



May 2018 | Vol. 22 • Issue 2

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Vekoma Rides acquired by Sansei Technologies

VLODROP, Netherlands and OSAKA, Japan — Dutch roller coaster manufacturer **Vekoma Rides Manufacturing B.V.**, based in Vlodrop, the Netherlands, was acquired March 30 by **Sansei Technologies, Inc.**, a publicly traded Japanese company listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. With the 100 percent acquisition of Vekoma (100 percent of the shares will be taken over), Sansei will increase its global market share in the field of designing, supplying and installing roller coasters. Headquartered in Osaka, Japan, and active in the global entertainment equipment industry, Sansei achieved a turnover of around 29,122 million Yen (US\$278 million) in 2017, largely from the sale of attractions to amusement parks and dynamic stage installations to theaters.

The collaboration with Sansei is the beginning of a new chapter in Vekoma's development. Since 2001, Vekoma has steadily grown into an innovative manufacturer of roller coasters. In addition to seeing geographical growth, Vekoma has also managed to position itself as a preferred supplier to a number of globally operating owners of leading theme parks. With the acquisition by Sansei, Vekoma can now further expand its leading position in the worldwide market of roller coasters and other amusement park attractions.

Vekoma's acquisition is a logical next step, according to its management. **Kees van Biert**, chairman of the company's supervisory board, explained: "In recent years, a solid foundation has been laid in which safety, innovation, quality and customer satisfaction have served as spearheads of our policy. In Sansei, we have found a reputable partner, with equivalent standards and values, who can offer continuity to the company and bring us even further. Through their presence and contacts, we also see opportunities to better serve new regions, such as Japan, South-east Asia and North America."

The conditions of the acquisition stipulate that no changes may be made to the strategy, management, terms of employment and the location of the business. Vekoma's governance structure will, therefore, remain virtually unchanged after the acquisition, and its current management team will remain intact. The company will continue its activities under the same trade name as an independently operating company.

• vekoma.com and sansei-technologies.com

Adrenaline Peak debuts as first high-profile ride for Oaks Park

Gerstlauer supplies first Euro-Fighter steel coaster in Pacific Northwest

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

PORTLAND, Ore. — For 113 years, **Oaks Park** has quietly operated nestled into a small portion of parkland alongside the Willamette River. Its roller skating rink has long been one of the most famous attractions in the park. Throughout its years of operation, a good mix of children's rides have mingled nicely along with family rides. A couple thrill rides have



Adrenaline Peak features three inversions: a vertical loop, a cutback and a heartline roll. COURTESY OAKS PARK

been sprinkled into the lineup as well. This season, Oaks Park has taken a bigger step.

On March 24, Adrenaline

Peak opened to the public. This looping steel coaster, a

► See OAKS PARK, page 6

Twisted Timbers delivers RMC hybrid fever to Virginia's Kings Dominion



After ascending a 111-foot lift hill, riders slowly enter the barrel-roll first drop. COURTESY JILL RYAN

AT: B. Derek Shaw
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DOSWELL, Va. — The foundations of the former wooden roller coaster known as **Hurler** at **Kings Dominion** have given rise to something entirely new: **Twisted Timbers**.

The product of Hayden, Idaho-based **Rocky Mountain Construction (RMC)**, the slick new ride sports the company's I-Box steel track on a reprofiled and reconfigured structure that was originally designed and built by **International Coasters, Inc.** in 1994. Hurler ran for 22

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AMUSEMENT VIEWS

EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

Tidbits



Slade

Amusement Today is launching a new interview series this month called Women of Influence. Each month for the next year, we will spotlight a woman who is making an impact in the amusement industry.

Mary Chris Smith, president of Allied Specialty Insurance and executive vice president of XL Catlin, receives our inaugural series coverage. Please turn to page 42 to get to know Smith and learn about her accomplishments.

If you would like to suggest for profiling in this series a woman who is leading the way in any area of our business, email us at editorial@amusementtoday.com. We will consider all suggestions for possible inclusion as we develop this ongoing feature.

This issue also contains our 2018 What's New Guide to attractions opening at parks around the world. Special thanks to AT staffer Jeffrey Seifert for his time-consuming research and effort in compiling the industry's most detailed listing, which you'll find on pages 46-49.

Congratulations to Tilman Fertitta, owner of Landry's Restaurants, the Houston Rockets and numerous Houston-area amusement facilities, who was presented with his own personalized 2017 World Series championship ring by Houston Astros owner Jim Crane. The Houston Astros defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers in seven games to win their first World Series.

"When [the Rockets] win a world championship, I get one," Crane told Fertitta. And Fertitta agreed to repay the favor to Crane should his Rockets become champions.

I received a note from my good friend and legendary newspaper publisher H.V. O'Brien of the *Eastland County Today* group of community newspapers. This fine stretch of Texas, located midway between Fort Worth and Abilene, is seeking an entrepreneur or company to open a small FEC. Local residents and the students attending two colleges would love a place to go for good food and fun — whether it be in the form of go-karts, batting cages, bowling and/or some other form of entertainment.

If anyone is interested in making a proposal, please get in touch with me or O'Brien.

We want to remind our readers of the new, centralized AT email address to which you should submit all news, photos and other editorial items for possible publication on our print and/or digital platforms. The address: editorial@amusementtoday.com.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Dean Lamanna, dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

Defending the price of fun

It's an annual event with the drama of a fireworks spectacular. Disney and Universal announce they are hiking theme park admission prices, and then patrons explode with outrage on social media.

Yet theme park turnstiles keep spinning fast enough to throw sparks.

A known truth: even as wages in the U.S. remain stagnant, the cost of just about everything continues going up. As long as there's demand, it's a certainty that what we pay for what we want and need never will move in the opposite direction.

Park operators face the same expenses everyone does — and a whopping "then some." Major costs in utilities, licensing, food, construction, maintenance and the executive talent needed to manage it all are incurred in the course of satisfying (and exceeding) increasing visitor expectations. These properties keep growing because we keep throwing our dollars at them.

The strengthening relationship between amusements and IP — fostered by the media property-aligning/acquiring savviness of today's theme park corporations — has created synergis-



Lamanna

tic opportunities too good not to exploit. It is human and business nature to keep pushing the envelope and pursuing more. Especially in our industry.

As discussed previously on this page, there are things parks could do to reduce the appearance of gouging. But at least chains such as SeaWorld Entertainment and Six Flags have stepped up with membership and payment programs offering more-affordable admission, as well as discounts. And Disney, too, in dealing with capacity crowds at its properties, provides variably priced admission and season pass plans based on off-peak dates.

"We know how important making memories at Disney theme parks is to our guests," said Suzi Brown, vice president of communications for the Disneyland Resort. "We will continue to evolve our pricing in a way that gives them a range of options to meet their budget and helps better spread attendance throughout the year so they can make the most of every visit."

Another known truth: special experiences — even when we have to budget more for them — are priceless.

Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.



Amusement Today is an independent, privately-owned trade newspaper published 14 times per year by Amusement Today Inc., P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005. Print issues are \$50 per year and are mailed Presort Standard Postage (permit No. 2069) Pre-Paid Fort Worth, Texas. The entire contents of this newspaper, and its related websites, are Copyrighted and Trademarked 2018 by Amusement Today Inc., all rights reserved.

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Deliveries: 2012 E. Randol Mill Road #203, Arlington, Texas 76011, USA

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2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow

Laura Woodburn, Hersheypark

Laura Woodburn is the director of attractions and the guest experience for **Hershey Entertainment and Resorts**. She oversees the safe operation of **Hersheypark's** rides and wet attractions, guest services, season pass and ticket sales and redemption at the park, the Hersheypark call center and a friendly greeter staff. Laura began working for Hersheypark in 1988 as a part-time sweeper, and after graduating from college she was hired full-time and has served in several roles. Her pleasant, can-do attitude, care for her staff and deep knowledge of the industry wins her high praise from those who work with her.

Title: Director of Attractions and the Guest Experience.

Number of years in the industry

I began working part time in 1988 as a sweeper and was hired full time in 1996 as the guest services supervisor.

Best thing about the industry:

There are so many wonderful things about our industry. What I value the most is the networking and close relationships we share with so many people all over the world. There is no other industry that embraces idea sharing quite like ours. It really is amazing!

Favorite amusement ride: I'm not sure I'm allowed to have just one favorite, but I do enjoy Skyrush.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be ... A television news anchor.

Biggest challenge facing our industry

Staffing challenges seem to be a consistent opportunity for many park operators.

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

Opening a new attraction has to be the most stressful and most satisfying time. I love to see the faces of our guests as they experience our latest additions.

Favorite rainy day activity:

There can be no rainy days in the summer!

After a long day, I decompress by ...

Reading and gardening.

It's spring! My favorite flower is ... butterfly bushes. The flowers are modest but the audience they draw is magnificent!

What's one item you can't leave the house without? My cell phone.

My favorite food on the grill would have to be ... Chicken, onions, peppers and pineapple shish kabobs.

Pick one: day of fun at the beach or hitting the ski slopes? A fun day at the beach — the



Laura Woodburn has been a part of the Hersheypark team since 1988.

COURTESY HERSHEY PARK

beach has the best sunrises and sunsets.

When it comes to television, I turn the channel every time I see ...

Commercials, unless it is the Super Bowl.

On my pizza, I usually order ... A really good margherita pizza always wins!

The best advice I ever got was ... Identify what makes you stand out from others and then work hard to be the best in that area.

If I could learn to play one new sport, it would be ... Lacrosse — my son plays defense and it looks like so much fun!

The one thing I never seem to have enough time for is ...

Baking, because I love cake.

In my opinion, the best national talk show host is ... Oprah Winfrey, I love her passion for people.

At a party, my beverage of choice is ... A really good Malbec.

If I had to participate on any reality TV show, it would be ... *MythBusters* — a fan favorite in our home.

Twenty years from now, I hope to be ... A grandmother — and not one day before!

The style of my home is ... The gathering place for our family and friends for every special occasion.

The most money I ever spent on a pair of jeans was ... I don't own many jeans, but I do love high heels.

My favorite time of the day: Morning, the fresh start of a new day is inspiring.

OBITUARIES

Robert "Bob" Kissel dies at 82; show owner was avid carousel horse collector

MADISON, Ind. — **Robert "Bob" Ralph Kissel** passed away on March 26. He was 82.

Kissel was the son of Ralph F. and Olga A. Schinkel Kissel. The family started **Kissel Brothers Amusements** in 1942. The carnival was headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Kissel loved the family business. He particularly enjoyed wooden horse carousels and would purchase carousel equipment and resell the wooden horse parts.

Kissel resided in Cincinnati until 1994 at which time he and his family moved to a farm near Canaan, Ind.

He was a member of the **Greater Ohio Showmen's Association**, and the **International Independent Showmen's Association**.

Kissel is survived by his niece, Linda Caldwell, and her husband, William of Cincinnati; his nephews, Michael Grein and his wife, Roberta of Cincinnati, and David Grein and his wife, Rhonda, of Cincinnati; and his great nieces and nephew, Kirby, Shelby and Bryce Grein.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Shirley Kissel Grein; and his brother, Arthur Kissel.

A graveside ceremony took place on March 30 at the Vine Street Hill Cemetery, Cincinnati.

The family has requested that contributions be made to the donor's choice of charity.



Kissel

John William Conner, Conner Family Amusements, dies at 72 in Beardstown, Ill.

BEARDSTOWN, Ill. — **John William Conner** died at his home surrounded by his family on March 25. He was 72.

Having enjoyed a long career in Chicago-area media, Conner purchased his first carnival ride while working at a Chicago radio station. A small electric-powered train was purchased and was booked with local carnivals before being set up at a local shopping center, where the ride soon blossomed into **Conner Family Amusements**.

Forty-nine years later, more family rides had been added. With the addition of vendor carts, Conner was able to lengthen and round out the visitation time at the park.

Conner's park created first jobs for many of those he would employ, as he believed everyone deserved a chance to earn and keep a paying job.

His media advertising sales skills aided in his ability to establish the **Rushville Merchants Group**. In 2007 he was honored as parade marshall in the **Beardstown Fall Fun Festival**. When not active in his work, he enjoyed his **Chicago Cubs**.

He is survived by his wife, June Conner of Beardstown; two children; four grandchildren; one great grandson and one sister.

Funeral services were held on March 31 at the Colwell Memorial Home in Beardstown, with burial following at St. Alexis Catholic Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Beardstown St. John's Lutheran Church.



Conner

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►OAKS PARK
Continued from page 1

Euro-Fighter model manufactured by Gerstlauer Amusement Rides GmbH, is the first such coaster in the Pacific Northwest and is the tallest attraction featured at the park.

