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## Gibtown geared up for 50th Trade Show and Extravaganza



The 50th annual International Independent Showmen's Foundation Trade Show and Extravaganza (IISF) is set to run Feb. 6-9 this year on the club grounds of the International Independent Showmen's Association (IISA) in Gibsonton, Fla. AT/GARY SLADE

### Organizers prepare for a busy event

AT: Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

GIBSONTON, Fla. — Organizers of the 2018 International Independent Showmen's Foundation Trade Show and Extravaganza were putting the finishing touches on plans last month as activities were to begin just a few weeks off.

Running this year from Feb. 6-9, the annual event is held on the club grounds of the International Independent



Showmen's Association's. IISF is the fund-raising arm of that association.

This is the 50th anniversary of the trade show, which pulls together professionals such as owners, operators, supervisors and managers of carnivals, amusement rental companies, amusement and theme parks, family centers with their colleagues — including manufacturers and suppliers of amusement rides,

food, games, plush, electrical and lighting, vinyl signage and, food and housing trailers.

Event organizer Teresa Rimes said at the first of January that registration was running smoothly. She expected attendance to be on par with 2017, which showed a healthy increase over previous years.

The trade show has been shortened one day, running four days this year compared to five days prior. But Rimes said they were going to see how it turned out.

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## Epic Waters debuts as partnership with City of Grand Prairie

AT: Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — Plunging your body from an eight-story, drop capsule, looping waterslide to officially cut the ribbon on a new water park is an interesting move. Mayor Ron Jensen did just that. "It was shockingly fun," he said.

It would be easy to say the City of Grand Prairie is making a name for itself. The Texas city situated between Dallas and Ft. Worth has made some strides in gaining national attention. On a large parcel of land of more than 100 acres on Hwy. 161, the area that has come to be known as Grand Central has been under development for some time. It started with The Summit, a fitness facility for residents



Epic Waters Indoor Waterpark officially opened on Jan. 12. AT/TIM BALDWIN

50 and older, which earned numerous accolades when it opened in 2010. Keeping the momentum going, sev-

eral projects will anchor the area as Grand Central transitions into EpicCentral and grows into a tourist resort,

but one still aimed at the local community. The Epic and Epic Waters are huge facilities owned by the city. Epic

Waters, an indoor water park, opened mid-January. The Epic is a multi-faceted recreation center unlike the U.S. has ever seen. It is expected to open May 1 following Epic Waters. PlayGrand Adventures is an all-inclusive playground that will follow later in 2018.

"Epic Waters is a grand scope," said Jensen. "We're in the middle of seven million people in the heart of the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex. We needed to be a player. Our citizens deserved something like this. They overwhelmingly approved it. This is a legacy project. I wanted to improve people's emotional feelings about living and working in Grand Prairie."

The mayor mentioned that other cities have inquired

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# NEWTALK

**EDITORIAL:** Gary Slade, [gslade@amusementtoday.com](mailto:gslade@amusementtoday.com)

## Hall of Fame thoughts



Slade

The recent passing of Jerry Pendleton of O.D. Hopkins and Skytrans Mfg. reminds us of the accomplishments that not only Jerry had during his long amusement industry career, but of many others just like him who have yet to be acknowledged with membership into the IAAPA Hall of Fame.

IAAPA should not forget the legends that helped shape, build and, in some cases like Jerry Pendleton's contributions, saved some traditional parks from going the way that so many others have — closed forever.

When O.D. Hopkins, Jerry Pendleton, Paul and Aletha Roads agreed to install the first Hopkins log flume ride in 1980, it opened the door for many family-owned parks — in the 200,000-a-year attendance range — to add a signature water ride that would prop up in-park revenues.

Looking over the IAAPA HOF list, it's disappointing to see that legendary suppliers like William L. Cobb, Bill Crandall (New Wave Rides), Bob Minick Associates, Bud Hurlbut (Hurlbut Amusement Co.) and Carl Miler (Miler Coaster) have not yet been awarded HOF status. There is also an endless list of traditional park legends worthy of inclusion: Paul Roads (Wonderland Park), Cliff Hammond (Uncle Cliff's) and Bob Morrell (Story Land) are but a few that should be included, and they all happen to have a Hopkins flume still thrilling their guests today!

Just as the NFL HOF has their Seniors Committee that is responsible for adding two names each year for consideration into the hall, perhaps it's time for IAAPA to select a Seniors Committee to submit names of our industry legends so they can be properly honored.

**FLINT'S VIEW:** Bubba Flint



**INDUSTRY OPINION:** Dean Lamanna, [dlamanna@amusementtoday.com](mailto:dlamanna@amusementtoday.com)

## The Pall of Hesitance

The Hall of Presidents quickly became a popular and treasured attraction when it debuted with the 1971 opening of the Magic Kingdom and the Walt Disney World Resort. Although inspired by politics, the multimedia stage show has remained safely apolitical — mixing history and education with a dollop of wonderment, thanks to the lifelike wizardry of audio-animatronics.

That changed after Disney announced it was closing the attraction last January in order to add President Donald J. Trump and make a few upgrades.

The company said the reopening would take place in late 2017 — generally expected to mean by the one-year anniversary of the November 2016 election. The date came and went. And as weeks continued to pass, hardcore Disney fans, who were already impatient, became negatively speculative online.

Meanwhile, polarizing news stories involving the Commander-in-Chief were erupting regularly — leading bloggers to surmise that Disney was uncertain about how to integrate this colorful, controversial real-life character into its solemn theme park institution.

To some, it even seemed the company was taking a wait-and-see approach to the investigations in Washington, D.C. Disney tried to quell the suspense and rumor



Lamanna

by noting that it was working with the White House to schedule the needed voice recording. But the social media murmurs didn't stop.

One can only imagine the hand-wringing and creative considerations behind the company's decision-making. But the perceived hesitance in Disney's communications, coupled with what felt like a protracted delay, came off as a rare misstep — even if some circumstances

were beyond its control. It made the park's eleventh-hour unveiling of its President Trump appear fraught.

The audio-animatronic Chief Executive brought a fresh wave of criticism, with descriptions likening it to the actor Jon Voight and worse. Yet to Disney's credit, the speech delivered by this Trumpian representation is just rousing enough, as well as accurate in gesture. Disney's Trump may not be perfect, but it's a very reasonable facsimile. The attraction's reputation is secure.

Predictably, video has emerged of audience members disrupting the show with catcalls. Fellow patrons, including parents attending with kids, shouldn't have to be subjected to that.

Newfound wisdom from the updated Hall of Presidents: America's divisions will not heal if we fail to demonstrate respect for each other on the basic personal level.

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Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

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# 2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow

## David (Doc) Rivera, IISF

At the young age of 13, **David (Doc) Rivera** knew he was destined to have a life in the outdoor show business after selling tickets at a county fair in Indiana, where he was living at the time. He has spent his venerable career traveling around the country working for various carnivals, circuses and fairs, and today he is considered by many to be one of the most knowledgeable historians on the traveling show industry. Now retired, Doc is a well-known show painter and carnival artist, as well as an author; his book, *The Last Showtrain*, will soon be published. He loves spending time with his family and telling stories of the bygone era of traveling shows.

**Number of years in the industry:** Fifty-six years so far. I never thought I'd live 56 years, let alone survive in this crazy business for 56 years. I feel lucky to have not only seen but lived the changes of more than five decades of this lifestyle.

**Best thing about the industry:** Naturally, for me it's the colorful and unique history. The more I am involved with the history of this business and hear the old stories, I come to realize how eclectic show people are and how imaginative the ones who came before us were.

**Favorite amusement ride:** The Octopus.

**If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be...** I always wanted to go to sea as a merchant sailor. I was all set up with the proper paperwork and requirements to go to the Maritime Merchant Marine Academy when I got drafted and sent to Vietnam.

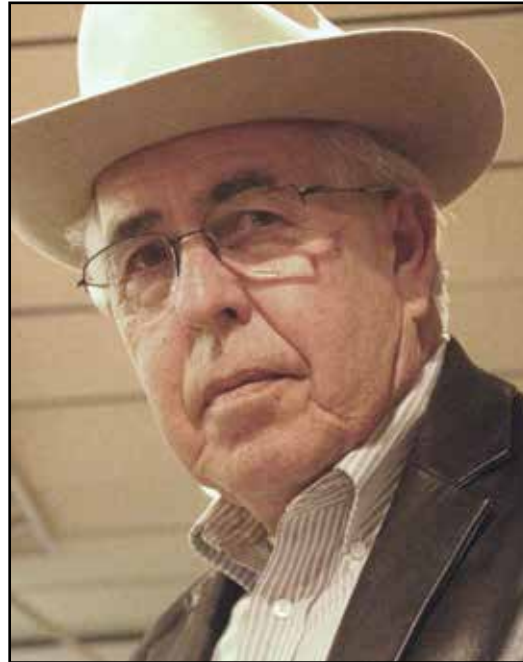
**Biggest challenge facing our industry:** There is no one thing that threatens our industry, there are many. I've always maintained that the business won't disappear in a flash, but die the Chinese death of a thousand cuts. I suppose the severity of the individual problems really depend on who you talk to and what their particular focus is on.

**My first car:** A '49 Ford coupe ... with rust holes in the floorboards that you could pitch a cat through! I learned the hard way that this car wasn't for driving in 40-below northern Indiana winters. I paid a whopping \$50 for it and the old V-8 flathead engine ran like a top until the day I sold it, a year later...for \$75!

**A recent life-changing moment for me:** There have been a lot of "come to Jesus" moments over the years...too many to mention here and probably many shouldn't be discussed in "mixed company," as my granny used to say.

**If I was a secret agent, my code name would be ...** I was an electrician on the West Coast Shows for a few years and the crew started jokingly calling me "Doc Shock: Keeper of the Kilowatt."

**The concert I would love a backstage pass to would be:** Andrea Bocelli...and I have tickets for a February concert that my granddaughter gave me for Christmas....not backstage, but they'll do!



Rivera is a traveling shows in America historian and executive director of the. COURTESY DAVID RIVERA

**When I say snow, you say:** No snow for me!

**Ten years ago, I was:** Fatter...I've lost 20 pounds to try to be healthier.

**The magazine cover I would most like to appear on would be:** Time magazine, but for a positive reason, not as a negative person.

**My least favorite word is:** AXE...when it's misused by people who mean to say "ask."

**I am afraid of:** Alzheimer's...to me nothing could be worse than to forget who you are and what you were.

**The all-time best ad slogan is:** Dos Equis ad. "I don't always (insert here) but when I do, it's ..."

**On my last birthday:** I started taking candles OFF my cake.

**Favorite midnight snack:** Egg custard pie.

**What do you hope might be the next big invention?** Artificial cartilage ... so I don't have to undergo knee replacements later.

**Choose – pie, cake or ice cream:** I refuse...it's just not right...it's like asking me whether I want to inhale or exhale.

**Favorite holiday tradition:** Christmas dinner at the Chinese buffet.

**The hobby I would like to spend more time doing is:** Writing and painting. And the museum project can be a consuming mistress at times.

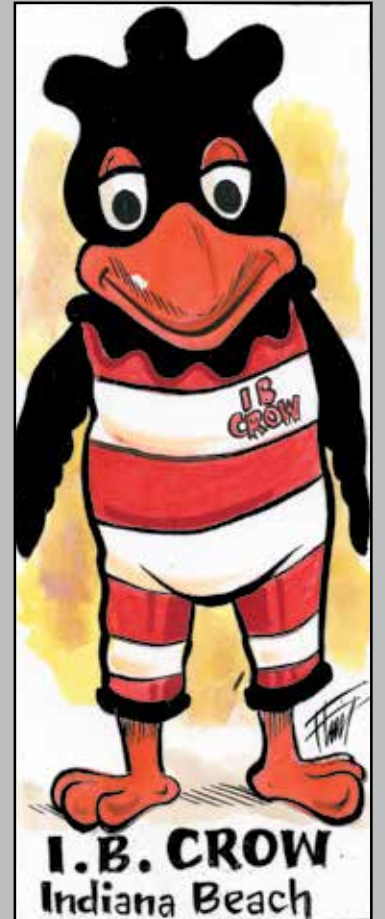
**Favorite Dr. Seuss book:** *Horton Hears a Who*.

**I feel lucky when ...** I make it out of bed and everything still works reasonably well.

## CHARACTER CORNER

### I.B. Crow, Indiana Beach

I.B. Crow first debuted in the 1986 marketing campaign for Indiana Beach in Monticello, Ind. Conceived by William H. Robinson, the animated character famously narrated the facility's commercials and delivered the then-new slogan: "...There's more than corn in Indiana." Over the next 20 years, I.B. would often be on hand — in person, on TV and radio, as well as in print — to help announce new attractions at the facility. I.B. Crow and his trademark "caw caw" became internationally known, giving Indiana Beach a strengthened presence in the industry and within state tourism. CARTOON BUBBA FLINT; HISTORY JOHN W.C. ROBINSON



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## ► IISF

### Continued from page 1

"It can always go back to five days," she said.

IISA has had a booth at the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo** for the last two years. Rimes said that has been successful in gaining more members as well as exhibitors for the trade show.

**Wesley Burnett**, 2017-2018 IISA president, was on the club grounds when reached by *AT* in mid-January.

### Additional activities for week of IISF Trade Show and Extravaganza

GIBSONTOWN, Fla. — Along with the 2018 **International Independent Showmen's Foundation (IISF) Trade Show and Extravaganza**, set for Feb. 6-9, other events involving those in the outdoor amusement business industry are set to take place that week.

The 2018 Fair Partner's Shootout Sporting Clay Competition is set for Thursday, Feb. 8, at Fishhawk Sporting Clay in Lithia. This is the third annual competition.

The competition is sponsored by the **Florida Federation of Fairs, Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)** and the **National Independent Concessionaires Association (NICA)**.

The **Florida State Fair**, Tampa, opens during the annual IISF event. Dates of the fair are Feb. 8-19. **Wade Shows** provides the midway.

OABA will hold its Annual Meeting and Chairman's Reception on Friday, Feb. 9. During that reception, 2017-2018 **OABA Chair E. J. Dean**, **Dean and Flynn Fiesta Shows**, will hand over the gavel to **Jay Strates**, **Strates Shows**, incoming OABA chair.

**Larry Yaffe**, **Firestone Financial Corp.**, will move into the first vice chair position and **Debbie Powers**, **Powers Great American Midways**, will become second vice chair. Third vice chair will be announced.

—Pam Sherborne

"We have just finished up our Bike Fest," Burnett said. "It went well except the cold temperatures got us."

The 2018 Gibtown Bike Fest ran Jan. 12-14. The annual event features live entertainment, stunt shows, food and beverage vendors, and merchandise vendors.

Next up on Burnett's agenda was to help get the grounds ready for the Trade Show and Extravaganza.

"The year has gone by pretty quickly," Burnett said. "There are a lot of great people to help make all this happen. There is a lot to do, more than one man can manage that is for sure. It has been an honor to be president this past year."

He said the Trade Show Committee has reported that this year's extravaganza is expected to be even better than last year's.

"I have been told that we have several new overseas vendors," he said.

Burnett said it was the Trade Show Committee's decision to shorten the number of days of the trade show.

"It wasn't a decision that was taken lightly," he said. "There was a lot of discussion. I think the committee was trying to keep the vendors happy. I have no idea if that will change again. I think it really depends on how this year's show goes."

Trade show hours this year are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 6-9.

Burnett is a life-long resident of Gibsonton, Fla. He started

in the industry with **Myers International Midways** managing the show's games and owning some of the games as well.

After the Myers show went off the road, Burnett traveled a couple of years afterwards. He is currently off the road running a barbecue trailer on the IISA club grounds.

Even though the official Trade Show and Extravaganza begins on Feb. 6, activities begin before that. There is a Super Bowl Party and Trade Show Kick-off Party set for Feb. 4. Big Hearted Jerry's Memorial Golf Tournament is set for the next day, Feb. 5.

Other events include the Museum Corp. Dinner and Jam-boree Fundraiser on Feb. 7 and Wesley's Banquet and Ball on the evening of Feb. 8.

During the 2018 trade show, there will be a number of awards given. Categories for those awards are: Most Beautiful Indoor Display; Most Unique Indoor Display; Outstanding Indoor Display; Most Impressive Indoor Display; Most Impressive Outdoor Display; Best of Show; Most Beautiful Outdoor Display; Most Unique Outdoor Display; Outstanding Outdoor Display; Most Improved; Rookie of the Year; Largest Outdoor Display, and Outstanding Service.

The IISA installation of officers will be held after the completion of the trade show on Feb. 12. **Rinda Popovich** will be installed as the 2018-2019 president.



A bevy of activities are set to be held during the 2018 IISF Trade Show and Extravaganza. The association presents a variety of educational and informational sessions. The **Outdoor Amusement Business Association** and the **Showmen's League of America** are also holding events. *AT*/GARY SLADE



## 2018 IISF Trade Show and Extravaganza session and event schedule

### Tuesday, Feb. 6

**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: TRADE SHOW OPEN**

**11 a.m. - 3 p.m.:** ServSafe Certification Class

(Become certified in the ServSafe Program during the IISF Trade Show.) *Location: Upstairs boardroom*

**1-2 p.m.:** Seminar: Documentation: Prove It

(A review and examples of the type of documentation a business in the amusement industry should have on hand.) *Location: Carousel Pavillion*

**3-4 p.m.:** Seminar: OSHA — Your Government Is Here To Help (This seminar will show you what OSHA requirements are applicable to the amusement industry and show you how to easily comply.) *Location: Carousel Pavillion*

### Wednesday, Feb. 7

**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: TRADE SHOW OPEN**

**11 a.m. - 3 p.m.:** ServSafe Certification Class

*Location: Upstairs boardroom*

**1-4 p.m.:** Seminar, H-2B Train Wreck - Strategies for Industry Survival (This is a must attend session for all in the mobile entertainment industry who are part of the H-2B program.) *Location: Carousel Pavillion*

**4-5 p.m.:** H-2B Update & PAC Reception

*Location: Carousel Pavillion*

### Thursday, Feb. 8

**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: TRADE SHOW OPEN**

**11 a.m. - 3 p.m.:** ServSafe Certification Class

**11 a.m.-5 p.m.:** Free Friend Admission Day (Current members of the IISA may bring a guest to be admitted for free.) *Location: IISF Show Grounds*

**6-10 p.m.:** Banquet and Ball (Wesley Burnett's Banquet and Ball, themed "Redneck Yacht Club.")

*Location: Carousel Pavilion*

### Friday, Feb. 9

**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: TRADE SHOW OPEN**

**11 a.m.-2 p.m.:** World Wide President's Fry

*Location: IISA Museum*

**11 a.m. - 3 p.m.:** ServSafe Certification Class

*Location: Upstairs boardroom*

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m.:** Industrial Truck / Forklift Training

*Location: IISF Show Grounds*

## Firestone Financial adds new team member and programs

NEEDHAM, Ma. — **Firestone Financial** recently announced that **Rich Gockelman** will be joining the team as a commercial account executive for the carnival and amusement park industries. Rich has several years of relationship lending the experience and will be joining the industry veterans **Pete Aldrich**, **Donna Joyce** and **John Vangel** at the **50th IISF Gibtown Trade Show and Extravaganza** and the **NICA Business Expo & Food Fare** in February.

