featuring a host of playful and charismatic elves, roaring fireplaces and bursting with gifts, have been created on the 500-acre site and promise to captivate and delight young imaginations as they make



For the Christmas season, PortAventura will be transformed with thousands of Christmas decorations. The park will also offer numerous shows over the holidays. COURTESY PORTAVENTURA WORLD

► See **HOLIDAYS**, page 8

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►HOLIDAYS

Continued from page 7

their way to meet Santa. New for 2017, families can also opt to experience a magical tipi, where children will be greeted with a hot chocolate and grown-ups with mulled wine, before singing carols with Mrs. Claus, making Christmas decorations with the elves and enjoying story-time with Santa.

The Resort's Rollercoaster Restaurant will be serving up Christmas dinner with a twist. The restaurant will give diners the chance to enjoy a totally unique dining experience at the UK's first Rollercoaster Restaurant throughout the festive season. Guests can absorb themselves in the thrills of mealtime as their turkey and all the trimmings travels to them at 12mph down a roller coaster track.

The festivities will also include a fun-packed family pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, and the opportunity to enjoy the unseasonal tropical temperatures of Alton Towers Waterpark. Exclusive access to the resort's rides and attractions, including Go Jetters Vroomster Zoom, Postman Pat's Special Delivery Service, In the Night Garden Magic Boat Ride and Heave Ho, to name but a few, will be available within CBeebies Land and Mutiny Bay.

Furthermore, evening entertainment including character meet and greets, live shows, a Christmas cinema and a farewell from Santa Claus will also be part of the experience.



Alton Towers plans to take guests on a fairy-tale adventure this Christmas, complete with holiday-themed landscaping. Festivities at the park will include a family pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. COURTESY ALTON TOWERS RESORT

CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

Efteling

Kaatsheuvel, Netherlands

From November 13 to January 31, 2018, Efteling in the south of Holland was set to be transformed into a winter world of twinkling lights, bonfires and snow-covered pine trees for its annual Winter Efteling.

For 11 weeks the theme park, which is open all year round, will offer special winter attractions such as the IJspaleis indoor ice rink and cross-country skiing, while its Fairytale Forest will be cloaked in a wintry atmosphere. All of the park's attractions will be open as usual during Winter Efteling, with the exception of the water rides, meaning that winter visitors can enjoy all that Efteling has to offer with an additional winter wonderland touch.

Winter Efteling's indoor ice rink IJspaleis has a new look for 2017, with visitors now being able to skate on a frozen pond at the palace of the Snow Princess and Fire

Prince in the heart of the park. Children who don't want to brave the ice can bounce on the towers of the castle or slide down a slope on inflatable tubes. The Snow Princess and Fire Prince will make daily musical appearances to encourage singing and dancing on the ice rink, as well as appearing on their sleigh at the Efteling bonfires.

The Fairytale Forest, covering around a quarter of the whole Efteling park, will become even more magical and enchanting during Winter Efteling as the temperature drops and snow falls. In the heart of the forest, the Fairytale Tree, which comes to life as children approach it, will give a special winter performance.

Exclusively for Winter Efteling, guests can also enjoy cross-country skiing at the cross country ski track, while as dusk falls, the Fairytale Forest is illuminated with an impressive light show on the façade of the Villa Volta madhouse. The Aquanura water show is also particularly impressive in the dark with its 200 fountains, music, fire and



At Warner Bros. Studios Tour London, the long dining tables in the Great Hall will be dressed as they were for seasonal feasts at Hogwarts, seen here. Outside, the tour sets will all receive a festive makeover.

COURTESY WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR LONDON

light displays.

On New Year's Eve there will be live performances in various squares around the park, marking an enchanting end to 2017. The Efteling attractions will remain open until midnight, after which the New Year will be celebrated with fireworks and bubbles.

Warner Bros. Studio Tour The Making of Harry Potter, London

This festive season, *Harry Potter* fans are being invited to experience Christmas time at Hogwarts and discover how film-makers created fire, ice and snow that never melts as Warner Bros. Studio Tour London undergoes a makeover for *Hogwarts in the Snow*.

From November 18 to January 28 visitors will have the opportunity to see the *Harry Potter* film series' most iconic sets decorated for festive scenes. The Great Hall will be transformed, 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.

For the first time ever, the Great Hall stage will be decorated as it was for the iconic Yule Ball. As seen in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, the celebration of the Triwizard Tournament saw every detail of the Great Hall covered in shimmering silver, dripping icicles and sparkling snow. Visitors to the Studio Tour will get a taster of this impressive set dress as the top section of the Great Hall will be transformed with snow-covered Christmas trees, icicles and an orchestra of magical instruments.

On display in the center of the Great Hall will be one of the beautiful Yule Ball sculptures. In addition to this the Great Hall will be lined with Christmas trees and the long dining tables will be dressed as they were for seasonal feasts at Hogwarts, with prop versions of roast turkeys, hams studied with cherries and Christmas puddings surrounded by real flames.

As part of the *Hogwarts in the Snow* feature, many of the iconic sets housed at the

► See HOLIDAYS, page 9



Efteling will welcome in the new year in style with fireworks and more. Exclusively for Winter Efteling, guests can enjoy cross-country skiing on a holiday-themed course (above right). COURTESY EFTELING





Above, the colorful Winter Parade will take center stage across the streets of Gardaland each day. Right, this year's festive season at Gardaland will include the lighting of the Albero di Prezzemolo (Prezzemolo's Tree), at the don't miss event during a guest's visit. COURTESY GARDALAND RESORT



►HOLIDAYS

Continued from page 8

Studio Tour will receive a festive makeover. The Gryffindor Common Room and Boys' Dormitory will be decorated with the original props and fireplaces throughout the Studio Tour will be lit with special effects fire.

Gardaland Resort Garda, Italy

Gardaland in Italy will stage its Gardaland Magic Winter event over a period from December 8 to January 7, during which time the park's main attractions will be open, with other features including enchanting and magical theming and several new spectacles, itinerant and indoor. Valley of Kings square will host an ice rink and a snow-based games area for children. In the afternoons, the colorful Winter Parade will take centre stage across the streets of the park.

A new addition for this year's festive season is the lighting of the Albero di Prezzemolo (Prezzemolo's Tree). Positioned at the center of Fantasy Kingdom, the huge tree will be decorated with red, gold and silver wires and thousands of colorful lights. A stage will be set up beneath it where an end-of-day show will take place — the Accensione dell'Albero di Prezzemolo (Lighting of Prezzemolo's Tree) — featuring dancers, singers, Santa Claus and Prezzemolo. The show will culminate in a heavy snowfall that will cover the entire Fantasy Kingdom area.

For those guests wishing to really immerse themselves

CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

in all the festive fun on offer, the park's two hotels, Gardaland Hotel and Gardaland Adventure Hotel, will offer a range of special accommodation packages during the Christmas and New Year period.

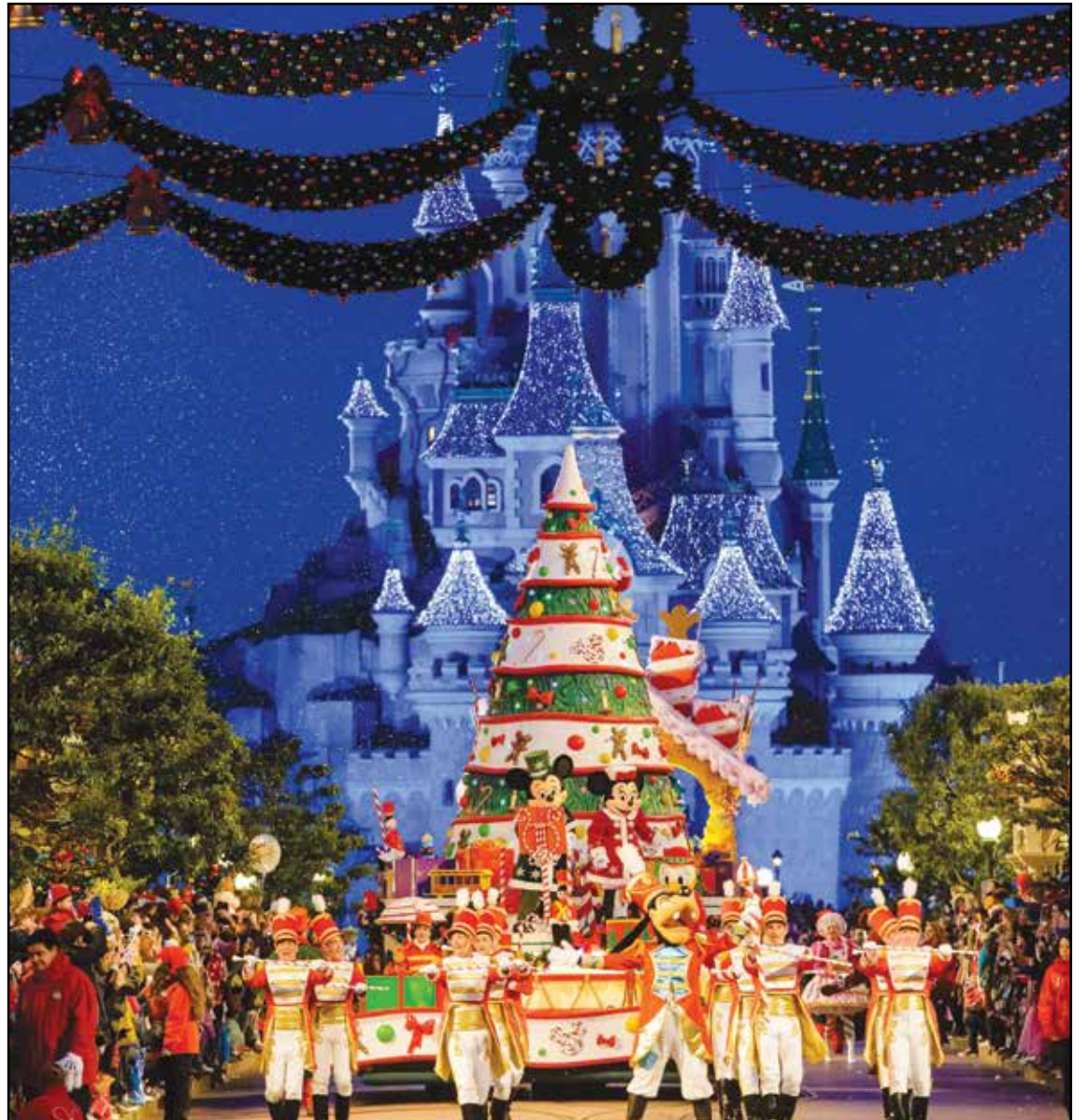
Disneyland Paris Paris, France

Disneyland Paris was set to be transformed from November 11 to January 7 to celebrate the arrival of Christmas, with events due to encompass a new celebration with Goofy and his friends in Walt Disney Studios Park as well as much activity in Disneyland Park.

Goofy's Incredible Christmas will include an immersive night-time experience that uses mapping technology and special effects to transform The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror. During the day the Studios Park will host a huge musical production with some of the most famous Disney characters on its Production Courtyard stage.

In Disneyland Park, Disney Stars on Parade will be this year's novelty, while Disney's Christmas Parade will also make a comeback. The Sleeping Beauty Castle stage will host A Merry Stitchmas musical show, and in Videopolis Mickey's Big Band Christmas will feature a host of Christmas songs in another live show.

Guests will feel the magic as soon as they enter Disneyland Park with snowmen of famous Disney characters



Both parks at Disneyland Paris — Disneyland Park and Walt Disney Studios Park — will celebrate the festive season in spectacular style, seen here. The park resort will welcome the new year with the Incredible New Year's Eve Parade and a fireworks display over Sleeping Beauty Castle. COURTESY DISNEYLAND PARIS

and regular daily snowfalls on Main Street USA. Character meet and greets will also be on offer, as will the chance to meet Father Christmas up to and including December 25. Mickey's Magical Christmas Lights will see a 24-me-

ter (79-foot) high Christmas tree illuminated by magic and throughout the season, guests will also discover at Fuente del Oro the puppet of Miguel, the hero of *Coco*, the new Disney Pixar animated feature film. The Frozen Sing-along

show also returns at The Chaparral Theatre in Frontierland.

The new year will be welcomed with the Incredible New Year's Eve Parade and a fireworks display over Sleeping Beauty Castle.



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WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► 2017 World Waterpark Association convention and trade show recap — Pages 12-14

Canobie Lake Park to launch new water park in 2018

New Bertazzon Matterhorn also purchased for park

SALEM, N.H. – Canobie Lake Park in Salem, N.H. has announced the development of a water park scheduled to open for the 2018 season, pending final governmental approvals.