"This Euro-Fighter was a fantastic project, and in many ways took us back to our roots," said Siegfried Gerstlauer, managing director, Gerstlauer. "Our company began making unique, marketable roller coasters for small parks, and Adrenaline Peak certainly fits that bill," he said.

The coaster has several thrilling elements new to the market. The vertical lift hill helps keep the ride compact while adding a daring component as riders ascend to the sky at a 90-degree angle. The first drop is taken at a beyond-vertical 97 degrees. The tangled layout features banked curves and three inversions — a vertical loop, cutback and heartline roll — all within 1,050 feet of track.

"Oh my gosh, I'm that crazy, screaming lady," said Emily MacKay, promotions and events manager, Oaks Park. "It was so much fun. I was nervous at first but was totally



Adrenaline starts pumping on the 97-degree first drop (left). Riders conquer the Gerstlauer Euro-Fighter eight at a time. COURTESY OAKS PARK AND RIDE ENTERTAINMENT

stoked once I was on."

Management said the project went very smoothly, and Gerstlauer had stated it was a record for the company for quickest installation. The erection only took 10 days.

"The response has been totally fantastic. We've had great crowds even in rainy, terrible weather," said MacKay. "With nice weather ahead, we're expecting to be overrun. We've had so many wonderful comments. There is so much excitement for the coaster. People think it is amazing and can't wait to go on it again."

Previously, Oaks Park had operated a portable looping coaster, which has since been dismantled and will hopefully be sold. It had a 54-inch height requirement, but Adrenaline Peak has only a 48-inch requirement.

"We've had several kids come who couldn't ride the old coaster in the past expecting to not be able to ride this one either. To see their faces and the joy when they realize they are tall enough — and it's more extreme — they have been besides themselves," MacKay told *Amusement Today*.



according to MacKay. "One side of the park is the Willamette River, while another side is a protected wildlife refuge. We're out on this little isthmus, so we really don't have room to expand anywhere. We looked for something that would fit the footprint," she said. "We spent a long time with a couple of companies, and this one packed the most thrill and the most different dynamics into the ride."

The ride was named by use of a local contest. It was launched on National Roller Coaster Day last August and continued through December.

"I was hoping for 500 applicants," said MacKay, "and we ended up with 5,000. I narrowed it down to a list of 100, and then our management team pared it down to four names and unanimously chose Adrenaline Peak."

The park attracts between 750,000 to one million people each season. Attendance goals are to cross that million-visitors mark with Adrenaline Peak. Of note, Oaks Park is a nonprofit historical site.

Guests to Oaks Park are sure to be drawn to the ride at night. The lighting pack-

► See OAKS PARK, page 7



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►OAKS PARK

Continued from page 6

age has a captivating program that follows the car as it travels through the coaster layout. It was supplied by **KCL Engineering** (Des Moines, Iowa).

"The 51 track fixtures are mounted using a custom extruded aluminum mounting base that is isolated from the ride with heavy-duty rubber to help minimize potential vibrations," said **Tom Kendrick**, lighting designer, KCL Engineering. "We met with the contractor for Adrenaline Peak onsite at Oaks to go over installation details which included how to properly mount the lights and how to aim them for the best result. The professionals onsite picked up on an install rhythm very quickly."

"The chase is precisely programmed to match the changing speeds of Adrena-



The ride's action is contained in a compact space. COURTESY RIDE ENTERTAINMENT

line Peak as it follows the hills, turns, and inversions of the track," said **Andy Versluys**, electrical engineer, KCL Electrical. "Our lighting controller receives feedback from the ride to know when the car passes certain points on the track. We

can start and stop effects in reaction to this feedback, and stack multiple effects as needed to create an infinite number of different scenes."

We were honored to receive awards from the **Illuminating Engineering Society**

for our lighting work on the Monster at **Adventureland** in Altoona, Iowa," said **Libby Ibeling**, marketing assistant, KLC Engineering. "We are always seeking the next opportunity to expand upon our fan base and growth."



The lighting by KCL Engineering is designed to follow the car through its track layout at night. COURTESY KCL ENGINEERING

We look forward to meeting you at:

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►TIMBERS

Continued from page 1

seasons.

RMC's extensive make-over has incorporated a number of more-aggressive elements — including three overbanked turns, three inversions and 20 airtime moments — into the ride, which is located in the Candy Apple Grove section of the park.

The coaster's grand opening on March 24 was the culmination of two years of practical and creative decision-making by park owner Cedar Fair, Kings Dominion's in-house development team and RMC.

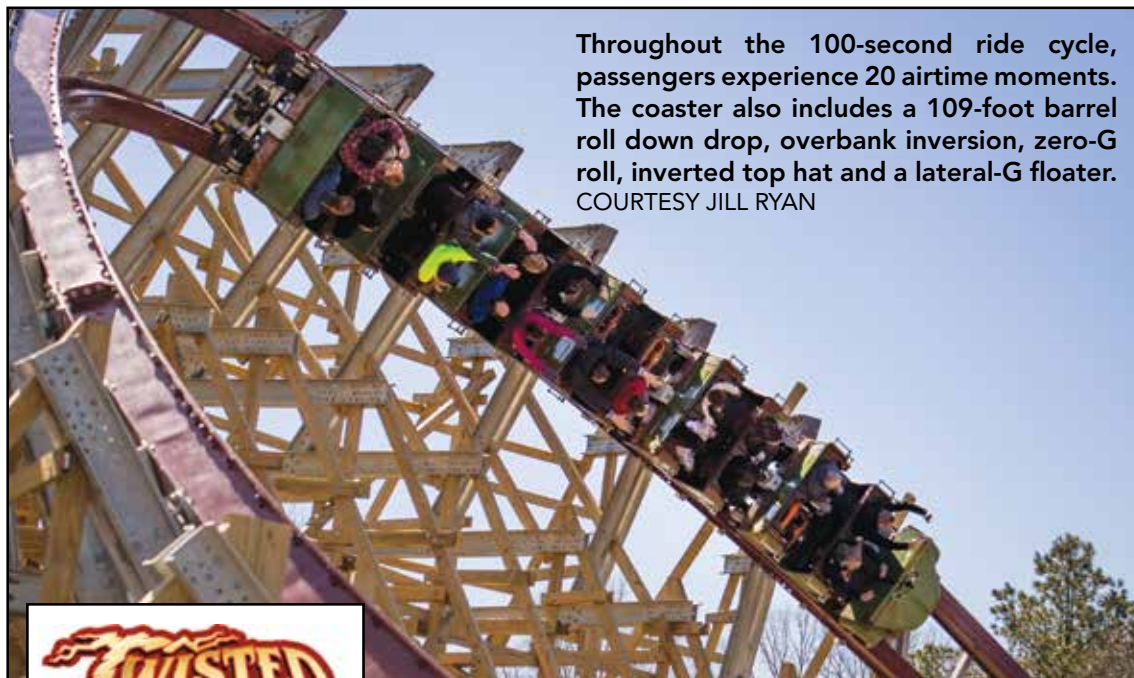
"When the decision was made to not operate Hurler in 2016, the development team considered many options — including restoration or the transformation of Twisted Timbers," said Maggie Sellers, park communications manager. "Once we determined a full transformation was justified, the design and engineering phases took a little more than a year."

Permitting, site preparation, demolition, construction and restoration of the entire area of the park occurred over a period of 18 months. The coaster transformation process began with the removal of pieces of track in early 2017; by last summer, crews were adding height to the lift hill and airtime hills.

Theming, mechanical elements and the queueing area were installed this past January. The track's completion in mid-February was followed by a successful period of testing.

"We are very pleased with the results," Sellers said.

Cedar Fair knew RMC was "the best company for the hybrid conversion process" once it determined that Hurler's structure and real estate would be retained for



Throughout the 100-second ride cycle, passengers experience 20 airtime moments. The coaster also includes a 109-foot barrel roll down drop, overbank inversion, zero-G roll, inverted top hat and a lateral-G floater. COURTESY JILL RYAN

another coaster experience, according to Rob Decker, the company's senior vice president of planning and design.

"Their technology allowed us to completely change the dynamics of the ride," he said, clearly impressed by the company's ability to transform the wooden frame of the coaster "both dimensionally and experientially" with its I-Box track technology.

"RMC's design perfectly struck the balance of creating a strong ride dynamic but with a smooth profile for an experience that is highly repeatable," Decker enthused. "I could ride Twister Timbers again and again — and did!"

"Kings Dominion was looking for an option to reinvent the Hurler, and our hybrid option allowed them to create a state-of-the-art new ride utilizing the existing structure," said Fred Grubb, RMC co-owner. "The construction of Twisted Timbers went very well, and as planned. Out of all our coasters this year, the build was the smoothest

— even with our foreman leaving right before completion as [his wife] had twins. King Dominion... [was] easy to work with and very helpful."

The park collaborated with its corporate parent on a name for the new coaster. The one chosen covers all aspects of the project, with "Twisted" highlighting the ride's I-Box steel track-enabled maneuvers and "Timbers" applying to its wooden structure.

(As part of the general updating in the Candy Apple Grove area, the Rebel Yell wooden racing coaster has been renamed Racer 75 — the ride opened with the park in 1975 — and the Ricochet wild mouse coaster has been renamed Apple Zapple.)

Twisted Timbers is much more than Hurler reborn. The coaster was taken down to the footings in some areas and built up in others. Three airtime hills along the back of the ride are much higher and touch lower to the ground than before. And the lift hill, now 28 feet higher, features a dramatic, descending barrel roll in place of the original first drop.

The 100-second ride experience

is preceded by some storytelling in the queue, where guests find themselves on the forbidden grounds of Hanover Hill Orchard. Here they encounter evidence preserved from mysterious events that took place in 1950, including a glowing crater, rusted vehicles, tractors hanging in the air and siding peeled off the warehouse. It builds a sense of unease for the wild ride through the orchard to come.

Boarding a train with a front car themed as a Hanover Hill Orchard truck, riders are carried up the 111-foot-tall lift hill, gliding around a right curve into the barrel-roll drop. The train flies through the first (and largest) of three overbanked turns and into three airtime hills, then shoots into an inverted top hat element. Within the latter, the train twists upward clockwise akin to a barrel roll, hangs there for a moment, and then exits with a counterclockwise flourish.

Several twisting airtime moments pump out the screams before the track dips back through the structure and into the third inversion. Two overbanked right turns guide

FAST FACTS	
Name/Park	Twisted Timbers Kings Dominion Doswell, Va.
Location in the Park	Candy Apple Grove
Type	Hybrid roller coaster, wooden frame with steel supports and track
Height/Speed/Length	111 feet/54 mph max/3,351 feet
Special Features	109-foot barrel roll down drop; overbank curve; zero-G roll; inverted top hat; lateral-G Floater; 20 airtime moments; three extreme airtime hills on the back stretch
Ride Vehicle	Two trains, 24 passengers each
Footprint	180 feet by 800 feet
Color Scheme	Red oxide track; frost blue and apple green trains
Height Minimum	48 inches
Ride Supplier, Install	Rocky Mountain Construction Hayden, Idaho
Opening	March 24, 2018

the train into a few more airtime hops before finishing at the station.

The coaster has garnered "rave reviews," according to Tony Johnson, park vice president and general manager.

"Guests love the airtime moments and non-stop elements," Johnson said. "They've also been really pleased with the theming that has been included in the ride area and queue line."

"Kings Dominion has long been known for delivering world-class experiences at scale for a broad audience of families and thrill-seekers alike. We are excited about the strong reaction we have received and appreciation of the ride."

Added Decker: "Twisted Timbers is another example of Cedar Fair's commitment to invest in a portfolio of unique and intriguing experiences that offer a higher appeal and value for our guests."

•kingsdominion.com



Twisted Timbers' 24-passenger trains (960 pph), are fashioned after an orchard truck tying into the theme of visiting the forbidden grounds of Hanover Hill Orchard. Located in the Candy Apple Grove section, the project required 18 months to complete. COURTESY KINGS DOMINION



RMC

OPENING 2018



US PATENTS 8590455 AND 9566527, AND BY FOREIGN PATENTS.

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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► San Diego Zoo's new \$68 million exhibit — page 14 / FAIRS 25-31

Lamberink wheel to take leisurely spin at Ohio's Coney Island

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

CINCINNATI, Ohio — In fitting “observation” of its 132nd year of operation, **Coney Island** amusement park will host one of the largest portable wheels in North America when it opens its gates for the season May 26.