Carnival and park customers can take advantage of Firestone's industry-exclusive program, which allows customers to pay for only half the season on new loans. Any customer that funds a new loan by Memorial Day 2018 can choose to either cut their seasonal payments in half or hold off on making their first payment until midway through the 2018 season.

In addition to this program, Firestone Financial also offers guidance 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. Borrowers must apply for the credit line. Establishment of the line does not carry cost or obligation to the customer; standard loan terms and conditions will apply only when the line is used.

For more information, contact [websales@firestonefinancial.com](mailto:websales@firestonefinancial.com) or call (800) 851-1001, ext 42.

# IISF 48th annual Gibtown Extravaganza

## February 6-9, 2018

### Exhibitor Listing

21st Century Shooting Galleries Llc . . . . .	Outside Space	Eddie Cole's Jumpshot . . . . .	# 908-909	On Site Signs Ohio . . . . .	# 805-807
50% Off Plush . . . . .	# 1011-1012	Eli Bridge Co. . . . .	# 415-416	Over The Road Permitting Software . . . . .	Non-Exhibiting
5centride.Com . . . . .	# 602	Equipment Solutions International . . . . .	Outside Space	SupplierOwen Trailers Inc. . . . .	Outside Space
A & M Wholesale Group . . . . .	# 912-913	Fare Foods Corporation . . . . .	# 516	Peek-A-Boo Toys . . . . .	# 326 - 331
A.R.I. (Amusement Ride Imports) . . . . .	Outside Space	Fiesta . . . . .	# 914-916	Play 8 Ltd DbA Hec Worldwide . . . . .	Outside Space
A.R.M. (Us) . . . . .	Outside Space	Firestone Financial . . . . .	# 1128-1130	Powersource Transportation, Inc. . . . .	# 818
Action Lighting Inc. . . . .	# 510 - 511	Flitz International Ltd. . . . .	# 928	Pws Rides Ltd . . . . .	Outside Space
Action Rides . . . . .	Outside Space	Food Concession Signs . . . . .	# 918-921	R. Humes Enterprises . . . . .	# 311
Action World . . . . .	Outside Space	Forever Bunkhouses . . . . .	Outside Space	Radioboss 2-Way Radios . . . . .	# 1009
Allied Specialty Ins. ~ An Xi Group Co. . . . .	# 403 / 503	Frederiksen Industries, Inc. . . . .	Outside Space	Rapsure Concession Trailers . . . . .	Outside Space
American Changer Corporation . . . . .	Slab 'C'	Fred's Tents & Canopies . . . . .	# 727-728	Recreation By Design . . . . .	Outside Space
American Earth Anchors . . . . .	# 428	Fun & Fun Toys, Inc. . . . .	# 621-624	Red Bone Products, Inc. . . . .	# 1101
American Specialty Ins. & Risk Services . . . . .	# 922	Funlight Amusements Sro . . . . .	Outside Space	Red Bone Products, Inc. . . . .	Outside Space
American Standard Trailer . . . . .	Outside Space	Galaxy Amusement Sales . . . . .	Outside Space	Rhode Island Novelty . . . . .	# 404-409 / 504-509 / 603-609
Amusement Today . . . . .	# 702	Gautier Fabrication Inc. . . . .	Outside Space	Ride Parts Inc. . . . .	# 714 - 716
Amusement Wraps . . . . .	# 820-821	Gloworks Imports, Inc. . . . .	# 1003-1005	Rides-4-U, Inc. . . . .	Outside Space
Atm Merchant Services . . . . .	# 1013-1014	Goffa International Corp . . . . .	# 719 - 721	Rocken Graphics . . . . .	Outside Space
Audio Innovators, Inc. . . . .	# 725 - 726	Gold Medal Products Co. . . . .	# 422-424 / 522-524	Rocken Graphics . . . . .	# 1112 - 1116
Automated Access Systems Div. Of Becman . . . . .	# 819	Gosetto S.R.L. . . . .	# 701	Safe Strap Company, Inc. . . . .	# 907
B J Toy Company, Inc. . . . .	# 418-421 / 518-519	Greenwald Industries . . . . .	# 1021	Schantz Manufacturing Inc. . . . .	Outside Space
B. Barton & Sons - Ice Men . . . . .	# 301	Gull Wing Industries, Inc. . . . .	Outside Space	Show Me Fabrication, Inc. . . . .	Outside Space
Backyard Canvas And Signs, Inc. . . . .	# 1015-1016	Haas & Wilkerson Insurance . . . . .	# 618 - 620	Showmen Supplies Inc. . . . .	Outside Space
Bay Tek Games . . . . .	# 926-927	Hampton Company . . . . .	Outside Space	Sippers By Design . . . . .	Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Belshaw Adamatic Bakery Group . . . . .	# 1010	Hayes Specialties Corp. . . . .	# 308-310	Soda Parts Express Inc. . . . .	# 627
Berk Concession Supply . . . . .	# 410 - 412	Hi Striker Co. . . . .	# 827	Space Craft Mfg., Inc. . . . .	Outside Space
Best Toy Mfg. Ltd. . . . .	# 1018 - 1020	Hitch-Hiker Manufacturing, Inc. . . . .	Non-Exhibiting Supplier	Specialty Insurance Ltd . . . . .	# 313
Big T Sports & Toys . . . . .	# 809 - 816	Igpm Distribution Llc . . . . .	# 426-427	Spotlight Graphics . . . . .	Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Bob's Space Racers, Inc. . . . .	Outside Space	Indiana Ticket Company . . . . .	# 722-723	Sterling Jewelers . . . . .	# 1001 - 1002
Bojuxcom S.R.O. . . . .	Outside Space	Isera Powered By Evolution Ins Brokers . . . . .	Non-Exhibiting Supplier	Tent And Table.Com . . . . .	Outside Space
Bungeesupply.Com Llc . . . . .	# 520-521	Ital International, Llc . . . . .	# 305 - 306	Tig Artistics, Llc . . . . .	Outside Space
Burton & Company, P.A. . . . .	Non-Exhibiting Supplier	Jimmy's Signs . . . . .	Slab B	Tmfs Corporation . . . . .	Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Business Russia / DbA Robolabs . . . . .	# 528	Jimmy's Signs . . . . .	Outside Space	Tourist Attractions & Park Magazine . . . . .	Breezeway Space
Caravan Softoys . . . . .	# 314-316 / 318-325	Jkj Workforce Agency . . . . .	# 830/930	Toy Factory, Llc . . . . .	# 1022-1030
Carnival Magazine . . . . .	Breezeway Space	K & K Insurance Group, Inc. . . . .	# 724	Trailex Aluminum Trailers . . . . .	Outside Space
Carnivalwarehouse.Com . . . . .	Breezeway Space	Kmg International . . . . .	Outside Space	Triangle Poster & Printing Co. . . . .	# 630 / 730
Carolina Atm Services Llc . . . . .	# 905 - 906	Knight Equipment Company . . . . .	Slab D	Urethane Associates Inc. . . . .	# 1007
Cavallaro Concessions . . . . .	Outside Space	Kolmax - Plus, S.R.O. . . . .	Outside Space	Used Rides Europe Bv . . . . .	Outside Space
Cca/Custom Change Aprons . . . . .	# 525-527	Lamberink Reuzenrad Bouw Bv . . . . .	Outside Space	Used Rides.Com . . . . .	# 1102 - 1104
Ccp Services Llc . . . . .	# 808	Lazy Days R V Center, Inc. . . . .	Outside Space	Victor Products Inc. . . . .	Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Chester Built Trailers Ltd. . . . .	Outside Space	Ljm & Associates Inc. . . . .	Outside Space	Virginia Toy & Novelty . . . . .	# 825 - 826
Chestnut Identity Apparel Inc. . . . .	# 610 - 616	Ljm & Associates Inc. . . . .	# 304	Virtual Ticket Solutions . . . . .	# 1006
Chestnut Identity Apparel Inc. . . . .	# 512	Lkq / Keystone Automotive . . . . .	# 823	Wadkins Expo Wheel . . . . .	Outside Space
Circus And Traveling Shows Retirement . . . . .	# 1105	Lularoe . . . . .	# 514	Wapello Fabrications Co. . . . .	# 628
Classic Embroidery . . . . .	# 718	Luna-Park Sp. Z O.O. . . . .	Outside Space	Waterloo Tent & Tarp Co., Inc. . . . .	# 803 - 804 / 903 - 904
Classic Toy Co., Inc. . . . .	# 703-713	Matt's Web Design . . . . .	Breezeway Space	Waymatic, Inc. . . . .	Outside Space
Cmd Enterprises Llc . . . . .	# 625 - 626	Mcgowan Insurance . . . . .	# 425	Wca International Ltd / Rideszone . . . . .	# 822
Coin, Currency & Document Systems Inc. . . . .	# 923	Mickey Shanks, Inc. . . . .	# 828	Whirleydrinkworks! . . . . .	# 515
Computerized Accounting Technics . . . . .	# 513	Millennium Elastomers . . . . .	# 910-911	Wisdom Rides Inc. . . . .	Outside Space
Cool Glow Novelties / Fun Central . . . . .	# 924-925	Moneytree Atm . . . . .	# 413	World Plush Inc. . . . .	# 1008
Dalton Kid Rides Rebuilders Inc. . . . .	Outside Space	Moore Industrial Hardware . . . . .	Non-Exhibiting Supplier	Worldride Service & Supply Inc. . . . .	Outside Space
Daniel O'connor & Sons Inc. . . . .	# 312	Murphy Amusements . . . . .	Outside Space	Zamperla Inc. . . . .	Outside Space
Derby Industries . . . . .	# 824	National Prize And Toy . . . . .	# 1118-1127	Zutter Design . . . . .	Non-Exhibiting Supplier
Dills Enterprises Llc DbA Uniglide Co. . . . .	Outside Space	National Ticket Company . . . . .	# 601		
Dobco Enterprises Ltd . . . . .	Outside Space	Oa Finance, Llc . . . . .	# 414		



►EPIC

Continued from page 1

into the project. He reports that the \$75 million loan will be paid off over a period of 25 years from a one cent sales tax that has been in place for many decades that became available after other city projects were completed.

Upon arrival to Epic Waters, the architecture is striking. The translucent glass allows guests to see into the facility on several sides of the 80,000-square-foot structure. Placed alongside a manmade pond in the city's park area, the setting is both tranquil and exciting at the same time.

"It's like a cruise ship on land," said **Rick Coleman**,



principal and vice president of development, **American Resort Management**, the operators of Epic Waters. "It's going to be an amazing expe-

rience every single day. When you watch the faces of youngsters as they walk in, there is that moment of awe. That's exactly what it is supposed to do. We will immerse and engage you every moment you're here."

**WhiteWater West** is the supplier of the attractions inside the water park. "We cannot say enough about the line-up of vendors behind this development. It has been a true collaboration between all of us and the city to create a dream park we hope Grand Prairie can be proud of for decades to come," said



**Brinkel**



Day or night, big fun is planned for kids and families by Epic Waters year-round. AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



Epic Waters' glass exterior (left) brings in natural light. Above, key figures in Epic Waters' success (from left to right) are: Rick Coleman, American Resort Management; Grand Prairie Mayor Ron Jensen; Rick Herold, director, Grand Prairie Parks and Recreation; and Michael Hays, general manager, Epic Waters. AT/TIM BALDWIN

**Steve Brinkel**, WhiteWater's president of Parks and Recreation division.

The lineup of attractions gives a lot of visual pop. Standing at the tallest point is LassoLoop, the nation's tallest indoor Aqualoop. At almost 70 feet tall, the near vertical slide sends riders plummeting from a launch capsule. Once the floor drops out, guests drop at high speed before rocketing through a 45-degree inclined loop. Yellowjacket Drop is a fusion of two popular slides — a Boomerango and Constrictor. This combination allows riders in double tubes to feel tight turns and then complete weightlessness as they climb the wall of the Boomerango. Aquanaut is North America's first two-person AquaSphere slide. In addition to serpentine turns, riders are spun in spheres where they negotiate

90-degree corners.

"It's not just the 'firsts' at the facility, but the project itself, which is a first of its kind — it's the largest parks and recreation project in the United States, to date," **Dawn Kirby**, marketing manager, WhiteWater West, said clearly impressed.

"It's a pretty massive project compared to other municipal projects that have been done in the United States," said Brinkel. "I think it speaks to the vision of the folks in Grand Prairie. [When selecting rides] they were after breaking new ground in the marketplace."

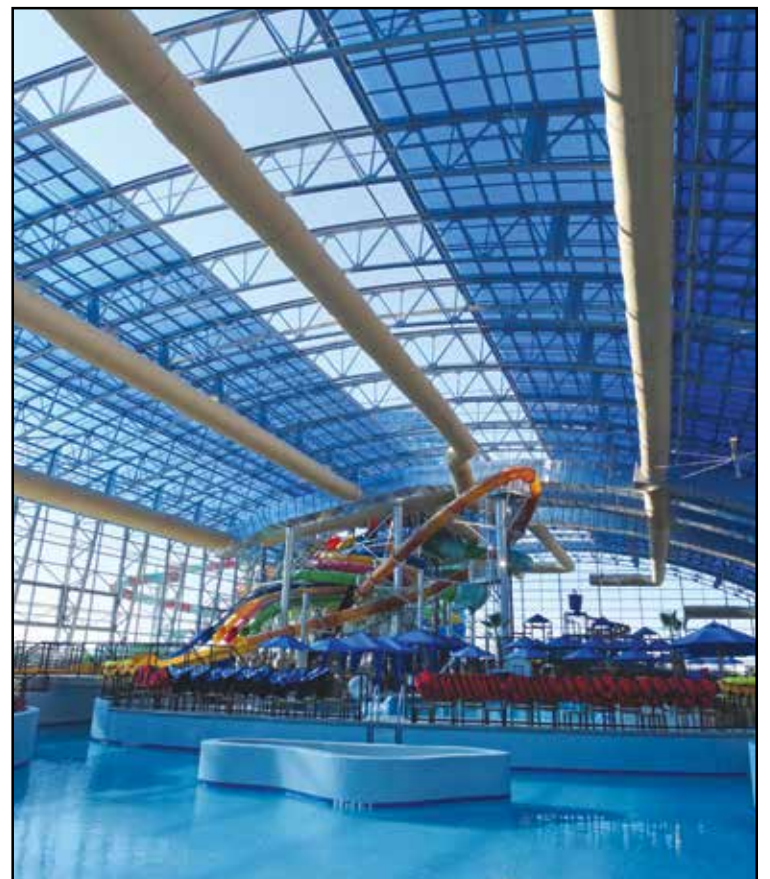
In addition to these noteworthy attractions, there is continued variety. Texas Twist is a high-speed body flume, Prairie Plunge is a near-vertical, 60-foot plunge that has

► See EPIC, page 8

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The massive retractable roof from OpenAire is the largest the company has created. AT/TIM BALDWIN





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SLIDE PACKAGE  
IN THE SOUTH.**

Richard Coleman  
Principal, American Resort Management  
Operator of Epic Waters Indoor Waterpark



## ►EPIC

Continued from page 6

riders reaching 38 mph, and E Racers are four side-by-side mat racing slides that has guests challenging family and friends head first.

Positioned over it all is the world's largest **OpenAire** roof structure. "OpenAire's retractable roof system combines the best of both the indoors and the outdoors. The operable roof panels open at the touch of a button to let in the sunshine and fresh air while closing at first sign of inclement or cold weather to provide shelter and comfort," **Nancy Patterson**, director of design and business development, OpenAire, told *Amusement Today*. "Epic Waters' guests can enjoy outdoor aquatic fun all year long as a result. When the roof is open it cuts energy consumption by up to 27 percent by reducing the need for artificial lighting and ventilation systems combined with reduced maintenance costs by the corrosion-resistant aluminum structure, creating savings in yearly operating costs."

"OpenAire has developed many customized, record-breaking retractable enclosures for different venues around the world," said **Mark Albertine**, CEO OpenAire. "Epic Waters stands out as being part of one of the most ambitious municipal park

projects in which we have played a part. The enclosure's 83-foot-high cupola is the tallest of its kind in the southwestern United States and one of the tallest OpenAire has built."

The retractable roof covers the 62,000-square-foot enclosure in bright blue. The length is 384 feet long with a width of 160 feet. The roof features 40 retractable panels.

Albertine added, "Personally it was a pleasure to work with a client group who were so dedicated to their vision of creating something epic. From the very beginning I had the pleasure of being an integral part of the core team, working directly with Ramaker and ARM to design the waterpark from the ground up alongside the client who right from day one wanted the very best for the residents of Grand Prairie. It has been clear from the start that they would never back down from their intent to build something epic, there was never a moment's hesitation, never a second guess."

In addition to slides, Epic Waters offers a dual FlowRider; Rascal's Roundup, an AquaPlay 1050 play structure that sports 40 water features a 300-gallon tipping bucket; and a lazy river, the longest indoor river in Texas.

Food, retail, private birthday rooms (all overlooking the water park), an



An activity pool engages the energetic and competitive (above). Epic Waters features a dual FlowRider with instructors to help beginners get started.

AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT; TIM BALDWIN

arcade and cabanas are also on property.

General Manager **Michael Hayes** said, "People are going to be riding these fantastic rides most of the time, but we fit in a little over 700 chairs [for lounging and eating]. The retail is 2,000 square feet and the arcade is 4,000 square feet with approximately 65 player stations. We have 10 cabanas that seat from eight to ten individuals." In reference to the stylish bar (called Longboards), Hays added, "We wanted to cater to all individuals. The children are coming to enjoy the facility, but so are the adults. We have a full-service bar — beer, wine and cocktails for your enjoyment."

For the dual FlowRider, the facility has guards to help



riders get positioned to be successful. The attraction can remove the center divider to allow skilled body boarders to do standing maneuvers.

**Ramaker & Associates** were called upon for the design of Epic Waters. Vice President **Daryl Matzke**

said, "The city of Grand Prairie has really invested into their parks and are succeeding, which is why they have received the gold medal award for the National Parks and Recreation Association two years in a row. The studying they did before the project and the multiple parks they visited just to figure out what they wanted. I had the opportunity to tour with them. They looked at the good, the bad and the better and that helped them zero in on what they wanted. We introduced them to leaders in the industry so that they could make informed decisions. We really worked the design to remain within the budget. Indoor water parks have to be very effective; you have a limited amount of space."

Currently, a wave pool is being constructed adjacent to the indoor facility to expand offerings starting Memorial Day weekend.

"Grand Prairie is generating a lot of interest in our industry. A lot of other cities and recreation departments are looking at this project with admiration. This development will set a new standard of what a community development can be," said Brinkel.



The diversity of slides from WhiteWater West offers something for every level of thrill-seeker. AT/TIM BALDWIN



The park's river is the longest indoor river in the state of Texas. AT/TIM BALDWIN





# INTERNATIONAL

► Gardaland adding Peppa Pig area — Page 11 / Europa-Park, Moulin Rouge team up on ride — Page 11

## Marvel Heroes set for Disneyland Paris

AT: Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

PARIS, France — A special Marvel Summer of Super Heroes season is scheduled for Disneyland Paris this summer from June 10 to Sept. 30, with a unique season of events due to take place.

As part of the conclusion to Disneyland Paris's 25th anniversary celebrations, the exclusive Super Heroes season will incorporate major shows, interactive experiences, and meet and greets featuring well-known characters such as Spider-Man, Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, Black Widow, Star-Lord and Gamora during an almost four-month period at Walt Disney Studios Park.