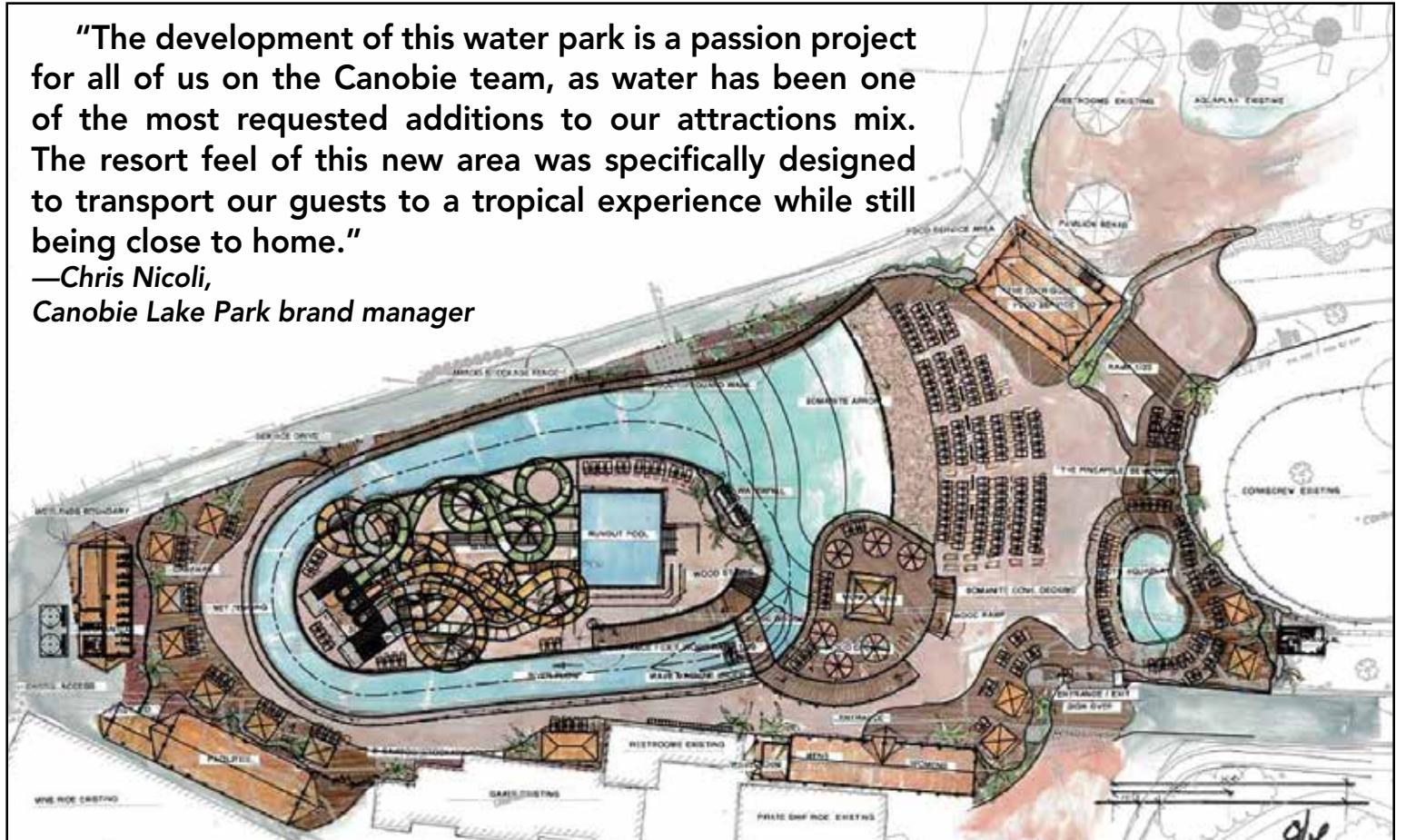
In 2005, Canobie Lake Park opened Castaway Island with a WhiteWater West Rain Fortress, water play structure featuring nine water slides, multiple levels and the ubiquitous tipping bucket. The new section is adjacent to the existing water play structure.

The new water park will expand the existing Castaway Island at Canobie Lake Park with the addition of a 370,000-gallon lazy river complete with tidal waves, a zero entry wave pool river entrance, a 60 foot tower with three waterslides, a restaurant, tiki bar, children's aquaplay area, 12 cabanas, restroom/changing facilities and maintenance/support buildings. The new attractions will encompass about two acres near the park's Corkscrew that was previously used for a corn maze.

The adult slides and runout pool will be contained on an island surrounded by the lazy river, accessible via a bridge that crosses over the river. The children's aquaplay area will be separate from the

"The development of this water park is a passion project for all of us on the Canobie team, as water has been one of the most requested additions to our attractions mix. The resort feel of this new area was specifically designed to transport our guests to a tropical experience while still being close to home."

**—Chris Nicoli,
Canobie Lake Park brand manager**



adult attractions and surrounded by lounge chairs where adults can keep an eye on their children playing in the shallow water. The children's area will also have two of the rentable cabanas. The area will feature a new entrance near the park's existing pirate ship ride.

"We are extremely excited for this major growth forward," says Chris Nicoli, Canobie Lake Park's brand manager. "The development of this water park is a passion project for all of us on the Canobie team as water has been one of the most requested additions to our attractions mix. The resort feel of this new area

was specifically designed to transport our guests to a tropical experience while still being close to home."

Prior to the close of the season, Canobie Lake Park also announced the opening of its newest attraction, Ice Jet. The new ride became operational at the park on October 6, 2017. The park was open weekends through the end of October. The new Ice Jet is a Bertazzon Matterhorn ride that is spectacularly lit with over 5,000 separate LED fixtures. It was sold by Carlo Guglielmi of Ital International, Nashville, Tenn.

—Jeffrey Seifert

For 2018, Canobie Lake Park in Salem, N.H., is building their long-awaited water park that has been a request of guests. It will include a wave pool, lazy river and slide complex located near the park's WhiteWater waterplay structure. Also new is this Bertazzon Matterhorn ride called the Ice Jet. COURTESY CANOBIE LAKE PARK



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WWA Symposium and Trade Show welcomed attendees from 22 countries

More than
250 companies
exhibited products

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — From October 16 – 19, 2017, the World Waterpark Association welcomed more than 1,400 attendees from 22 countries. Park owners and operators found four days of workshops and seminars, combined with two days of connecting with trade show floor exhibitors. In addition, other events allowed for beneficial networking and socializing opportunities.

"This was a year of challenges for many in our industry," said Rick Root, WWA president. "Yet, our industry knows that good and bad seasons come and go. Whether up or down, they remain resilient and focused on working together to set new goals, overcome challenges and look ahead to bigger success in the coming year."

"It's the quality of the people," said Rick Hunter, president and CEO, ProSlide Technology. "It's critical that we as an industry support this important event."

"This show has an intimacy that makes networking so great. I look forward to this week every year," Stephanie Hee, marketing specialist, NRH20, told *Amusement Today*.

The Trade Show

As attendees gathered for the opening general session, Root encouraged the audience to meet and work with those exhibiting on the



Above, left, the evening social at Rapids Water Park provided great networking and interaction opportunities for WWA attendees. Right, former park executives of Wet 'n Wild led a presentation titled "By George — Lessons Learned from Wet 'n Wild" based on it's late founder George Millay. PHOTO COURTESY WWA; AT/TIM BALDWIN



trade showfloor. "Without these supplier members, we wouldn't be able to do as good a job," he said. Root also was encouraged by the record number of sponsors.

While the show floor had the expected big players such as ProSlide, WhiteWater, Polin, Aquakita, Vortex and more, as well as the tube suppliers such as Zebec, CPI and Zpro, the attractions portion was only part of the creative opportunities.

AT spoke with several vendors that offered style, flair and new ideas in which an operator could find invigorating opportunities.

One of the most visually engaging products was Massive Splash from Water Odyssey by Fountain People. The modern and modular structure, in addition to its playful look, boasted several advantages over the ubiquitous tipping bucket. Multiple different splash effects reduce wait time for the big splash,

children can't throw objects into the bucket, birds cannot enter and the smaller amount of water is not affected by strong winds. The futuristic and whimsical appeal of the architectural components also continuously spray for constant cooling.

"We asked ourselves: What can we do different than anything in the industry and address some of the common issues?" said Chris Thomas, director of marketing for Fountain People. "Typically, the volume of the water is so big, you can't keep an eye on who's underneath the bucket. Kids will stand and wait. Let's reduce the size, but have a large movement in the air. We wanted to keep kids moving and actively playing. This causes them to move from area to area and anticipate the splash."

Mark Williams, president and CEO of Rain Drop Products, had an emotional connection to his latest wares. In

a strong running for the bid for Morgan's Wonderland's new Inspiration Island, Williams found he had a heartfelt passion for the project, but when he lost the bid, he knew he could take the company's ideas further.

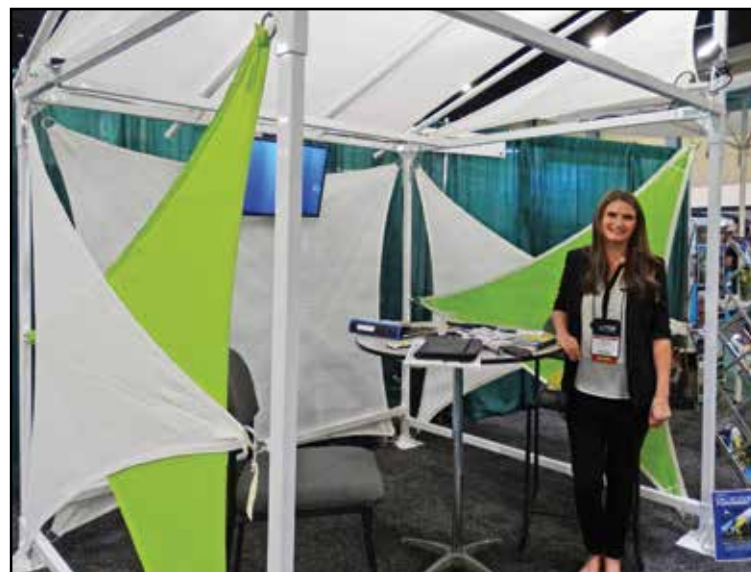
"I feel this is the first truly inclusive children's water play toy," said Williams of his Sensory Sub. "Our industry has been building fun stuff forever. Splashpads have been wheelchair accessible at best. We took an existing submarine that used to simply just squirt water to now activate visual stimuli (lasers, projections) that enhance cognitive development. We're taking things they are trying to do in the dry world now in the splash world." The Sensory Sub has touch buttons to activate sound, music and lights. Bubbles are dispatched periodically to also engage senses.

Jacy Kiefer, marketing manager for Ledge Lounger,

explained the advantages of the company's sleek new chairs and chaise lounges. "First and foremost, the look is unique and eye catching. It's very stylish. Our chairs are virtually indestructible. They are designed to last 10 to 15 years in the aquatic environment," she said. It was the first time for Ledge Lounger to exhibit at WWA and they reported a strong show. Other advantages are the products are fade resistant, rustproof and can be stacked 12 high.

Shade Creations by Waterloo also had a fresh, stylish take on the now-common cabana. "This gives another look rather than the traditional, and you can add on," said Billie Hiatt, sales associate for Shade Creations. "You can take away a panel and expand the area if they have a party. You can change out colors, and fans are an option." Hiatt said the product also offers a better windload. The cabanas come in sizes 8 by 8 feet, 10 by 10 feet and 12 by 12 feet and can be customized.

Terry Shaeffer of Chuckwagon Soda showcased a new pirate ship soda fountain. This followed on the company's success of a chuckwagon and coffin-themed offerings. "We started with the soda wagon and we have 150 vendors with that now. We have five coffins out, and the pirate ship is brand new and is made for water parks; it is waterproof," Shaeffer said. He reported that although his stylish wagons can work with any type of soda, Chuckwagon Soda provides old



Above left, Mark Williams, CEO of Rain Drop Products, was pleased to enhance the company's line to include all-inclusive play. Right, Shade Creations offers a stylish variation on the cabana concept. AT/TIM BALDWIN

►WWA

Continued from page 12

fashioned classic flavors such as sarsaparilla, vanilla cream soda, birch beer and root beer. "The ship actually has 11 cannons on it," said Shaeffer. "Six of them tap soda and five of them flash and smoke [as if being fired], which can be set as often as you want."

Techni-Lux, which won one of the WWA Best Booth categories, provided quite the flash on the show floor. Tony Hansen, product and project specialist, said, "We've worked a lot with theme parks for many years. Universal came to us to work with LED lighting 12 years ago with Wet 'n' Wild's Disco H20 (enclosed bowl slide), and we followed up with the first video on a waterslide with Brainwash and then incorporated lasers into The Black Hole. We never really reached out to the water park market, but they are coming to us now. WhiteWater has approached us to work with them on new projects. You also can absolutely do a total makeover of an older attraction. You can have the rider use a touch panel at the top of the slide and choose their own theme: sports-based, music-based, holiday-themed or it could be sensitive friendly for the autistic spectrum where it is toned way back. We've had people go ride attractions where they wouldn't have in the past because they were too dark."

Rick Drake, owner of Unique Rabbit Studios, was hoping the colorful surfing mascot on display would spur the imaginations of passersby. "We can make anything from statues to photo ops to benches — you name it. Your imagination is our blueprint." As many show attendees paused to have their photo with the character, it was clear it was engaging. Unique Rabbit Studios has had experience with Universal Studios, Miami Hurricanes, as well as schools, restaurants and businesses.

For park owners looking for new retail merchandise, USA Printworks offered a new souvenir product for families to have their own personal photos placed on beach towels from their visit at the park. Photos taken at the point of

World Waterpark Association 2017 winners

Wave Review Awards

Winners are listed in attendance order of: up to 100,000; 100,000 to 250,000 and 250,000 & up.

Billboard: Castaway Cove Waterpark, Wichita Falls, Texas; SplashDown Beach Waterpark, Fishkill, N.Y. and Hot Park, Rio Quente, Goiás, Brazil.

Brochure: Whale's Tale Water Park, Lincoln, N.H.; Adventure Bay Family Water Park, Windsor, Ontario, Canada and Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark, Tannersville, Pa.

Direct Mail: Castaway Cove Waterpark, Wichita Falls, Texas; Gulf Islands Waterpark, Gulfport, Miss. and Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark, Tannersville, Pa.

Email Campaign: Andy Alligator's Water Park, Norman, Okla.; Hawaiian Falls Water Park, Roanoke, Texas and Hyland Hills Water World, Federal Heights, Colo.

Poster: Zoom Flume Waterpark, East Durham, N.Y.; Soaring Eagle Waterpark & Hotel, Mt. Pleasant, Mich. and Hot Park, Rio Quente, Goiás, Brazil.

Print Media: Discovery Island Waterpark, Simpsonville, S.C.; Gulf Islands Waterpark, Gulfport, Miss. and Wild Wadi Waterpark, Dubai, UAE.

Promotion: Country Springs Hotel & The Springs Water Park, Pewaukee, Wis.; Soaring Eagle Waterpark & Hotel, Mt. Pleasant, Mich. and Hyland Hills Water World, Federal Heights, Colo.

Radio Commercial: Castaway Cove Waterpark, Wichita Falls, Texas; Magic Waters Waterpark, Cherry Valley, Ill. and Schlitterbahn Waterparks & Resorts, New Braunfels, Texas.

Social Media Campaign: H20BX Waterpark, Powells Point, N.C.; Hawaiian Falls Water Park, The Colony, Texas and Schlitterbahn Waterparks & Resorts, New Braunfels, Texas.

TV Commercial: (TIE) Castaway Cove Waterpark, Wichita Falls, Texas and Lost Island Waterpark, Waterloo, Iowa; Soaring Eagle Waterpark & Hotel, Mt. Pleasant, Mich. and Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark, Tannersville, Pa.

Website: Discovery Island Waterpark, Simpsonville, S.C.; Breakwater Beach Waterpark, Seaside Heights, N.J. and Hot Park, Rio Quente, Goiás, Brazil.

YouTube Campaign: White Water Canyon, Tinley Park, Ill.; Hawaiian Falls Water Park, The Colony, Texas and Schlitterbahn Waterparks & Resorts, New Braunfels, Texas.