The 45-meter-tall ride, an RL45 model from **Lamberink** of Overschild, the Netherlands, will be dubbed the Coney Island SkyWheel during its generous six-week stay. Situated adjacent to the park's Sunlite Water Adventure area, not far from the **Riverbend Music Center**, it will offer passengers a 360-view of the park, the Ohio River and well beyond.

“The Coney Island SkyWheel is an extraordi-

nary structure, taking family playtime to new heights with state-of-the-art technology,” said **Sally Derrick**, park marketing director.

The attraction's arrival is partly a celebration of Coney Island's emergence from a particularly rough off season, which saw floodwaters — the highest to hit the Ohio River since 1997 — inundate the property. Periodic flooding has been a problem for the park historically.

“It's a great way to launch an exciting 2018 season while putting the wintertime Ohio River issues behind us,” Derrick said.

The wheel features 36 six-person gondolas. Each ride will take about 10 minutes, completing four rotations per session.

At night, the attraction will become an even more

spectacular landmark as half a million programmable LED lights put on a show visible for many miles around.

The ride is owned jointly by San Antonio, Texas-based **Wood Entertainment Co.** and **Wade Shows, Inc.**, of Livonia, Mich. It debuted at the **Florida State Fair** in February 2017.

Tickets are available online for the wheel, which will stay onsite at Coney Island through July 8 before rolling to other locations, including the **Wisconsin State Fair** near Milwaukee.

• coneyislandpark.com

On May 26, one of the largest portable observation wheels in North America will begin a six-week run at Cincinnati's Coney Island amusement park.

COURTESY CONEY ISLAND



3D flying theater readying for takeoff at San Francisco's Pier 39

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — **Pier 39** on the bay in Fisherman's Wharf will become an airstrip of sorts when a new attraction lands on it this summer.

The Flyer — San Francisco, a flying theater, is being billed as the world's only immersive experience of its type in 3D. The project represents a creative partnership between operator **W.A. Alter, Inc.**, of San Francisco and award-winning attraction developer **Triotech** of Montréal.

Using computer-generated imagery and high-definition film footage captured with the help of drones and helicopters — all combined through the cinematic artistry of Montréal-based mixed media development house **Fly Studio** — the



The Flyer — San Francisco, a new flying theater coming to the city's Pier 39, combines motion-seat technology and 3D to carry guests over local landmarks. COURTESY PIER 39

theater will take guests on a soaring, swooping tour of the Bay Area's iconic landmarks.

“Through our partnership with Triotech, we have spent nearly two years researching

and developing multi-sensorial effects in tandem with cutting-edge 3D high-definition technology,” said **John Alter** of W.A. Alter, Inc. “The overall movie-like originality of The Flyer

— San Francisco will create an unforgettable guest experience that will have audiences ... on the edge of their seats.”

While praising the collaboration, **Ernest Yale**, president

and CEO of Triotech, described the attraction as “a thrilling ride that is a love story to one of the most beautiful cities in the world.”

The theater's seat-based motion and curved, 1,100-square-foot, field-of-vision-filling screen ensure a “front-row seat” for every guest. After the floor slips away, the six-minute 3D flight travels over (and sometimes very close to) iconic locations such as the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, Coit Tower, Marin Headlands, Chinatown and the Castro District.

As a local-culture bonus, the journey also will offer glimpses of some of the Bay Area's best-known performers and personalities.

—Dean Lamanna

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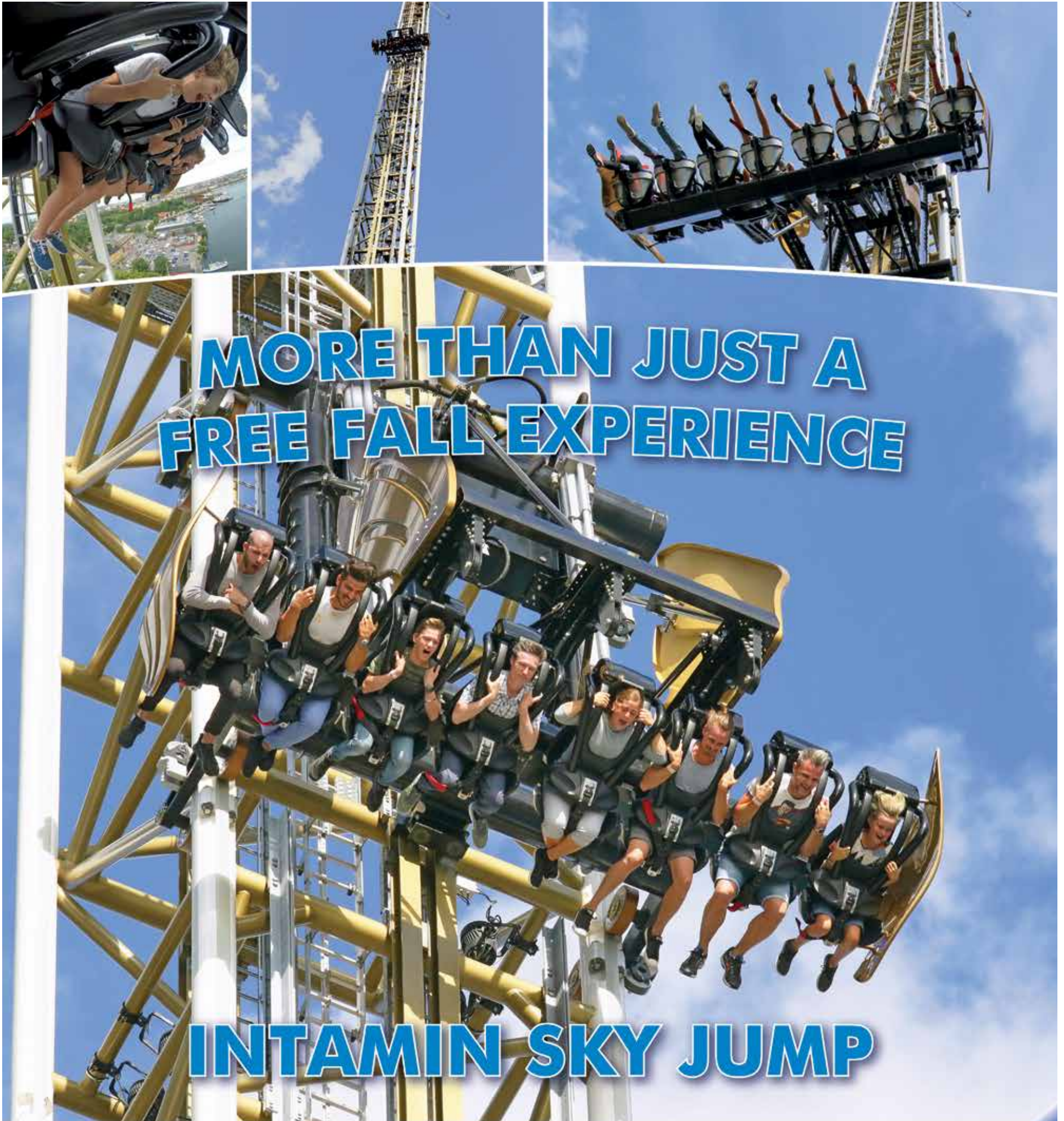
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Busch Gardens in Va. poised to thrill with VR attraction

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — After previews held for the media earlier this year, **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** was readying a virtual reality (VR) motion simulator attraction, **Battle for Eire**, for its public debut in April. (A specific date was unavailable as *Amusement Today* went to press.)

Billed by Busch Gardens as the first installation of the combined technologies in North America, the immersive theater experience — complete with a new style of swiftly strapped-on, extra-hygienic VR headset by **HTC Vive** and seats moving in



ACTION VR RIDE

synch with the 360-degree action — presents a family-friendly fantasy world inspired by Irish lore and mythology. It is located in the park's Ireland section.

The story line finds guests riding on the back of a flying dragon as they follow a heroic fairy named Addie on her

journey to rescue the sacred Heart of Ireland. Along the way, they are enlisted to help keep a one-eyed villain named Balor at bay. Wind effects will enhance the theater portion of the 15-minute experience.

Busch Gardens is banking on **Battle for Eire** to open VR up to a wider audience; statistics have shown that less than 10 percent of Americans have experienced the technology. The attraction was designed by **Falcon's Digital Media**, a division of Orlando-based **Falcon's Creative Group**.

—Dean Lamanna

Sesame Place gives hard hat tour of Oscar's Wacky Taxi



On the first day of spring, Sesame Place in Langhorne, Pa., hosted a few dozen of the media for a hard hat tour of its new Gravity Group roller coaster, **Oscar's Wacky Taxi**. The ride sits on what was formerly 75 parking spaces near the main entrance. The 40-foot-tall wood-steel hybrid coaster features 1,200 feet of track, with a mid-course helix tunnel, lots of speed bumps and ample air time for the pint-size set and families as well. The ride is expected to open to the public in late spring. The only other coaster at the 14-acre park, **Super Grover's Vapor Trail** (Vekoma custom junior coaster) is celebrating its 20th season; it was the first mechanical ride at the property. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Stan Checketts ride tower announced for Pigeon Forge mall redevelopment

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. — A vacant mall being redeveloped outside of **Dollywood** is expected eventually to offer 169 acres of retail, entertainment and attractions.

Plans indicate that the central draw at the Teaster Lane site of the former **Belz Factory Outlet World**, to be renamed **The Mountain Mile**, is a tower-based adventure ride concept by veteran amusement industry innovator **Stan Checketts**.

Called **Mountain Monster**, the attraction is 200 feet tall and features

four extreme swing, drop and launch rides representing the most-recent inventions in the Checketts oeuvre. A later phase could expand the adventure ride offerings across a 70-acre park.

Erecting the tower and rebuilding the mall, which will be known as **Tower Shops at the Mountain Mile**, currently is estimated at \$30 million. The entirety of the project, wrapping around **The Ripken Experience** baseball complex, eventually will cost more than three times that, and it would include other attractions, hotels, and



possibly a driving range and a water park.

The mall that largely makes up the initial phase likely will contain a bowling alley, a sports bar and an arcade. **Mountain Monster** and half the mall space could be open by spring of 2019.

—Dean Lamanna

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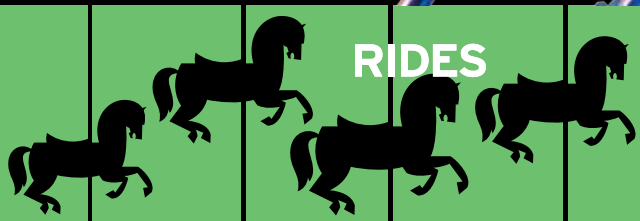
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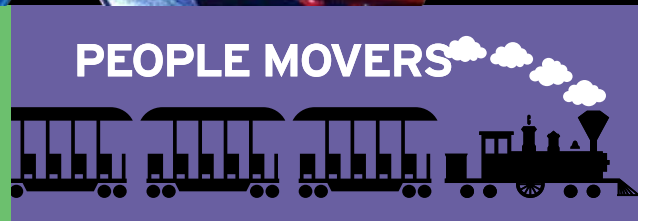
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San Diego Zoo's Africa Rocks area garners roars of approval

'Return' of Rex the Lion puts bow on \$68 million exhibit

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Move over, Mr. MGM lion: There's a new leonine icon taking the spotlight in Southern California.

The unveiling in March of a strikingly regal and "roar"-geous bronze lion statue in the entrance plaza of the **San Diego Zoo** was filled with symbolism. The 27-foot-tall, 20,000-pound work represents the property's century of existence, its preeminence among zoological parks, and the opening (and gradual completion in phases) last summer of **Conrad Prebys Africa Rocks** — a naturalistic, multifaceted exhibit area that could be the **Balboa Park** institution's crowning achievement.

"Rex is more than an engineering marvel," said **Rick Schwartz**, an ambassador for **San Diego Zoo Global**, the non-profit organization that operates the zoo,



Gracing the San Diego Zoo's entrance, this statue inspired by Rex, the lion that led to the zoo's founding, raises guest anticipation for the new Africa Rocks section.

COURTESY SAN DIEGO ZOO (ABOVE); AT/DEAN LAMANNA

the **San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research** and the **San Diego Zoo Global Wildlife Conservancy**. "He's a huge reminder of where we came from a century ago, and a symbol showcasing that zoo founder **Dr. Harry Wegeforth's** dream of uniting people with wildlife lives on."

The statue more specifi-

cally honors Rex, the lion that inspired the founding of the zoo in 1916. As the story goes, Wegeforth, a San Diego physician, and his brother were driving past Balboa Park when they heard a lion roar. The lion, named Rex, was part of a menagerie left behind after the **Panama-California Exposition**, and he and his mates — and a number of other animals — were living in cages along what is now Park Boulevard.