In addition to all the extra entertainment on offer, Disneyland Paris is re-imagining its Hotel New York into the Hotel New York – The Art of Marvel, where guests will be transported to the action-packed world of the Marvel Super Heroes. The new-look hotel is due to open by 2020.

Among the new themed attractions to be included this summer will be various shows held several times a day, includ-

**Disney Pirate or Princess: Make your Choice! is another novelty coming to Disneyland Paris in 2018.**  
COURTESY DISNEYLAND PARIS



ing the Marvel: Super Heroes United show at the Studio Theatre in the heart of Walt Disney Studios Park. The production will include live-action on-stage antics with Marvel characters and cutting-edge special effects that will bring the Incredible Hulk and Thanos to life — a first for Disneyland Paris. Spectacular projections will add further to the entertainment of the 20-minute show.

Additional live entertainment, all of which will feature Marvel characters both good and villainous, will include Stark Expo presents: Energy of Tomorrow in the open-air Production Courtyard and The Guardians of the Galaxy Dance-Off, also in the Production Courtyard.

The Marvel Summer of Super Heroes will also give guests the chance for a heroic handshake with the very first Avenger: Captain America. Marvel products exclusive to Disneyland Paris have also been developed for the event, the first of its kind in Europe.

Along with the Marvel Summer of Super Heroes, Disney Pirate or Princess: Make your Choice! is another novelty coming to Disneyland Paris in the spring and involves more than 85 performers.

Featuring a Pirates float and Disney Princesses float, the experience culminates in visitors taking part in one of two routines, Pirates or Princesses, along with Disney characters.



Spider-Man is one of the Marvel Super Heroes to be featured at Disneyland Paris later this year. Guests to Disneyland Paris this summer also will enjoy meet-and-greet opportunities with Captain America. COURTESY DISNEYLAND PARIS/MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT

## USJ adds new attractions and enhances favorites for 2018

OSAKA, Japan — **Universal Studios Japan** will offer two new and two enhanced large-scale attractions beginning spring 2018, including the world-first, next-generation Universal Spectacle Night Parade: The Best of Hollywood.

This latter attraction will celebrate four of Hollywood's most popular films, including *Harry Potter*, *Minions*, *Jurassic World* and, making their park debut in the parade, *Transformers*, the born-in-Japan entertainment brand which encompasses popular toys, games, animation and feature films.

J.K. Rowling's *Wizarding World* and its captivating magic, Illumination's *Minions* and their mayhem, the enormous *Transformers*, and the realism of the *Jurassic World* dinosaurs will come together to be recreated in a continually changing entertainment spectacle. Park guests will be enveloped and fully immersed in this brand-new and offering, which the park claims will far surpass the traditional theme park parade experience.

The parade will feature elaborately synchronized of projection mapping completely covering the surroundings, floats that incorporate dynamic movements, high quality film lighting, a sweeping cinematic score and performances by live entertainers through the use of Show Orchestration, a production technology specially developed by Universal Creative.

Also set to make its debut this spring in an animation studio is a brand-new theater-type show attraction starring Curious George, in which the beloved character comes to life and interacts with guests. The *Wizarding World* of *Harry Potter*'s world-class attraction *Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey* will be enhanced with the latest technological advancements and relaunched in late March. The award-winning thrill ride will be elevated to offer guests even more exhilaration, using state-of-the-art technology to take them on an unforgettable adventure.

USJ also will thrill guests with a dramatic upgrade of the popular live stunt show *WaterWorld*, which has been enjoyed by more than 100 million people over the years and provides Hollywood-quality entertainment.

—Andrew Mellor



USJ's live stunt show *WaterWorld* will be dramatically upgraded for 2018. COURTESY UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

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# Ducati-themed attraction area motoring to Mirabilandia in 2019

RAVENNA, Italy — The iconic Italian motorcycle manufacturer **Ducati** is partnering with Madrid, Spain-based global leisure park operator **Parques Reunidos** to develop a new fun zone at the latter's **Mirabilandia** theme park

Mirabilandia is located in Italy's Emilia-Romagna region — where the Ducati brand was founded in 1926.

The project, which will occupy several acres and is expected to open next year, is designed for families as well as fans of Ducati motorcycles and accessories. An early concept drawing of the new area reveals a large Ferris wheel, a roller coaster, and a number of smaller rides and attractions that will incorporate motion simulator and virtual reality technology.

The roller coaster, described as "new generation," will replicate the experience of motorcycle riding and is being supplied by **Maurer** of Munich, Germany.

"This partnership and investment will transform Mirabilandia, empowering the park to attract visitors from all

over the world," said **Fernando Eiroa**, CEO of Parques Reunidos. "Ducati is a global brand with a great reputation as well as a strong local presence. Ducati World continues the strong Italian sports and automotive tradition and provides an engaging and innovative experience for motorcycling fans."

The motorcycle company is equally enthusiastic over its major foray into the amusement industry.

"Ducati World will give visitors a chance to live an exciting journey inside our brand," said **Alessandro Cicognani**, Ducati's licensing and corporate partnership director. "Thanks to this agreement, together with Parques Reunidos, we're developing the first motorcycle-themed area in an Italian amusement park. Mirabilandia's location, at the heart of the Motor Valley, adds further value to this project dedicated to fun."

Plans for the amusement area envision a showroom where visitors will find the most popular Ducati models. Visitors will be able to learn



**Noted motorcycle manufacturer Ducati is teaming up with Mirabilandia to create a new amusement zone at the Italian theme park. It will feature Ducati-themed rides and attractions for all ages.** COURTESY PARQUES REUNIDOS

about motorcycling history and about the sociocultural context in which the Italian brand has grown through the 90 years it existed.

The new fun zone also will include a Ducati shop stocking official Ducati and Ducati Scrambler merchandise, as well as themed restaurants.

Mirabilandia is Italy's largest theme park, encompassing 850,000 square meters and 47 attractions.

—Dean Lamanna

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# Marvel 4D Experience lands at Madame Tussauds Singapore

SENTOSA, Singapore — Treasured superheros from the Marvel universe have descended on **Madame Tussauds Singapore** in both wax and celluloid form, thanks to debut of the Marvel 4D Experience — the first Marvel attraction of its type in Asia.

The immersive zone, which opened in mid-December, introduces Spider-Man, Iron Man and Captain America within innovative and highly interactive sets. The fun continues inside an adjacent 4D theater.

“Madame Tussauds Singapore is honored to invite Marvel’s well-loved characters to our attraction,” said **Greg Connor**, general manager. “With the influx of Marvel movies and their massive fan base, we wanted to create an all-new experience for our guests.”

The permanent exhibition features wax representations of the superheros and offers both up-close and scenic-backdrop photo opportunities. Spider-Man, for example, hangs acrobatically from the side of a building in a setting that recreates Singapore’s iconic Marina Bay area, while Iron Man sports an armored suit with a built-in LED display for added dynamic effect. Guests can also try on parts of Iron Man’s suit.

Standing amid a war-torn cityscape, Captain America is poised to defeat evil, save civilization and allow visitors to sidle up for a picture snap.



In the Marvel 4D Cinema, guests are transported straight into the heart of an action-packed, 10-minute animated film, with Singapore landmarks serving as the setting. State-of-the-art projection enhances an epic battle as the superheros, including Hulk, attempt to save the city from Doctor Doom.

With this latest addition, Madame Tussauds Singapore continues the chain’s trend in offering interactive experiences along with the entertainment brand’s famous wax displays.

—Dean Lamanna

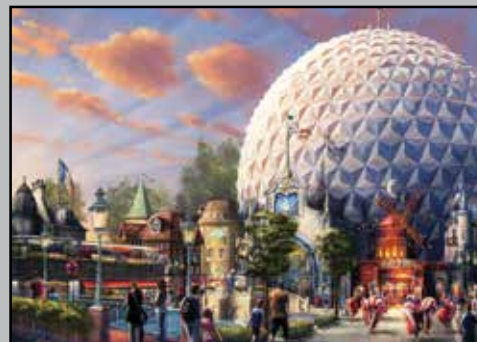


The first Marvel universe-themed attraction of its type in Asia, the Marvel 4D Experience convenes a number of characters — including Captain America, Spider-Man, Iron Man and Hulk — for some high-tech film and photo-op fun at Madame Tussauds Singapore. COURTESY MADAME TUSSAUDS SINGAPORE

## Europa-Park, Moulin Rouge announce Eurosat - CanCan Coaster

RUST, Germany — A new attraction inspired by Paris and the Moulin Rouge universe will be launched by this summer at **Europa-Park**, which has been awarded best theme park in the world for four consecutive years.

The arrangement is a first for the Moulin Rouge, which had never collaborated with a theme park. The two entertainment institutions were drawn together through mutual regard, as both are famous throughout the world for their quality and the unique experiences they provide. The partnership will see an extensive retheming of the Eurosat indoor roller coaster. Signing took place in Paris at the Moulin Rouge between **Jean-Jacques**



COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

**Clerico**, chairman of the Moulin Rouge, and **Michael Mack**, managing partner of Europa-Park.

Eurosat, the main attraction of the French-themed area at Europa Park, is being renewed to give a new look that will showcase 19th century Paris. On the facade overlooking the roller coaster entrance, visitors will see an accurate reproduction of the Moulin Rouge at the Belle Epoque time. Inside, they will discover a well-decorated space full of references to the Moulin Rouge and Parisian symbols, before boarding vehicles for an experience in the dark at the heart of the City of Lights.

Renamed Eurosat - CanCan Coaster, the project is being driven by the passion these two family-owned companies from neighboring countries have for innovation.

# Gardaland announces new themed Peppa Pig area for 2018

**AT:** Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

CASTELNUOVO DEL GARDA, Italy — **Gardaland** in Italy has announced that it will open a new dedicated themed area, Peppa Pig Land, in 2018, which among other facilities will offer families with young children three new Peppa Pig-themed attractions.

The new area will be located next to the park’s Fantasy Kingdom and will further expand the pre-school offering for families, which currently includes Prezzemolo Land and Kung Fu Panda Academy for younger guests.

The announcement follows a partnership announced in October between **Merlin Entertainments/Gardaland** and **Entertainment One (eOne)**,



owners of Peppa Pig. The deal gives Merlin and Gardaland rights to roll out new attraction formats, as well as themed accommodations featuring Peppa Pig and her family and friends, in all territories excluding the UK and in China, where Merlin has rights on a non-exclusive basis.

Peppa Pig is one of the world’s biggest brands in the market of pre-school entertainment, and in Italy it is a leading preschool brand with huge awareness — thanks to the pop-

ular TV series broadcast daily on Rai Yo Yo and an array of licensed merchandise.

“Peppa Pig is an exceptionally strong brand, known and beloved among families all over the world, and she has been chosen for various reasons,” explained Gardaland CEO Aldo Maria Vigevani. “Because of her preschool target, which Gardaland sees as increasingly more important within the landscape of its public, Peppa Pig deals with different daily life aspects typical of children but also common among adults, communicating through direct, clear, simple and immediately usable language. Children adore her and she is a bearer of significant educational values — such as family and parents first and foremost. In other words, she is



Gardaland’s Peppa Pig Land will offer families with young children three new Peppa Pig themed attractions, among other facilities. COURTESY GARDALAND RESORT/EONE

perfect for Gardaland!”

**Olivier Dumont**, President, eOne Family, said: “Launching Peppa Pig Land in Gardaland is an exciting development and a clear demonstration of the brand’s enduring appeal in Italy. We are working closely

with Merlin to make the new attraction a magical and memorable destination where favorite characters and locations from the show are brought to life to give families a truly unforgettable day experience.”



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## Wilderness at The Smokies debuts guest amenities, new sound system

AT: Jeffrey Seifert  
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SEVIERVILLE, Tenn. — In time for Memorial Day of last year, **Wilderness at the Smokies**, Tennessee's largest water park resort, completed a major renovation to its outdoor water park. Showing its commitment to visiting vacationers, the park added ancillary amenities to improve the guest experience that included the addition of a splash pad, cabanas, new bar and restaurant and a state-of-the-art outdoor sound system to upgrade the guest's entertainment experience.

Nine new private, cabin-esque, climate-controlled, pool side VIP cabanas made their debut at the park this past season. Guests can assert a "home-base" for the day at one of the new state-of-the-art cabanas, each equipped with a flat-screen television, ceiling fan, luxury-comfort furniture, refrigerator, oversized lush towels and the pièce de résistance — air conditioning. Sliding glass doors helped keep the indoor temperature stable while still allowing views of the park. Poolside attendants were on hand to cater to the cabana guests' every need with beverage and menu service. The new VIP Cabanas joined 14 existing cabanas that feature all the same great amenities, but are not climate-controlled.

Those not able to enjoy a climate-controlled cabana were able to cool off at the new Shakers at the Lake restaurant for a cold beverage and snacks. The U-shaped bar welcomes guests 21 and older to pull up a chair and enjoy a cold beer or piña colada while they check the score



Tennessee's largest water park resort completed a major renovation to its outdoor area. Treehouse Springs was designed for water park enthusiasts in training. COURTESY WILDERNESS AT THE SMOKIES

on their favorite sports event featured on the flat screen TV's. Shakers at the Lake joins Blue Gills Cove as a second option for refreshments and a bite to eat.

Since 2008, Wilderness at the Smokies has offered thrilling waterslides and attractions for adults. This past summer, Treehouse Springs made its debut as a fully themed children's water fun zone. Designed specifically for the youngest of water park enthusiasts, the zero-depth entry wading pool features more than eight water features including sprinklers, bubblers, geyser jets, waterfall splashes, dumping buckets, and interactive antiquities galore. Centrally located, a treehouse tower with three slides offer hours of



fun and exploration, where the younger kids can have a blast, away from their older siblings. Parents were able to comfortably keep a watchful eye on their children and soak up sun from the newly expanded chaise lounge deck.

For the sound system upgrade the park owners contacted **M&M Productions USA**, headquartered in Oak Ridge, Tenn., to design and install a new distributed sound reinforcement system to handle audio needs now and in the future.

"When we took on the project we knew we needed to start from scratch with loudspeakers that withstand the weather as well as control the sound, keeping it on the entertainment areas yet away from guest rooms," explained **Mike Brown**, president and CEO of M&M Productions USA. "There was no question in my mind that we were going to use One Systems Direct Weather loudspeakers for this project. We have had tremendous results with them in the past. Not only do they have a rugged design that can withstand the rigors of the weather, but they sound great, which was another requirement the owners had of the system."

Brown and M&M project manager Tim Scobee worked with the One Systems design team to create zoned systems that addressed the park's requirements, while resolving inconsistent coverage, poor vocal intelligibility and lack of volume control in different park areas. Ultimately the group created an eight-zone system made up of a combination of One Systems Hybrid loudspeakers and

subwoofers.

"Zones allow volume levels to be adjusted individually," adds Brown. "The park also sometimes brings in live entertainment. This way they can fire their system up and the park can turn that zone down. We also took great care to ensure that none of the zones overlap or compete with other areas."

Careful consideration was taken to place the appropriate speakers in the correct locations. For instance, loudspeakers around the lazy river have a narrow focus and short throw pattern to allow music to be heard in the lazy river, but keep sound away from the nearby guest rooms. To overcome the roar of the wave pool a subwoofer was added to amplify the bass. Each of the cabanas has an individual volume control allowing guests to set the level to their personal preference.

When Brown and his team fired up the new system the resort management was amazed with the full range sound, fidelity and intelligibility. "In the past when they put a mic into the system to make announcements, no one could understand anything," Brown concludes. "Now the water park has the cleanest system they have ever experienced and no concerns about the durability of their investment. One Systems Direct Weather loudspeakers consistently impress with their sound quality and weather resistance. The park should be set for years to come."

Wilderness at the Smokies offers two seasonal outdoor water parks and an 84-degree year-round indoor water park — exclusive to overnight guests. Featuring 713 rooms, suites and villas, Wilderness at the Smokies offers other amenities that are available to the public, including an indoor family adventure center, dining, shopping, a 36-hole championship golf course, and more than 200,000 square feet of meeting and convention space. A year-round water park vacation destination, Wilderness at the Smokies delivers exciting lodging and entertainment options for families vacationing in the Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg/Sevierville region.



These cabin-esque cabanas provide guests with a multitude of amenities, including air conditioning. Carefully aimed speakers (right) for the new audio system keep the sound in the activity areas and away from guest rooms. COURTESY WILDERNESS AT THE SMOKIES





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The city of Farmington, Mich., hopes to repurpose a local high school into a recreation center that includes a small indoor water park. The school board has decided to close the school at the end of the 2018-19 school year. Repurposing **Harrison High School** will help preserve the legacy of the facility, where many of the city's residents earned their high school diploma. The conversion will cost between \$19 million and \$20 million. City officials are working on a plan to finance the project.

In January the new, four-story **Carla Madison Recreation Center** in Denver, Colo., opened to the public. The \$44 million project features multiple amenities including a lap pool, lazy river, waterslides and a kids' swim area with a tipping bucket play structure with small slides. The center is named for **Carla Madison**, a city councilwoman who worked to secure money for recreation opportunities in her district. Madison lost her battle to cancer in 2011, but her vibrant spirit lives on in the new rec center. One of the distinctive features of the facility is that some of the elliptical bikes generate electricity to power a light display on the facade of the building. The public art piece called "Circuit," by artist **Erik Carlsons**, changes colors as designated cardio room equipment is used by patrons.

**Hawana Aqua Park** in Dhofar, Oman, opened in January as the very first water park in the country of Oman. Covering 16 acres, the water park includes waterslides, leisure pools, a toddlers' pool, pool-front cabins, swimming pools and a wave pool.

Like many middle east countries, Oman is trying to position itself as a tourist destination. The Hawana Aqua Park is part of the Hawana tourist complex that includes the **Salalah Rotana Resort** with 900 hotel rooms, a 170-berth super-yacht



## NEWSPLASH

AT: Jeffery L. Seifert  
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

marina, restaurants, shops, cafes, residences including villas and apartments, and white sandy beaches along the Indian Ocean coastline.

**Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Resort** in North Utica, Ill., was forced to close its **Grand Bear Falls Waterpark** in January following an early morning fire that damaged the indoor water park. Fortunately no one was injured and the guest areas of the resort were not affected. Most of the fire was in a mechanical equipment area adjacent to the water park. Firefighters were hindered by the cold weather and the fact there are no fire hydrants in the area, so water tender trucks had to refill at a nearby school.

The water park will remain closed until repairs can be made. Although the lodge did not sustain any damage, the 24,000-square-foot indoor water park is the primary attraction at this time of year. Management is permitting cancellations and offering a full refund to guests who had booked a stay at the resort.

**Great Wolf Resorts** has announced a new Great Wolf Lodge Resort for the city of Scottsdale, Ariz. Set to open the second half of 2019, the lodge will feature a 350-room all suite hotel; 85,000-square-foot indoor water park; 27,000-square-foot family adventure center with indoor miniature golf, a ropes course, arcade, and **MagicQuest**; outdoor pool with cabanas; and the line-up of activity areas and restaurants that typically accompany a Great Wolf Lodge. The location, next door to Salt River Fields, is already a popular

tourist destination as the spring-training home of the **Arizona Diamondbacks** and **Colorado Rockies** Major League Baseball teams. Although Great Wolf Lodge got its start in cold-weather climates, the company has built several resorts in warm-weather areas of the country, noting that guests will flee temperature extremes at both ends of the thermometer. The Grapevine, Texas, indoor water park remains popular even when temperatures soar into the triple digits. Scottsdale, however, will be the first where 100-degree temperatures are the norm from April through October.