Al Turner Memorial Commitment to Excellence Award

Awarded to individuals, parks or organizations that have through their consistent business and professional excellence provided lead-



2017 WWA Wave Review winners. COURTESY WWA



2017 WWA Hall of Fame winners, left to right: Ken Ellis, Aquatic Development Group; Terri Adams, Schlitterbahn Waterparks and Resorts; Franeeen Gonzales, WhiteWater and Bob Nagel, Architectural Design Consultants, Inc. AT/TIM BALDWIN



2017 WWA Al Turner Memorial Commitment to Excellence Award, left to right: Steve Miklosi, Breakers Water Park and WWA Chairman; Gary Slade, Amusement Today; Joann Cortez, Hyland Hills Parks and Recreation District; Jim Basala, Deep Rivers Waterpark; Damien Latham, WWA BOD Vice Chairman and Rick Root, WWA President. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

ership and/or fostered a sense of community in the World Waterpark Association membership.

Jim Basala, Deep Rivers Waterpark, Crown Point, Ind.; **Joann Cortez**, Hyland Hills Parks and Recreation District, Federal Heights, Colo. and **Gary Slade**, Amusement Today, Arlington, Texas.

Executive Board Award

Awarded to an individual or organization for special accomplishments in the water leisure industry that have contributed to industry knowledge and expertise for ben-

efit of the WWA membership.

Mike Friscia, Innovative Attraction Management, IAM Starguard Elite, Windermere, Fla.; **Gaylee Gillim**, Esq., Kentucky kingdom, LLLP, Louisville, Kent.; **Typhoon Texas**, Typhoon Waterpark Management, LLC, Houston, Texas and **Bruce Wingo**, International Swimming Hall of Fame, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Kelly Ogle Memorial Safety Award

Awarded to an individual or organization for significant contribu-

tion to guest and employee safety in the water attractions industry.

The Council For the Model Aquatic Health Code, Decatur, Ga. and **Vera Solis**, Typhoon Texas, Houston, Texas.

Leading Edge Award

Awarded to individuals or parks for creativity in the development of new themes, facilities, programs, services or operational concepts in the water attractions industry; and to suppliers who have developed new concepts, products or services to the benefit of park members, their customers and the water attractions industry.

Aquatic Development Group, Cohoes, N.Y.; **Morgan's Inspiration Island** at **Morgan's Wonderland** and the PneuChair, San Antonio, Texas; **The Land of Legends** and **Polin Waterparks**, Belek, Antalya, Turkey; **Universal's Volcano Bay** at **Universal Orlando Resort** and **Proslide Technology** and **Water Technology, Inc.**, Orlando, Fla. and **Changbaishan Water Park** and **Wanda Cultural Tourism Planning & Research Institute Co., Ltd.** and **WhiteWater**, Beijing, China.

Hall of Fame

The World Waterpark Association Hall of Fame exists to recognize and honor those individuals who have made noteworthy achievements in the development and advancement of the water attractions industry. The WWA Hall of fame celebrates those individuals who have reached a position of eminence through contributions that have provided outstanding service, innovation or advanced the WWA and/or the water attractions industry.

Terri Adams, Schlitterbahn Waterparks and Resorts, New Braunfels, Texas; **Ken Ellis**, Aquatic Development Group (and three park properties), Cohoes, N.Y.; **Franeeen Gonzales**, WhiteWater, Vancouver, B.C., Canada and **Bob Nagel**, Architectural Design Consultants, Inc., Wisconsin Dells, Wis.



Left to right: Ledge Lounger was a first time exhibitor at the WWA Show; Chuckwagon Soda introduced a new waterproof, pirate-themed soda fountain dispensing classic flavors and Unique Rabbit Studios creates props for photo opportunities.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

►WWA

Continued from page 14

sale would then be professionally produced on beach towels and shipped directly to the customer's home as a one-of-a-kind keepsake of their vacation. Park operators could also have more exclusive souvenir items with images of their own park created in bulk for the gift shops in contrast to simply having the park's logo on merchandise. "It's a nice product that will last for a lifetime," said Jeffrey Richardson, president

and CEO, USA Printworks. "You can wash it a hundred times; it's permanent. People who touch them, love them."

iSlide from Safeslide is a light and sound makeover for an existing slide. "LED and sound are used in the water-slide experience. It revamps any type of enclosed tube slide," said Sean Gabris of iSlide. "You'll be bombarded with light and sound; it will be a whole new experience. At the end of the slide, we will show you a score on how many lights you touched. It's competitive." Gabris says an

install can take place in six to 10 weeks.

Education

The WWA Symposium is also known for its high-quality educational events. The program offered numerous topics, most of them on things that matter most: guest safety, operational excellence, quality customer service, employee training and more. Throughout the show, many rooms were filled to capacity.

"Even as a speaker, I took notes and had several takeaways," said Winter Pro-

sapio, corporate director of communications, Schlitterbahn Waterparks. "The depth of the knowledge at WWA is very strong. I came away with much more than I expected. I not only have new ideas to try, but also new perspectives on old problems. It was an energizing experience."

"Once again, the show was very well organized and executed," said Eugen Vanderwalt, director of water park operations, Blue Harbor Resort and Conference Center. "The session topics presented were spot-on for what all of us in the industry are struggling with on a daily basis."

"We proudly sponsor the education sessions knowing that they are the best that are offered industry wide," said Trish Hughes, events and trade show lead, WhiteWater. "The WWA show always offers us a unique opportunity to connect and network with our important contacts — be they clients, partners or suppliers — in a relaxed and fun environment."

Two keynote addresses inspired the largest audiences. Chris Nelson, crisis management lead, Fleishman-Hillard, spoke toward crisis recommendations when navigating through rough waters. "Anyone could have a crisis, and organization stakeholders know that," said Nelson. What they evaluate is how a company responds, which is why it's critical to surpass their expectations." Marlin Smith, a human resources professional leader, spoke on the challenges of managing people, as well as missteps that managers make. "There's a difference between being a boss and being a leader," said Smith. "Leaders know how to create learning opportunities, say thanks, protect their employees, model behavior and invest in people for the future."

Networking

The show offered numerous ways for the attendees to network. Lunch was provided every day, and posted signs at tables encouraged people to "Chat!"

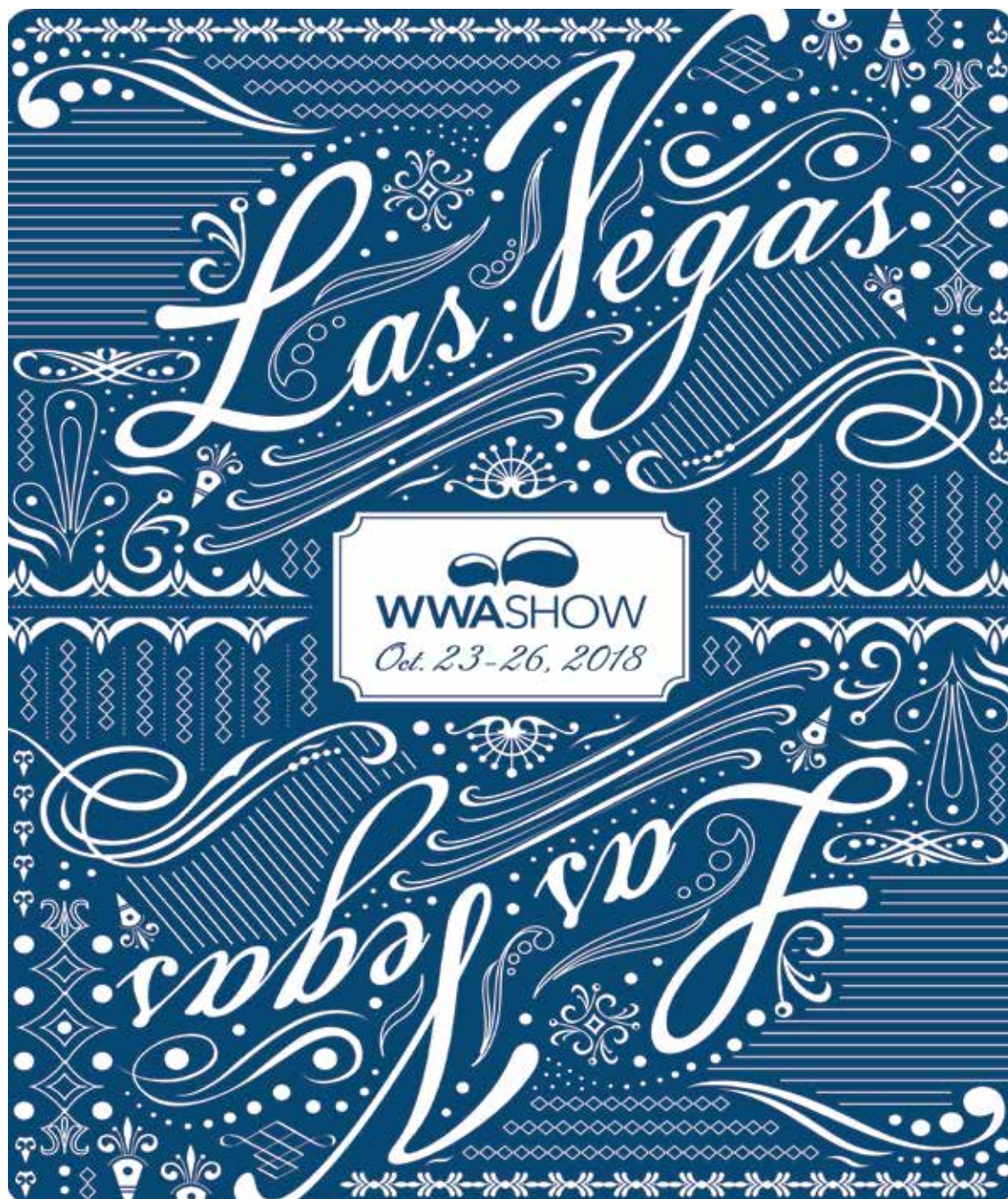
Evening events had the largest gatherings of people, allowing them to relax among peers. Called the WWA Annual Reunion Party, the Tuesday social found attendees hopping aboard shuttles traveling to close-by Rapids Water Park. Live music, cocktails, tours of the park and a buffet were great opportunities for participants to meet new peers and reconnect with old friends. A Wednesday night Party at the Pool offered members a chance to wind down following the close of the trade show floor. All events were included with registration.

"One of our key strengths of the WWA Show is our ability to create interaction points between attendees," said Aleatha Ezra, director of park member development, WWA.

"From amazing venues, helpful and convenient printed materials, fun social events for networking and a vast collection of the brightest individuals in the industry, the WWA Show provides perhaps the best return on investment you can make for your park," said Patrick Patoka, director, Avalanche Bay Indoor Waterpark.

"The WWA Show continues to act as a guidepost for where leaders are headed in making our industry strong and more innovative than ever. We're proud to be a part of that," said Sohret Pakis, director of marketing and communications, Polin Waterparks.

This was the 37th annual event. The WWA Symposium and Trade Show will take place Oct. 23-26, 2018 in Las Vegas.



PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Preview of parks and attractions Christmas events — Page 20-24

FACE Amusement opens with Wiegand alpine coaster in the Ozarks

North America's first dual track alpine coaster

AT: B. Derek Shaw

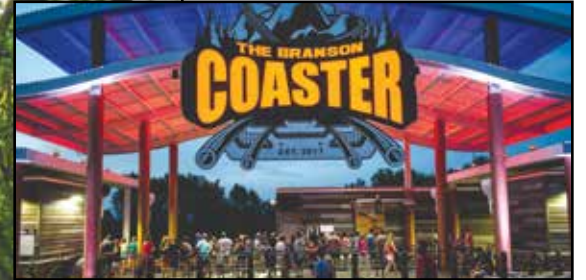
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

BRANSON, Mo. — This summer a new Wiegand alpine coaster opened in the heart of Branson perched on a steep cliff near the busy downtown strip on State Highway 76. Owned and operated by FACE Amusement, (Gray, Tenn.) the attraction is North America's first double alpine coaster. FACE is named for Faith, Attitude, Consistency and Excellence.

Jessica Wedel, sales and project manager, Wiegand North America, provided the project back story: "Daniel Sochalski with FACE Amusement installed the video system in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., at Goats on the Roof, which is another Wiegand Alpine coaster. After seeing how well the Alpine coaster was doing in Pigeon Forge, he knew there had to be one in Branson."

"Expanding to Branson was a great opportunity for Face," explains Bucky Mabe, president and owner. "We operate primarily in tourist markets. This market was prime for our operation; it was very similar to some of our other markets. We liked the people up there, the landscape, and everything about it, so we decided that would be our next place to open an attraction."

There was a six-month time frame from start to finish. Wiegand signed on to the project December 1,



FACE Amusement has opened the first double alpine coaster in North America, located in the heart of Branson, Mo., in the middle of attraction-packed Hwy. 76 strip. The ride was supplied by Wiegand Sports and opened on July 18. COURTESY THE BRANSON COASTER



2016, with pre-construction commencing in January. Wiegand arrived onsite in February, completing the project in June.

Wedel said the relationship with FACE was a positive one. "(They were) very easy to deal with, hard workers and dedicated." Mabe had an equally good experience working with the manufacturer. "Wiegand is a very first class operation. They knew what they were doing and delivered a very smooth operating track.

We have nothing but good things to say about Wiegand and their operation."

The more than five-minute alpine coaster experience has riders descending immediately after departing the loading dock. The track twists and turns as it descends through the beautiful woods of Branson. As the kart reaches the bottom of the track, a chain drive system catches the kart and brings riders back to the top. Riders pause for a brief second before they cross under

the first track and begin their ride to the bottom. Just after making the final turn, riders are lifted back towards the top.

"The Branson coaster is a unique attraction for the area and the nation as a whole," explained Mabe. "It's the first double alpine coaster in the United States, which we were very excited about. It does all this right in the middle of the (State Highway) 76 strip in Branson. We felt like we had a great ride, at a great location, which is

what we were after. It's just a great family fun experience that that you won't forget. We're really happy that we moved forward with this project, and we look forward to operating in the Branson market for many years to come while we grow and add more fun experiences."

Acceptance has been quick and strong. "It has been great. We've had a very positive response. Almost every visitor so far

► See BRANSON, page 16



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Gosetto Dark Ride

Moser Giant Wheel 55 Mt

RES-WillTec Flume

FAST FACTS

Ride Name/Location
The Branson Coaster/
2115 W Highway 76, Branson, Mo.