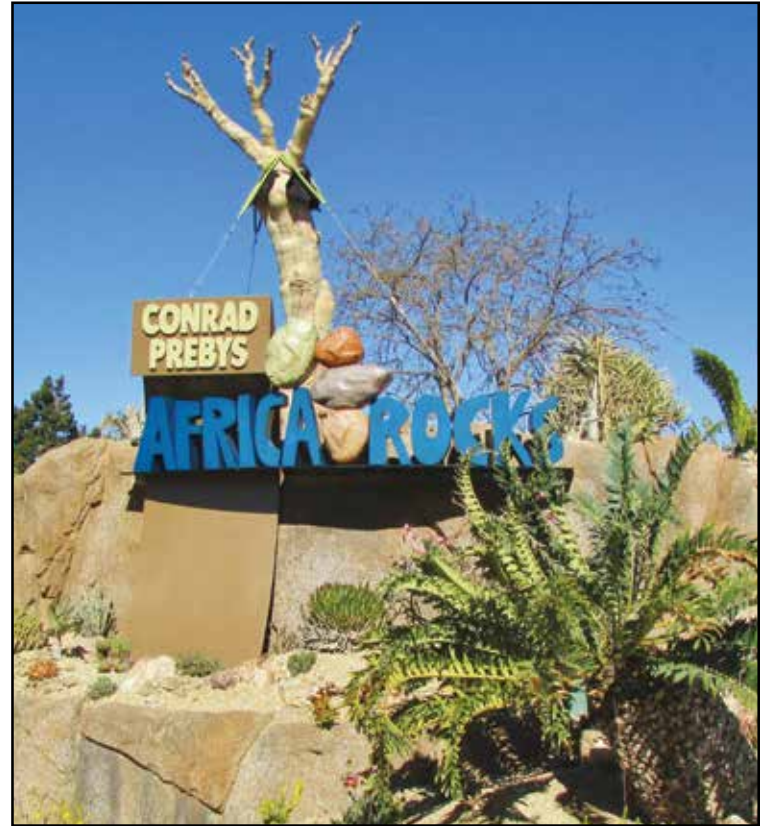
In that moment, Wegeforth's idea for the zoo was born.

The good doctor would no doubt be amazed at how far the facility has come. And Rex surely would have loved to have the run of Africa Rocks, which recreates diverse animal habitats from the savanna to the sea.

The eight-acre, \$68 million exhibit complex, which



Africa Rocks features eight acres of naturalistic outdoor exhibits, including this habitat housing some very content West African dwarf crocodiles. AT/DEAN LAMANNA



has replaced the zoo's 1930s-era Dog and Cat Canyon exhibits, showcases distinctive wildlife in six roomy, conservation-minded outdoor settings that carefully recreate their home turf.

Among the exotic inhabitants are rock hyrax and klipspringers; baboons, leopards, fossas and vervet monkeys; meerkats; sociable weavers and sunbirds; several species of lemurs; and — not seen at the zoo since the 1970s — African penguins.

The latter are, in fact, an endangered species that now have a spectacular, state-of-the-art home called Cape Fynbos, complete with granite-look artificial rockwork, a 200,000-gallon pool with depths of up to 13 feet and a wave-making machine. The zoo's goal is to encourage breeding among the birds; it is partnered with a similar effort taking place in Africa.

"It's more than just what

you see on display," said the zoo's director, **Dwight Scott**, describing Africa Rocks shortly before its debut. "It's making connections here with the [conservation] work we do around the world."

Still, animal diversity is a big part of the attraction. For some inadvertent pop culture appeal (and good humor), the new zoo section even features a honey badger.

"Everyone is familiar with the big animals from Africa — the elephants and the giraffes," said **Steve Fobes**, the zoo's chief architect. "This became a chance to showcase some of the smaller, lesser-known animals from the continent."

In addition to Cape Fynbos, other habitat highlights within Africa Rocks include the Acacia Woodland, home to the vervet monkeys and leopards and many different types of birds; the

► See SAN DIEGO, page 15



Many exhibits in the San Diego zoo's Africa Rocks section present smaller, lesser-seen animals, such as the dwarf mongoose (left) and the slender-tailed meerkat. They live in rock outcroppings and burrows. AT/DEAN LAMANNA

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► SAN DIEGO

Continued from page 14

Madagascar Forest, where the predatory fossas, which are related to the mongoose, roam; the West African Forest, featuring dwarf crocodiles; and the Ethiopian Highlands, housing hamadryas baboons, geladas, Nubian ibex and more.

Those with an interest in horticulture, or just really cool plants, can enjoy a garden stocked with rare and exotic flora.

Overall, Africa Rocks is a model of organic landscaping and comfortable, efficient public space design. Sidewalks are extra wide and gently sloping, and exhibit areas flow into each other without jarring transitions. A particularly nice touch on extra-hot days is a 65-foot-tall waterfall that guests can walk behind. An impressive, exposition-like tensile metal aviary net covering two acres contains many of the new area's winged inhabitants.

Mostly unobtrusive but attractive signage throughout Africa Rocks clearly identifies all of the habitats and species on display in large, succinct text. The placards' information is supplemented online by Animal Byte, a section of the San Diego Zoo website that attracts more than 300,000 page views each month and contains more than 180 animal fact sheets.

Africa Rocks is expected to create a big jump in the zoo's visitor numbers by the end of its first full year of operation. Prior to the section's opening last July, the Balboa Park location and its 1,800-acre sister facility in nearby Escondido,

San Diego Zoo Safari Park, drew a combined five million guests annually.

The new bronze Rex at the gate will be there to welcome loyal visitors as well as new generations curious to learn about the creatures with whom we share the planet.

"We all know it started with a roar, but this statue also shows that the roar has never stopped," Schwartz said. "It's in the hearts and minds of all of us who share a passion for wildlife."

•zoo.sandiegozoo.com



The signage throughout Africa Rocks (left) is both unobtrusive and informative. Among the varied habitats presented is a swampy one (right) within the West African Forest section containing several unusual and endangered turtle species. AT/DEAN LAMANNA



Providing protected air space for bird species, as well as a high degree of visual interest, is this two-acre tensile metal aviary net. AT/DEAN LAMANNA



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Alton Towers opens Wicker Man from Great Coasters International

Wooden coaster is first in the U.K. in more 20 years

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

STAFFORDSHIRE, England — It was a long time coming. Alton Towers has a long-established reputation for groundbreaking coasters. Nemesis took the relatively new inverted coaster genre and turned it into a thematic masterpiece. Oblivion and Air were the first installations of their kind. Smiler holds the record for number of inversions — a dizzying 14. But a wooden coaster seemed to be a missing component among the park's lineup of nine roller coasters. Wicker Man not only gave the park double digits in its arsenal, but it was the first wooden coaster to ever be installed at the 38-year-old park.

"The team at Alton Towers realized that England had not built a new wooden roller coaster in more than 20 years," said Adam House, senior design engineer, Great Coasters International Inc. "After extensive research from their end, they realized that a modern-day, high-thrill wooden roller coaster would be the perfect fit for the already impressive coaster collection at the park. Great Coasters specializes in smooth and twisted wooden coaster layouts and leapt at the challenge to help design a custom, terrain-hugging wooden coaster for Al-

ton Towers on the site of the old log flume."

Andy Hine, founder of Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain, agrees. "In the U.K. we haven't had a new [wooden coaster] this century. The public demand just hasn't been there, and I can see why if you've only experienced a woodie built decades ago. Modern-day wooden coasters are as thrilling as their steel counterparts because technology has moved on so far. It has taken up to now to convince the U.K. public that it's what the landscape needs," he said at the opening.

"Alton Towers has worked extensively with Great Coasters and other partners like Merlin Magic Making (MMM), HoloVis, and Backstage Technologies to create an immersive experience," said House. "From the amazing theming to the queue story, the guests will be transported into another world. The sensory overload from Wicker Man will truly be like nothing else guests have experienced. Typically, our coasters are known for their thrilling on-ride experience, but Wicker Man will be known for not only the same quality coaster Great Coasters International provides, but also theming that will light a fire in your eye."

The storyline as presented is centered on the Beornen, a mysterious group that lives in the surrounding woods. Coming to escape the outside world and reconnect with nature, they strive for a simpler way of life, becoming single-minded in their pursuit. Having developed their own language and belief system, the Beornen appear to be working toward something big.

"At the beginning, we knew one thing, that we really wanted to build an exciting roller coaster," said Bradley Wynne, creative lead for Alton Towers. "We've never had a wooden roller coaster at Alton Towers, and we knew it would be a great addition to the resort's suite of already impressive coasters. We listened to our fans that said they wanted a completely different experience, something that would take them back to what they first loved about roller coasters. Everything at Alton Towers needs that extra layer of magic. We started to build a huge theming feature — the Wicker Man himself — who would burst into flames as you go through him."

Amusement Today asked House if the dramatic theming caused any challenges for GCII. "Additional coordination was required for constructing both a wooden coaster and 60-foot-



Wicker Man's wooden structure and fire effects make for a dramatic roller coaster, the first-of-its-kind at Alton Towers. The Great Coasters International installation is the first coaster of its type to be built in the U.K. since 1995. The attraction delivers a great climax to the story line that builds throughout the experience. COURTESY ALTON TOWERS



tall Wicker Man simultaneously," he said. "Extra care was taken to develop a schedule to allow the structure and track to be installed while the steel frame of the Wicker Man was being built. The bridges for the structure needed to be woven in and through the steel framing structure during installation. No doubt that this coordination created a seamless integration between theming and coaster to help create the first U.K. wooden coaster to integrate wood and fire."

Wood coasters and fire might seem an odd mix, but the novel approach adds to the mystique.

"When it came to telling this story, we wanted to draw on legend, British history, the local area, myths and tales from Alton and the surrounding areas," commented Wynne. "The concept of burning an effigy (or wicker man in this case) can be traced back through the Neolithic period, ancient Druids and the Roman era. Since we announced the title, a lot of the reporting has linked the theme back to the Wicker Man movies, but actually the theme and story of our ride is completely unrelated. We're exploring similar concepts as the movies, but our

inspiration has come from historical sources, and we've created a unique and strong identity for our ride."

From a statistical standpoint, the coaster is far from GCII's tallest or longest. A modest length of 2,027 feet, a speed of 44 mph and a first drop of 72 feet aren't staggering statistics, but the ride's thematic experience and unique attributes still make for a star attraction. Riders pass through the impressive figure three times.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the triple-down first drop is going to take a lot of people by surprise. In and of itself, the element is really thrilling, but with the addition of two sensory tunnels, guests are going to be blown away," House told AT.

Alton Towers has an unusual building restriction that does not permit any rides to extend above the tree line. In meeting this requirement, the lift hill of Wicker Man has a slight bend in its upward trajectory. House said, "As with any project that has unique site constraints, much of the layout was modified to fit the site topography, including the unique lift hill. Wicker Man utilizes the park's dynamic terrain to have that exciting triple-down first

drop into a sweeping curve."

Much of the story is told before riders step aboard. HoloVis supplied the elements of the multisensory storytelling experience. HoloVis worked alongside MMM to conceive and script the preshow, then produced the media and delivered the complex AV elements throughout the attraction, including the projection mapping. This began on-site at the HoloVis Demonstration Campus filming scenes and capturing vocals in the Green Screen and Audio Studio with full post production and mixing.

Surround audio and immersive media are featured throughout the queue, preshow, station loading zone, enclosed sections, exit and within the Wicker Man structure. HoloVis also programmed all the effects including synchronized pyrotechnics.

"This has been a phenomenal project for HoloVis and a great example of the company's turnkey capability," said Peter Cliff, creative director. "With our artists, software developers and engineering teams all working together to deliver this spectacular experience, we hope guests will enjoy it as much as we do."

FAST FACTS

Ride/Park

Wicker Man/Alton Towers

Ride Stats

Speed/ 44 mph
Length/ 2,027 feet
First Drop/ 72 feet

Cost/Opened

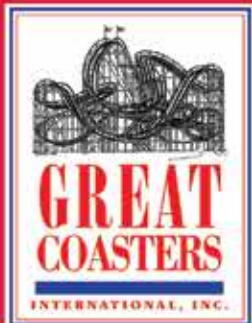
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Legoland Florida coaster gets Great Lego Race VR makeover

High-tech upgrade supplied by Mack's VR Coaster unit

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — Lego toy-brick fans, start your engines... The Great Lego Race is now underway at **Legoland Florida Resort**.