An artificial lagoon in Jacksonville, Fla., is set to become the largest man-made water feature in the U.S. once the lagoon fills with water to its 10-foot depth. The 14-acre **Crystal Lagoon**, at the **Beachwalk** planned community features a sugary sand beach with palm trees and winding footpaths surrounding a turquoise lagoon. Kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming, snorkeling and sailing are all available to guests living within the community.

The water is kept clean and sparkling blue by a proprietary system, developed and operated by Crystal Lagoons. It uses ultrasonic disinfection pulses that require only one percent of the chemicals and two percent of the energy used by conventional swimming pool filtration systems. The technology works with salt, brackish or fresh water.

The Crystal Lagoon is exclusively for use by residents of the Beachwalk community. Additional resident-only amenities include waterslides, a miniature golf course, 2,500-square-foot splash park for dogs, Caribbean-themed clubhouse and a 3,000-square-foot swim-up bar at the edge of the lagoon. Beachwalk will eventually include single-family homes and twin villas on the lagoon with a total of 761 residences. 175,000 square feet of retail space will feature shops and restaurants.



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## ADG to build new indoor water park resort in Catskill Mountains



The Kartrite, a new project from the owners of Camelback Resort and Camelbeach Water Park, promises to be a new international destination and is expected to help revitalize tourism to the Catskill Mountains region of New York. ADG has been contracted to design and build the new indoor water park resort, which is set to open in early 2019.

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# PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Magazine to mark Quassy's 110th season — Page 20 / Fairs — Pages 22-29

Uniquely fun 'construction zone' expanding by seven acres

## Diggerland USA sees largest capital improvement project yet

AT: Dean Lamanna  
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WEST BERLIN, N.J. — **Diggerland USA** is undertaking an ambitious round of actual excavation work in order to create more opportunity for construction-themed family fun.

Last November, the unique amusement park in southern New Jersey broke ground on a multimillion-dollar, seven-plus-acre expansion — the largest capital improvement project since the property's debut in 2014.

The park, which allows children and parents to ride, drive and operate modified, full-sized excavators, dumper trucks, backhoes and other heavy machinery in a safe, fully supervised environment, will add five new attractions to its existing 25 when it reopens for the season March 17.

The largest addition is a 130-foot-high, 700-foot long zipline from **Soaring Eagle, Inc.** of Logan, Utah, spanning nearly the entire footprint of the park.

Aside from the new rides (the others had not yet been revealed by the time *Amusement Today* went to press), the expansion includes the addition of a corporate events and groups pavilion, a climate-controlled dining / party pavilion for birthday celebrations, expanded parking infrastructure and upgrades to the Diggerland XL program. The latter is a heavy machinery experience for adults with one-on-one instruction and package options that include a number of offbeat thrills, such as car-smashing with an

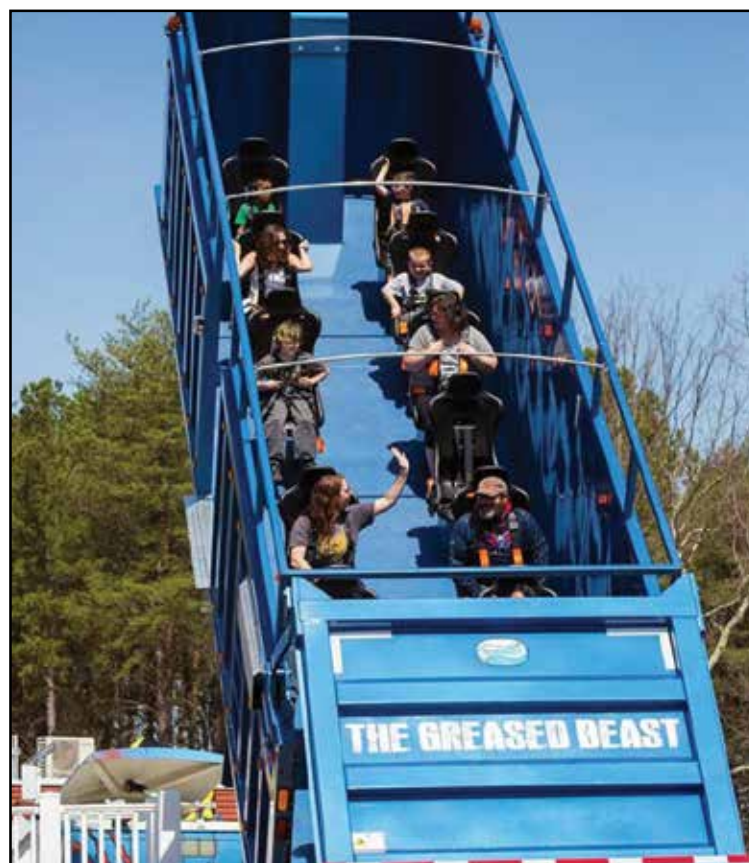
excavator.

Additional amenities for the expansion project, including a concession building and guest restroom facilities, are being fabricated by the Diggerland team from used shipping containers.

"Our guests appreciate the unique construction motif of the property, which we carry from ride design all the way through to infrastructure," said **Yan Girlya**, park co-president and owner. "Recycling the shipping containers as part of the project, for example, made lots of sense for us."

"We've done a tremendous amount of research over the past year determining how we can add the greatest amount of value to our guests' experience," said **Ilya Girlya**, park co-president and owner. "Including these attractions in the cost of admission and extending their use to our annual pass holders is important to our team, because it's appreciated by our visitors."

• [diggerlandusa.com](http://diggerlandusa.com)



Diggerland USA co-presidents and owners Yan and Ilya Girlya (left) review the expansion plans for the West Berlin, N.J., park. A 130-foot-high, 700-foot-long zipline from Soaring Eagle, Inc., (top) is one of five new rides that will debut this season. The Greased Beast (right), an unusual, construction-themed family ride, was unveiled at Diggerland USA last season. COURTESY DIGGERLAND USA

 <p><b>IRG</b> Intermark Ride Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gosetto</li> <li>• Moser Rides</li> <li>• RES-WillTec</li> <li>• Used Rides</li> <li>• Wattman Trains</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.intermarkridegroup.com">www.intermarkridegroup.com</a> TEL 615.370.9625</p>	 <p><b>Gosetto Dark Ride Interactive</b></p>	 <p><b>RES-WillTec Air Loop Coaster</b></p>	 <p><b>Moser Rides Super Sidewinder</b></p>
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# ADG's first mountain coaster install in the Rockies

## FAST FACTS

### Ride Name

The Rocky Mountain Coaster at Copper Mountain

**Type:** Mountain Coaster

### Owner

Powdr Corporation/  
Copper Mountain Resort

### Total Track

619 sections, each weighing 117-225 pounds

**Length:** 5,800 feet

**Top Speed:** 25 mph

**Ride Time:** 8 min.

**Capacity:** 100-120 pph

### Special Features

Average grade - 10.9%  
25% of the track is more than 16-feet in the air  
Two 360-degree turns with three bridges  
Operated year-round

**Number of sleds:** 34 total

**Elevation Change:** 430 ft

**Supplier:** ADG

**AT:** B. Derek Shaw  
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

FRISCO, Colo. — Dec. 1, 2017, was the first day ADG's latest mountain coaster opened to the public. Located at **Copper Mountain Ski Resort**, high in the Rockies, it is the first time an attraction of this type has been built on U.S. Forest Service land.

*Amusement Today* spoke with **Shawn McDonald**, director of mountain sports, Copper Mountain Resort, about the project. He explained how the attraction came to fruition: "This past summer we had a \$20 million capital upgrade into our infrastructure for our year-round operations. The alpine coaster was a part of that upgrade goal of offering a new experience to all of our guests who come to Copper to experience the outdoors. We offer a great skiing/riding winter experience, but we are focusing more on our summer and fall seasons too. **The Rocky Mountain Coaster at Copper Mountain** was in the planning stages for three years and was built in seven months, [from] May – November 2017."

Five years ago, McDonald started talking to people along with riding mountain/alpine



coasters elsewhere to learn more about what they are like. In July 2016, he started walking the mountain to look at placement for winter and summer operations of an alpine coaster attraction. Later that year after ADG was selected as the manufacturer; they designed the track layout and physically staked that design. Ride fabrication began in February 2017 and by April, (over the top of the snow) the site line was cleared for the downhill/up-hill track. The first of three bridge installs over ski trails started in May. By June, track started arriving, being staged on the mountain, with July 5, the first day of track installation. Between July and November, grading, reveg-

etation, concrete pouring, lift components, bottom cart building and re-directs were all taking place. Nov. 21 began load testing by ASTM, along with Forest Service licensing, prior to the public launch.

The project was not without challenges. McDonald explained: "Due to the layout of our mountain, wetlands were a unique challenge for the layout of the coaster. We specifically built over and around the wetlands. Our bridge over the Lovely ski trail is 110 feet long, [weighing] 66,000 pounds, and was installed over snow in May with a 300 ton crane. From the construction side, not having vehicle access to the entire job site was a challenge. We hiked



**The Rocky Mountain Coaster at Copper Mountain was part of a \$20 million capital upgrade to the resort.**  
COURTESY COPPER MOUNTAIN SKI RESORT

track sections in using scaffolding and did a lot of hiking and lifting to install track sections. But by doing this we also had a softer footprint on the existing ground surface."

There were some firsts for the Copper Mountain project. "ADG was able to change the color of the coaster carts to cedar green to fit into our surroundings better, along with finding a vendor to dull some telespar [coaster track legs] to a rust color to reduce reflectivity at the base area and match the natural environment," said McDonald. "The coaster was designed and built with the wetlands, road access, and existing

► See ADG, page 20





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## Plano Crayola Experience opens in spring

60,000-square-foot attraction coming to The Shops at Willow Bend mall

PLANO, Texas — The Lone Star state is getting a huge dose of Crayola color.

The iconic family brand recently announced that it will open a **Crayola Experience** at **The Shops at Willow Bend** next spring. This is the fourth location for the popular family attraction, which also has facilities in Orlando, Fla., **Mall of America** in Bloomington, Minn., and Easton, Pa. — Crayola's home since 1903.

The 60,000-square-foot concept will be a new addition to the mall, situated between the food court and Macy's. It also will include a 5,000-square-foot retail space, The Crayola Store, which features the world's largest selection of Crayola products and unique souvenirs, such as plush and apparel.

Although best known for its crayons and markers, the 114-year-old company now has more than 1,500 proprietary products and technologies, which serve as the inspiration for Crayola Experience's 22 hands-on activities and live entertainment.

"Crayola Experience is more than just an attraction. It's a place where families come together to create, play and make memories that will last a lifetime," Crayola CEO **Smith Holland** said. "When we visited Plano, we saw a friendly, growing, family-oriented community, and we can't wait to be a dynamic and colorful part of it."

At Crayola Experience Plano guests will enjoy classic experiences such as naming and wrapping their own Crayola crayon (Wrap It Up!), starring in their own coloring page (Be a Star), using their touch to bring art to 4-D life (Color Magic), creating melted wax spin-art (Drip Art) and learning how crayons are made in a live Factory Show, as well as some new experiences that will debut in Texas.



"Crayola Experience provides a genuinely unique experience that allows families to have fun together, and that speaks to the essence of our reinvention of The Shops at Willow Bend as a town center," said **Scott Wolstein**, CEO of **Starwood Retail Partners**. "This will be a gift to the young and young-at-heart of Plano and the greater Dallas metro area."

Crayola Experience will be open 365 days a year and will hire more than 200 part-time and full-time employees. It also will host private events, group trips and birthday parties. Families can buy annual passes, allowing them to experience the magic of color all year long.

• [CrayolaExperience.com](http://CrayolaExperience.com)

## Magazine to mark Quassy's 110th season

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. — **Quassy Amusement & Waterpark** will publish a commemorative 32-page color magazine in recognition of its 110th season of operation this year.

"With so much history here at the park, we saw it fitting to undertake such an endeavor to mark this special occasion," said **Eric Anderson**, a park owner. "This commemorative publication will be one our valued guests and business partners will hold on to for years to come, as it will be filled with interesting stories and photos about the property."

Quassy is only one of a handful of remaining trolley parks in the U.S. Before the Great Depression of 1929 there were more than 1,000 such facilities in the nation, most of them located in the Northeast and New England. In addition, the lake-front park has been owned and operated by the



same family for 81 years.

"Few small businesses can make such a distinction," noted owner **George Frantzis II**, whose grandfather purchased the property with two business partners in 1937. "We now have fourth-generation family members working here and that is extremely rewarding to see."

The magazine will be available free of charge at the park in May and also available for downloading online.

"While our intention is to offer the hard copies at no charge, guests have the opportunity to contribute to **Give Kids The World**," Frantzis said of the publication. A donation box will be located next to the magazines in the park's Season Pass & Group Sales office.

Advertising opportunities in the magazine are available with a March 1 closing date. Contact the park office at 1-800-FOR-PARK for ad details.

## ADG

Continued from page 18

ski trails in mind. We didn't want to change the flow of our winter skiers/riders. Copper, along with ADG, worked in a partnership with the Forest Service from the planning stages to the final product."

Copper Mountain was quite pleased with the manufacturer. "ADG supplied an installation instructor for the entire process to work with our Copper team. Due to the newness of the project in this area, all contractors and teams within the coaster project could call ADG and work through any issues that occurred," said McDonald. "Working with ADG to install our newest resort attraction has been a great experience.

ADG's ability to be flexible, focus on safety and a passion for what they do confirmed ADG was the obvious choice."

There has been enthusiastic acceptance from the public. McDonald said, "Overall there has been a huge excitement from our guests of all ages. When we posted the Rocky Mountain Coaster at Copper on social media, we had a big following."

"The anticipation was for our summer guests to enjoy the ride and experience Copper. The base of the coaster is at 9,700 feet, while the top is 10,200 feet. [The] winter [season] has brought a pleasant surprise from our guests who are here to ski/ride but are riding the coaster also," said McDonald.

Copper Mountain can have snow for up to ten months a year,

depending on the year. "That gives us July and August for construction and sunbathing. Our snow typically melts out by July 4 for on-hill summer projects to start. ADG was able to start fabrication of the coaster parts in February, March 2017 in New York State while we were still open for winter operations here in Colorado. That was a big bonus for us to get ahead of the project," said McDonald.

Gary Rodgers, Copper Mountain's president and general manager summed things up, "The Rocky Mountain Coaster is an ideal year-round attraction for just about everyone. We hope to see grandparents going down with their grandkids and the kids-at-heart taking a ride with their friends and family."





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# Western Fairs Association ends another successful convention

AT: Pam Sherborne

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ANAHEIM, Calif. — The 2018 Western Fairs Association (WFA) Convention and Trade Show was deemed a grand success, with a sold out trade show for the fifth year in a row and a large attendance filling the trade show floor and participating in educational and social activities.

This year's convention was held at the Anaheim (Calif.) Marriott, Jan. 3-6.

"Our 2018 Convention and Trade Show – Go West – has gone down as one of our best conventions yet," said **Chris Pickering**, WFA communications.

Pickering said over 1,300 members attended the event and there were 120 exhibitors on the trade show floor.

Highlights this year included keynote addresses from speakers **Rita Murray**, Generational Specialist, and **Jim Teece**, president of the **Jackson County Fair and Expo**, Central Point, Ore. The Leadership Luncheon, another highlight, brought to-



There were approximately 1,300 attendees at the 2018 WFA Convention and Trade Show, which ran Jan. 3-6, at the Anaheim (Calif.) Marriot. This educational session was just one of many that was very well attended. COURTESY WFA

gether industry leaders, past, present, and future, to learn about WFA committees and hear from the Merrill Award finalists.

WFA partnered with Grandstand Apps this year to bring members the official WFA mobile app. Attendees were able to use the app to

navigate the convention with ease. And, the WFA encouraged its members to hang on to the app as it will be used year-round to offer helpful hints and educational information.

Educational sessions abound at the WFA convention. Some of those this



This is the fifth year in a row that the annual WFA trade show has sold out. There were 120 exhibitors at the 2018 WFA Convention and Trade Show held Jan. 3-6, Anaheim, Calif. COURTESY WFA

year included: Relationships – Reputation – Return: How Public Relations Really Works; Business Planning as a Tool to Weather Economic Conditions; Social Media Hacks; Animals at Fairs: Protecting Our Fairs from Extremism; Transfer of Ownership, and Temporary Labor:

Rising Costs & Limited Availability.

Other topics were Marketing to the Media: How to get Attention for Your Event; Crisis Communication and Planning: How to be Ready When Bad Things Happen;

► See WFA, page 24

## Sarah Cummings becomes new WFA executive director

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — **Sarah Cummings**, the new head of the Western Fairs Association (WFA) as of Feb. 1, was given the opportunity to get a feel for her new role during the association's 2018 Convention and Trade Show — Go West — held Jan. 3-6, in Anaheim, Calif.

She is taking over the reins from long-time WFA Secretary **Stephen Chambers**, who served as the head of the WFA for 31 years.

"I am thrilled to have been selected by the Western Fairs Association Board of Directors to assume the lead role of the association as its executive director beginning in February 2018," Cummings said. "I am very much looking forward to leading the WFA into its next chapter."

Cummings has some big shoes to fill at the WFA, but that is nothing new to her. She comes to the WFA from the **Colorado State Fair**, Pueblo, where she served as general manager since 2015. There, she took over from the popular previous general manager, **Chris Wiseman**, who held that position for 12 years. Wiseman moved on to the

state level with the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Always an agricultural enthusiast, Cummings was only 24 years old when she became the CEO of the **Sonoma-Marin Fair** in her hometown of Petaluma, Calif. She also has served as the CEO at the **Salinas Valley Fair**, King City, Calif.

Cummings also has served on both the WFA and California Fairs Alliance Boards.

She is a graduate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Calif., and she is excited to return to California to the WFA's headquarters in Sacramento.

The WFA was founded in 1922 and incorporated in 1945. A nonprofit trade association serving the fair industry throughout the western United States and Canada, the association represents fair-related businesses, fair management, fair board directors, festivals and industry associations.

The membership is represented by a 21-member elected board of directors that governs the activities and policies of the association.

—Pam Sherborne



Seen here at the 2018 WFA Convention and Trade Show is Sarah Cummings, the new WFA executive director, with outgoing Stephen Chambers, who has retired as the WFA secretary after 31 years. The WFA event was held Jan. 3-6, Anaheim, Calif. COURTESY WFA

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Portable Version



# IAFE Management Conference set for April 7-10

MINNESOTA, Minn. — The 2018 **International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE)** Management Conference will be held Saturday-Tuesday, April 7-10, 2018, at the Hilton Minneapolis.

The theme of this year's conference is "Impressions That Last." The programming for the conference is designed for upper management staff, but all fair members are invited to join.

The conference is set to begin on Saturday with an IAFE board meeting and a chance to attend a Minnesota Twins versus



Seattle Mariners Major League Baseball game. That night a welcome reception is scheduled.