Type/Owner
Alpine coaster/FACE Amusement, Gray, Tenn.

Track Lengths
1280 feet up hill/2,700 feet down hill/3,980 total

Top Speed
27 mph

Total Ride Time/Hourly Capacity
5-7 minutes/360 pph

Special Features
First double alpine coaster in North America;
Two experiences, day and night – nighttime riding
features illuminated track and LED lights
in surrounding forest

Number of Sleds
37 (22 in operation on track)

Height Minimum/Age Minimum
38 inches to ride with a
supervising companion 16 or older;
54 inches solo/
Riders must be at least 3 years of age

Ride Supplier
Wiegand Sports GmbH

First Day of Public Operation
July 18, 2017

►BRANSON
Continued from page 15

has wanted to ride it again and again — for us that’s the best acceptance. We feel like when people want to ride more than once, we’ve done our job. We’re getting a large number of re-rides and positive reviews across the board. The great thing about the alpine coaster is that each one is unique. That’s what’s so cool about this attraction, there’s not one in the world exactly like the other,” said Mabe.

On a personal note, Wedel is pleased with Wiegand’s Ozark’s installation. “I grew up in Branson, so this is very cool for my family and friends back in Missouri!”

Additional experiences are in the planning stages at the Branson property. “We’re working on those right now. We’re trying to find the right attraction in the future, but we don’t have anything we’re ready to announce as of right now,” said Mabe.

FACE Amusement also operates Mirror Maize —



One or two riders can enjoy riding the sleds on The Mountain Coaster in Branson, Mo. The alpine coaster travels a total distance of 3,980 feet and reaches up to 27 mph during the five-minute-plus ride. COURTESY THE BRANSON COASTER

billed as the world’s first indoor corn maze, Arcade City, a 12,000-foot operation and 7D Dark Ride Adventure, all enclosed in the nearby Branson Landing complex. The latter two have been successful for the company in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. as well as Orlando, Fla.

about his company: “FACE creates fun experiences and loyalty, that’s our mission statement. We try to create different types of experiences that fit our mission. We do everything from arcades, motion theaters, go karts, and we’re also involved in amusement rides similar to The Branson Coaster.”

Mabe described more



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Las Vegas surround-effects film attraction rumbles into action

Excalibur Hotel and Casino introduces Ultimate 4-D Experience

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Excalibur Hotel and Casino's carnival-style arcade games area, the Fun Dungeon, has been vibrating and booming with new activity since early November with the opening of a new film-based attraction.

Called Ultimate 4-D Experience, the special effects theater was created by multisensory, multidimensional cinematic attractions leader SimEx-Iwerks Entertainment of Toronto, in partnership with Warner Bros. Consumer Products.

The 72-seat auditorium showcases a mix of popular "action brands" from major production entities. Each family-friendly presentation is approximately 15 minutes in length and presented in 3D high-definition projection.

The attraction's immersive nature is enhanced by the latest 4D technologies, such as in-theater and in-seat effects. It also features a dynamic, theme park-quality queue complete with excitement-building lighting and music.



Excalibur
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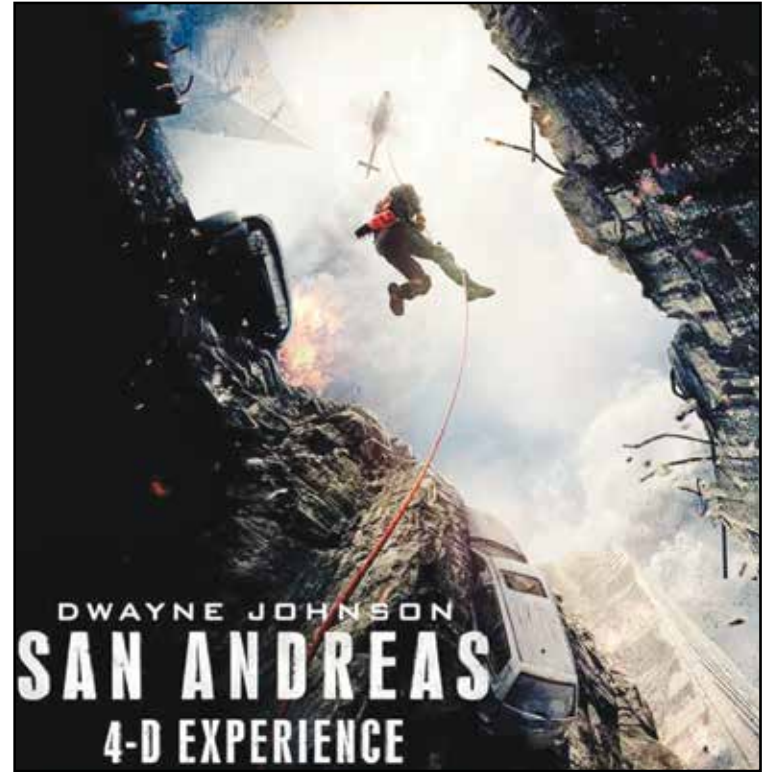
The Ultimate 4-D Experience opened with three movie-based shows: San Andreas 4-D Experience, an adventure starring Dwayne Johnson that follows a rescue-chopper pilot's dangerous effort to save his daughter after a massive California earthquake; Journey 2: The Mysterious Island — The 4D Experience, a one-of-a-kind voyage to an elusive island; and The Lego Movie 4-D Experience, a custom-made animat-

ed film that takes place in the world of *The Lego Movie* and finds Emmet and his friends entangled in a plot led by a scheming villain.

San Andreas 4-D Experience, starring Dwayne Johnson, is one of the featured short, multisensory action film presentations at Excalibur Hotel and Casino's Ultimate 4-D Experience.
COURTESY MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL

ed film that takes place in the world of *The Lego Movie* and finds Emmet and his friends entangled in a plot led by a scheming villain.

"At Excalibur, we strive to keep our amenities fresh and fun for our guests," said Sheri



Cherubino, the resort's chief financial officer. "We are excited to expand our Fun Dungeon experience to include the Ultimate 4-D Experience. It's a great fit and will appeal to both families and adults."

The attraction is open

daily 10 a.m.-10 p.m., with shows running in rotation every twenty minutes (each film plays once per hour). Tickets are available at the Excalibur's box office and at the attraction itself.

—Dean Lamanna



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Holiday park, facility happenings abound in 2017

AT: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

NORTH AMERICA — More and more theme parks across the country are extending their seasons by adding holiday festivities. Among some of the new celebrations this year are Worlds of Fun, Kansas City, Mo., and Six Flags New England, Agawam, Ma.

Frontier City, Oklahoma City, Okla., has already announced a new holiday celebration, which is to debut in 2018. A Frontier Christmas will run Nov. 30-Dec. 30, 2018.

The following is a sampling of some of the holiday happenings in the U.S. for 2017. Dates provided are when events start and when they end. But, in all instances, the parks are open on select dates during that time frame.

Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Va. and Tampa Bay, Fla. (seaworldparks.com)

Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, began its holiday celebration on Nov. 24 and will run through Jan. 1. It offers eight million lights, festive food and beverage, and holiday shopping. Many of the rides and attractions are open during the holiday celebrations including InvadR wooden coaster.

Also offered are Sesame Street Forest of Fun and Rudolph's Winter Wonderland where guests can meet Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and friends Clarice, Yukon, Cornelius and Bumble.

There are special Christmas dining experiences including dining with Rudolph and friends, Santa's Fireside Feast, and Tastes of Christmas Town.

Live shows include "Deck the Halls," "Gift of Harmony," "Gloria," "O' Tannenbaum,"

CHRISTMAS PREVIEW



The 2017 holiday celebration at California's Great America, Santa Clara, Calif., is the second year for the event. It features over seven million lights, rides and attractions, live shows, and seasonal food and beverage. COURTESY CALIFORNIA'S GREAT AMERICA

"Scrooge No More!!," and "Twas That Night."

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay Christmas Town kicked off Nov. 19-31. All details had not been finalized when AT when to press, but many of the same offerings at its sister park in Williamsburg such as Sesame Street, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, holiday shopping, and open rides and attractions are available.

WinterFest California's Great America Santa Clara, Calif. (cagreatamerica.com)

WinterFest at this park kicked off Nov. 24 and will run through Dec. 30 on select dates.

The celebration, which debuted in 2016, transforms the park into a winter wonderland with more than seven million LED holiday lights and decorated Christmas trees. Along with last year's favorites, there are new features this year such as an enlarged crafters area where more than 20 Bay Area artisans showcase their talents. Also new

is an expansion of Candy Cane Lane, one of the most photographed scenes in 2016, and a fire pit setting to keep guests warm near the Patriot roller coaster.

Also for this year, every Planet Snoopy ride, including GR8 SK8, Peanuts 500, Woodstock Express, Sally's Love Buggies and more, are open.

Other rides and attractions entertaining guests are Gold Striker and Patriot roller coasters, the iconic Carousel Columbia and Flying Eagles family rides.

There are other activities such as ice skating, displays of lights and decor, nightly tree lightings, carolers and "It's Christmas, Snoopy!" ice show. Santa's workshop and Mrs. Claus' kitchen are back as are numerous dining locations offering holiday fare.

Eight unique and decorative themed areas guide attendees through WinterFest, where guests may pass by 20-foot-tall candy canes in Candy Cane Lane, experience the wonder of snow falling in Hometown Square, and admire Charlie Brown's Christmas tree in Planet Snoopy.

Smoky Mountain Christmas, Dollywood Pigeon Forge, Tenn. (dollywood.com)

Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas kicked off Nov. 4 and will run through Jan. 1. It includes an array of entertainment spread across the park that is adorned with four million lights. Twenty rides and attractions are being featured.

Special holiday activities include: Christmas in the Smokies, a performance with a 14-member cast singing hometown holiday favorites; the Parade of

Arizona's Bearizona opens Wild Wonderland walk-through



Bearizona, Williams, Ariz., opens its walk-through portion of the park during the holiday season so guests may come and enjoy the festivities, and get into the holiday season, with Wild Wonderland. The event runs until Dec. 30 on specific days. There is a festive light show every half hour, the chance to view some of the animals that like to stay up late in the cold, seasonal food and beverage, and story time with Mrs. Claus. COURTESY BEARIZONA

Many Colors, which takes place nightly on operating days; "It's a Wonderful Life," a performance of the popular Christmas movie; an Appalachian Christmas, featuring acoustic music; Christmas with the Kingdom Heirs presenting Southern gospel hymn favorites; and Dolly's Christmas Chapel, where worship services are held each Sunday afternoon during a Smoky Mountain Christmas.

Park guests are able to meet Rudolph and His Friends and listen to the MistleTones, a cappella performance of traditional Christmas standards. There is Santa Land held in Celebration Hall where guests see Santa and his elves getting ready for Christmas.

A performance of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" also is

presented.

Along with the entertainment offered, Dollywood offers an array of seasonal food and beverages as well as Christmas gift shopping.

Lone Star Christmas Gaylord Texan Resort Grapevine, Texas (christmasatgaylordtexan.com)

Holiday magic has already begun at Gaylord Texan Resort, Grapevine, Texas. The 14th annual event began Nov. 10 and will run through Jan. 1. There are a variety of holiday activities, live entertainment, and displays to celebrate the season.

Called a Lone Star Christmas, visitors journey through a winter wonderland featur-

► See CHRISTMAS, page 22



A Smoky Mountain Christmas returns to Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, Tenn., this year with many favorites including the Parade of Many Colors held nightly during operating days. Pictured is a scene from one of the parades in 2016.

COURTESY DOLLYWOOD



Gaylord Texan Resort, Grapevine, Texas, decorates its atriums with over two million lights and uses over two million pounds of real snow to create a two-story-tall, 12-lane snow tubing hill during the holidays.

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ing: two million holiday lights decorating the resort's indoor atriums; two million pounds of real snow for a two-story tall, 12-lane snow tubing hill; and a 6,000-square-foot outdoor ice skating rink.

In addition, there is a 54-foot-tall Christmas tree adorning the center atrium; miniature train sets throughout the property; 25-foot-tall Nutcrackers; 2,300 decorated wreaths; 5,600 feet of garland; and 15,000 ornaments.

There also is the exhibit called Ice! In mid-October, 40 talented master ice artisans from Harbin, China, traveled to Grapevine to carve two million pounds of ice into magical holiday scenes creating the Ice! attraction. Those scenes include characters, an "On the Blocks" ice bar (21 years of age and up), and five ice slides, which take visitors through the classic holiday poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

The Ice! exhibit takes up 14,000 square feet of space.

Christmas in Hershey Hersheypark Hershey, Pa. (hersheypark.com)

Hersheypark once again is presenting its holiday celebration. Christmas in Hershey began Nov. 10 and runs through Jan. 1, on select dates.

Four million sparkling lights are illuminating guests this year. The new holiday show, A Music Box Christmas, is being offered and the popular Christmas Candylane activities have returned, including: Santa and his live reindeer, Rudolph's Skating Pond, and Noel, a light show.

Christmas Candylane at Hersheypark holiday attraction



An ice skating rink is just one of the attractions at the Orange County Fair & Event Center, Costa Mesa, Calif., during Winter Fest. Other attractions include ice tubing down Snowflake Summit's 150-foot-tall, eight-lane mountain of ice and Snow Play, an area with real snow blown-in daily. COURTESY ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

is featuring two new added additions to the more than 50 rides already being offered. They are the Sidewinder coaster and Triple Towers, the latter a new ride for Hershey this year. These attractions are joining favorites Wildcat, SooperdooperLooper, Cocoa Cruiser, Wild Mouse and Laff Trakk coasters, weather permitting.

Hershey Sweet Lights, a two-mile, drive-through of lighted displays, is back.

Another new feature this year is the Hersheypark Happy Christmas Package, available at Hershey Lodge and The Hotel Hershey during the holiday season. The promotion offers discounts to visitors that stay at the resort and visit the park. More information may be obtained by going to www.thehotelhershey.com.

There are a variety of other holiday attractions and live musical entertainment at Hersheypark Resort. At ZooAmerica North American Wildlife Park, there is the Wild Winter Treats where guests may watch Hershey's animals get into the holi-

day spirit with special treats.

The Hershey Story Museum presents the Little Elves Workshop where participants may roll, cut and ice their creations and design their own packaging.