The park's wild mouse-style roller coaster, formerly known as Project X, now carries guests into a 360-degree, brick-built virtual reality (VR) world depicting a road rally with **Lego Minifigures** — including a pirate, a wizard, a surfer and more — driving an array of imaginative vehicles. The ride reopened in March after a fairly swift, though long in the planning, retheming, retrofitting and freshening up.

(The coaster, which began life as Jungle Coaster in 2004 at **Legoland Windsor Resort** in the U.K. before it was relocated to Legoland Florida in 2011, gave its last rides as Project X on Jan. 8.)



A Mack Rides-manufactured roller coaster formerly called Project X provides the physical sensation for the VR experience of **The Great Lego Race**, which utilizes technology created by Mack's VR Coaster subsidiary to create a 360-degree, Lego brick-built world. COURTESY LEGOLAND FLORIDA RESORT

The laws of physics and aerodynamics only loosely apply in **The Great Lego Race**. Wearing optional VR headsets, riders experience the point of view of a Lego race car driver with action taking place in every direction — up, down, forward, backward and all points in between.

Developed under the supervision of **Merlin Magic Making**, the global creative division of Legoland chain operator **Merlin**

Entertainments Group, the concept is billed as the first VR coaster experience designed for kids. A similar coaster retheming and upgrading debuted at **Legoland Malaysia Resort** last year, and another is in the works at **Legoland Deutschland Resort** in Günzburg, Germany. It also represents the first time the Lego brand and Minifigure characters have been integrated with VR in a theme park attraction.



"The Great Leo Race was inspired by the way kids play with Lego toys at home," said **Candy Holland**, senior creative director for **Merlin Magic Making**. "It's a unique Lego adventure that lets kids enter an epic, imaginary world made entirely from Lego bricks."

Merlin worked with the coaster's original manufacturer, **Mack Rides** of Germany, on the attraction's makeover and coordinated with Mack's

VR Coaster subsidiary on the media overlay. The two-and-a-half-year development process included the rendering of the 360-degree animation by U.K.-based **Figment Productions** to specifications set by **The Lego Group**, ensuring that the digital environment faithfully represented models and landscapes that could be built from real Lego bricks.

► See LEGO, page 19

'Walking Dead,' Triotech bring frightful fun to Downtown Vegas

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

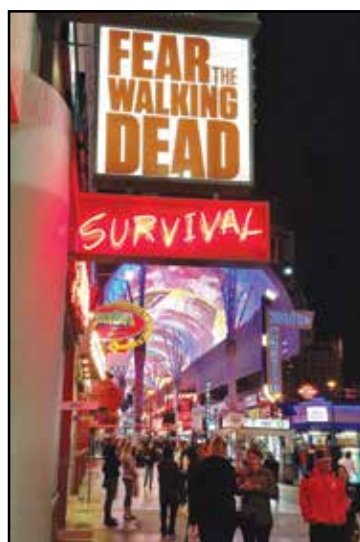
LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Already a sight to behold with its flood of risqué street performers and freely imbibing visitors, the **Fremont Street Experience** in Downtown Las Vegas got a whole lot freakier — and frightening, in an agreeable way — with the debut of **Fear the Walking Dead Survival** late last summer.

Amusement Today caught up with the zombie-themed combination walk-through / escape room / motion simulator attraction during **Amusement Expo International** in early March. Inspired by the hit AMC television series, it occupies a storefront near the base of the **SlotZilla** zipline structure, just beyond the east end of Fremont Street's massive canopy.

Groups of up to 12 at a time are led into the 20-minute attraction, which is fronted by a gift shop and a gruesome scene of a crashed jeep and deceased driver. An apocalyptic waiting/pre-

show area is filled with missing persons notices, breaking news footage about a viral outbreak in L.A. and perhaps the most ominous warnings ever for guests with physical conditions that could be aggravated by extreme thrills and motion. It all builds unease as much as anticipation.

Like the most effective mazes produced by **Knott's Scary Farm** and **Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios**, **Fear the Walking Dead Survival** features a number of rooms — here set within a makeshift military facility — that increasingly amp the scares, with several live actors keeping the participants moving forward as well as jumping out at them in the growlingly grotesque, in-your-face fashion established by the TV show. An unnerving combination of sound and shadowy lighting effects, plus some claustrophobia-enhancing gimmicks, make it almost a relief to arrive at the motion simulator, where the climactic, interactive 3D zombie battle (involving electronic weaponry) unfolds.



Expanding the attractions area at the east end of the **Fremont Street Experience**, **Fear the Walking Dead Survival** features a gruesome entrance / pre-show area and a motion simulator-based 3D zombie battle.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA

The attraction represents a creative and IP alliance between the Fremont Street Experience, AMC and Montréal-based **Triotech** — extending to co-ownership by the latter company, which



specializes in high-tech interactive gaming rides and equipment. Devoting more than a year to development, Triotech scripted, manufactured and installed the attraction, while the Fremont Street

Experience handles its day-to-day management.

"[Las Vegas] is the ideal place for a futuristic, immersive and interactive attraction,

► See VEGAS, page 19

►LEGO

Continued from page 18

The adventure actually begins as guests step through the ride's new entry portal, which features large versions of several Minifigure racers and their custom Lego vehicles. The queue is filled with colorful graphics representing each of the five racing teams, with themed elements to entertain waiting riders and video screens demonstrating the VR experience.

Once guests begin the journey in the ride vehicles, the VR visuals are synched with the coaster's twists, drops and climbs — creating an all-new experience filled with action, surprises and humor.

The Great Lego Race reaches a height of 51.8 feet and a top speed of 35 mph along more than 1,300 feet of track. Riders must be at least



For the second year in a row, the family-oriented music group Kidz Bop Kids will bring their national concert tour to Legoland Florida Resort. The group will appear Nov. 10-12 and perform two concerts each day. COURTESY LEGOLAND FLORIDA RESORT

six years old and 48 inches tall to wear the VR headsets, which are sanitized after each use and inspected regularly.

In other Legoland Florida news, the resort announced

that, for the second year in a row, the family-oriented pop music group **Kidz Bop Kids** will bring their national concert tour to the park on Nov. 10-12. The group will perform

two concerts each day and extend meet-and-greet opportunities to park guests. All of the fun is included with regular park admission.

•legoland.com

►VEGAS

Continued from page 18

tion," said **Ernest Yale**, Triotech president and CEO. "Fear the Walking Dead Survival incorporates many of our technologies and is a first for us in terms of creativity and immersion as well as a business model."

Historic Fremont Street, for its part, is banking on lively returns from this invasion of the not-quite-dead.

"We're always looking to create the optimum experience for our guests, including tourists and locals alike," said **Patrick Hughes**, Fremont Street Experience president and CEO. "We're excited to partner with Triotech, along with AMC. This new attraction will not only benefit Downtown Las Vegas, but the city as a destination."

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Toverland to unveil new entrance area with major expansion

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

SEVENUM, Netherlands — **Toverland** theme park will become one-and-a-half times larger, and more elaborate in layout, with its scheduled introduction in July of a new entrance area along with a previously announced attractions section.



Toverland's reimagined gateway, called Port Laguna, has been described by the park as a place where guests — with the wave of a special electronic wand — can “practice real magic.” It features ponds with reflective azure water and a beach, and it has been designed to provide relaxing welcome and farewell bookends to an exciting day of rides and attractions.

Central to the new entrance area is Via Magia, a boulevard that leads visitors to other areas of the park. Lining the pedestrian thoroughfare will be shops, eateries, shows, games and an iconic lighthouse.



Set to debut in July along with Avalon, a themed attractions area that is the largest expansion in the park's history, Toverland's new Port Laguna gateway will offer guests a respite from the bigger thrills as well as interactive opportunities for visitors to wave electronic wands — with magical results. COURTESY TOVERLAND

According to **Caroline Kortooms**, Toverland general director, Port Laguna will become “the place where our guests love to stay. Full of warmth and color.”

Tucked inside Port Laguna's storefronts and alcoves are magical scenes that can be discovered with a provided map. The interactive scenes are activated by guests with the wave of an electronic wand.

“This shows that our park is truly worthy of the name Toverland [i.e., Magicland],” Kortooms said.

A highlight of Via Magia is the Magic Store, operated by the fictional Magistralis family, who have collected all the valuables and bottles that have washed up on the Port Laguna beach for generations. These scavenged items are carefully “wizard-tested” in the Magiezijn (i.e., magi-



cal warehouse) before they are sold in the shop.

Visitors may enter the Magiezijn to discover other forms of magic during an interactive show.

Aside from Port Laguna, Toverland also is moving toward completion of its new themed area, Avalon. Highlights of the section include a wing coaster called Fēnix and Merlin's Quest, a fantasy boat ride. At seven

hectares in size, it represents the largest expansion in the park's history.

With these and still more expansions and upgrades in the planning, including a four-star hotel, Toverland has indicated that it is aiming to increase visitor length of stay — with its ultimate aim to attract one million visitors annually.

• toverland.com

Europa-Park brushing up on its French for big summer season

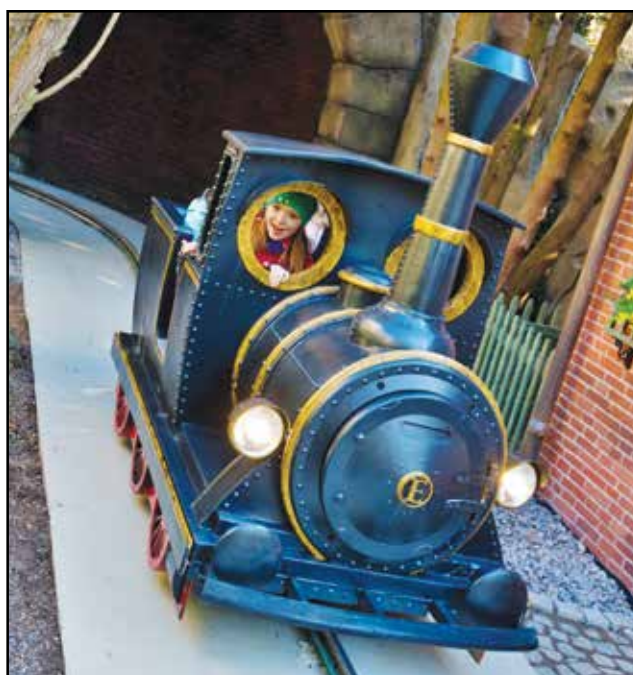
RUST, Germany — France will be a special focus of **Europa-Park** during its summer season, which began March 24 — with the theme park's corresponding section undergoing a thorough updating among other changes and additions elsewhere around the sprawling property.

The big news in the French-themed area is the refurbishment and retheming of Eurosat, the roller coaster inside the park's iconic geodesic sphere. **Mack Rides'** makeover of the attraction, renamed Eurosat — CanCan Coaster, includes larger, more comfortable vehicles and improved tracks for a better riding experience, plus Euro Coastality — a virtual reality option from **Mack Media** with its own station, track switches and carriages (a first in the realm of VR coaster attractions). The ride opens this summer.

The entrance zone to the area has undergone some redesign in the style of tra-



Mack family members (from left) Jürgen, Michael, Thomas and Roland revealed the redesigned lead vehicle of the rethemed Eurosat — CanCan Coaster earlier this season. Already delighting Europa-Park visitors is the new mini-railroad adventure **Michael Ende's Jim Button — Journey through Morrowland**, inspired by the German cultural touchstone and a concurrent feature film release. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK



ditional Parisian architecture, including a replica of the famous **Moulin Rouge** variety theater — transporting visitors back to the 19th century. Madame Freudenreich

Curiosités, occupying the former Universe of Energy attraction space, offers a quirky, amusing dinosaur-themed adventure, while Liberté, a floating bistro on

the lake, invites relaxation and affords views of a spectacular water fountain show accompanied by traditional French music.

Also new for the sum-

mer season, in the park's adjacent German-themed area, the train-style family ride formerly known as Old 99 has been rethemed as Michael Ende's **Jim Button — Journey through Morrowland**. The makeover coincides with the release of the feature film *Jim Button and Luke the Engine Driver*, which opened in theaters in Germany in late March.

Meanwhile, construction on the year-round water park Rulantica continues near Europa-Park's gates. The 450,000-square-meter resort extension, sporting a Nordic theme and containing 25 water attractions, is expected to open by the end of next year. Visitors can get an early look at what to expect from Rulantica via the exhibition “Journey to Rulantica,” located in the former Historama in the Luxemborg-themed area; and “Rulantica — The Musical,” in the baroque Europa-Park Teatro in the park's Italian-themed area.