Sunday's activities begin with a breakfast and is followed by the sessions "Pivot

Point: Using Change Management To Drive Excellence" and "Hot Seat Moderated Session."

Attendees will be able to tour the University of Minnesota, St. Paul, and the **Minnesota State Fair** that afternoon. That evening will consist of a social hour and dinner.

Monday's events include sessions "Where Are We Going?" and breakout workshops. Networking opportunities are planned for that evening.

A breakfast is set for Tuesday morning.  
—Pam Sherborne

## ►WFA

Continued from page 22

Fairs: There's an App for That; How to Read & Understand a Financial Statement, and Tracking Sponsorships.

Along with educational sessions, there also was an **International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE)** Institute of Fair Management Course presented on the first morning of the convention. Scheduled throughout were IAFE Zone meetings.

Social gatherings included the Wednesday evening Welcome Reception, the Thursday evening President's Reception and Entertainment Showcase, and the Industry Awards Celebration on Friday evening. The **Pacific Coast Showmen's Association** held its Banquet and Ball on Saturday evening.

During the day on Saturday, attendees had the opportunity to sign up for "The Last Chance Elephant Experience," which featured a visit to the world famous Johnson family elephant ranch with an exclusive meet-and-greet and an educational overview of elephant care and preservation.

Appearing at Friday's Entertainment Showcase were Alfred & Seymore, Ashley Barron, B2Wins, Bee Gees Gold Tribute, The Best of Everything Band, Brewers Grade, George Strait Tribute, Uptown Funk and Coffey Anderson.

The 2019 98th annual WFA Convention and Trade Show is set for Jan. 13-16, Reno, Nev.

A large advertisement for Waterloo Tent &amp; Tarp Company, Inc. The background is a vibrant orange. In the center, there's a large, colorful illustration of a striped circus tent in shades of blue, white, and orange. Above the tent, the company logo features a stylized tent icon and the text "WATERLOO TENT &amp; TARP COMPANY, INC." Below the tent, a blue banner with white text reads "SEE YOU AT GIBTOWN". To the right of the banner, a blue box with white text says "BOOTH 903-904". At the bottom, there are three smaller logos: "Carnival Creations by Waterloo", "Solar Creations by Waterloo", and "Shade Creations by Waterloo". Below these, the phone number "1.800.537.1193" and the website "WWW.WATERLOOTENT.COM" are displayed. A circular logo with a diagonal line is in the bottom right corner.

## 2018 WFA Award Winners

### Hall of Fame

**Charlie Barboni**, Marin County Fair, San Rafael, Calif.; **Louie Brown**, Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP, Hanford, Calif., and **Norm Towne**, Norman C. Towne Consulting & Advocacy, Sacramento, Calif.

### Merrill Award

**New Mexico State Fair**, Albuquerque - Autism Awareness Sensory Station, and **San Diego County Fair**, Del Mar, Calif., - New Citizen Inclusion Program.

### Barham Award

**WZ Productions LLC**, San Diego, Calif. - Out at the Fair.



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## MIDWAYLIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne

[psherborne@amusementtoday.com](mailto:psherborne@amusementtoday.com)

General manager of the **Gallatin County Fairgrounds**, Bozeman, Mont., **Lori Cox** has left her position after a three-year run.

According to an article in the **Bozeman Daily Chronicle**, Cox cited the reason for her departure was the high cost of living in the city. She also said she found another opportunity elsewhere. She was not able to release the details of where she'd be headed when the article was released.

During her time as general manager, Cox has seen major growth at the fairgrounds. The fair has experienced roughly a 60 percent increase in attendance and facility rentals for 2017 were up about 25 percent.

"It's been a wild three years," Cox said, in the news report. "Probably one of the things I'm most proud of is being able to take a fair-ground, that really was ready for the next level, and bump it three levels."

The work she accomplished, though, hasn't been all about her, adding she worked with a great group of people who helped get the fairgrounds where it is now.

Cox leaves the position on a high note, with last year's fair breaking records in attendance, admission and revenue.

The 2018 **Gallatin County Fair** will be held July 18-22.

The 2018 **Franklin County Fair**, Union, Mo., will see some major changes this year, including being held a month earlier than usual, with the fair scheduled for June 7-10, fair officials announced last month. The reason for the change was because of the sled availability for the truck and tractor pull.

"We would like to thank everyone for their continued support (of) this community event," a press release said. "Without our local community support, this event could not go on each year."

Another building on the **Illinois State Fairgrounds**, Springfield, needs emergency repairs to avoid the possibility that its badly deteriorated roof could collapse.

The **Capital Development Board** (CDB), which handles non-road construction projects for the state, said the roofing system on Barn 13 "has failed, causing water damage to the structural roof joists and decking," according to documents the agency filed to justify the emergency purchase.

"There is severe structural damage to the system with the potential for the roof to collapse, causing a threat to public safety and impending further loss and damage," the documents said. "The **Department of Agriculture** has several events scheduled at the facility through 2018. Additional damage might force the department to close the facility and lose a revenue stream for the state of Illinois."

CDB noted it is important to keep the barn open because the adjacent Coliseum is already closed because it is no longer safe for use by the public as a result of its own structural damage.

The state has hired **Allied Design Consultants** of Springfield for \$100,000 to do the design work and oversee removal and replace-

ment of more than 25,000 square-feet of roofing on the building. When the work itself will be done hasn't been determined.

No events have had to be relocated because of the roof problem.

Barn 13 was built in 1909 and features a 181-by-111-foot dirt show ring. It came close to demolition in the mid-1990s because it had been declared unsafe.

Historic preservationists prevailed on then-Gov. **Jim Edgar** to consider alternatives. The building was spared when revised cost estimates showed it was no more expensive to repair the building than to demolish it and replace it with a new structure.

Barn 13 is adjacent to the Coliseum, the 116-year-old building that was used year-round for everything from horse shows to midget car races. The building was closed in 2016 because, among other things, roof support beams were corroded and the building was deemed unsafe for occupancy. Repair costs are estimated at \$3.7 million.

**Susan Sankey**, former general manager, **Kansas State Fair**, Hutchinson, announced last month her last day in that role would be Jan. 31.

Sankey took a new position becoming the director of development for the **Kansas 4-H Foundation**, according to **Virginia Crossland-Macha**, president of the Kansas State Fair Board.

In a letter to the fair board, Sankey said: "I would like to thank the State Fair Board for this great privilege to have served the people of Kansas. I wasn't out looking for a job. I believe in the mission of the Kansas State Fair and truly appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this mission and its positive impact on so many others, and especially our young people. 4-H has always been special to me."

An interim will be named, while the board searches for a new manager.

In Sankey's two years managing the fair, the 2016 event drew 359,808 people, the second best in at least 40 years and 322,278, in 2017, the third lowest since 2001.

The 2018 fair will be held Sept. 7-16.

A recent audit of **Wisconsin State Fair Park**, West Allis, found that the management team that oversees the annual 11-day fair could do a better job of keeping records on the money it spends for services and other purchases.

The non-partisan **Legislative Audit Bureau** said that between 2012-2017, the facility's staff "lacked complete and accurate management information" needed to effectively oversee its contracting processes. It further noted that the group had not consistently followed proper procurement procedures.

The report did commend the facility's management for being consistent with several best practices in the industry including routinely reviewing whether adjustments are needed to the admission price, measuring the effects of its promotional efforts, developing a safety inspection program for its rides, and reviewing historical sales information for those vendors not using cash registers.

The 2018 fair dates are Aug. 2-12.



# Minnesota State Fair purchases Ye Old Mill; improvements planned

**AT:** Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Officials at the **Minnesota State Fair** released last month an \$11.1 million capital improvement plan, which includes purchasing the 102-year-old Ye Old Mill, described as the country's oldest operating tunnel of love.

The **John Keenan** family opened the ride on the fairgrounds in 1915. The ride has a concrete trough that measures 971 feet. A giant paddle wheel creates the water flow. Designed by **Philadelphia Toboggan Co.**, the family made the difficult decision to let the fair purchase it due to the increasing costs of maintaining the ride. According to Minnesota Public Radio, the fair's board approved the \$80,000 purchase as part of its 2018 budget in mid-January. The annual budget also includes \$500,000 for upgrades for Ye Old Mill.

Minnesota State Fair General Manager **Jerry Hammer** told the *Twin Cities Business* publication that the improvements to the grounds include updates, renovations, additions and maintenance.

Some of the more visual upgrades include constructing a new building for the fair's pet exhibit that uses a more open design and incorporating an outdoor courtyard area.

Broader pedestrian walkways and new landscaping also are in the works.

Less visible upgrades include the \$1.5 million the fair intends to spend on electrical upgrades.

The improvements planned so far are centered on



After 102 years of operation by the John Keenan family, Ye Old Mill at the Minnesota State Fair has new owners, the fair. The historic and ultra-popular ride, built by PTC, will undergo \$500,000 of upgrades and improvements as part of an \$11.1 million capital improvement plan. AT FILE/DAN FEICHT

the north end of the fair, an area that has seen steady changes over the last few decades.

While many of the improvements are geared toward bringing in larger and more tech savvy traveling exhibits, Hammer said the fair is being careful to preserve its roots.

The 2017 fair set a new attendance record drawing 1,997,320. It has an independent midway.

Prices are not set to change this year. Prices are \$14 for adults, \$12 for children and seniors (65+) while children under five get in for free.

The 2018 fair is set for Aug. 23-Sept. 3.

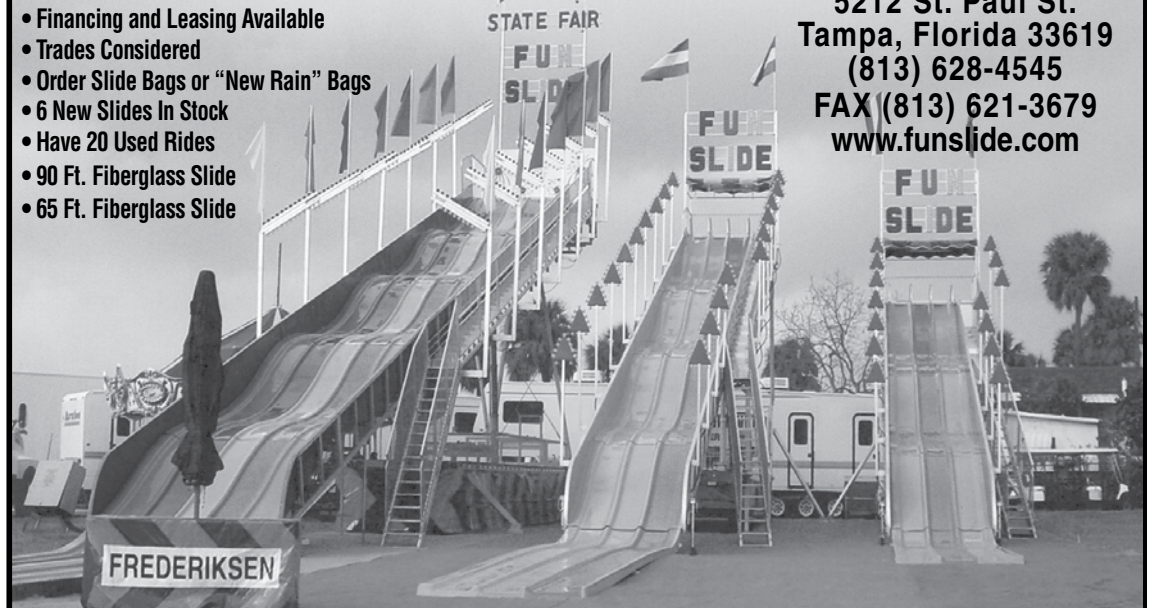


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Fairgoers at the 2018 Minnesota State Fair, Minneapolis, Aug. 23-Sept. 3, will notice many updates, upgrades and additions this year as fair officials announced in January an \$11.1 million improvement plan. The 2017 event, seen here, drew 1,997,320 setting a new attendance record. COURTESY MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

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# Gibtown Showmen's Club rolls out museum fundraiser

GIBSONTOWN, Fla. —The **International Independent Showmen's Carnival Museum Foundation** announced last month that it is rolling out a capital campaign to fund an expansion that would enable the museum to build a structure for the wagons, generators and old trailer rides that are now located outside on the grounds.

The museum, an effort of the **International Independent**

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**Showmen's Association (IISA)**, opened in 2012 with about 200 donated exhibits including a 1950 carousel and an early Ferris Wheel, as well as a variety of other memorabilia telling the history of the American traveling shows.

Over the years, donations to the 52,000-sq.-ft. mu-

seum have grown significantly. Among other items featured are cars from early amusement rides, wagons, historical documents, and a number of display cases containing thousands of photos, newspaper clippings and vintage redemption items.

Visitors have the chance to view burlesque performer

Gypsy Rose Lee's slinky black beaded costumes and the outfit worn by the "Viking Giant" himself, Johann K. Petursson. He stood nearly nine-feet tall and weighed 425 pounds. Also on display are the boots he wore daily, which were the size of a small child, and one of the rings he wore that a half dollar

coin could fit through.

Hopes are to raise enough funds to build a structure large enough to house the outdoor exhibits to further preserve them. The new structure also will provide more space for more donations.

Further information may be found by going to [www.gibtownshowmensclub.com](http://www.gibtownshowmensclub.com) or emailing [showmenshistory@gmail.com](mailto:showmenshistory@gmail.com).



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### Capital Campaign Building Fund

We are thrilled to be at the point that we need to expand the International Independent Showmen's Museum. We are rolling out our capital campaign to begin building the perfect structure to display wagons, generators, trailers, rides, etc. to preserve our rich and colorful history. As you may know these treasures have been housed outside and susceptible to the destructive rain, sun and harsh Florida weather. The building will keep the historical equipment protected and let us add future pieces as they become available. Visitors to the museum will be able to view these carnival artifacts from the railroad and truck shows of the past.

*All the money raised will go strictly towards this project.*

**The capital campaign has officially begun.**

**Contact: Doc Rivera at 813 765-7031 or by Email: [ShowmensHistory@gmail.com](mailto:ShowmensHistory@gmail.com)**

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## Del Mar Fairgrounds looks at establishing cannabis policy

DEL MAR, Calif. — With state guidance in hand, the **Del Mar (Calif.) Fairgrounds**, home to the **San Diego County Fair**, hopes to have a cannabis policy in place as early as March or April, in time to have clarity when the fairgrounds books its peak-season, late-summer events, according to a report in the *Del Mar Times*.

By having a clear-cut policy in place, the **District Agricultural Association (DAA)**, which runs the fairgrounds, hopes to avoid disagreements such as occurred last year when the **Goodlife Festival** was proposed for the fairgrounds. It resulted in opposition from anti-marijuana activists and city officials.

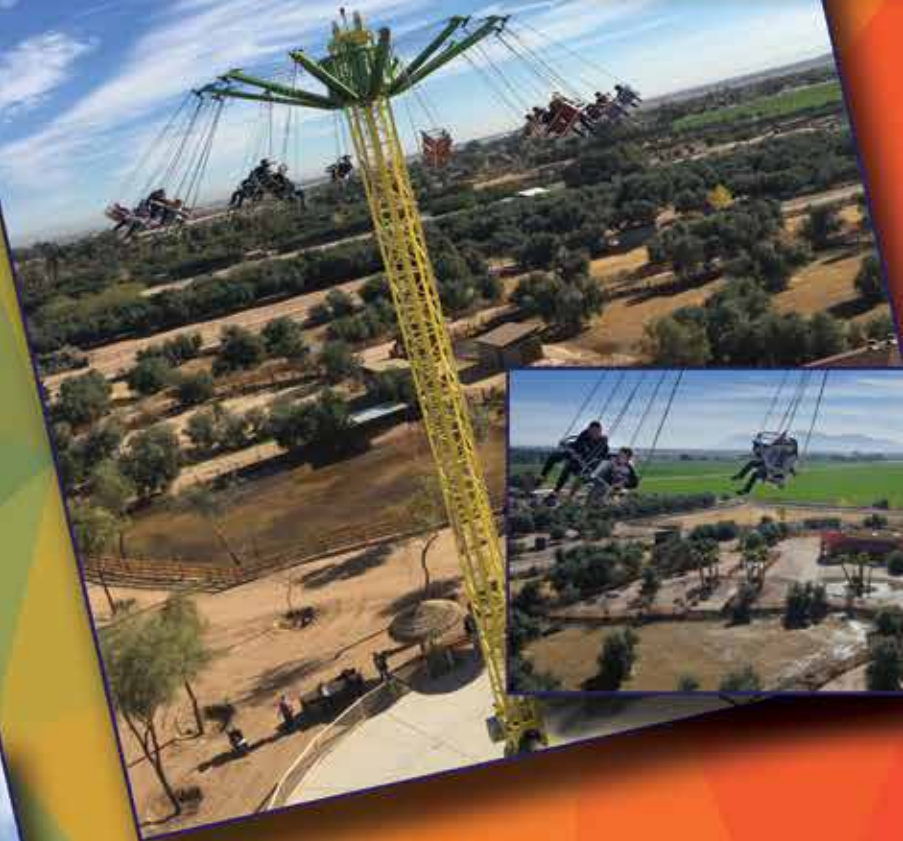
The **California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)** released a guidance to fairs last October. It called on each DAA to develop its own policies for cannabis events and on-site consumption. According to the news report, it was suggested that each DAA publicly deliberate whether or not to host cannabis events, weigh the potential for federal enforcement and consider its relationship with local law enforcement and California Highway Patrol.

All cannabis events, regardless of whether they allow consumption, will be deemed a "hazardous activity" and thus require \$2 million in insurance coverage.

The news report stated: "But at its heart, the guidance advises DAAs to defer to local preference despite the fact that nearly every fairgrounds (Del Mar included) is owned by the state and is therefore not beholden to the laws of its surrounding jurisdictions."

—Pam Sherborne









# BUSINESS, SAFETY & CLASSIFIED

► MarketWatch — Page 32 / Obituaries — Pages 34-35 / SAFETY — Pages 37-40 / CLASSIFIEDS — Page 42

*Deluxe Disneyland accommodations undergo refurbishment*

## Disney's Grand Californian Hotel gets contempo-accented redo

AT: Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Just before the year-end holidays, the Disneyland Resort unveiled an extensive renovation of Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, the AAA Four Diamond accommodations inside Disney California Adventure and bordering the Downtown Disney District.



The refurbishment has brought a new sleekness to the 17-year-old property, with 948 redesigned guest rooms, a refreshed lobby, a made-over concierge-level lounge and an upgraded pool area. It elevates the premium guest experience by interlacing a contemporary accent with the building's already-impressive (and richly cozy) Arts and Crafts style.

"Our renovation brings an even more upscale experience to this iconic Southern

California hotel while staying committed to its signature design," said Dan Coleman, hotel general manager. "We want our guests to enjoy the unique experience of staying in a Disney hotel that's distinctly situated. The revitalized design helps convey this feeling and allows us to continue exceeding guest expectations."

Guests get their first glimpse of the changes in the six-story Great Hall lobby, which has been graced with new, stylish furnishings and design elements. To complement the existing Arts and Crafts motif, new contemporary designs can be found in the furniture pieces, upholstery, woodwork and carpeting.

Custom conversational chairs positioned around the cavernous fireplace provide both design and function, while boldly upholstered sofa and chair pairings offer welcoming comfort. True to the fun just outside the hotel's doors, leather-topped stools discreetly integrate Mickey Mouse patterning.