Snowball Saturdays are back where friendly indoor snowball fights are the centerpieces. Hershey's Chocolate World Holiday Activities include breakfast with Santa, viewing the Annual Hershey's Holiday Chocolate House, and Hershey Sweet Lights Trolley, which provides guests a journey through Hershey Sweet Lights.

Ice Land Moody Gardens Galveston, Texas (moodygardens.org)

Moody Gardens kicked off its Ice Land: Rainforest Holiday Nov. 11 and will run through Jan. 7. The annual holiday celebration is popular for its ice sculptures created by a team of 25 master ice carvers from Harbin, China. The team turns two million pounds of ice into monkeys, birds, butterflies, flowers and much more. The display of ice sculptures is set up this year to take guests on a journey through scenes from rainforests around the world.

Guests may take a break while on their journey through the carved ice creations by stopping by the Shivers Ice Bar, offering adult beverages while sitting on a stool carved from ice at a bar completely made of ice. This year's Shivers Ice Bar takes on a Mayan Ruins theme.

Along with the variety of ice scenes, there is also a 36-foot-tall Giant Ruins Ice Slide that takes guests from the treetops of the rainforest down to the forest floor. At the top of the slide is an eight-foot tall Harpy Eagle ice sculpture.

Not far from the ice slide is the water's edge scene, which introduces guests to another as-

New Ice Adventure Park highlights Queen Mary's Chill

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Chill, the annual winter carnival sponsored by, and unfurled adjacent to, the permanently berthed Queen Mary, is adding a unique family attraction for this year's Dec. 13 - Jan. 7 run: Ice Adventure Park.

The 38,000-square-foot amusement area overlooking the historic ocean liner and Long Beach Harbor will contain an ice skating track, ice bumper cars, ice tricycles, a 300-foot-long zipline, ice shuffleboard and a two-story, 100-foot-long ice tubing slide.

The event also offers a virtual expedition through international holiday traditions and cultural celebrations by way of a wide array of areas, activities and foods. All will be accompanied by varied music spun by deejays nightly.

Visitors can begin their adventure "in" Germany and experience the famous Munich Market and Gnome's Wishing Well, then ice skate over to Switzerland to warm up in the Alpine Lodge with Swiss holiday treats, including chocolate and cheese.

There will be an outdoor ice skating village in the Holland area, which also will feature live shows, private chalets and Windmill Way — serving gourmet doughnuts and pancakes at the Dutch Pantry. Kids can visit Claus Cabin and make their own stockings with Santa's elves at the North Pole.

For adults, vodka sips can be had in the seriously chilled (down to nine degrees) Ice Bar, while dancing will be the featured fun at the Northern Lights Show.

Chinese celebrations also will take place, with weekly fireworks, traditional Lion Dances and Chinese Lantern decorating.

•queenmary.com



This rendering of the Chill's Holland area, which features outdoor ice skating, shows some of the wintry fun on tap at the Queen Mary. COURTESY QUEEN MARY



Moody Gardens kicked off its Ice Land: Rainforest Holiday in early November. The annual holiday celebration is popular for its ice sculptures created by a team of 25 master ice carvers from Harbin, China. The team has turned two million pounds of ice into a journey through some of the world's rain forests. COURTESY MOODY GARDENS

pect of the rainforest. This time, it is with beautiful birds, a Chinese alligator, river otters, colorful fish and even an anaconda or two.

Also offered to guests are an abundance of holiday lights, an ice rink and holiday 3D films, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer 4D.

Winter Fest Orange County (OC) Fair & Event Center Costa Mesa, Calif. (ocfair.com)

This year is calling for 18 days of snow in a winter wonderland of fun as Winter Fest returns from Dec. 21-Jan. 7. Festivities include 20 wintry activities — Santa and his reindeer flying over the fairgrounds for four nights before heading back to the North Pole on Christmas Day

and unlimited ice tubing down Snowflake Summit's 150-foot-tall, eight-lane mountain of ice. A Snow Play area with real snow blown daily also is available.

The Festival of Lights, a walk-through attraction with lighted displays, is a fan favorite as is the nightly tree lighting celebration that includes a parade of Winter Fest characters, snow flurries and fireworks.

Also offered are Winter Fest-themed bounce houses and slides for kids, craft making and games in Santa's workshop, Santa's petting zoo, and the Little Elves toddler play area.

There are daily live musicals and performances as well as meet-and-greets with popular cartoon characters such as Thomas the Train, Sid the Sci-

► See CHRISTMAS, page 23



This is the second year that this Six Flags park, Six Flags St. Louis, Mo., has celebrated the holiday season by extending the season. Shown here is one of the more popular attractions, among many, during the holidays, Candy Cane Lane. COURTESY SIX FLAGS

►CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 22

ence Kid, PJ Masks, and Buddy from Dinosaur Train.

New Years Eve Winter Fest will light up the sky with fireworks and a 3,000-beach-ball-drop at midnight.

Holiday in the Park Six Flags Entertainment Corp. (sixflags.com)

Holiday in the Park has now expanded into nine Six Flags parks with Six Flags New England, Agawam, Ma., debuting its holiday celebration this season. Last year, Six Flags St. Louis, Mo., came on line with its Holiday in the Park.

Six Flags New England

For the debut holiday celebrations, this Six Flags park is shining brightly with holiday lights, live shows, and strolling carolers. The Looney Tune characters are on hand as are Mr. and Mrs. Claus and their elves. Holiday shopping is available and seasonal food and beverage are abundant.

Depending on the weather, some of the rides open include: Houdini – The Great Escape; Stampede Bumper Cars; Rock N Rodeo; Tomahawk; The Scrambler; Krazy Kars; Krazy Kups; Wild Wheelz; Clubhouse; 1909 Illions Grand Carousel; New England Express; Thunderbolt;

Balloon Race; Buzzsaw; Gotham City Crime Wave; Kontiki; Mind Eraser; and Batman the Dark Knight.

The second Holiday in the Park at Six Flags St. Louis is offering many of Six Flags' hallmark holiday attractions such as strolling carolers, Looney Tunes characters and Mr. and Mrs. Claus meet-and-greets, rides, attractions, seasonal food and beverage and live entertainment.

Specials at Six Flags Great Adventure include numerous light shows and illuminated, towering trees. Nearly 30 rides are open including: SkyScreamer, Carousel, Big Wheel, Tea Cups, Nitro, Batman: The Ride, The Green Lantern and Superman - Ultimate Flight, The Dark Knight coaster and Skull Mountain, weather permitting.

Six Flags Over Georgia, features more than one million LED lights and dozens of Christmas trees. Guests may enjoy the park's most popular rides including Goliath. At the park's historic Riverview Carousel, a walk-through experience has been created for visitors to enjoy.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas features a new Holiday Express train for guests, along with the popular caroling Christmas Tree family. Santa's Castle is popular with the little ones.

Six Flags Over Texas offers Frosty's Snow Hill; Holiday Tree of Trees Light Spectacular; Honky Tonk Christmas; Deep



Six Flags Over Georgia, Austell, Ga., dazzles park guests throughout the holidays with over one million LED lights including this lighted tunnel. COURTESY SIX FLAGS

in the Heart of Christmas walk-through attraction; Fa-La-La-La Light Show; and SantaLand, where guests may hop on the SantaLand Express train and visit Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom features an array of holiday-themed wildlife presentations that include Drench! Celebrates, a nighttime dolphin show. The holiday celebration also offers live-dancing at Main Street Festival of Lights, Happy Holidays in Adventure Theater, and a Christmas presentation in the Sea Lion Stadium.

Many of the park's rides also are open.

Six Flags Magic Mountain celebrates the holidays in a grand way as does Six Flags America, both decorated in millions of lights and featuring live entertainment, seasonal food and drink, rides and attractions, and meet-and-greets with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and the Looney Tunes characters.

Universal Studios Hollywood Universal City, Calif. (universalstudios hollywood.com)

The all-new "Christmas in The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" and the return of "Grinchmas" are bringing holiday cheer to guests at Universal Studios Hollywood this season. In addition, Universal CityWalk also is celebrating the holidays.

The all-new "Christmas in The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" is already delighting guests during this holiday season which began Nov. 24 and will run through Jan. 7, 2018. The experience has transformed the iconic Hogwarts castle into a light projection spectacular, while the town of Hogsmeade village shines brightly with décor uniquely themed to each of the individual storefronts.

The a cappella Frog Choir, comprised of Hogwarts students and their giant throaty frogs, is performing all-new holiday

themed songs.

A wide selection of custom-made Christmas ornaments created especially for "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" are available. Newly introduced holiday-themed fare and the seasonal return of hot Butterbeer further complements the overall experience.

"Grinchmas" returns with a Who-lebration of fun fit for The Grinch, his faithful dog, Max, and a roster of Who-ville Whos.

Universal CityWalk is decking the halls for a wintry calen-

dar of festive holiday experiences and an array of delectable treats. This festive holiday celebration started Nov. 24 and runs through Dec. 23.

WinterFest Worlds of Fun Kansas City, Mo. (cedarfair.com)

Holiday cheer rings out at Worlds of Fun during the park's first annual WinterFest celebration. It kicked off Nov. 24 and will run through Dec. 30. Thousands of holiday lights transform the park into a winter wonderland. Being offered this year are 10 live shows, meet-and-greets with over 16 iconic holiday characters, ice skating and cooking decorating.

Select rides also are being offered. Cedar Fair Entertainment Company, park owners, purchased three Specialty Vehicles mini electric trolleys, which can be seen at the Worlds of Fun park this season as well as Carowinds, Charlotte, N.C., and Kings Island, Mason, Ohio. Holiday celebrations at these parks also are underway, running Nov. 24 and running through Dec. 30.



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Christmas In Midtown adds 1.5 million new lights, total now 6.5 million

Silver Dollar City expands popular Christmas festival

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

BRANSON, Mo. — Silver Dollar City's renowned and award-winning Old Time Christmas opened on Nov. 4. For this season, the popular festival grew larger with the new addition, Christmas In Midtown. The largest single lighting expansion in the past two decades of the festival, Christmas In Midtown is a 1.5-acre area featuring new light displays positioned nine stories high.

"We are celebrating our 30th Old Time Christmas event," said Brad Thomas, park president. "In that time, we have learned that our guests' expectations for Christmas are no different than any other time of the year — they expect the event to constantly change. Through our planning processes, we schedule additions and changes to the festival to include components like new light features and changes of our signature production shows."

Among the light displays, visitors will find flying angels, running reindeer, moving trains, huge light tunnels, dozens of stars and snowflakes and a giant turning globe. In addition to musical trees with moving lights, a 90-foot tree will tower over the expansion. All the displays were created at Silver Dollar City. According to Thomas, Christmas In Midtown is the result of almost 3 years of research, planning, production and construction.

Christmas In Midtown is located in the park running from Sullivan's Mill to the American Plunge log flume. Entry portals into the area include huge wreaths 24 feet high by 24 feet wide, as well as three 50-foot light tunnels. In all, Christmas In Midtown fills 70,000 square feet with 145 miles of lights.

"The most striking aspect will be the initial impression as one enters through the lighted portals," said Lisa Rau, publicity director, Silver Dollar City. "With displays soaring up nine stories — and all the moving parts! — it will truly be one of those 'remember when' memories that people treasure."

Rau takes a sense of pride in the new festival. "It was all done here by our very own people, designed and built at Silver Dollar City," she told AT. "A year in the works and what a result!"

"Our midtown area has open capacity during the nighttime holiday season, and the area's architecture allowed us to create a new holiday 'community' inside the very heart of The City," said Thomas.

Thomas explained that the long-range plans for the new expansion developed an efficient use of storage. "We constructed a building to house the production of these pieces, and that same building will be used to store the pieces," he said. "As we add and change elements of any of our festivals, we think through current and future installation and



Silver Dollar City designed many displays in sections not only to be easily assembled but also to be easily stored as seen in left two photos. AT/GARY SLADE; PARK COURTESY SDC

tear-down. The teams who will install and tear down this area had direct input into how the armatures and structures would be designed and built. Obviously building in sections will help these pieces be assembled, dismantled and stored for this and future years."

An Old Time Christmas has been featured on television and in print via these media outlets: *USA Today*, *CNN Travel*, *The Travel Channel*, *Good Morning America*, *The Weather Channel*, *Wall Street Journal*, *AOL Travel*,

Yahoo Travel, *Southern Living*, *AAA Midwest Traveler*, *MSN.com* and *Mainstreet.com*.

"Guests who visit Silver Dollar City at Christmas find a totally different experience from summer," said Martha Hoy Bohner, senior publicist. "Everything becomes Christmas: the park décor, the entertainment and the food. I love how the hours change so that we are open into the night to showcase the lights. The smell of ginger cookies in the bakery, the sounds of the strolling carolers, the five-story special effects tree — I love the total immersion."

Even with the huge Christmas In Midtown expansion, all the popular components to An Old Time Christmas return for the festival. They include:

• **A Broadway-style production of A Dickens' Christmas Carol:** an original musical adaptation of the famous classic by Charles Dickens, with elaborate sets and visual effects, flying spirits, vanishing ghosts, revolving scenery and pyrotechnic special effects.

• **Rudolph's Holly Jolly Christmas Light Parade:** held twice daily with nine musical floats designed specifically for Silver Dollar City and 45 colorful costumed characters.

• **1,000 decorated trees** (including 700 cut trees): the centerpiece of which is the five-story

Christmas Tree on the Square that features 850 ornaments to 350,000 energy-saving light bulbs that are synchronized to one-hundredth of a second making for 6,000 light changes a minute.

• **The Broadway-style musical *It's a Wonderful Life*:** an original production from Silver Dollar City's award-winning show producers created exclusively for An Old Time Christmas.

• **Four additional shows:** Frontier Fa La La Follies, Holiday Hearthside Harmonies, Tinker Junior's Toy Shop and Christmas on the Bayou.

• **The Living Nativity and Santa's Workshop.**

• **Rudolph's Christmas Town:** a character meet-and-greet with games and cookie decorating

• **The Frisco Sing Along Steam Train.**

• **Three different holiday buffets** featuring prime rib and turkey and dressing

An Old Time Christmas began on November 4 and continues through New Year's Day. As spectacular as the festival is, Silver Dollar City has no intentions of resting on its laurels.

"We have two exciting changes and additions in our future Christmas plans," teased Thomas. "But you will have to stay tuned to learn the 'when' and the 'what!'"