—Dean Lamanna



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Family Entertainment Group acquires three Going Bonkers Fun Centers

ITASCA, Ill. — **Family Entertainment Group (FEG)** announced in March that it has acquired three **Going Bonkers Family Fun Centers** in Quincy, Ill.; Columbia, Mo.; and Topeka, Kansas.

The Going Bonkers locations were previously owned and operated by **Richard and Lori Houseweart** and **Tim Anderson**. The Housewearts and Anderson will continue to operate the Lewisville, Texas, location in addition to managing their other business interests.

Richard Houseweart stated, "I've been fortunate to work with many companies over the years. I can honestly say without reservation that none have been more honest, fair and pleasant to deal with than FEG. We are confident that Going Bonkers is in good hands going forward."

According to **Ray Smith**, director of business development at FEG, "Going Bonkers is a perfect fit aligning with our strategy of acquiring high-quality, well-operated locations and driving the business to the next level through strategic investment, technology and innovation."

As part of the acquisition, FEG is excited to enhance the facilities over the next year through the installation of a new games and attractions package, restaurant expansion, exterior renovations and improved online presence. The locations will also be included in Family Entertainment Groups' Bonkers brand.

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Park Post-its



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Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa., will feature **Thomas the Tank Engine**, along with his friends and favorite destinations from the Island of Sodor, for the 2018 season. Kennywood General Manager **Jerome Gibas** said the park's new Thomas Town, a permanent attraction, is helping Kennywood celebrate its 120th anniversary and is one of the largest single-year additions in all that time.

Along with the characters, the area also will feature five rides, with four new ones and the retheming of the Olde Kennywood Rail Road into a Thomas & Friends story. The area also will include a retail center, soft-play area, birthday center and the entertainment show featuring Thomas' friends Percy, James, Emily and Gordon. All the attractions will be placed in and around the existing footprint of the park's train ride, which has operated at Kennywood with various themes since 1945.

More details were to be revealed as opening date approached. Kennywood opens for the 2018 season on May 5 for weekends and then full time operation on May 24.

Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia, Calif., in partnership with **Warner Bros. Consumer Products**, on behalf of **DC Entertainment**, opened a new extreme virtual reality (VR) experience in late March. For a limited time, guests can experience the new DC Heroes Drop of Doom VR. Riders don special VR headsets to view the action as Superman and Wonder Woman battle their nemesis, Lex Luthor, while plunging 400 feet at speeds up to 85 mph.

The Drop of Doom, manufactured by **Intamin**, opened at the California Six Flags Park in 2012. This year when riders buckle into their floorless seats and strap on their VR headsets, they are immersed into a 360-degree virtual world where they are unwittingly invited by DC Super-Villain, Lex Luthor, to test the newest LexCorp levitation technology. The VR experience is using **Samsung Gear VR** headsets.

Among the highlights of this interactive story line include: Lex Luthor levitating riders with his anti-gravity ray gun as they begin to float upwards, rising high above the skyscrapers; Wonder Woman and Superman dashing to the rescue with an epic battle ensuing high in the air over Metropolis; Wonder Woman clashing with an army of flying LexBots while Superman is in fierce combat with Lex Luthor; and high in the sky, the battle starts spinning out of control with riders falling 1,000 feet, straight down, to the city streets far below.

In March, county commissioners of Blair County, Pa., in which Altoona, Pa., home of **Lakemont Park** is located, approved an amendment to the Lakemont Partnership lease, allowing Lakemont to remain closed for a second summer while renovations are under-

way. The park, set to reopen in spring 2019, is undergoing a transformational renovation from what was once a conventional amusement park to what will become a family entertainment center with family-focused programming and entertainment in addition to some amusements.

Renovations began in March.

Darien Lake Theme Park Resort, Darien Lake, N.Y., is extending its operating season in 2018 to incorporate its new fall event, Jack-o-Lantern Jamboree set to run Sept. 28-Oct. 29, 2018.

The Jack-o-Lantern Jamboree will feature pumpkin-themed entertainment including specialty foods, costume contests, a trick-or-treat trail, a pie-eating contest and a brand-new laser light show.

In addition, park guests will have the unique opportunity to bring a carved jack-o-lantern to help Darien Lake break the **Guinness World Record** for most carved pumpkins in a line.

Guests at **Sea Life Aquarium Legoland California Resort**, Carlsbad, can now take a splash in the ocean without ever getting wet and become a shark explorer at the attractions' two newest exhibits: Sea at Night and Shark Mission. Both exhibits allow guests to learn about marine life in a fun and interactive way.

Sea at Night invites guests to jump, leap and splash into simulated bioluminescent waves that react to their footsteps. The reaction created by the guests' movements demonstrates the effect of a glowing tide similar to ones often seen along the Pacific coastline.

Shark Mission allows kids to come face to fin with six different species of sharks and rays on three giant touch screens. Young explorers can learn about anatomy, conservation and other cool facts through interactive activities and games. Guests can also hold a shark's tooth, learn about shark skin and eggs, plus step into a shark cage.

The attraction opened March 16.

A **Jefferson Memorial Forest** parks administrator in Louisville, Ky., announced in March that **Kentucky Kingdom** is finalizing a contract with the **Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation Department** to operate the zipline attraction at the 6,600-acre forest.

This attraction, to be called "Zipline Kingdom — An Adventure at Jefferson Memorial Forest," offers a unique three-hour, highly interactive experience. Besides allowing riders to enjoy the view of the wooded terrain from 30 feet up, the zipline also connects riders with 39 different activities, among them Tarzan swings, a zig-zag suspended bridge, rope ladders, a log swing, a plank crossing, a half trapeze, a net tunnel and a "flying carpet."

One restaurant at **Dollywood** in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., has been recast this year with a little help from another iconic Tennessee brand, **Lodge Manufacturing Company**, located in South Pittsburg, Tenn. Aunt Granny's All-You-Care-To-Eat Buffet will now include carving stations as well as new menu items such as Southwestern herb baked chicken, country chicken & dumplings, roasted red-skinned potatoes with cheddar cheese & bacon, corn puddin', and much more. The park has already opened for the new season.



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Park's guests learn the ropes on courses by Innovative Leisure

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

U.K. adventure attractions specialist **Innovative Leisure**.

HEWISH, England — **Puxton Park** near Bristol has introduced new activities from

the company's Sky Trail high ropes and Sky Tykes junior ropes courses. The attractions

debuted March 24.

Featuring a variety of challenging elements that test users both physically and mentally, the Sky Trail high ropes course incorporates two elements appearing for the first time in the U.K. — a rolling log and a wave tunnel.

With the former, participants attempt to cross a "log" either while holding hand lines or without the aid of the lines. With the latter, when participants step onto the wave tunnel, it begins to wobble — affording a challenge that is more fun than technical.

The high ropes course also allows guests to walk out over a plank toward the park's narrow-gauge railway and lake, creating some scenic thrills.

Covering an area 25.7 meters by 14.7 meters, and taking participants six meters above the ground, the Sky Trail course presently offers a single level that is expandable. It can be enjoyed by visitors of varying ages who meet certain height requirements; for example, children meeting a minimum height of one meter are able to participate if accompanied by an adult.

The Sky Tykes junior course provides an introduction to the

ropes activity for park guests ages two to seven, with or without an accompanying adult.

The new attractions are included in Puxton Park's admission price.

"The grand opening of our high ropes course was a great success — with visitors queuing up hours before the attraction opened," said **Alistair Mead**, park managing director. "We expect our membership numbers to increase massively with the addition of this exciting new attraction, as it has undoubtedly raised Puxton

Park's adventure factor to another level."

He praised the Innovative Leisure team for integrating the courses "seamlessly" with the park's existing landscape and attractions.

"Since opening over 10 years ago, we have worked hard to add new and exciting attractions every year, but this may be one of my favorites," Mead said. "We're looking forward to witnessing children and parents alike enjoying this new attraction for years to come."

• innovativeleisure.co.uk



Puxton Park's new ropes courses from Innovative Leisure have been engineered for fun and safety, and they accommodate guests of varying ages. The courses blend aesthetically with the adventure park's landscape.

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Houston Rodeo boosts city morale, breaks attendance records

Ray Cammack Shows supplies vibrant midway

AT: B. Derek Shaw
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HOUSTON, Texas — Dynamic bookend concerts by **Garth Brooks** raised spirits and key numbers at the 20-day **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo**.

The annual event promoting agriculture and showcasing Western heritage, held Feb. 27-March 18 at **NRG Park**, broke a couple of daily attendance records — thanks to the singer's performances on opening and closing nights. First-day attendance was just over 75,000, while the tally on the final day, which also featured two auctions, hit an all-time record of 75,577.

Overall attendance came in at 2,408,550, well short of last year's record-setting 2,611,176.

"Many in Houston are still dealing with the after-effects of Hurricane Harvey," said **Joel**

Cowley, the event's president and CEO. "While our attendance for 2018 was lower than in years past, this Houston tradition offered an opportunity for the community to come together after a tough year."

Cowley described the 2018 presentation as "the best ever" in the show's 86-year history. It included an updated, state-of-the-art concert stage and a more consistently branded look enhanced by the use of the show's signature orange and blue colors throughout the grounds.

The celebration of a very relevant theme — the Spirit of the Volunteer — was an important part of the package.

"Thanks to our more than 33,000 volunteers, we are able to continue to produce an amazing event while supporting the youth of Texas," Cowley said.

Garth Brooks was the first entertainer to step onto the new star-shaped, rotating concert stage. Its impressive stats include a 48-foot-diameter performance area with five radial star points extending outward 36 feet, each capable of being raised or lowered individually or simultaneously. In addition, the stage features 434 lights; a 28-foot-tall, motion-controlled video backdrop; and a laser-guided positioning system, which moves the stage to the precise center of NRG Stadium for performances.

The stage was engineered and manufactured by **TAIT**, an entertainment automation technology company that has created custom stage rigging and sets for singers **Pink** and **Justin Timberlake**, among others.

Ray Cammack Shows, Inc., provided the sprawling midway, which encompassed 79 rides, 57 games and 40 food outlets. New rides this year included **Extreme (Technical Park)**, a velocity swing ride reaching heights of 65 feet while rotating; **Flying Jumbo (Kolmax Plus)**, an interactive family ride; and **Konga (KMG)**, a jungle-themed bench ride with high-speed side-to-side movement and a water feature. Also new was **Rockin' Rodeo (Owen Trailers)**, a two-story, rodeo-themed mirror maze with a classic glass house on the first



Massive crowds (above) broke attendance records during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. **RCS** helped provide 79 rides for the 20-day event. A new 126-foot-wide stage inside NRG Stadium was engineered and manufactured by **TAIT**. For the second time the 164-foot-tall **Le Grande R50XL Wheel (Ron Bussink)** graced the grounds (below right). COURTESY RCS INC.; HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO



New rides to this year's lineup included **Extreme (Technical Park)** velocity swing ride, **Flying Jumbo (Kolmax Plus)** interactive family ride, and **Konga (KMG)** jungle themed bench ride. COURTESY HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO

floor, trick mirrors on the second floor and a spiral slide providing a zippy finish.

The top-grossing rides were the 164-foot-tall **Le Grande R50XL Wheel (Ron Bussink)**, **SkyRide (Seatrek)**, **Windstorm (SDC)**, **Rave Wave (Reverchon)** and **Crazy Coaster wild mouse (Zamperla)**.

Attractions from six independent ride operators filled out the rest of the midway. Rides included **Airmax (Dance Party from Guernieri & C. s.r.l.)**; **Speedway (Zamperla Kiddie Whip)**; **Windsurf (Soriani s.r.l., via Caprice Enterprises)**; **German Fun House (GGW)**;

Storm (Wisdom, via Joy Rides); **Extreme (KMG Afterburner)**, **Centrifuge (Wisdom Gravitron, via Luehrs' Ideal Rides)**; **Windstorm roller coaster (SDC, via SJ Entertainment)**; **Bungee Jump (Funtime)**; and **Sling Shot (Gravity Works, via AM)**.

Cowley pointed out that midway revenues and visitor length of stay were up this year. "It was a strong year, and there was greater excitement on the grounds," he said. "When we look at per capita spending, we believe attendees spent more time here, since they spent more money."

New this year was **The Lone**

Star Market, an outdoor shopping location on the west side of the **NRG Astrodome**. Featuring new local businesses, it offered a variety of products from leather goods to artwork.

Founded in 1932, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has committed more than \$450 million to the youth of Texas. This year's educational funding includes \$14.27 million in scholarships, more than \$8 million in junior show/calf scramble participants, more than \$3.7 million in program grants and \$586,000 in graduate assistantships.

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Finland fairgrounds recognized as intangible cultural heritage

HELSINKI, Finland — The recognition of traditional fairgrounds across Europe as important examples of intangible cultural heritage has continued to widen.