Guest rooms have undergone top-to-bottom design refinement — from flooring and walls to furnishings and bathrooms.

Upon entry, guests will notice hardwood-look flooring tran-



From the soaring Great Hall lobby to the guest rooms to The Veranda, its newly renamed concierge-level lounge, the hotel's existing Arts and Crafts style has been tastefully updated with contemporary design details and furnishings throughout.

COURTESY  
DISNEYLAND RESORT



General Manager Dan Coleman (center left), and his "cast" celebrated the completion of renovations at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa on Dec. 6.

COURTESY DISNEYLAND RESORT

sitioning into bright-toned carpeting. Linens and pillows have been restyled in a white palette and upgraded bathrooms include new fixtures. The decor features all-new furniture and headboards made of quarter-sawn oak, a hallmark of Craftsman design, as well as California-inspired artwork.

A wall mural of a blossoming orange tree features the mischievous Chip n' Dale playing in the branches. When guests open the sleeper bed (available in select rooms), artwork of Bambi and other woodland creatures will bid them goodnight.

Countertops, including the desktops, incorporate polished pieces of glass from wine bottles to create uniquely beautiful surfaces. Above the coffee bar, textured copper detailing adds depth to



the aesthetic while continuing the Craftsman design theme.

All rooms are powered with the latest technological features and premium amenities, including 55-inch smart TVs, Keurig coffee makers and built-in USB chargers.

The hotel's concierge-level lounge has a new name — The Veranda — and a new design that draws inspiration from the architectural and furniture designs of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a visionary of the Arts and Crafts movement in Glasgow, U.K. New hardwood flooring, custom-designed rugs, finely crafted artisanal furniture and specially commissioned art add to the lounge's sophisticated tone. Club-level guests may enjoy complimentary refreshments as well as views of

park fireworks in this exclusive setting.

Outdoors, each of the hotel's three pools have been redesigned with a variety of natural stones and brick not only to create a warmer environment, but also to define the distinct pool settings. The stonework, in keeping with Arts and Crafts tradition, was hand-laid by master stone masons.

The hotel's food and beverage options include the award-winning Napa Rose, as well as character dining at Storytellers Cafe and the Hearthstone Lounge. Guests staying at Disneyland Resort hotels also enjoy Extra Magic Hour, offering early entry to select Disneyland or Disney California Adventure attractions.

• [disneyland.com](http://disneyland.com)

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## 3D 'Tomb of Christ' museum presentation recreates holy site

# Falcon's Creative Group realizes high-tech Nat Geo D.C. exhibit

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thanks to a unique creative and technical collaboration between Orlando-based **Falcon's Creative Group** and **National Geographic** (Nat Geo), the experience of a recently restored holy site in Jerusalem has been recreated through a new exhibition in the nation's capital.

"Tomb of Christ: The Church of the Holy Sepulchre Experience" opened at the **National Geographic Museum** in mid-November. The immersive presentation, scheduled to run through this fall, combines storytelling and archeological expertise with 3D and virtual technology to bring the sacred, ancient location to life.

Nat Geo had an exclusive opportunity to document the historic 2016 renovation of the fourth-century tomb of Christ and its protective shrine (known as the Edicule), located in the rotunda of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, by the **National Technical University of Athens**. A team traveled to the site to create a top-to-bottom record of it through high-resolution scanning, photos and video.

As design and digital media supplier, Falcon's Creative Group, which also collaborated with Nat Geo on the innovative virtual animal attraction **National Geographic: Ocean Odyssey** in New York City, helped transform the extensive visualization data from the church into a multimedia projection experience.

**David Schaefer**, vice president of Falcon's Creative Group, served as the lead on his company's contribution to the project. A graduate of the the **University of Wisconsin** with a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering, he has managed a n d / o r contributed heavily, to attractions such as *Inspiration of Flight* for the **2010 Shanghai World Expo** and *TurtleTrek - 3D 360* at **SeaWorld Orlando**, among many others, in his more than 10 years with the company.

*Amusement Today* spoke with Schaefer about the special creative nature of the Nat Geo exhibition.

**How did the "Tomb of Christ" museum project come about?**

National Geographic self-performs temporary exhibits at their Washington headquar-

ters lasting anywhere from six months to a year to support its current magazine articles and other things they have going on. They were documenting the restoration of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and their team just saw it as a tremendous opportunity to take their visit to the next level.

We started brainstorming with them in latter 2016, and we proposed leveraging some high levels of technology to transport National Geographic Museum visitors to this church in Jerusalem. To hear the passion in the stories from Nat Geo's archaeologists, explorers, researchers and staff writers — with these little details of elements within the church that you'd never get from reading a magazine article — was inspiring.

**How else did Nat Geo contribute?**

In documenting the restoration, they had already begun scanning and recording the church in incredible detail using LIDAR [light detection and ranging, via a pulsed laser] scans and photogrammetry [using multiple photos of objects to measure and recreate them in high-quality digital form]. These are tools used by scientists, researchers and archaeologists. We were able to use those assets in creating the exhibit's media content — sharing 3D digital models and visual files of the church back and forth — so we did not have to go to the actual Jerusalem site.

There was great synergy between the documentary's research requirements and what we were trying to do with the exhibit on the entertainment and educational side. Compared to our more traditional theme park projects, where we create things more out of thin air, we worked together with the Nat Geo team and utilized their 100-percent-accurate computer-generated media.

**What were some of the creative decisions you had to make, particularly with integrating 3D and other technologies into the exhibit?**

One of our leading philosophies at Falcon's is that technology should be used as a tool — it shouldn't be the be-all, end-all of the experience. We approach all of our projects from the storytelling experience standpoint first: *What do we want to tell the guests? What do we want them to experience and feel?* After we identify those



**"Tomb of Christ: The Church of the Holy Sepulchre Experience" at the National Geographic Museum utilizes interactive, virtual reality, 3D and other technologies to place visitors within the sacred, recently restored Jerusalem historic site (shown at right).**

COURTESY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC/REBECCA HALE (TOP PHOTOS), SIMON NORFOLK

things, we start the conversation on which technologies are best to do it.

In the brainstorming sessions with Nat Geo, we decided we wanted the exhibit to put guests inside the church. Very quickly we went to the heavy media-based type experiences, leveraging 3D for the exhibit's main scene where we actually take guests through the church.

**Was there an opportunity to incorporate virtual reality (VR)?**

There's a lot of debate about VR, and we always caution our clients that VR is a very personal and isolating experience. When you put on a VR headset, you are, for the most part, alone in an environment. There's pros and cons to that, but we think some of the more successful attractions are the ones you can enjoy with family. We lean more toward creating a larger space where we surround guests with media.

In this case, we have 3D media that stretches around the perimeter of the room and continues onto the floor. It is a group experience.

As a secondary opportunity, there also are VR stations. After you've experienced the main scene in 3D, you can then put on a VR headset to explore the church in more detail — to choose your own path and spend a little more time looking at specific elements.

**Aside from the 3D and VR aspects of the experience, what are some other highlights?**

Since it's a walking experience, with guests pulsed in groups through multiple rooms



every 12 minutes, we wanted each room to have a unique perspective. The first room is kind of an introduction; it has some set pieces and props that recreate some of the little shopping bazaar that's right outside the church in Jerusalem. In the next scene, we use projection mapping to try to recreate the feeling of the church's courtyard before you enter the 3D experience that takes you inside.

We actually utilize several projection techniques offering different perspectives and points of view to change it up from one scene to the next, which keeps guests engaged.

**Seems you've created a valuable experience for those unable, or unwilling, to travel to the site.**

We've heard guests say, "This is amazing. I'll never be able to visit Jerusalem to see it, but this is the next best thing." While others have said, "I had no idea experiencing this exhibit would make me want to add the church to my bucket list." It can be either fulfilling or inspiring, and that has really touched us.

**How did you address crowd control and throughput?**

Nat Geo already had some good information, since their exhibit spaces have been operating for a while now. They had baseline numbers as far as expected visitors and the throughput we needed to target, and we designed the exhibit to that criteria.

Working with an organization with such a tremendous

amount of respect is something we take very seriously. It drives our team to push the envelope of quality and really make sure we're delivering. And it comes down to good collaboration — our team working with their team — to make sure that we're honoring their standards of excellence. We are happy with this project.

**What does the exhibition represent in terms of Falcon's Creative Group's expanding services?**

When the company started a little more than 17 years ago, it focused on attraction design — which certainly played a part in this experience. But we've had significant growth over the past several years in our digital media division, which produces media content. This project is a snapshot of that. It shows not only that we were involved in experience design, but the actual production of media.

We're tapping more into VR and augmented reality, a growing area of the industry, because we see ongoing opportunity for those tools to enhance the guest experience. We've been able to bring in team members with specific knowledge in those areas, so we have an even more diverse offering of the types of media and projects we are confident in producing.

We're staying current and relevant to the trends and evolution of technology. And we're staying busy. The industry seems to be really strong right now, which is good for everyone.

• [falconscreativegroup.com](http://falconscreativegroup.com)



Schaefer

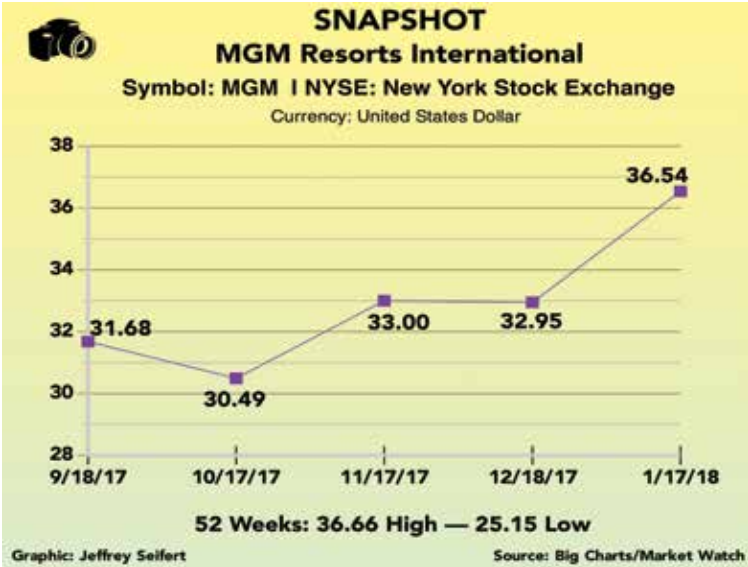


MARKET WATCH

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 01/17/18	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	34.96	36.31	28.45
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	361.50	537.50	343.40
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	64.92	72.56	59.66
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	41.68	42.71	34.78
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	111.97	116.10	96.2
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.65	1.25	0.61
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	60.79	77.70	59.31
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	3310.00	3400.00	1900.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.80	2.07	1.55
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	8.20	8.99	7.80
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	36.54	36.66	25.15
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	13.78	17.45	11.69
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	14.24	20.13	10.42
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	67.30	69	51.25
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	12.66	17.4	11.86
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	632.00	688.00	470.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	4.00	4.68	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 01/15/18	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$3.063	+\$0.427
Midwest	\$2.981	+\$0.440
Gulf Coast	\$2.825	+\$0.396
Mountain	\$2.984	+\$0.446
West Coast	\$3.098	+\$0.343
California	\$3.641	+\$0.704

CURRENCY	
On 01/18/18 \$1 USD =	
0.8171	EURO
0.7239	GBP (British Pound)
110.80	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9621	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.2536	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.2435	CAD (Canadian Dollar)

BUSINESS WATCH

**Amusement Expo addresses FEC safety threats**  
 LAS VEGAS, Nev. — In the world we live in today, there is virtually no immunity from random acts of violence, no safe havens from security threats.

In this age when phrases such as terror alerts, active shooters and lockdown have become all too common, what can business owners do to proactively protect their patrons, property and brand?

During this year’s **Amusement Expo International**, Of-ficer **Charles Huff** of the **Las Vegas Police Department** will share ways that family entertainment center (FEC) man-agers can assess risk at their facilities, implement steps to minimize threats and develop response protocols in such situations. The **U.S. Department of Homeland Security** aims to enhance preparedness through a “whole commu-nity” approach by providing products, tools, and resources to help you prepare for, and respond to an active shooter incident.

Officer Huff, a member of the M.A.C.T.A.C. (Multi As-sault Counter Terrorism Action Capabilities) training section has first-hand experience in managing crisis situations... “The title, ‘Run, Hide, Fight’ focuses on options in response to a threat: run if you can; hide if you cannot run; and fight if all else fails.” He will cover these and other ideas rec-ommended by law enforcement, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and other related security agencies.

This session is set for 12:45 p.m., Feb. 27, 2018, at the **Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino**, adjacent to the **Las Vegas Convention Center**, site of the Feb. 28-March 1, Amusement Expo International trade show.

The seminar is part of this year’s Expo Education Day, an immersive, full-day program on a range of timely, key topics covering the FEC, amusement, virtual reality, bulk vending and laser tag areas.

•amusementexpo.org

**Polyfab Australia announces acquisition**  
 Manhattan Beach, Calif. — **Chris Nolan** of **Nolan UDA Pty, Ltd.** and **Barry Jamieson** of **Polyfab Australia Pty, Ltd.** have announced the acquisition of Polyfab Australia by the Nolan Group. Jamieson is one of the originators of developing heavy duty knitted HDPE shadecloth for the protection of people from the damaging rays of the sun more than 25 years ago, and had established Polyfab Australia, **Polyfab Middle East** and **Polyfab USA** (Polyfab Middle East and Polyfab USA were spun off a few years ago as separate companies). Jamieson will con-tinue to play an active role in management of Polyfab Australia.

•nolanuda.com

CORRECTIONS:

•In our January issue, AT misidentified a castle nut fastener as being from **Heico Fasteners**, when in fact it was not. AT regrets the error.

•In our December issue, **Thomas Mack’s** brother **Michael** was accidentally listed for the annual recipes. While the recipe stayed “in the family,” AT sincerely apologizes to Thomas for the error.

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# California's Great America dramatically upgrades 2018 food offering

SANTA CLARA, CA – **California's Great America** is undergoing a food revolution heading into the 2018 season with four new eateries — a full-service Starbucks, French Quarter Funnel Cake & Churro, Sierra Creek Lodge rustic family restaurant and Orleans Candy Kitchen. For special events, a new 500-person covered outdoor space adjacent to Great America Pavilion will provide amenities for private events, and the iconic Consulate gathering facility inside the park has been updated to offer a more intimate and modernized setting for small groups and meetings. In addition, its popular Maggie Brown's Smokehouse & Fried Chicken will receive an exterior and interior makeover for 2018.

"California's Great America is dedicated to delivering superb food and beverage offerings in inviting and immersive settings that will match the world-class rides and entertainment guests are expecting," said Great America's Vice President and General Manager **Raul Rehnberg**. "Guests today are more discriminating and savvy, and the park is responding by elevating food experiences and festivals, including Taste of Orleans and Red, White & Brews. We realize the importance of food to the overall guest experience, and these additions are only a part of what is planned in the coming years."

The full-service Starbucks will be situated in the park's Hometown Square area, just past Celebration Swings. All of Starbucks favorite beverages, including classic coffees, Frappuccinos and Macchiatos, exotic teas, seasonal beverages and more will be available. The food menu includes fresh sandwiches, fruit and protein snacks, and bakery treats like scones, bagels, cakes and cookies. Starbucks will be situated where Candy Café was previously located.

A new home is being constructed for French Quarter Funnel Cake & Churro Factory. The ever-popular Great America funnel cakes will be taken to another level this year, with classic strawberry and powdered sugar funnel cakes here to stay and joined by new great flavors such as: blueberry, caramel, apple, cookies and cream, tropical coconut and pineapple.

Guests can enjoy their custom creations in Orleans Place's new outside patio.

Dining in the Planet Snoopy kids' area will take on a completely new flavor and feel, as Joe Cool Café is reimagined into Sierra Creek Lodge. The family dining experience will introduce a mountain lodge feel from the exterior woodwork to the interior décor. Murals featuring wild animals

will don the walls, and the indoor furnishings will add to the Sierra atmosphere. The serving lines will be doubled for faster service, and an extended patio will offer more space for families to gather, dine and relax.

New food selections will include a Panini bar featuring fresh vegetables, lean meats and savory sauces. A new Coca-Cola Barrilitos station will feature agua fresca (juice and water blends) such as pear cucumber, mango lime, strawberry hibiscus and pine-

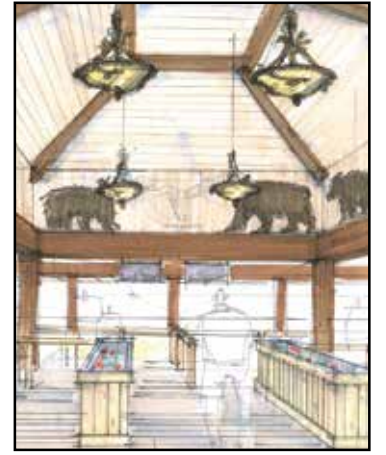
apple. Kid favorites like chicken tenders, mac and cheese and pizza will still be available.

Another sweet food addition for 2018 is Orleans Candy Kitchen, a classic confectionery that includes a station where guests will order specialty caramel apples, choose their personalized toppings and have the delectable favorites made right before their eyes. From classic caramel and house made pralines to an assortment of crushed candies and nuts, the possibilities for custom-tailor-

ing are endless.

The iconic Great America restaurant will be modernized with more ordering kiosks for faster service, a giant rotisserie and smoker visible to guests, an expanded outdoor patio and interior design renovations.

**The Joe Cool Café at California's Great America is being reimagined into Sierra Creek Lodge.**  
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# Jerry Pendleton, founder of SkyTrans Manufacturing, dies at 79

CONTOOCOOK, N.H.  
—Jerry Pendleton, founder and president of SkyTrans Manufacturing, LLC, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Dec. 28. He was 79.



Pendleton

A graduate of the University of New Hampshire, Pendleton started his career with road, bridge and all-around contractor O.D. Hopkins in 1960, eventually becoming president of O.D. Hopkins Associates, Inc., in 1988. Under his leadership, the company expanded beyond the aerial tramway business into roller coasters and water rides — becoming the world's largest manufacturer by volume of rides including log flumes, shoot the chutes and raft rides.

In 2002, Pendleton founded SkyTrans, where he continued to pursue his love of the amusement industry with his sons.

Pendleton was born in Westerly, R.I., on Nov. 13, 1938. His family lived there for an additional two years before leaving for the small town of Contoocook, N.H., where young Jerry spent much of his childhood working on a large dairy farm across the street from his family's residence.

In 1952, during his freshman year at Hopkinton High School, he met his future wife, Sylvia Allen, on a Ferris wheel at the Hopkinton State Fair; they married six years later while Pendleton was attending the University of New Hampshire. They raised five sons born between 1959 and 1974 on an eight-acre property given to them by Sylvia's mother.

Although Pendleton earned a degree in dairy science, his meeting of O.D. Hopkins in 1960 would change his trajectory. For Hopkins' fledgling company, the enthusiastic college grad pumped out septic tanks, drove trucks and operated backhoes. It was the start of what became an increasingly ambitious working relationship and lifelong friendship.