Christmas in Midtown's 1.5 million lights brings the park total to 6.5 million. The park's 30th Old Time Christmas has more than 500 miles of holiday lights to decorate Silver Dollar City. COURTESY SDC

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Disneyland's 'Star Wars' land reaches structural pinnacle



In late August, construction teams installed the highest steel beam for Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, the new Star Wars-themed land coming to the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Calif. This milestone capped off the infrastructure for a 130-foot-tall rock spire, the highest point in the new land. Once completed, Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge will include approximately 10,000 tons of steel and 200,000 square feet of hand-carved rockwork. The same 14-acre land is also under construction at the Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Both are scheduled to open in 2019. COURTESY DISNEYLAND RESORT

Landry's Inc. debuts 5D theater

GALVESTON, Texas – Landry's, Inc. announced the addition of a 5D theater experience across from the Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier. The new Shark Attack and Mysterious Underworld 5D attractions offer exhilarating, multi-sensory experiences with the latest technology available in the industry.

The 5D theater combines 3D projection with added physical effects. Shark Attack incorporates a motion platform, while Mysterious Underworld has 15 seats. With vibrations, movements and spatial music, guests will experience a wide-range of sensory stimulants. Designed by Matrix Technology, other effects include simulated rain, wind and smells.

Audiences will watch a ravenous shark try to break through the glass in Shark Attack, all the while getting splashed as the shark escalates into a state of fury. During the virtual 8-minute adventure Mysterious Underworld ride, guests' seats will swing and sway, simulating a heart-racing ride in a trolley through a forgotten mine.

Tickets are available for purchase in person at the Pleasure Pier ticket booth and the 5D theater ticket office. Tickets will be \$7 per person for Shark Attack, \$7 per person for Mysterious Underworld and \$12 per person for a combination 5D ride ticket.



The two intertwined coasters will break three world records.

American Dream selects Gerstlauer coasters

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The indoor Nickelodeon Universe theme park at American Dream will feature two record-breaking roller coasters by Gerstlauer. They consist of an intertwined launched Euro-Fighter with a beyond-vertical drop and a spinning coaster whose cars rotate on a vertical axis.

"Featuring the best in family and adult entertainment, Nickelodeon Universe at American Dream has been designed to appeal to customers of all ages. By working with the best partners in the business, our park experience will be highly themed and offer one-of-a-kind rides by Gerstlauer," said Don Ghermezian, president of Triple Five.

The Euro-Fighter boasts the world record for the steepest roller coaster drop, while the Spinning Coaster will hold the titles of the world's tallest and longest free-spinning roller coaster. The two roller coasters will be intertwined, which means the combined 14 vehicles will run in and around each other.

"These two coasters, appealing to thrill seek-

ers, will break three world-records combined. Gerstlauer has far exceeded our expectations with these new-to-market coasters and we're excited to have them on this journey with us," commented Gary Hanson, a management consultant at Triple Five.

"We have worked on many projects, but this will be unlike anything we have ever designed. Visitors to Nickelodeon Universe at American Dream are in for a great ride," said Siegfried Gerstlauer, managing director of Gerstlauer Amusement Rides.

"It has really been an honor for us to go on this journey with Triple Five," said Adam Sandy, chief business development officer with Ride Entertainment.

"In many ways the Spinning Coaster at their Mall of America property kicked off Gerstlauer's growth in North America, and they have subsequently put three additional rides in their Minnesota and Edmonton properties. The two new rides at American Dream will take Gerstlauer's thrills to the next level," added Sandy.

Kentucky Kingdom unveils 2018 plans

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky Kingdom is preparing for 2018 by adding new attractions. These include a new thrill ride, *Scream Extreme* — a Zamperla Endeavour; a new family ride, *Rock 'n' Roller*; and two new films for the 5D Cinema, *Happy Family*,

The Ride and *Journey 2 the Mysterious Island*, the latter starring Dwayne Johnson, better known as The Rock. Happy Family comes to the park from Germany via Mack Media in conjunction with SimEx and Iwerks.

In addition, the park's classic wooden coaster, *Thunder Run*, is undergoing extensive trackwork, which will deliver a smoother and faster ride. Many new amenities will also be introduced, including new, affordably priced cabanas situated alongside the giant wave pool, more shade structures, and new seating areas throughout the park.

Ed Hart, Kentucky Kingdom's President and CEO, elaborated, "We're pleased to report that the park had another record year in 2017, drawing an average of more than 9,000 visitors per day during the peak summer season. More than 30 percent of those guests came from surrounding states."

Hart added, "Before we

reopened Kentucky Kingdom in 2014, the park had a total of 27 theme park and water park rides. Since then, we've more than doubled the number of rides and water attractions. These additions include two highly acclaimed roller coasters, *Lightning Run* and *Storm Chaser*, both of which are on the list of the world's top steel roller coasters compiled by *AT*, as well as *Deep Water Dive*, which was until recently (Universal Studios beat us by one foot) the tallest body slide in the world with a Skybox launch. Kentucky Kingdom now has more than 70 rides and attractions, including the greatly expanded *Hurricane Bay* water park and one of the largest selections of children's rides in the region, most of which are designed to allow adults to ride along."

For the 2018 season, general admission is \$54.95. Admission for children (under 48 inches) and seniors (age 55 and over) is \$39.95.

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2017 State Fair of Texas draws 2.25 million visitors

FAIRS

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DALLAS, Texas — The 2017 State Fair of Texas, held Sept. 29-Oct. 22, welcomed 2,250,433 people through the gates, while generating approximately \$54.5 million in gross coupon sales for food, beverages and rides, the second best in the fair's 131-year history.

Although down from the more than 2.4 million fairgoers generating \$56 million in gross coupon sales in 2016, fair officials are very pleased with the end results.

"We are grateful to have once again brought friends and family from across the state and around the world to Fair Park in Dallas to celebrate all things Texan," said Mitchell Glibert, president, State Fair of Texas. "With another fair season under our belts, we look forward to reinvesting its success back into Fair Park and the very community which makes this event possible."

Karissa Condoianis, vice president, public relations for the fair, echoed Glibert's thoughts about the 2017 event.

"Overall, we are very pleased with how this year's State Fair of Texas went," Condoianis said. "We hope our fairgoers had wonderful times and created lifelong memories."

This is the second year for fair officials to report attendance figures based on scanned tickets at the gates instead of relying on the coupon counting system it had relied on previously for the past several decades.

Fairgoers had the option of purchasing their tickets at the gates or online and having them mailed. The new system helped fair officials offer the convenience of purchasing them at BigTex.com or through their smart phones. They could pull up their tickets on their phones and have them scanned at the gate.

The theme for the 2017 fair was "Celebrating Texans," focusing on Texans and Texas.

Recognizing this year as the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I, a commemorative exhibit was open to guests throughout the run of the fair. Featured in the Hall of State and drawing 150,000 fairgoers, "Texas in the First World War" provided an in-depth look into Lone Star State history, exploring the active roles that both Texas and the United States played throughout the pivotal war era.

Displaying a collection of



The State Fair of Texas, Dallas, which ran Sept. 29-Oct. 22, was a fair food lover's delight. Above left, is a group at the original Fletcher's Corny Dog stand location on the midway, which celebrated its 75th anniversary this year. Fairgoers helped them celebrate by buying more than 615,000 corny dogs across the company's seven concession stands. Above right, the Texas Steak Out food operation was also at this year's State Fair of Texas. The operation is owned by Nathan Janousrk and Stephanie Vandervorste Janousek, who debuted her business at the fair in 2014. She is the daughter of Steve Vandervorste, an independent ride operator. FLETCHER'S COURTESY STATE FAIR OF TEXAS; STEAK OUT, AT/GARY SLADE



The 2017 State Fair of Texas, held Sept. 29-Oct. 22, drew over 2.2 million fairgoers this year, while generating \$54.5 million in gross coupon sales for food, beverage and rides. Above, left, is Bamboo Fun House, owned by Derek and Kitty Long (D&K Amusements) and manufactured by Owens Trailers. Above, center, is the Crazy Mouse, owned by Steve Vandervorste and manufactured by Reverchon in the foreground and the Top 'O Texas tower, owned by the fair and manufactured by Intamin, in the background. Above, right, is the Texas Star, owned by Mary and Tom Talley and manufactured by S.D.C. AT/GARY SLADE

wartime memorabilia and vehicles such as a Model T ambulance and a 1917 Indian motorcycle, the exhibit incorporated details of the significant "Punitive Expedition" and the operation's influences leading up to America's involvement in WWI.

The new Briscoe Carpenter Livestock Center opened just in time for this year's exposition. The 55,000-square-foot facility meets the growing needs of the fair's agricultural education programs. As a multi-purpose facility, officials hope it also will attract new shows, meetings, and conventions to Fair Park throughout the year, as well as expand the scope of livestock and agriculture activities during the State Fair of Texas.

For fairgoers who want to learn more about agriculture and its significance in their everyday lives, the "I Spy Texas" exhibit was on display in the foyer of the new venue. "I Spy Texas" de-

buted at the 2016 fair and, due to its popularity, returned this year with the all-new location. The interactive exhibit takes visitors on a road trip of Texas, allowing them to tour each region of the state and learn about the natural resources and wildlife native to each area.

On Friday, Oct. 6, the annual Youth Livestock Auction raised a record of more than \$1.18 million for youth livestock exhibitors. The Grand Champion Market Steer of the Youth Livestock Auction was sold to Superior Trailers and the Big Tex Champion Club for a record high of \$141,000.

There were 74 rides on the midway this year, representing about 24 operators. There were three new rides — the Beast, brought in by Tom and Mary Talley, and manufactured by KMG; Ice Jet, brought in by Bobby Myers and manufactured by Chance Rides; and Wiggle Worm, brought

in by Jeremy Floyd and manufactured by Majestic Manufacturing.

Bringing in the top three ride spots this year were: (1.) Texas Star, owned and operated by Tom and Mary Talley, manufactured by SDC; (2.) Texas Skyway, owned by State Fair of Texas (operated by Mike Demas), manufactured by Doppelmayr, and (3.) Crazy Mouse, Steve Vandervorste, Reverchon.

Another highlight at the State Fair of Texas this year was the Xpogo show. The success of this extreme sports show in 2016 at the fair resulted in its return. It featured pogo professionals showing off their skills with gravity-defying tricks, flips, and spins.

Also hosted this year was the Lords of Gravity Basketball Slam Dunk Show. Returning for its second year at the fair, the Lords of Gravity group acrobatic basketball team is from Budapest, Hungary.

A successful new show this year was World of Magic, which featured a performance by award-winning illusionists and even a floating robot.

In 2016 the State Fair of Texas introduced Big Tex Urban Farms, an urban garden system in the heart of Fair Park. In alignment with the fair's mission of promoting agriculture, education, and community involvement, Big Tex Urban Farms serves as an outdoor learning space while providing fresh, organic produce to the surrounding communities.

The urban farm is composed entirely of mobile planting beds, all of which can be easily transported to other locations when the space is needed for the fair's annual exposition. Starting out with 100 planters in 2016, the farm has grown to 520 planters in 2017.

During this year's fair, some

► See TEXAS, page 30

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An aerial photograph of a large outdoor event site, likely a fairground or amusement park. The site is filled with various colorful structures, including roller coasters, game booths, and other carnival rides. A large, light-colored building is visible in the center. The surrounding area is lush with green trees.

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North Carolina Fair attendance tops 1 million guests in 11 days

Powers Great American Midways brings 100 rides, 3 gondola wheels; Wade brings 3 coasters

RALEIGH, N.C. – For the fifth time in its 150-year history, more than one million guests visited the North Carolina State Fair, Oct. 12-22.

A total of 1,014,478 visitors passed through the gates during the 11-day exposition, fair officials reported the morning following the fair's closing. The record attendance was set in 2010, when 1,091,887 attended the fair. More than a million guests also attended in 2011, 2015 and 2016.

Discount admission

Opening day saw record attendance fueled by \$1.50 admission starting at 3 p.m. A total of 57,083 took advantage of the discount, eclipsing the previous opening day record of 50,327 set in 2015. Gate admission the other days of the fair was \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Powers Great American Midways, which has provided the sprawling midway since 2006, had 100 rides on location this year, including three gondola wheels and three larger roller coasters. The largest of the wheels, Powers' 33-meter, was the top grossing ride each day of the fair.

Show owner Corky (Les) Powers also featured a number of new rides. They were: KMG Speed (Air Raid) and F5 (Freak Out); Kolmax-Plus bumper car building themed as Chop Shop

Powers Great American Midways had 100 rides at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh, including three large roller coasters, three gondola wheels and several new rides. These photos were taken from atop Powers' giant 33-meter wheel. Wade Shows supports the ride midway.

ALL PHOTOS
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FAIRS

and Kolmax kiddieland train.

Wade Shows, which supplements the fair, brought in its three large coasters: RC-48, Mightly Mouse and Super Cyclone.

All-day ride wristbands as well as individual ride tickets were offered to fairgoers with pre-sale discounts available.

Entertainment

Free entertainment included nightly laser light shows over the fair's pond as well as fireworks. The Pirates of the Colombian Caribbean, The Red Trousers Show (acrobats), racing pigs, circus and stroll-

ing entertainers helped fill out the free entertainment slate. The fair's big top featured the International All-Star Circus and Chinese Imperial Acrobats.

Headliners in the Dorton Arena included country music legend Ronnie Milsap and soul music group Chairmen of the Board.

Grand stand admission productions included tractor pulls, stunt shows, demolition derby and monster trucks.

When the North Carolina State Fair debuted in 1853, it was a four-day event with the largest single-day attendance of 4,000.

—Ron Gustafson



Top photo, "T. J. The Painter" created a one-of-a-kind masterpiece during the off-season on this Zierer Wave Swinger owned by Powers Great American Midways. According to show owner Corky (Les) Powers, the artist worked 15-18 hours a day during the ride's renovation, which took more than 100 days to complete. The spectacular ride was showcased at the entrance to the midway at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh Oct. 12-22. Above, this new KMG Speed (Air Raid) topped out at 118 feet on the midway. Kolmax-Plus supplied the event with a new children's train ride (below)..



►TEXAS Continued from page 28

of the planters were housed throughout the grounds and in the Errol McKoy Greenhouse on the midway, where guests could see how the newest crops are doing.

The fair plans to continue donating all Big Tex Urban Farms produce to Fair Park-area organizations. The Big Tex Urban Farms donated more than 220 pounds of fresh produce, including 108 lettuce heads and 72 live basil plants from the farm's new hydroponic grow tank.