According to the definition provided by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, which has officially recognized locations and forms of world cultural heritage since 1972, intangible cultural heritage is a protective designation for traditions and customs passed down through generations. These include singing, dancing, theater and music, as well as rituals and festivals.

Following similar recognition at the national level given in France, Italy and Belgium (Flanders), fairgrounds in Finland have been added to the country's national intangible cultural heritage list. Last December, **Tuomo and Mari Seiterä**, representatives of the **Finnish Fairground and Circus Association**, were presented with the admission certificate during a ceremony at the **National Museum of Finland** in Helsinki.

In addition to fairgrounds, circuses were included on the cultural list.

The **European Showmen's Union (ESU)** congratulated its Finnish colleagues on the



Tuomo and Mari Seiterä of the Finnish Fairground and Circus Association, together with Johanna Mäkelä of the organization CircusInfo Finland, proudly display the official national recognition of Finland's fairgrounds and circuses as part of the country's intangible cultural heritage.

COURTESY FINNISH FAIRGROUND AND CIRCUS ASSOC.

honor, which was awarded by the **Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture**.

"This award is the reward for the long-term commitment of our friends in Finland," said **Albert Ritter**, ESU president. "I'm confident that in all European countries, long-term fairgrounds will be recognized as intangible cultural heritage. We will continue to be active in the ESU for this purpose."

For Mari Seiterä, inclusion in the national list of intangible cultural heritage demonstrates a great appreciation of fairground tradition and showmen.

"For generations, we have been committed to the future of fairgrounds, and this important work comes from the heart," Seiterä said. "The award also helps make this work more transparent and public."

The next step would be the inclusion of Finnish fairgrounds culture on UNESCO's international list of intangible cultural heritage. Nominations for this list can be submitted by national governments to UNESCO — in this case, the nominating body would be the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.

•esu-ufe.eu

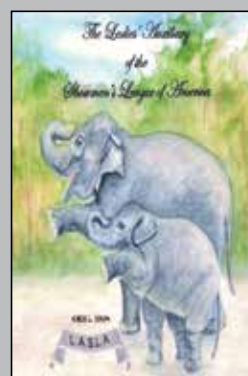
Auxiliary's 100th year a focus of Showmen's Rest memorial

FOREST PARK, Ill. — The **Ladies' Auxiliary of the Showmen's League of America** will hold an ecumenical and historical memorial service on May 17 at **Showmen's Rest** in **Woodlawn Cemetery**.

The event commemorates the 100th anniversary of the auxiliary, which was formed as a result of the **Hagenback-Wallace Circus** train wreck and fire. The tragedy, which destroyed three sleeping cars, took the lives of 86 — including showpeople en route to a performance in Hammond, Ind.

Surrounded by five elephant-shaped monuments with trunks lowered in mourning, Showmen's Rest is the final resting place for many showpeople. Fifty-six victims of the train wreck were buried in a mass grave at the site.

"This is a solemn event, not an entertainment event," said **Al Slaggert**, memorial program chair. The memorial will emphasize how



the tragedy led to "a real opportunity, for the Showmen's League and the Ladies Auxiliary to step forward as a charitable organization."

The mass grave was donated after the tragedy by the **Showmen's League of America**. The Ladies Auxiliary sprang into action by collecting clothing, costumes, rigging and other needed replacement equipment to get the circus back on its feet for its next stop two days later in Beloit, Wisc.

Ron Grossman, a columnist and writer for the **Chicago Tribune** who has researched the subject, will be among those speaking at the service.

The memorial is set for 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at 7750 West Cermak Road in Forest Park. For more about the service and related history, visit showmensleague.org.

—B. Derek Shaw



Nearly 500,000 attend 67th Miami-Dade County Youth Fair

NAME provides 96-ride midway

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

MIAMI, Fla. — The Miami-Dade County Youth Fair & Exposition, Inc., known to most attendees as **The Youth Fair**, is the largest non-profit charity event in South Florida.

This year the 21-day fair, held between March 15 and April 8, drew 475,000 attendees. (For reasons not yet known to organizers before *Amusement Today* went to press, the tally was down 21.5 percent from 2017.)

The event transformed 86-acre **Tamiami Park** — the site of the fair since 1972 — into a midway loaded with rides, games, food and family fun along with agricultural and educational exhibits. Several concerts were among the livelier offerings.

"The theme of the 2018 Youth Fair was 'Adventure Awaits,'" said **Claudia Hernandez-Maltes**, director of marketing and entertainment. "We had four new rides, new concerts, more than 10 new foods and new strolling entertainment. We saw our highest attendance during concert days on Fridays and Saturdays, as well as during the last weekend, which always does very well for us."

The fair also offered regional Mexican-genre bands for the first time. Other musical acts included **TLC** and **Nelly**.

Among the new food items enjoyed by attendees were Flaming Hot Cheeto Corn, Crispy Alligator Bites, Chocolate-Covered



The weather was perfect during the 21-day Miami-Dade County Youth Fair held in Tamiami Park, which has been home to the annual fair since 1972. Two of the five top grossing rides include the Sky Ride (left) and a Chance Giant Wheel, visible behind Sugar Shakers Elephant Ears stand (right). COURTESY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY YOUTH FAIR; CYNTHIA WRIGHT

Strawberry Waffle Bombs, Raspberry Crème Funnel Cakes and Waybetter Strawberry Milk Shakes.

Special promotions helped bolster attendance.

"We usually do online promotions before the fair starts — as early as Thanksgiving and continuing during the holidays, as well as during Valentine's Day," Hernandez-Maltes said. "We had two special online promotions that were a total success. One was called Fair Expo Grille, which consisted of two admission tickets with unlimited rides, plus a \$10 voucher to be used at Fair Expo Grille — all for \$70. We also had another online promotion, BOGO — buy one admission for \$14 and get the second admission for free."

Farmland, Ind.-based **North American Midway Entertainment** (NAME) brought 95 rides to the fair-

grounds, including 51 major rides and 44 kiddie rides. Three other operators contributed to that total: **Jeremy Floyd**, with three rides, and **Modern Midways** and **Mark Cockerham**, with one each. NAME has played the fair since 2005.

"It's always the big kick-off to our season," said **Amy Girton**, vice president of marketing for NAME. "Each year, we bring fresh ideas and rides to the midway to please the kids and excite the thrill-goers. We are proud to offer something for the whole family to enjoy."

Debuting at the fair was NAME's refurbished **Chance Rides Zipper**, featuring new open-style gondolas and over-the-shoulder restraints. "The ride was taken down to its structural base and has all-new supports, tracks, trolleys and cables," said Girton, noting that an LED lighting package and new electronics also were added. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the popular ride concept.

A handful of rides were new to the fair in 2018. They included **Hyper Loop** (Technical Park), **Hard Rock** (Fabbri Stargate 2), **Wiggle Wurm** (Majestic), **Frog Hopper** (S&S Mfg.) and **Dragon Coaster** (Jung Mfg.).

The five highest-grossing rides were Sky Ride, Niagara Falls (Reverchon Spinning Coaster), Crazy Mouse roller coaster (Zamperla), Polar Express (Mack Rides) and the Giant



Wheel (Chance Rides).

A major improvement at the fair this year was transportation.

"We had four new trams with continuous service from opening to closing time every day," Hernandez-Maltes said. "We installed a new digital marquee on Coral Way and 109 Avenue [Gate 2 entrance], where we communicated many of our online promotions, concerts, etc."

Magic Money wristbands were offered to guests for the second time this year. The technology enhanced fairgoers' experience via paperless ticketing and scanning.

"In 2017, the wristbands could only be used for rides

and games, but this year guests could also use them to purchase food and beverages," Hernandez-Maltes said. "And for the first time, we had our Youth Fair Ambassadors at the front gate to welcome our guests and to answer any questions they had before proceeding to the ticket windows."

The Youth Fair is dedicated to promoting education and agriculture while showcasing and rewarding youth achievement and providing quality family entertainment — all without taxpayer dollars. It also exhibits more than 63,000 student projects.

Next year's fair opens March 14.

• thefair.me/thefair



As seen in this midway view, the fair's crowds were robust on most days. This was the second year Magic Money wristbands were deployed. COURTESY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY YOUTH FAIR



Technical Park's Hyper Loop (left) was a popular ride during The Youth Fair's 67th annual run. NAME debuted its refurbished Chance Rides Zipper, featuring new open-style gondolas and over-the-shoulder restraints. COURTESY NAME; CYNTHIA WRIGHT



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WATER PARKS & RECREATION

► Royal Caribbean's latest record-breaking ship — Page 36

Aqua Planet welcomes guests to newest water park in the Philippines

AT: Jeffrey Seifert

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PAMPANGA, Philippines — **Aqua Planet**, the newest park in the Philippines opened to the public on February 24. The nearly 25-acre property cost more than \$49 million (2.5 billion PH Pesos) to construct and claims to be one of the largest water parks in the Philippines. The facility can accommodate up to 3,500 guests on 25 water attractions including a FlowRider, spiral slides, a bowl slide, tornado-style slide, multilane racing slide, lazy river, wave pool, and a children's interactive water play structure.

Aquatic Development Group of New York designed and developed the property for resort owners **BB International Leisure and Resort Development**, along with locally based **Morris International Recreation Technology** serving as consultants.

In addition to design and planning, ADG provided the equipment required for wave generation, water filtration, water flow pumps and a Flow Rider surf simulator.

Water quality management is automated by computer systems that monitor the PH level, chlorine, and other chemicals to ensure the water inside the park is safe and clean. Four state-of-the-art filtration systems run 24-7 making sure that on average, all of the water in the facility is cycled through the system 16 times per day.

The wave generation equipment supplied by ADG for Boogie Bay, is capable of producing eight different types of waves. The Bubbly Bay children's area includes an interactive water-play structure and a wave pool



This aerial (above) gives a nice view of the park layout, its 38 waterslides and attractions as well as its location within the Clark Freeport Zone. The six-lane octopus racing slide (right) offers a quick thrill and keeps lines moving. COURTESY AQUA PLANET



specifically for children. The pool features three different types of gentle waves. The back-drop of the Boogie Bay wave pool includes a 600-inch LED television screen that is bright enough to display video day and night. Comfortable chairs, umbrella tables and 24 beach cabanas line the front, shallow end of the pool.

Chengdu Tailong Amusement Industry of Chendu, China, supplied the waterslides. Most appear to be copies of attractions that were designed and developed by the well-known Canadian waterslide suppliers. Even the attraction names are similar: Aqua Loop, Super Bowl, Octopus Racers, and Tornado.

The beach cabanas, located in front of the wave pool, Boogie Bay, are available for rent and feature a sofa, chairs and table, a fan for ventilation and a safe to secure valuables. Each can accommodate up to 15 people.

Additional cabanas are placed throughout the park; 13 Bubbly Bay cabanas are conveniently placed in the children's

area, Bubbly Bay, so families with small children can set up a home base there. The island and palmera cabanas are ideal for large families or groups, as each can accommodate up to 25 guests.

In addition to the cabanas, the park has seating for more than 3,000 provided by umbrella tables with chairs and lounge chairs that are free for guests to use. 600 lockers are available for rent and WiFi is available throughout the park.

Aqua Planet is cashless and the facility partnered with **Semnox Solutions** of Karnataka, India, to provide RFID wristbands to each guest purchasing an admission. Wristbands are used to access lockers, and to purchase food, beverages and items at the gift shops and boutiques. The wristbands are also color coded by height. Adult guests receive a green wristband; those under 48 inches are given an orange wristband, indicating they are prohibited from riding certain high-thrill attractions. Kiosks are strategically located throughout the park to reload wristbands once the bal-

ance gets low or is depleted.

Safety Skills Training of Dubai, UAE, provided risk management and safety consultation as well as training and certification of the staff and more than 100 lifeguards. SST offers globally recognized safety training programs such as those from **Ellis & Associates**.

An extensive guest services and front line staff training program was incorporated to make certain that employees who interact with customers are friendly, accommodating and courteous. The focus is on delivering exemplary customer service in order to create the best possible water park experience.

Aqua Planet is in the **Clark Freeport Zone**, a redevelopment of the former **Clark Air Base** which the U.S. Air Force closed in 1991 after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. Four years later, following the clean-up and removal of the volcanic ash, the base reemerged as **Clark International Airport** and the **Clark Special Economic Zone**. The former base

is now home to a golf resort, a number of industrial buildings, casinos, landmarks, and retail establishments.