In 1962, Hopkins purchased designs and drawings of the John A. Roebling's Sons Co. aerial tramway

## OBITUARY

business, shifting his focus to the design, manufacture and installation of chairlifts for the local ski industry. Over the next two decades, Pendleton worked his way up in the company, which by the early 1970s had begun selling its aerial tramways to the amusement industry.

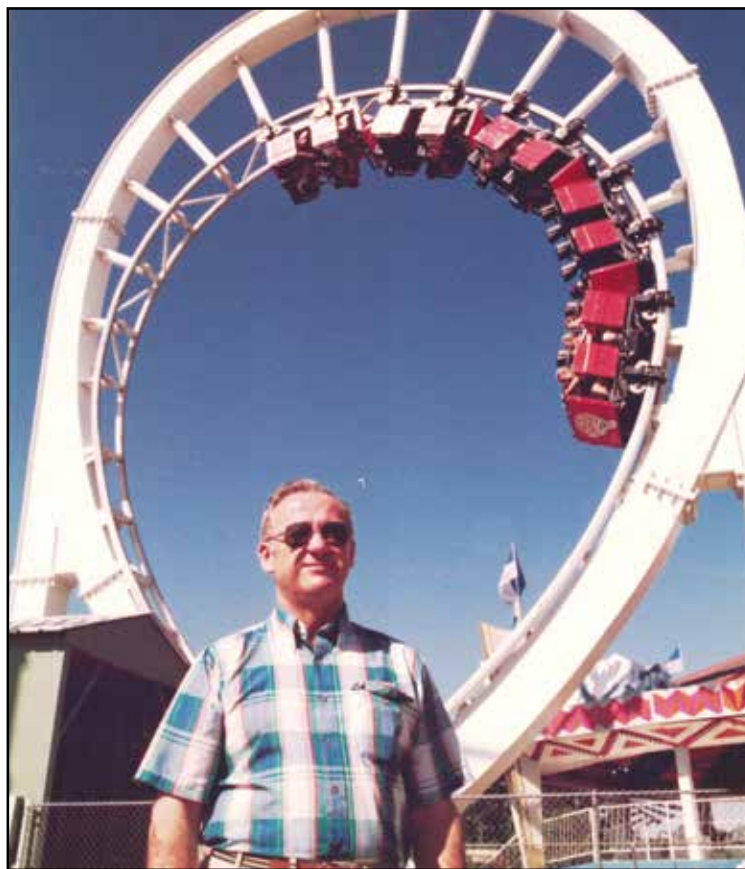
Of his working relationship with Hopkins, who died in 2010, Pendleton recalled to *Amusement Today*: "We rarely disagreed on things, and I knew that it never paid to argue with him because 99 percent of the time he was right. He told me once that my job was to be the front man, as he was more than content to design things — and that was how we functioned for many years."

Hopkins concurrently operated tramways at major state fairs around the country under the name SkyFair Inc. Pendleton later purchased SkyFair from Hopkins, and together with close friend and co-owner Don DiGirolamo and so-called "adopted son," Tracy Shedd, he grew the operation to what it is today.

There were milestones along the way.

In the mid-1970s, as vice president of O.D. Hopkins Associates, Pendleton connected with Paul Roads, founder of Wonderland Park in Amarillo, Texas, and the park's president, Paul Borchardt, developing a very close working relationship with them. Together they planned — usually on a napkin, with plenty of margaritas nearby — and built a total of eight rides at Wonderland between 1976 and 1996, including a sky ride and the first Hopkins-produced log flume ride. It led to Hopkins becoming the largest manufacturer of water rides worldwide.

Of the comfortable working relationship Wonderland had with Pendleton and the Hopkins company during those years, Borchardt shared with *Amusement Today*: "They were just common people, not high-pressure salesmen. They manufactured it, produced it and then we bought it in a one-on-one deal — with a handshake. Whatever we did, we wanted it to be easy and not complicated.



Jerry Pendleton seen in front of the first looping coaster produced by O.D. Hopkins, the Texas Tornado at Wonderland Park in Amarillo, Texas. AT FILE

We'd have drinks and eat together, and we'd talk about our industry. We became really good friends."

Pendleton was "easy going, a good guy," said Borchardt. "Sometimes I'd tell Jerry we couldn't pay [for a project] right at this minute, and he'd say, 'Well, we can wait until the end of the season.' And I'd say, 'No, we didn't mean until the end of the season. We've just got to cash a CD.' And he'd say, 'Go ahead. Whenever you can, send it.'"

With a laugh, Borchardt added: "That's how we always did everything — there was no pressure with anything we did together. Jerry really helped us create the family-oriented attractions we needed."

Pendleton was known to have described Wonderland "our Skunk-Works facility," where all new Hopkins ride designs were thoroughly tested and debugged. Among the other rides produced for the park by Hopkins were the Texas Tornado steel looping roller coaster, the Sky Rider monorail, the Shoot-the-Chute flume ride, the Pipeline Plunge wet/dry waterslide and the modest Rattlesnake River Raft Ride.

During his O.D. Hopkins years, Pendleton was involved with hundreds of

projects for other parks and major theme park chains, including Splash Mountain at Disneyland, Paul Bunyon Log Flume at Mall of America and the Log Ride at Warner Bros. MovieLand in Australia. The company's projects spanned the globe, with installations in Japan, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico, Canada, South Africa, the U.K. and more. He was active in the original AREA and the beginning of AIMS safety associations.

In 2000, Hopkins Rides was merged with the French ride company Reverchon. The Hopkins brand later became affiliated with Martin & Vlemminckx before being purchased by its current owner, Whitewater West. In 2002, Jerry and his sons launched SkyTrans Manufacturing — focusing on water rides and bringing aerial tramways to zoos.

Pendleton observed that many older ski lifts were being replaced with newer models, and that some in the amusement, zoo and ski industries needed a people mover that would be high capacity (and for zoos, not disruptive to the animals). His company found a way to repurpose and refurbish existing equipment to ANSI B-77 Tramway code and ASTM standards in order to pro-

vide an economic solution for smaller parks and zoos.

SkyTrans has since installed rides in more than 10 locations across the U.S. It additionally supplies and fashions replacement parts and non-destructive testing devices for a variety of rides, including those manufactured by O.D. Hopkins Associates and others from manufacturers no longer in business.

In recent years, Pendleton gradually had been removing himself from the day to day activities of both SkyTrans and SkyFair, thus preparing his sons and colleagues for the succession of the companies' leadership. At the time of his passing, he was en route to the warmer climes of South Florida.

"He did not make it to his final destination, but he died the busy travelin' man he was," said his family in a statement.

Recalling how much Pendleton enjoyed spending time in Daytona Beach, one of his best friends in the city, Theresa Doan of Doan Management, told AT: "Jerry loved Daytona Beach Bike Week, NASCAR races, New Year's Eve celebrations — and Bud Light. He led the Bike Week contest team to reach new heights and raise thousands of dollars for the local Boys and Girls Club.

"Jerry was adept at managing all phases of special events, be it writing contracts, consulting on insurance, coaxing temperamental entertainers or engineering structural improvements. Mostly, Jerry loved people, meeting and befriending all — customers, employees, entertainers, vendors and members of law enforcement — with his cheerful happy countenance."

Pendleton is predeceased by his wife, Sylvia Allen Pendleton; son, Frank Pendleton (stillborn); father, Lewis Pendleton; mother, Helen Tulley Pendleton; and sister, Judith Pendleton Blaine. He is survived by his sons Jerry, Jr., John, James, Daniel and Matthew, plus 11 grandchildren, one great grandchild, and 11 nieces and nephews.

A remembrance of Pendleton will be held in N.H. later this spring for his family and many friends from around the world.



**OBITUARIES****Robert J. McCarthy, the Carny Priest, passes away at 99**

WATERTOWN, N.Y. — Monsignor **Robert J. McCarthy**, 99, known by many as "Father Mac," passed away on Saturday, Jan. 6. He died at the Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse in Watertown, N.Y., where he had lived for the last several years.

A colorful and well-known Catholic priest in northern New York, he was perhaps best known as the "Carny Priest," for his ministering to people who worked on carnivals. He frequently traveled to perform weddings, baptisms and funerals for carnival workers.

He attended the outdoor amusement industry events throughout the country. He was certainly well-known among those in that industry.

He was honored by the **Outdoor Amusement Business Association** (OABA) in 2004 by being named a Hall of Fame recipient. He was appointed as the National Champlain to the Carnival People in the U.S. in the 1970s.

**Tom Powell**, long-time editor of *Amusement Business* magazine and industry ambassador and historian for OABA, wrote: "On a personal note, it has been one of the blessings of my life to have been introduced to Father Mac, and been able to spend so much time with him. He is different, a good different. Christine, my four kids and I love him dearly."

He also wrote: "I remember him telling me how, for so many years, he would sneak off from his diocese to visit the various showmen's clubs. He became chaplain of several, including the National Showmen in New York. After promising the bishop he'd stay closer to home, he once got on a plane that the bishop also boarded. He said he ducked down and hid while the bishop passed. After never speaking to the guy next to him, he asked the fellow to grab his baggage while he held a newspaper over his face."

There are many endearing stories of McCarthy.

McCarthy also served as chaplain of the Watertown Fire Department for decades. An annual day was named for him at the **Jefferson County Fair** held in Watertown, N.Y., and sponsored by Watertown city firefighters for

**McCarthy**

children from the Disabled Persons Action Organization.

He also was a fixture on local radio for years with a program of inspirational messages named after the Gospel song, *Turn Your Radio On*.

"Monsignor McCarthy was the oldest priest in the Diocese," said Father **Arthur LaBaff**, Dean of Jefferson County for the Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg to a local news station. "He had served in a number of positions. He was certainly well-known to the people of Watertown and the surrounding community. May he rest in peace."

McCarthy's funeral was held Thursday, Jan. 18, at **Holy Family Church** in Watertown, where McCarthy was pastor emeritus.

Reverend **Joseph Morgan**, Vicar General of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, was the principal celebrant, with priests of the Diocese concelebrating.

Father **Stephen Murray**, pastor of Holy Family Church, was the preacher.

**Wayne Comstock passes away at 77**

GREENVILLE, S. C. — **Wayne Comstock**, 77, passed away Jan. 12, at his home in Greenville.

Born in Geneva, Ill., he was the eldest son of Herbert and Luella Comstock.

After graduation from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, he worked for U.S. Gypsum until he relocated to Greenville to start **High Light Corporation** with his wife Donna Comstock and their two daughters.

He later joined Hartness International. Upon retirement, his family said he enjoyed working with the Greenville Woodworkers Guild.

His obituary stated that he will be missed by his two daughters, Laura Doolittle and Sarah Van Heule as well as his four grandchildren, Claire and Leah Doolittle, and Halton and Chris Banerjee.

A drop-in memorial was to be held in late January.

Anyone wishing to make a donation in Comstock's name should send it to: Greenville Woodworkers Guild, P.O. Box 825, Mauldin, S.C., 29662.

Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.thomasmcafee.com](http://www.thomasmcafee.com).

**Comstock****Al Sieffert, PSSA member dies at 74**

EXPORT, Pa. — **Al Sieffert**, 74, passed away on December 17, 2017. Al was very active in the Western Chapter of **Pennsylvania State Showman's Association** (PSSA) and served as state president in 1982. In 1987 he was named PSSA Showman of the Year. From 1990-1997 he was a very capable State Association secretary.

**Sieffert**

His connection to the industry started when he served as a salesman and the as office manager for **Gold Medal Products**. He then worked as manager for **Powers Great American Midways**.

Al will be greatly missed by his wife, Jean and sons Fred and Peter and five grandchildren.

**Intermountain Lift's Kurt Ray Crandall passes away at 51**

SPRINGVILLE, Utah — **Kurt Ray Crandall**, 51, passed away on Jan. 3, 2018, from complications of severe infections.

Crandall, son of **Ray and Valora Stout Crandall**, worked in his family's business, **Intermountain Lift Inc.**, of Springville, Utah, helping build steel roller coaster track and structures for amusement ride manufacturers throughout the world.

**Crandall**

He graduated from Springville High School in 1984 before working at Intermountain Lift.

His family said Crandall had an adventurous spirit for fishing, hunting, boating, skiing, riding his dirt bike and flying his paraplane.

He is survived by his parents, his son Austin Crandall and his brother Bret (Butch) Crandall (Julie) Mapleton Utah. He also is survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews and long time friends. He was preceded in death by his sister Laura Crandall and his grandparents.

Services were conducted by Wheeler Mortuary, Springville, Utah.

The family encourages supporting organ donation programs. Condolences may be sent at [www.wheelermortuary.com](http://www.wheelermortuary.com).

**PEOPLE WATCH****Topgolf Entertainment makes executive moves**

DALLAS, Texas — Sports entertainment center leader **Topgolf Entertainment Group** (TEG), based in Dallas, Texas, has announced two executive moves. **Erik Anderson**, formerly co-chairman and CEO, has reassumed the role of executive chairman and will continue to lead Topgolf's vision, strategy and brand. Stepping into the role of CEO of TEG and **Topgolf USA**, and joining the board of directors, is **Dolf Berle**, who will co-lead strategy and have primary responsibility for leadership development. Berle's career has included roles as president and COO at **Dave & Buster's**, president of **Lucky Strike Lanes**, COO at **House of Blues**, and executive vice president of hospitality and division head at **ClubCorp**. He also serves on the national board of directors for Topgolf non-profit partner **Make-A-Wish**.

**Intercard taps Dishian**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — St. Louis, MO-based **Intercard**, a leader in debit card technology and marketing system solutions for the amusement and entertainment industries, has tapped **Michael Dishian** as CFO. A corporate finance expert with a Big 4 accounting background, Dishian has more than 30 years of experience as an accountant, controller and CFO for large and growing companies, including **Prism Medical**, **Spartech Packaging Technologies** and **GatewayCDI, Inc.** At Intercard, he will direct strategic planning and budget development, as well as supervise purchasing and manufacturing.

**Cedar Fair names Fisher COO**

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Regional theme park company **Cedar Fair** has named amusement industry veteran **Tim Fisher** its COO. Reporting directly to newly installed CEO **Richard Zimmerman**, he will oversee operations at all of the company's parks and resort locations from its Sandusky, Ohio, headquarters. Fisher joins Cedar Fair from Australia-based **Village Roadshow**, where he served as a top executive since 2009 — most recently as CEO of **Village Roadshow Theme Parks International**. Earlier in his career, he served as executive vice president of **Paramount Parks** and **Viacom Recreation**.

**Fisher****NEAAPA Hall to induct Frantzis**

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. — **George Frantzis II**, an owner of **Quassy Amusement Park & Waterpark** in Middlebury, Conn., will be inducted into the **New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions** (NEAAPA) Hall of Fame at the organization's annual meeting March 13 in Mystic, Conn. A past president of NEAAPA (1998-99), Frantzis represents the third generation of his family to be involved at the lakeside property, which his grandfather purchased with two business partners in 1937. Of the 40 persons currently in the NEAAPA Hall of Fame, George Frantzis II will become the third family member to be inducted; his late father, **George Frantzis**, and uncle, **John Frantzis**, both served as NEAAPA presidents prior to being installed.

**Frantzis****Legoland Florida welcomes new VP of marketing**

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — **Legoland Florida Resort** in Winter Haven welcomed **Gillian Smith** as vice president of marketing and sales last November. A marketing veteran with more than two decades of experience promoting major brands and organizations, including **Burger King**, **Coca-Cola** and **Teach for America**, Smith previously served as chief marketing officer of **City Year**, one of the country's largest education and national service nonprofits. The award-winning executive, once named a "Woman to Watch" by *Advertising Age*, replaces **Rex Jackson**, who was promoted to general manager of Legoland Florida last summer.

**Six Flags leadership movement**

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — The New Year has seen some movement within the **Six Flags** chain of theme parks. **Bonnie Sherman Weber** is moving into a corporate position at the headquarters in Grand Prairie, Texas. She'll serve as Senior Vice President, In-Park Services. Filling her position as park president at **Six Flags Magic Mountain** will be **Neal Thurman**. Thurman returns to California having worked in Operations at the park earlier in his career. This is his third park to serve as park president having previously served at **Six Flags Great Adventure** and **Six Flags Fiesta Texas**. **John Winkler** will now serve as the new park president for **Six Flags Great Adventure**. Winkler had served seven years at the park beginning in 2001 as director of in-park revenue and later co-general manager. Winkler's career with Six Flags spans more than three decades, starting at **AstroWorld** in 1983. **Pete Carmichael** has been named park president for **Six Flags New England**. With more than 20 years of industry experience, Carmichael previously served as park president at **Six Flags St. Louis**.



# No rides at 2018 Pennsylvania Farm Show – (well not quite)

AT: B. Derek Shaw  
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Each year in mid-January agriculture surrounds Pennsylvania's capitol city. Participants and visitors alike fill 24 acres with 11 halls and three arenas in one million square feet of livestock, livestock exhibits, food, crafts, entertainment and education highlighting the strength and diversity of Pennsylvania's agriculture and food industry.



Billed as the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the nation with nearly 5,200 animal competitions, 14,000 competitive exhibits — involving 3,327 competitive exhibitors and 232 commercial exhibitors — this is Pennsylvania's equivalent to a state fair, minus the rides. Well, not quite.

The 102nd edition of the **Pennsylvania Farm Show** continued a tradition that has been in place the past 14 years. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Foundation in partnership with the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association (PSSA), raise money for their respective scholarship programs through the operation of two rides throughout the eight day event that draws upwards of an estimated half million attendees. The ride equipment used at the farm show is on loan by a couple of carnival operators with operations staffed by PSSA members.

In the Expo Hall building, a Hampton farm tractor flat ride was supplied by **Powers &**

**Thomas Midway Entertainment**, Wilmington, N.C., for the fourth year in a row. In the Family Living area of the Main Hall near the butter sculpture, a 1958 Allan Herschel three-abreast carousel was provided by **Mike Skelly, Skelly's Amusement, Inc.** Williamstown, N.J. This was their second appearance at the Farm Show. Rides on both attractions were offered for a \$2.00 donation — money that goes directly back to two scholarship programs.

Annually, 28 scholarships are awarded by the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation and eight are awarded through PSSA. This year, \$26,426 was raised and split equally between both scholarship programs, bringing the total funds raised in 14 years to nearly \$472,000. Traditionally the revenue is higher, however exceptionally low temperatures opening weekend with wind chills below zero and an ice storm Monday afternoon kept farm show attendance and ridership down.

Elsewhere in the complex at the carousel in Main Hall, **Donna Kramer**, treasurer of PSSA described why the organization is there. "For years we wanted to make sure our presence was known and associated with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, because of course we are subject to compliance and their inspection of the rides." Fourteen years ago a pitch was made. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could turn the merry-go-round, turn that ride, 'turning dollars for scholars,'" said Kramer.

A partnership was formed whereby the Farm Show provides the space and electric for the eight-day event while the showmen provide the rides and volunteers to operate them. "After our expenses every dollar is shared equally between the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation scholarship program and our own Showmen's scholarship foundation. So all the dollars are given away in scholarships," explained



Amie Uliano-Parisi, mktg. coordinator and Robbie DelGrosso, food production manager for DelGrosso's Amusement Park, (above left) were busy in their booth. The Communications Dept. of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (above right): Bonnie McCann, Shannon Powers, Emily Demsey and Will Nichols. The Pennsylvania Farm Show (below) is billed as the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the nation. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



Kramer. It should be noted that the proceeds raised each year that PSSA gives the Farm Show Foundation are the single largest amount of scholarship monies the foundation scholarship fund receives.