The winners of the 13th Annual Big Tex Choice Awards were: "Best Taste – Sweet" to Clint Probst for his Gulf Coast Fish Bowl, and Tom Grace's Funnel Cake Bacon Queso Burger took

home the titles for both "Best Taste – Savory" and "Most Creative."

This year's offering from Probst was a blue tropical alcoholic beverage served in a cup that looked more like a fish bowl. The "fish bowl" was grounded with gravel made of Nerds candy, then filled with the blue tropical-flavored punch. There were Swedish Fish candy floating in the drink.

Tom Gracie created his Funnel Cake Bacon Queso Burger beginning with two funnel cakes for "buns" that were fried to a golden crunch. The first funnel bun was topped with a freshly-grilled burger patty, a heaping helping of crispy bacon, and gooey queso. It was completed with another funnel bun that was generously dusted with powdered sugar.

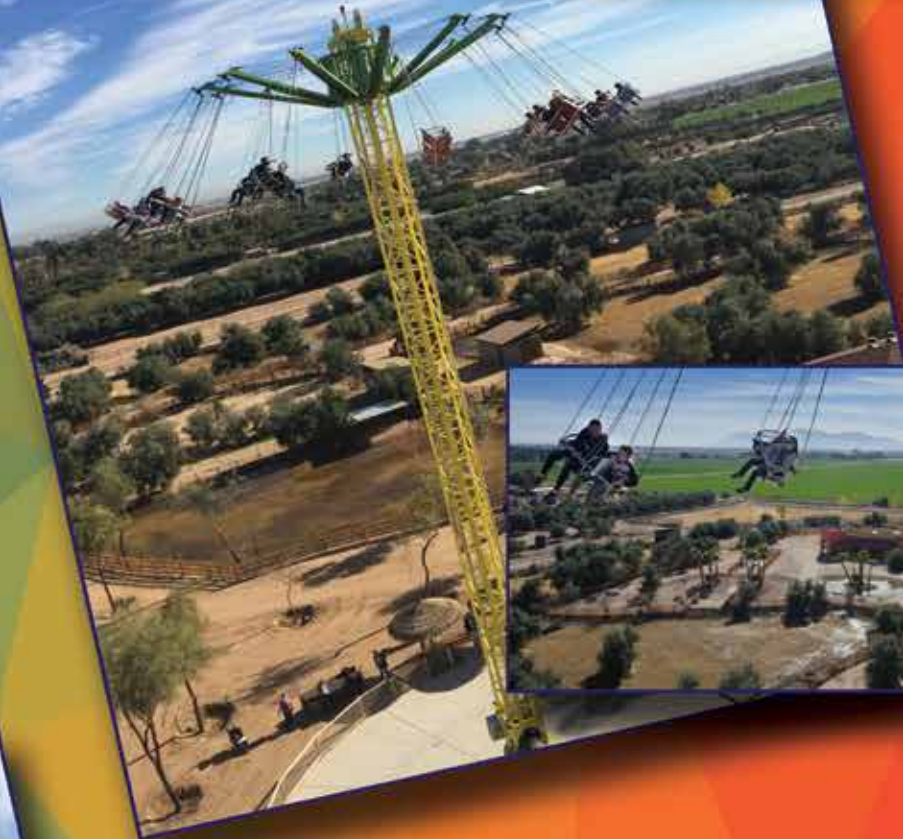
The 2018 State Fair of Texas will run Sept. 28-Oct. 21.

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MIDWAYLIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne

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Joseph McDermott's first job at the **Nebraska State Fair**, Grand Island, was writing software for an IBM mainframe computer to process livestock, food and needlework entries and judging sheets.

That was 30 years ago. Now McDermott, who worked his way into the jobs of office manager and assistant manager, is retiring as executive director of the fair at the end of 2017.

"It has been an incredible run for the last three decades, and especially since the fair moved to Grand Island," McDermott said. "The support of the fair by the Grand Island community has simply been amazing."

McDermott has been executive director for nine years. Since overseeing the move of the fair from Lincoln in 2010, McDermott has led the organization through eight successful fairs at **Fonner Park** in Grand Island.

McDermott, 57, will continue as a consultant to the State Fair Board in 2018. He said he plans to remain in Grand Island.

Chris Kircher, Omaha, chairman of the Fair Board, said the process of searching for and hiring a new executive director will begin soon.

Kircher said one of the first opportunities to talk with potential candidates was to come at the **International Association of Fairs & Expositions** conference in Las Vegas, which was held Nov. 26-29, 2017.

Attendance at this year's 11-day fair in late August and early September was 379,108 — up nearly five percent over last year. It was about 10,000 fairgoers shy of the record established in 1997 in Lincoln.

A baby was recovering after losing consciousness while at the **2017 State Fair of Texas** during its run Sept. 29-Oct. 22.

Dallas Police Officer **Ilse Casas** was on duty at the fair on Oct. 8 when she was flagged down by someone regarding a medical emergency. Casas discovered a frantic mother with an unresponsive infant in her arms.

Casas checked the child's vital signs and determined the baby wasn't breathing.

Casas put the infant on the ground in a grassy area and immediately performed CPR until paramedics arrived.

EMTs then checked out the baby, who had regained a pulse and was breathing. The child was rushed to a hospital and released shortly thereafter in good condition.

The paramedics that responded to the incident said that had it not been for the quick thinking and heroic actions taken by Casas, the outcome could have been significantly more tragic.

Casas was recognized and presented with a Life Saving Award in a ceremony at Fair Park.

The **2017 Arizona State Fair**, Phoenix, which ran Oct. 6-29, drew 940,000 people. Fair officials were pleased with the results even though this represents a drop from 2016.

But, **Kristi Walsh**, fair spokesperson, said the fair has seen record attendance for the past three years, so the dip in attendance was not surprising.

She added that many factors might have

contributed to the lower attendance this year, including the economy and competition with other entertainment options.

The fair as well as the midway provider, **Ray Cammack Shows**, offered an array of promotions and discounts to help with costs.

Ray Cammack Shows provided almost 70 rides this year.

Officials at the **2017 South Carolina State Fair**, Columbia, Oct. 11-22, blamed the unusually hot weather on the first days of the fair for the dip in attendance experienced this year from 2016. The fair drew over 427,466 guests this year compared to the more than 464,878 last year.

Retiring Fair Manager Gary Goodman said attendance rebounded after the weather began to cool. In fact, the second Saturday of the fair, Oct. 21, broke a single-day attendance record drawing 61,484 visitors.

This year's fair presented a wide range of new attractions including Heritage Village, Folkfabulous and Blend along with a long list of stage and roving shows.

In honor of Goodman's retirement and his 33 years as general manager, **North American Midway Entertainment** (NAME), the carnival that provides the fair's midway, donated \$10,000 to the fair's Ride of Your Life Scholarship fund.

Goodman, who was with the fair for 33 years, will be replaced by **Nancy Smith**, who has been serving as assistant manager.

Next year's fair will run Oct. 10 to 21.

The **2017 Arkansas State Fair**, Little Rock, wrapped up on Oct. 22 with a final attendance of 451,130. The fair opened Oct. 12.

This year's attendance was ahead of 2016's of 450,702, but down roughly 22,000 behind the record-setting crowd of 473,106 in 2015.

General Manager **Ralph Shoptaw**, pleased with the final result this year, said rain on both Sundays of the fair probably kept the event from setting a record.

"All week we were right on track to set a new attendance mark of 473,106," Shoptaw said, adding rain on both Sundays certainly dropped the overall mark.

"Even with our two disappointing Sundays, we still finished with one of the top four attendance totals in the past 10 years," Shoptaw said. "So, from that perspective, we're happy with the number of people that supported the fair this year."

Sunday's (Oct. 22) attendance of 18,321 was off considerably from the final day last year when 38,885 attended the fair. Sunday's total was even further behind 2015 that saw 43,206 come through the gates.

"We appreciate so many Arkansans supporting this year's fair, and we're already beginning our planning for next year's event."

This was the first year for **North American Midway Entertainment** (NAME) to provide the midway at the Arkansas State Fair. The carnival brought in 61 rides and attractions as well as 20 food concessions.

The fair provided 50 food concessions on its independent food midway.



BUSINESS, SAFETY & CLASSIFIED

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Growth plans firmed up after top-off of 'Star Wars' land

Disneyland Resort to add new hotel, parking structure by 2021

AT: Dean Lamanna
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ANAHEIM, Calif. — For the first time in almost two decades, the **Disneyland Resort** will be getting a new luxury hotel. Initially announced in mid-2016 and slated to open in 2021, the 700-room lodge will transform the west end of **Downtown Disney District** and anchor a new gateway to the resort.

The still-unnamed hotel features a sophisticated contemporary design by **Walt Disney Imagineering** and could be a game changer for Anaheim, creating a dynamic dining, entertainment and hotel experience for visitors and local residents alike. Oasis-like landscaping and water elements will showcase nature on every level of the multi-building complex.

Guest rooms, public spaces and gardens will overlook Downtown Disney District, while an upper-level restaurant and lounge will offer views of Disneyland's fireworks. The lodge's location embraces the Disneyland Monorail, with a dedicated platform located inside for direct guest transport into Disneyland itself.

The hotel's ground level will house shops and restaurants opening onto an expansive plaza complete with water features. Garden walkways will connect the new building to the resort's other three lodges, two of which (**Disneyland Hotel, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa**) carry the coveted AAA Four Diamond luxury rating.

To achieve that rating for its new accommodations, Dis-

ney reportedly must invest a minimum of \$225,000 in creating, furnishing and equipping each guest room.

Several current tenants of Downtown Disney, including AMC Theatres, ESPN Zone and Rainforest Cafe, may be impacted by the plans. Disney has suggested that any dislocated tenants possibly can be relocated to space within the hotel complex.

The company said the hotel, which incorporates at least 2,000 parking spaces, will generate approximately \$25 million in general fund taxes for Anaheim in its first five years of operation. It also will create thousands of additional construction and permanent jobs.

The firming up of the hotel's siting and timeline — work on the complex is expected to get underway next summer — coincided with Disney's announcement of a new parking structure in late October. News of both developments arrived two months after the steel topping-off of Disneyland's feverishly anticipated new 14-acre themed land, *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge*, which will launch in 2019 and create demand for the new hotel.

Replacing an earlier parking structure and transportation hub proposal for the resort called Eastern Gateway, which some local businesses feared would reduce foot traffic along Harbor Boulevard, the new 6,500-space parking structure will be built on the west side of the property — on the current Pinocchio surface parking lot next to Mickey & Friends Parking Structure. Land previously earmarked for the Eastern



Construction on a 700-room, contemporary-style luxury hotel on the west end of the Disneyland Resort's Downtown Disney District will start next year.
COURTESY DISNEYLAND RESORT



Gateway project will remain vacant for now.

The new six-story structure is designed to improve parking and traffic flow throughout the resort. It is expected to speed up guest arrival by providing a 60 percent increase in the number of access lanes and adding parking

capacity, eliminating backups onto city streets.

The tram boarding area also will be reconfigured to enhance the transportation experience for guests parking at both the new structure and Mickey & Friends.

Construction on the parking structure and associ-

ated traffic improvements is scheduled to begin this February for opening in 2019. The hotel and the parking structure are part of \$2 billion in investment, expansion and upgrades Disney has planned over several years for its Southern California resort.

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PEOPLE WATCH

Burrows retires from Hersheypark

HERSHEY, Pa. — **Kathy Burrows** has retired after 27 years with **Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Co.** Her last day was Nov. 1.

Burrows who most recently served as public relations manager at Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Co. began her career in 1990 as a part-time marketing coordinator.

Looking back on her years of service she said, "I never imagined that it would bring me some of the best times and best people in my life. It has been a really 'sweet' ride!" she said in an e-mail announcing her retirement. It was a "very bittersweet decision."

Relationships are the utmost priority for Burrows as she was known by her co-workers and the local media as "The Mayor" of Hershey, Pa. If anyone needed to know anything about a reporter – from a spouse's name to kids' ages – Kathy knew.

In 2015 she received the Ernest R. McDowell Award for excellence in public relations. This is the highest honor the **Pennsylvania Public Relations Society** awards each year.

Burrows, a Hershey High School graduate, earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Burrows**

& Resorts.

Mehrmann comes to Universal Parks & Resorts from the Ocean Park Corporation, the Hong Kong marine life and animal theme park, where he served as chief executive officer for 13 years.

Universal Beijing is being built in partnership with the **Beijing Shouhuan Cultural Tourism Investment Co., Ltd.**, a consortium of five Beijing state-owned enterprises, and Universal Parks & Resorts.

Holovis adds Howard Newstate

ORLANDO, Fla. — **Holovis** has appointed **Howard Newstate** as VP of Experience Innovation.

With decades of experience in the entertainment and amusement industry, Newstate will initially be focused on the company's expansion of its Extended Experience software, programs and platforms.

"Howard brings a mix of end-client insight and operational experience to our team along with his extensive technical expertise, this is already adding greatly to our innovation and development projects for our next-generation attractions and guest experiences," said **Stuart Hetherington**, CEO of Holovis.

**Newstate**

facilities in North Carolina and Pennsylvania that produce media (consumables) for photo printing, card printing and barcode printing.

Yamashita will be responsible for directing the strategic growth for the IAM business, expanding customer relationships and developing new business opportunities. He has worked for DNP for more than 28 years. His experience encompasses multiple roles both in Japan and in the U.S., including card sales manager in the U.S. and on the DNP global sales team in Japan.

**Yamashita****WhiteWater adds Tim Mow**

BANGKOK, Thailand — International industry veteran, **Tim Mow** joined the **WhiteWater Southeast Asia** team as VP of Development and Technical Services as of October 1, 2017. Tim's career in the aquatic industry has spanned the past 30 years while being involved in developing and managing multiple iconic waterparks on three different continents.

After spending 17 years in the industry, Mow took his career overseas as Director of Engineering for Dubai's, **Wild Wadi Waterpark** prior to his ground floor involvement in the design, technical services, pre-opening and eventual operation of Abu Dhabi's **Yas Waterworld**. After spending seven years as Park Manager and General Manager of **Yas Waterworld** (and 13 years in the UAE), Tim moved to Thailand and took over as General Manager of **Vana Nava Water Jungle** in Hua Hin.

For WhiteWater Southeast Asia, Mow will be involved in all aspects of development and design, strategic planning, client representation, pre-opening and the technical requirements of the parks operated by WhiteWater Southeast Asia. Tim will continue to be based in Thailand.

**Mow****Mehrmann named to Beijing post**

BEIJING, China — **Universal Parks & Resorts** has named **Tom Mehrmann** as president and general manager for **Universal Beijing Theme Park and Resort**, a world-class entertainment destination now under construction in Beijing.

Mehrmann will play a lead role in the continued development of Universal Beijing. Once the destination is complete, he will oversee its opening and ongoing daily operations. He will report to **Page Thompson**, president and chief operating officer –International, Universal Parks

DNP appoints Yamashita to new post

CONCORD, N.C. — DNP announced the appointment of **Shinichi Yamashita** as president of **DNP Imagingcomm America Corporation** (DNP IAM). Yamashita was chosen to replace **Katsuyuki Oshima**, who is returning to Japan to take a new position with DNP. Yamashita will be based at DNP IAM's U.S. headquarters in Concord, North Carolina.

DNP IAM is a leader in software, hardware and media solutions for retail photo printing and printing solutions for photo professionals. The company operates manufacturing

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MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 11/03/17	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	32.89	35.09	23.33
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	377.80	537.50	355
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	65.78	72.56	58.05
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	35.68	42.18	30.02
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	98.64	116.10	92.11
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.74	1.59	0.72
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	69.50	77.70	65.50
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	2842.00	2948.00	1900.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.80	2.07	1.55
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	8.08	8.99	7.6
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	31.26	34.65	25.15
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	14.04	17.45	11.68
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	11.21	20.13	10.83
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	63.80	65.19	51.25
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	12.60	15	11.6
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	572.00	676.00	425.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	3.90	5.17	3.22

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

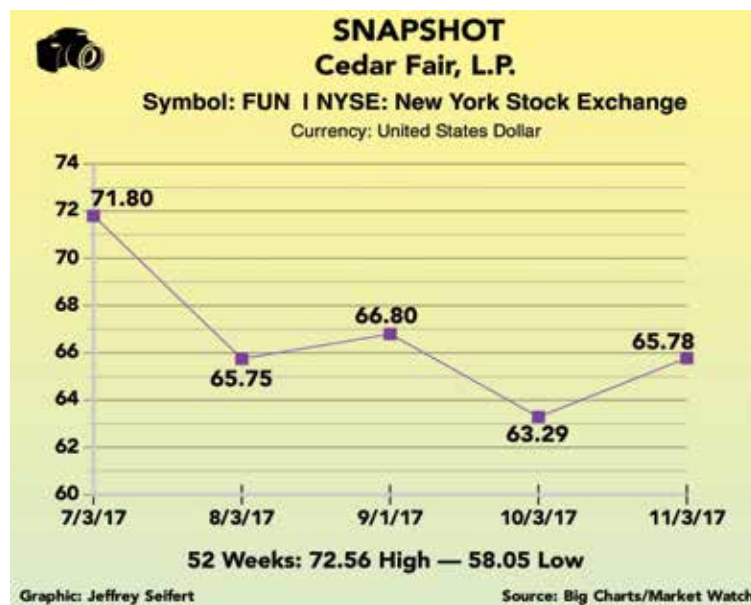
DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 10/30/17	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.811	+\$0.336
Midwest	\$2.810	+\$0.367
Gulf Coast	\$2.639	+\$0.286
Mountain	\$2.943	+\$0.402
West Coast	\$3.020	+\$0.365
California	\$3.185	+\$0.330

CURRENCY

On 11/03/17 \$1 USD =

0.8580	EURO
0.7592	GBP (British Pound)
114.00	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9993	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.2966	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.2829	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

Firestone Financial has loan offer to carnivals

NEEDHAM, Mass. — **Firestone Financial**, a leader of financing in the carnival industry, is offering customers the ability to only pay for half the season for new loans. Any carnival or amusement park that funds a new loan by Memorial Day of 2018 will only need to pay for half the season for the first year. For borrowers that have a seasonal schedule that runs from May to October, payments would only be made from August to October in 2018; payments for subsequent years would follow the seasonal schedule.

In addition to this program, Firestone Financial also offers lines of credit to qualified customers. A Firestone credit line may be used for new and used rides, light packages, bunkhouses, winter quarters, insurance and maintenance.

Customers interested in these offerings are asked to call (800) 851-1001 ext. 42, or email: websales@firestonefinancial.com.

Cedar Fair reports record Q3 revenues

SANDUSKY, Ohio — **Cedar Fair Entertainment Company** (NYSE: FUN), reported on Nov. 2, 2017 results for the third quarter ended September 24, 2017. It also reported attendance and guest spending trends through October, announced an increase in its quarterly cash distribution and provided an update on its anticipated long-term growth rates going forward. Highlights:

- Cedar Fair reported record net revenues of \$653 million in the third quarter. This increase over last year's record results reflects the company's continued success in driving attendance while increasing average in-park guest per capita spending.

- Preliminary net revenues on a same-park basis through Oct. 29, 2017, were up 1 percent, driven by a 1 percent increase in attendance and a 1 percent increase in average in-park guest per capita spending.

- Cedar Fair's Board of Directors declared a 4 percent increase in the company's quarterly cash distribution to \$0.89 per limited partner (LP) unit, payable Dec. 15, 2017. This distribution represents an annualized rate of \$3.56 per LP unit and a more than 5.5 percent yield at current market prices.

- The company continues to believe in the strength of its business model and expects its FUNforward long-term strategy to continue to drive an adjusted EBITDA CAGR of 4 percent going forward.

Based on its performance to date and expectations through the end of the year, the company is reconfirming its full-year adjusted EBITDA forecast of \$480 million to \$490 million in 2017.

Three new Six Flags parks scheduled for China

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** (NYSE: SIX) and its development partner, **Riverside Investment Group Co. Ltd.**, announced on Oct. 26, 2017 the addition of three more parks to be built in China. **Six Flags Kids World**—the first park of its kind and designed especially for families with young children—will be built adjacent to both **Six Flags Zhejiang** and **Six Flags Chongqing**. Additionally, the all-new **Six Flags Adventure Park**, offering high-energy outdoor thrills, will adjoin the **Six Flags Chongqing** complex. The new properties are expected to open in 2020.

Six Flags Kids World will feature junior-sized versions of the company's world famous, record-breaking roller coasters, rides and attractions. Families with young children will enjoy meeting and interacting with some of their favorite characters. Brightly-themed restaurants will offer kid-friendly menu options and retail shops will feature a wide selection of apparel, toys and souvenirs. Six Flags Kids World will be the perfect complement to the Six Flags theme park and Hurricane Harbor water park in Zhejiang, and the Six Flags portfolio of parks in Chongqing.

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Klüber Lubrication introduces specialty grease for park rides in high humidity

LONDONDERRY, N. H. — Klüber Lubrication, a worldwide manufacturer of specialty lubricants, introduces Hydrokapilla NBU 20 HFE US, designed for the lubrication of plain and rolling bearings, and chains.

Hydrokapilla NBU 20 HFE US is designed for applications that experience high humidity and/or aggressive media. The grease can be used in drive and carrying chains for wet amusement park rides, carrying chains for textile steamers and any chains subject to aggressive environments (hot water, chlorinated water, steam, alkaline and acidic solutions).

Hydrokapilla NBU 20 HFE US, with its excellent penetration into pin and bushings, resists corrosion and prevents chain seizure. It can be applied manually, via brush or an automatic spraying system.

Klüber Lubrication offers high-end tribological

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solutions to virtually all industries and markets worldwide. Most products are developed and made to specific customer requirements. During its more than 80 years of existence, Klüber Lubrication has provided high-quality lubricants, thorough consultation and extensive services, which has earned it an excellent reputation in the market.

• klueber.com/us/en/

APSP announces international partnership

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) and the Asociación de Profesionales de la Piscina A.C. (APPAC) announce an international partnership, bringing together two respected organizations committed to the advancement of the pool, spa and hot tub industry.

APSP President and CEO

Rich Gottwald and Asociación de Profesionales de la Piscina's President Ignacio Barroso signed the historic agreement making a partnership to promote, advance and advocate the interests of the swimming pool, hot tub and spa industry in Mexico.

"We are honored to align with the Asociación de Profesionales de la Piscina A.C.," said APSP President and CEO Rich Gottwald. "This partnership gives us the opportunity to jointly focus on educating, inspiring and engaging a broader audience on issues that impact the industry."

An important aspect of the partnership will be sharing of best industry practices and leveraging the shared values of both organizations to develop new concepts and activities that expand the impact of each organization.

"Our organizations working together will further the goal of standards harmonization, advancing the industry's need for uniform codes, said APSP Vice President of Technical and Standards Carvin Di-Giovanni.



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AIMS Safety Seminar: Book now for hotel discount

ORLANDO, Fla. — Make industry safety your No. 1 priority for 2018, register now for the **AIMS Safety Seminar!**

Everyone with responsibility for the care and safety of amusement industry guests should attend this important seminar known for having top quality instructors and a wide range of class offerings from which to choose. It is recognized throughout the industry as the world's best in safety training and education. The Safety Seminar draws approximately 350 students who receive 40 hours of classroom and hands on learning taught by more than 120 industry experts. Certification testing is available in Aquatics, Maintenance, Operations, and Ride Inspection.

Please visit www.aimsintl.org for a complete schedule, list of classes and to register.

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 **Hilton Galveston** by December 31st to get the special AIMS rate of **\$115** per night.

Donate to the Silent Auction

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' continuing efforts to upgrade classroom equipment. We're looking 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 popular. Please contact **Holly Coston** at h.coston@aimsintl.org for information on where to send your items.

Sponsorship opportunities

Please help us in our mission to improve amusement industry safety through leadership in education. Your sponsorship helps us improve our program and training materials. As a sponsor, you gain exposure to hundreds of students and instructors who directly influence buying decisions at parks, carnivals, FECs, water parks and other industry attractions as well as continued exposure throughout 2018.

Join these industry leaders who support AIMS as seminar sponsors: **Mobaro Park; LJM & Associates; Amusement Today; AUXEL; KumbaK - The Amusement Engineers;**

IAAPA; Allied Specialty Insurance; Chance Rides; OABA; Premier Rides; Barr Engineering; ProSlide Technology, Inc.; Coulter Associates; Rockwell Automation; Ray Cammack Shows; Maui Partners; Rides-4-U; S&S Worldwide; Walt Disney Imagineering; Surge Suppression, Inc.; WhiteWater; Zamperla; Uremet Corporation; Rockwell Automation; Skyfair/SkyTrans; Dopplemayr; Ride Entertainment Group; R. S. Alberts Co.; ASTM; Haas & Wilkerson Insurance; Millennium Elastomers; Baynum Painting and Tapeswitch Corporation.

For more information on sponsorship, contact us at: info@aimsintl.org.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a SAFE and prosperous New Year from AIMS International! We hope to see you in Galveston January 7-12, 2018

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Pair of books combine fiction with Waldameer history

REVIEW: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

BOOK REVIEW

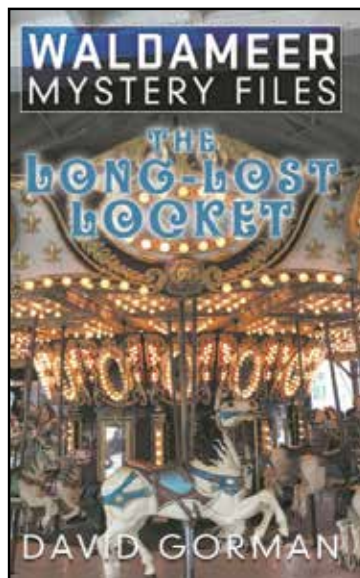
Two books written by **David Gorman** involve fictional characters who attempt to solve a mystery discovered at present-day **Waldameer Park**.

Both books follow characters Seth and Julia Ambrose, brother and sister, ages 12 and 10 respectively and their friends. The books are written from the perspective of a 10-year old, and geared toward children 8 to 12. As the two characters and their friends search for clues to solve the mystery, readers are given a history lesson of Waldameer

Park and Erie, Pa.

The setting, an amusement park that has been a staple in Erie Pa. for more than a century, should easily capture and maintain the interest of any pre-teen. What kid would not want to be involved in the uncovering of a mystery that takes place at one of their favorite places?

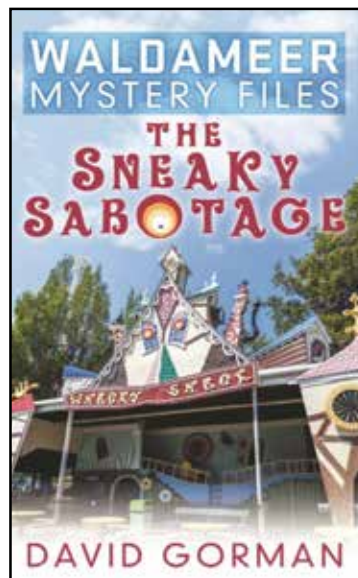
In the first book of the series, *The Long Lost Locket*, the young explorers find a shiny object at a construction dig near the carousel. Eventually learning that what they thought was a neck-



The Long Lost Locket

lace is actually a locket with a photo, their research leads to the conclusion it was lost in 1905, when Waldameer's first ride, a carousel, opened to the public. Their quest to find the locket's owner turns the young discoverers into detectives as they attempt to solve the mystery of the long-lost artifact.

The two adolescent sleuths return in the second book of the Waldameer Mystery Series, *The Sneaky Sabotage*. In this book, the



The Sneaky Sabotage

young detectives must figure out who — or what — is trying to sabotage a special ceremony honoring the park's Whacky Shack. A group of dark ride enthusiasts plans to give Waldameer an award on the 46th anniversary of the opening of Whacky Shack. However, a mysterious person — or perhaps ghost — has other plans.

It all starts when the young patrons encounter a scare in the park's Whacky Shack that none

of them remember from their previous rides. As the group attempts to discover what is behind the unusual scare, they become victims of several other pranks in an effort to throw them off track. Of course that only serves to strengthen the resolve of the patrons-turned-detectives who are determined to learn the truth.

Author David Gorman is the son of **Steve Gorman**, president and general manager of Waldameer Park, and the grandson of owner **Paul Nelson**. He grew up in Erie, Pa. and spent his summers at the park. He penned his first book when he was just five years old. A graduate of Bucknell University, Gorman is currently pursuing a Masters of Education degree in counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va. His goal is to become a middle school counselor in addition to being an author. *The Long Lost Locket* is his first novel written as an adult.

The two books retail for \$10.99 and are available in print and as ebooks at online retailers Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and at Waldameer's online store.

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