Over 80 showmen and their families volunteered their time in one capacity or another. **Allen Bartlebaugh** made daily trips to man the tractor ride while **Jerry and Lisa Bartlebaugh** booked a room close by to ensure that everything was up and running daily until help arrived. **Snyder Concessions** filled in wherever or whenever volunteer staffing was "light." **Majestic Midways** stored the scenery and made certain the big blue box of equipment was transported between the Farm Show and Hershey while Donna Kramer made certain there were plenty of printed materials for the public to pick up.

For a dozen years (up until 2016) a 1946 Allen Herschel carousel was occupying that spot, provided by **S & S Amusements**, Scott Township, Pa. Kramer commented about that ride. "That carousel is promised back to us again once it clears some 'red tape' with their inheritance and estate planning."

Adjacent to the carousel, **Knoebels Amusement Resort** had an exhibit booth. This is the sixth time the park has partici-



pated in the Pennsylvania Farm Show to promote the park, campground and golf course. Staffers were handing out "Scratch & Win" game cards good for discounted tickets, discounted camping fees or free all day ride passes.

Tim Walsh, Outside Campground Coordinator described his day: "Very busy today. We are in a fantastic location with this carousel right here. We almost have a captive audience when the kids stand around and wait. It's been really, really good." When asked about Knoebels new location, Walsh said, "This is the first year for that. I have to thank the Pennsylvania Farm Show for putting us here. I think they finally realized, 'Well let's put two and two together.' It makes sense for us to be somewhere near an amusement ride."

Walsh was asked what new things park goers can find at the Elysburg, Pa. property. "We are doing a lot of infrastructure work, plumbing and electrical, and everything else that has to be

updated." Asked if the Over the Top ride will finally go over the top, "I certainly hope so. (laughs) I haven't heard anything official yet, but I certainly hope so. I think it's coming back for this year," said Walsh.

Also in Main Hall was the DelGrosso Family of Companies, which includes the amusement park, pasta sauce manufacturing operation and Marianna's Fundraisers. **Amie Uliano-Parisi**, Marketing Coordinator for the amusement park, felt traffic was good on the day *Amusement Today* visited. "We are very happy to be here every year. We have a great crowd, everyone is always receptive to the sauce coupons, our park coupons and also our Marianna's information we are giving out. It's really been great."

When asked what new is in store for the season, Uliano-Parisi said, "I do not know any trade secrets for 2018. We are still getting our brochure ready with our event schedules."

**Robbie DelGrosso**, Food Production Manager for **DelGrosso's Amusement Park** was not as tight-lipped as he shared a new food item that will be introduced this year. "The new food item is going to be rotisserie-style chicken, barbecue chicken. We used to do chicken in our open flame pit, now we bought two big rotisseries from a company out of Iowa (Holstein Manufacturing, Holstein, Iowa). Each rotisserie holds 600 chicken halves. That's where we are going to do all our chicken and our ribs. It should be good."



Lisa Bartlebaugh, past president of PSSA, and Donna Kramer, PSSA treasurer (left), staffed the carousel ticket table. Right, Allen Bartlebaugh, principal of Bartlebaugh Amusements, Madisonburg, Pa., handled the ticket sales for the Powers & Thomas Midway Entertainment Hampton farm tractor ride. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



**SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION**

# 2018 AIMS Safety Seminar sets new attendance record

Seminar draws almost 450 attendees, 100 up from 2017

**AT:** Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

GALVESTON, Texas — The 2018 **AIMS International Safety Seminar** set a new attendance record, raising the bar for future seminars and challenging organizers.

This year's seminar, which was held Jan. 7-12, drew between 440 and 450, according to **Holly Coston**, AIMS seminar manager, who added final figures hadn't been tallied.

"That is an increase of over 100 more attendees from 2017," Coston said.

Both Coston and AIMS Executive Director **Karen Oertley** felt one of the biggest reasons for the increase was the change of location. The seminar was held at the **Galveston Convention Center** with hotel accommo-



dations at the adjacent **Hilton Galveston** and **San Luis Resort**.

"We had been in Orlando for 10 years," Oertley said. "Galveston was a draw for people on the west coast and from Texas. People loved the facilities. All the classes were in a central location. We got positive feedback from the staff and volunteers."

In addition, Oertley said **Pleasure Pier** was the site of hands-on training throughout the week as well as the location of the evening reception on Wednesday.

"The Landry's contribution to the seminar went a



Above left, **Bob Minnick** of Orlando-based **RFM consultants**, formerly the technical director for **Walt Disney Parks & Resorts**, delivered the keynote address to kick off the 2018 AIMS Safety Seminar in Galveston, Texas. At right the AIMS Ambassadors were a big help to the seminar staff. From left are: **Ryan MacKenzie**, Universal Orlando Resort; **Lexus Padgett**, Six Flags America; **Kim Trujillo**, Six Flags Fiesta Texas and **Matt Ogden**, Six Flags Fiesta Texas. **AT/GARY SLADE**



long way to making it a really great event," she said.

**Landry's Inc.** owns the Galveston properties where the AIMS seminars took place including **Pleasure Pier**.

The annual AIMS International Safety Seminar is a comprehensive safety-train-

ing experience for individuals responsible for the care and safety of the amusement industry's guests. Attendees build tailored course curricula that best suit their needs and the needs of their employers.

Coston said there were

anywhere from 12 to 15 sessions that ran concurrently each hour for seven hours daily for the five days of the seminar. The sessions are presented by volunteers within the industry.

► See AIMS, page 39



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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

# Seen at the 2018 AIMS Safety Seminar

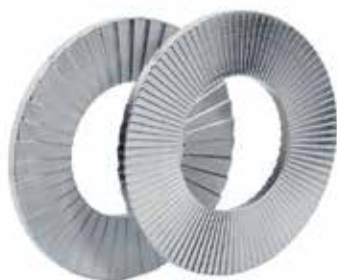


Above, having fun at the Pleasure Pier social event are from left: Holly Coston, AIMS International; Tracy Shedd, SkyTrans Mfg., LLC; C.W. Craven, the Washington State Fair Skyride and in front, Ed Zakar, Six Flags Great Adventure. Below, catching up during an AIMS break were from left: AIMS board member Jim Seay, Premier Rides; AIMS Executive Director Karen Oertley and founding AIMS member Dick Chance, Chance Rides.



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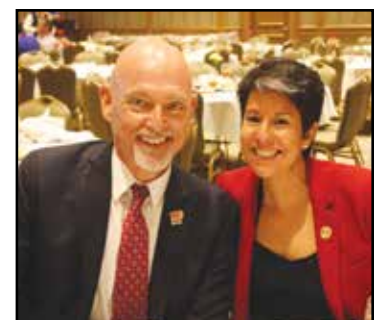
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Above, Orlando-based SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc. brought an impressive crew of 27 to the AIMS seminar from its various park locations across the U.S. Below, more than 430 students were registered for the 2018 seminar and on hand for the opening remarks.



Above, in attendance from Premier Parks based in Oklahoma City were from left: Emma Hensley, Frontier City; Matthew White, White Water Bay, and Alexander Ramsey, Frontier City. Right, Steve Hickey, NACE, teaches one of the many classes during the AIMS Safety Seminar. Below right, Michael Turner, CAVU Designwerks, and Franceen Gonzalez, WhiteWater, were all smiles following one of the many outstanding meals provided to seminar attendees.



ALL PHOTOS  
AT/GARY SLADE



**SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION****►AIMS****Continued from page 37**

Some of those sessions included: Midway Games Safety; Carnival Employee Training; Selling Safety to Your Team; Social Media and the Amusement Industry; FEC Safety - The Unique Challenges of Family Entertainment Centers; Service Animals; Catch the Greenwave; Math and the Amusement Ride; Commissioning Your New Ride: Hot Topics and Industry Trends in Aquatics, and Pumps and Plumbing Maintenance.

Others included Managing Safe Behaviors Effectively; Working with Inspectors; Incident Investigation; Evacuations; Electric Motor Maintenance; Shop and Tool Safety; Inspection Beyond the Steel; Meet the Press; Steel Coasters and Train Inspection; Wire Rope Inspection and Care, and Restraints.

Certification testing is offered in these four areas: ride

inspector certification, maintenance certification, operations technician certification, and aquatics operations technician. There are a number of levels offered under each program.

There were also 11 table top exhibitors this year: Zebec; CPI Amusement; Ralph Alberts Co. Inc.; S&S; Tapeswitch; LJM & Associates; *Amusement Today*; Allied Specialty Insurance;

Mobaro Park; Auxel, SRL, and Millennium Elastomers.

There were five IAAPA Alan Ramsay Scholarship recipients: Orlando Zelayandia, with Carnival Cruise Lines; Emma Hensley, Frontier City; Heath Rogers, Riverfront Park, City of Spokane, Wash.; Chad Rankin, Sea World San Diego and Rene Pena, Hurricane Alley Waterpark.

There were four OABA

scholarship recipients: Mathew Frost, Amusement Management International; Max Wachtel, Thomas Carnival - OABA June Hardin Memorial AIMS Scholarship; Alejandra Orosco, Ray Cammack Shows, and Ron Haen, Ray Cammack Shows.

AIMS Ambassadors this year were: Kim Trujillo, Six Flags Fiesta Texas; Ryan Mackenzie, Universal Orlando Resort; Matt Ogden, Six

Flags Fiesta Texas, and Lexus Padgett, MGM Resorts International.

AIMS gives a special thanks to volunteers who handled all the audio visual needs throughout the week: Ed Zakar, C.W. Craven, Al Scanlan, Nick Buffa, Tony Claassen, and Rick Achard.

The 2019 AIMS International Safety Seminar is set for Jan. 13-18, again, in Galveston.

## AIMS 2018 Safety Seminar Sponsors

**Platinum:**

Mobaro Park

**Gold:**

*Amusement Today*; Auxel Automation and Safety; Chance Rides; Coulter Associates LLC; IAAPA; Kumbak The Amusement Engineers; LJM & Associates, Inc.; Ride Entertainment and STS/NDT

**Silver:**

Allied Speciality Insurance; BARR; Millennium; Mondial World of Rides; Northwest Coasters; OABA; Premier Rides; Proslide Technology, Inc.; Ray Cammack Shows; Rides 4U; Rockwell Automation; S&S World-wide; Uremet Corporation; Vekoma Rides Manufacturing; Walt Disney Imagineering; WhiteWater and Zamperla

**Bronze:**

Ralph Alberts; ASTM Intl.; Baynum Painting; CPI Amusement; Doppelmeyer; Haas & Wilkerson; Leisure Labs LLC; RideWerks; Tapeswitch and Vondriska Leisure Consultants, Inc.

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# ASTM F24 issues updates on inflatable amusements standard

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — An update to a standard for inflatable amusements, commonly known as bounce houses, aims to enhance their safety. Members of **ASTM International** revised the standard to support better anchoring systems, to mitigate risks of falling near the entrance-exit area, and to emphasize the importance of trained operators.

The revision to the “standard practice for design, manufacture, operation, and maintenance of inflatable amusement devices” (soon to be published as F2374-17) will improve safety requirements for newly manufactured inflatables and for commercial operators.

Revisions to the standard address key risk areas for inflatables, including:

- New requirements for designs of anchoring systems that



help keep inflatables grounded.

- Use of impact attenuation materials at the entrance and exit area to help mitigate risks associated with falls.

- An expanded section on operations to emphasize having trained attendants supervise while patrons are using them.

Originally approved in 2004, the inflatables standard covers bounce houses, inflatable slides, inflatable obstacle courses, and similar amuse-

ments used primarily by children in indoor entertainment centers and at outdoor events and parties. According to members, the standard is helpful for manufacturers, companies that own and operate inflatables, and inspection bodies such as regulators and third-party inspectors.

The subcommittee on adventure attractions (F24.61) welcomes anyone interested to help continually develop this and other amusement standards. Become a member at [www.astm.org/JOIN](http://www.astm.org/JOIN).

The next meeting of the committee on amusement rides and devices (F24) is Feb. 14-17 in New Orleans, La.

To purchase standards, contact ASTM International customer relations by calling (877) 909-ASTM or by email at: [sales@astm.org](mailto:sales@astm.org).

## SAFETY CALENDAR 2018

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### Northwestern Showman's Club

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[www.njamusements.com](http://www.njamusements.com)

### Pa. Amusement Ride Safety Seminar

February 27 - March 1, 2018

Red Lion Hotel, Harrisburg, Pa.

(717) 215-4316, Joe Filoramo or

(561) 758-3266, Phil Slaggert

[www.paridesafety.com](http://www.paridesafety.com)

### AAMA/AMOA Amusement Expo 2018

Feb. 28-March 1, 2018

Las Vegas Convention Center, South Hall

Las Vegas, Nev. • (708) 226-1300

[www.amusementexpo.org](http://www.amusementexpo.org)

### NAARSO Outreach Safety School at 105th NEAAPA Annual Meeting

March 12-14, 2018

Hilton Mystic Hotel, Mystic, Conn.

(877) 999-8740

[www.neaapa.com](http://www.neaapa.com)

### Roller Skating Association International Convention & Trade Show

Las Vegas, Nev.

May 13-17, 2018 • (317) 347-2626 x103

Email: [convention@rollerskating.com](mailto:convention@rollerskating.com)

## MARK THE DATES

**Asian Attractions Expo**, June 6-8, Hong Kong

**Euro Attractions Expo**, Sept. 25-27, Amsterdam

**World Waterpark Assn. trade show**, Oct. 23-26, Las Vegas

**IAAPA Attractions Expo**, Nov. 13-16, Orlando

Have a Calendar listing you want to share?

Email it to: [gslade@amusementtoday.com](mailto:gslade@amusementtoday.com)

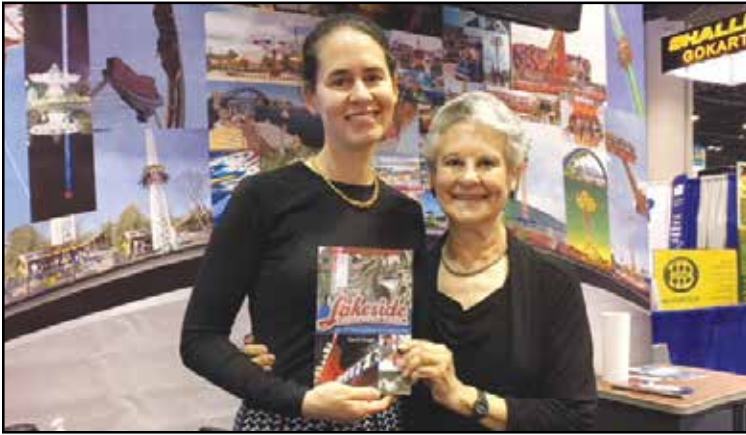




# MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

This space is provided courtesy of Amusement Today, a corporate partner of the National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives.

## Lakeside Park donates book to museum during IAAPA Expo



During the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017, held in November in Orlando, Fla., Brenda Fishman (left) and Rhoda Krasner with Lakeside Amusement Park, Denver, Colo., donated this book, *Denver's Lakeside Amusement Park*, to the National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives. The book details the rich history of Lakeside, opened in 1908 as part of the City Beautiful movement, and how it has managed to stay in business for more than a century. A full book review of David Forsythe's *Denver's Lakeside Amusement Park* can be found in the November Pre-IAAPA 2017 issue of *Amusement Today*. COURTESY NRCMA

## FROM THE ARCHIVES COLLECTION



# 1919:

**LaMarcus Thompson's** Scenic Railroad cave-like station dominated the area adjacent to the entrance to the **Venice Pier** in Venice, Calif., on Ocean Front Walk. Opened in 1910, it operated with a brakeman and had two cable lifts.

While most of the familiar artificial mountain scenery was placed near the promenade, the western portion of the large ride was built on piles, as seen in the image, directly over the Pacific Ocean. Traveling over the water was considered thrilling for its time and the scenery was later removed. (It did not hold up well to salt air). This photograph was taken in February 1919, the final year of operation. —Richard W. Munch

## MARK MOORE PUBLIC SHOWROOM EXPANSION of the National Roller Coaster Museum

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## BRIEFS

**Angus Jenkins departs Chance Rides**

WICHITA, Kan. — After 12 years of dedicated service to **Chance Rides, Inc.**, **Angus Jenkins** has been presented with an opportunity which he will pursue.

"Angus has been a key part in our success in amusement park and observation wheel sales and had worked closely as a team with my son Michael," said company president **Dick Chance**. "I am happy to see him stay in the industry with a key customer like **Six Flags** and look forward to working with him in the future."

Angus will work with **Jay Aguilar**, vice president of sales and marketing at Chance Rides, to transition outstanding projects and introduce him to key people in the industry. Going forward Chance Rides, Inc. will be looking to add to its sales team to continue the company's success as an industry leading amusement ride manufacturer.

"My 12 years with Chance Rides has resulted in some of the best personal and family relationships anyone in this industry could hope for. For that I will always be grateful. The depth of skill, innovation and hard work at Chance Rides will be a lasting impact on me personally. This was the hardest decision of my life to leave, but I can see that the Chance company, and ride product, will continue to be a frontrunner in the industry. I look forward to working with all my Chance friends in the near future," said Angus Jenkins.

Chance would like to thank Angus for his loyalty and dedication to Chance Rides over the years and wish him continued success in his upcoming career transition with Six Flags.

**A plea for help for the H-2B program**

The following was posted on the **Outdoor Amusement Business Association's** website on January 11:

**Please continue to Help #SaveH-2B**

Congress is back in session this week. It is critical that your elected officials continue to hear from you about the need for immediate H-2B cap relief. As you know, the first 33,000-visa cap was reached on December 15 and the second half cap will be reached soon. Unless Congress acts promptly, many seasonal employers could be shut out of the H-2B program this year. Please ask your Senators and Representative to include H-2B cap relief in any upcoming appropriations bill and to speak personally to their party leaders about the need for cap relief.

Specifically, we hope you will take the following actions:

- Please call your Representative and Senators at their Washington, D.C. offices and stress the need for immediate cap relief. You can reach your elected officials through the Capitol switchboard at (202) 225-3121. Once connected to the office ask to speak to the staff person who handles H-2B issues.

- Please call or visit in person with your Senators and Representatives at their district offices. You can find the local contact information for your Senators and Representative on their websites or through **www.house.gov** and **www.senate.gov**.

- Tweet at your Representative and Senators about the need for immediate cap relief using #SaveH2B. You can find their twitter address at: <https://twitter.com/verified/lists/us-congress/members>.

Please also call and email the USCIS ombudsman's office and encourage the Department of Homeland Security to support H-2B cap relief. The email address is [cisombudsman@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:cisombudsman@hq.dhs.gov) and the phone number is: (855) 882-8100.

We know it is an extremely frustrating and time consuming to repeatedly make phone calls and visit your elected officials, but we will not succeed in getting cap relief signed into law unless everyone continues to take the time to weigh in with their lawmakers.

Sincerely,

**Your H-2B Workforce Coalition Co-Chairs**

**Laurie Flanagan**, representing **AmericanHort** and the **National Association of Landscape Professionals**

**Gregg Hartley**, representing the **Outdoor Amusement Business Association**



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