The park has been in soft-opening mode since November 2017. The first guests to visit the park were children brought in from local orphanages. They were given access to Bubbly Bay. Since then the park has held a number of special preview events including visits by Philippine celebrities. One lucky man got to try out the gigantic LED television by proposing to his girlfriend via a message on the screen — she said yes.

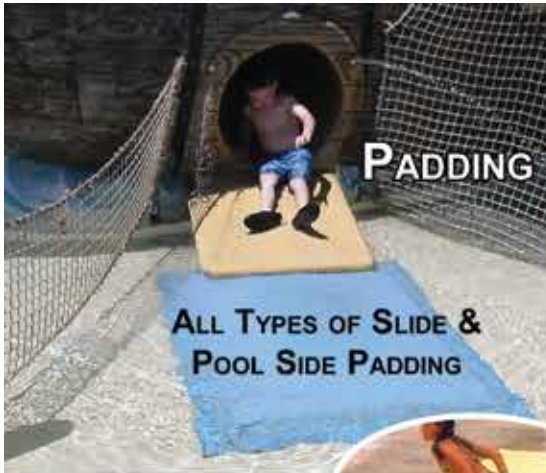
To prevent overcrowding, attendance at the park is limited to 3,500 guests. For the time being, the guests are accommodated on a first-come first-served, walk-up basis. On several normally busy operating days such as holidays and weekends, the park has reached capacity, resulting in guests being turned away at the gates. The park is expected to implement an on-line advance reservation system in the near future.



The bowl slide and tornado both utilize four-person rafts and share the same lift system. COURTESY AQUA PLANET



The split wave pool includes a peninsula for lifeguards, as well as a 600-inch LED television screen. Eight different types of waves keep guests engaged all day long. COURTESY AQUA PLANET



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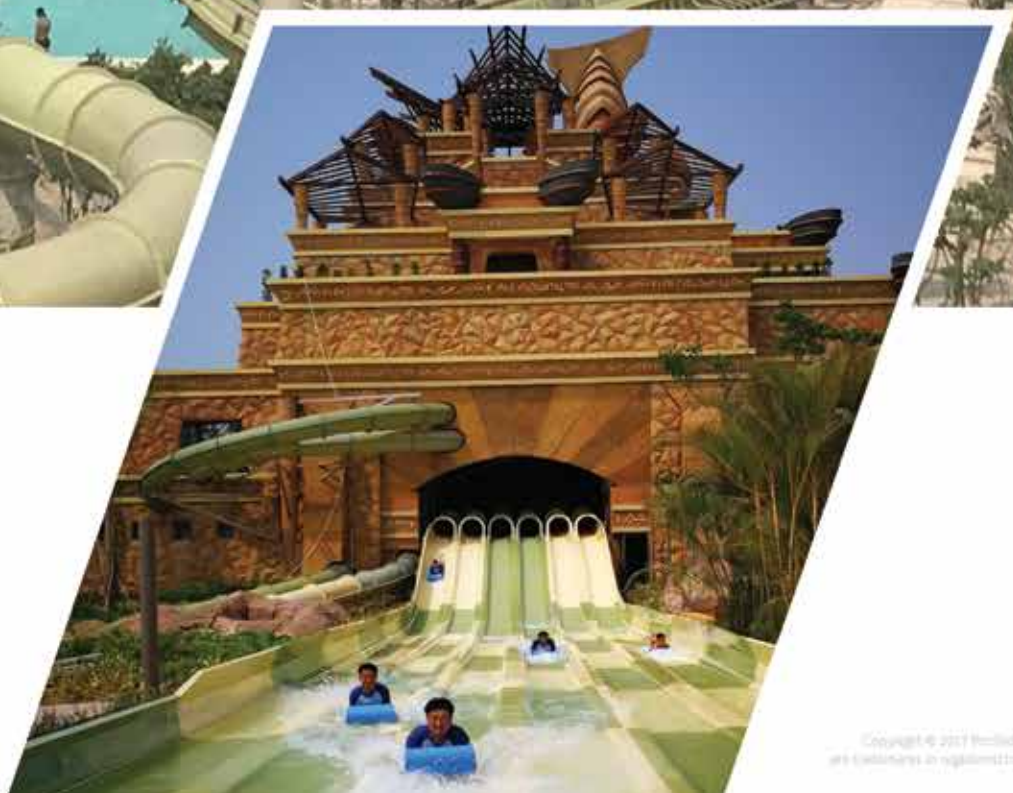
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Royal Caribbean's *Symphony of the Seas* offers an array of accommodations and activities

BARCELONA, Spain — Royal Caribbean's newest ship launched from Barcelona, Spain, on March 31, 2018. *Symphony of the Seas*, the 25th cruise ship in the Royal Caribbean line, is another record-breaker and the fourth ship in the Oasis-class series which includes *Oasis of the Seas* and *Allure of the Seas*. With a gross tonnage of 228,021, she surpasses her sister *Harmony of the Seas* by more than 1,000 GT. Built by the **Chantiers de l'Atlantique** shipyard in Saint Nazaire, France, at a cost of U.S. \$ 1.35 billion, *Symphony* is now the largest passenger ship on the planet.

The ship departed Barcelona on a Saturday evening for a five-night preview sailing to Italy. The maiden voyage, with a full complement of 5,518 guests and 2,200-member crew, departed Barcelona on April 7, for a seven-night voyage. The ship will continue cruising the Mediterranean until October of this year, then make a 12-day transatlantic crossing departing Barcelona on Oct. 28, arriving in Miami, Fla., on Sept. 11. *Symphony* will then home-port out of Miami at a brand-new cruise terminal built by Royal Caribbean. The new terminal promises to streamline boarding with the latest technological features.

As with the other Oasis-class ships, *Symphony* features a split structure, with the five-deck high Central Park and Boardwalk outdoor areas running down the middle of the ship. These areas feature lush tropical gardens with more than 12,000 plants, upscale restaurants, shops, and a working carousel.

Although they are the largest ships at sea, and capable of holding more than 7,000 people, the Oasis-class ships were built with a something-for-everyone formula that has proven to be successful. The ships continually rank at the top of guest satisfaction surveys, and demand for bookings is high. The 12-day transatlantic crossing of *Symphony* was nearly sold out before the ship had even set sail.

New ways to play on *Symphony* include **Battle for Planet Z**, Royal Caribbean's first glow-in-the-dark laser tag game, and **Escape from Rubicon**, an escape room themed to a Rubicon submarine, where guests must solve a collection of puzzles before time runs out.

Among the most notable features of *Symphony* is the ultimate family suite, a two-level, 1,346-square-foot suite that can sleep up to eight guests. It includes an 85-inch HD television, a floor-to-ceiling Lego wall, and a slide that descends from a children's bedroom on the second level to the main level. The suite is also equipped with a Royal Genie to cater to every whim.

More sophisticated suites include the 1,744-square-foot royal loft suite, some of the largest and swankiest accommodations at sea. The two-level suites feature two bedrooms, a large living room and dining area with two-deck floor to ceiling windows, its own grand piano and multiple large HD televisions that lower from the ceiling. The suite fills the entire corner on the back of decks 17 and 18. Other two-deck suite options include the crown loft and star loft suites.

Symphony features multiple outdoor pool zones on deck 15, including a beach pool with a swim-up bar. A trio of water slides from **Polin** known as the perfect storm include clear tube sections allowing passengers to watch guests as they slide by. Two **FlowRider** surf simulators are a Royal Caribbean staple. The sports pool is perfect for swimming laps in the morning, and Splashaway Bay is a water play structure suitable for children. Other outdoor attractions include a miniature golf course, rock climbing walls and a sports court. The ultimate abyss slide, a dry slide from **Wiegand**, plunges 10 decks from the deck 16 sports deck to the Boardwalk below on deck 6. Along the winding 216-foot long course thrill seekers will experience flashing lights and an audio system that plays startling sounds.

Inside the ship there are nearly two dozen restaurants and snack outlets, multiple bars, an arcade, a comedy club, jazz club, 1,401-seat Royal Theater that houses a full-size production of Broadway's *Hairspray* and even an ice rink. The 600-seat outdoor multideck AquaTheater at the ship's stern plays HiRO a high-energy, visually stunning acrobatics and aqua show.



NEWS SPLASH

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert

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Kalahari Resort Sandusky had to close temporarily after an HVAC air duct detached from the ceiling and fell into the indoor water park on March 12, 2018. The metal air duct landed in the wave pool and the children's basketball pool injuring five people — three guests and two associates. Fortunately the injuries were minor with the two associates taken to the hospital for treatment and then released. The three guests declined transport and were treated onsite. Engineers quickly went to work replacing all of the metal straps and cables that hold up the air ducts and the indoor water park reopened on March 16. Kalahari plans to redesign the system of air ducts and is waiting on approval from Huron Township. Off-gassing of chlorine and other pool chemicals can be very caustic to steel and cause fasteners to fail. Some indoor water parks have switched from galvanized steel ductwork to flexible PVC or vinyl.

Mall of America could become home to a massive indoor water park. Bloomington, Ill. city officials are conducting a feasibility study to determine the probability of success. **Triple Five**, the mall's ownership group, would lease land to the city east of the current mall. Under the proposal, the city would build and own the water park and Triple Five would operate it. Although still in the planning stages, the 250,000-square-foot water park would become one of the largest in North America. Triple Five currently operates **World Waterpark at West Edmonton Mall**, and is building **American Dream Meadowlands** in East Rutherford, N.J. That property, which has faced multiple delays, also includes a massive indoor water park.

Wavegarden, the Spanish engineering company that supplies large-scale, manmade surf pools, is building a new Wavegarden park in Australia. **Urbsurf Melbourne**, located at the Melbourne Airport, expects to be pumping out six-foot-high, ocean-like surfing waves by Easter 2019. Urbsurf, an Australian licensee of Wavegarden technology currently operates surf parks in Perth and Sydney. Urbsurf Melbourne will be a complete surf sports, entertainment and leisure facility. In addition to the Wavegarden Cove, the park will include a multioutlet food and bar section, concept retail store, fully-equipped surf and rental shop, night surfing, a surfing academy, high performance coaching and training options, fitness classes, festival and event spaces, a beach club and landscaped open spaces for relaxation.

Stand Rock Hospitality of Wisconsin Dells, Wisc., is hoping to develop a hotel water park resort in Grapevine, Texas. Initially proposed in 2016, Stand Rock intends to present a plan to the city of Grapevine planning and zoning commission this spring. The concept plan shows a \$330 million resort to be built in two phases on a 185-acre tract of land just north of **Grapevine Mills** shopping mall. The location puts the resort in close proximity to two other resort hotels with water parks that already op-

erate in the city of Grapevine — the **Gaylord Texan Resort** and **Great Wolf Lodge Grapevine**. Stand Rock feels there is enough tourism in Grapevine to justify a third resort, noting that the Gaylord attracts convention attendees and business executives from all across the country, while Great Wolf Lodge appeals to families with younger children, usually within driving distance. The yet-to-be-named Stand Rock facility plans to appeal to young adults and families with older children with water park rides geared toward tweens and young adults.

Stand Rock is probably best known for its **Wilderness at the Smokies Resort** in Sevierville, Tenn. and **Camelback Resort/Aquatopia Waterpark** in Tannersville, Pa.

On March 22, **Aqua Fun**, the first inflatable water obstacle course in Abu Dhabi, opened to the public. Located in the warm waters of the Persian Gulf just off Corniche Beach, the inflatable course is designed to spell out I ♥ AD, and can be seen from the towering hotels that border the beach. Guests are required to wear life jackets, and seven lifeguards are stationed throughout the course. This is the second Aqua Fun course in the UAE. The first, in Dubai, is shaped like Dubai's tourism logo which spells out Dubai in both English and Arabic. Both are the brainchild of **Ahmed Ben Chaibah** who, while on the beach, overheard a parent commenting they wish there was more for the kids to do at the beach. Children and adults can now bounce, climb, slide and overcome various obstacles along the course. While fun, these obstacle courses can provide an actual workout with participants burning 500 – 900 calories per hour. Both inflatable parks were manufactured by **Wibit Sports**, Bocholt, Germany.

Following three years of fundraising led by the local **Lion's Club**, the Village of Chase, B.C., is going to install a splash pad. The civic-based organization recognized the need for services and amenities for young children in the village. According to Canada's 2016 census children under the age of 14 accounted for 11 percent of the population. The local Lions Club raised funds through hot dog sales, pie sales, local dances and other small fundraisers. Plaques were sold for \$5,000 and generated about \$100,000. A \$25,000 grant from the provincial-sponsored Southern Interior Development Initiative trust brought the total to \$355,000 — enough to start construction. **Waterplay Solutions Corp.** of Kelowna, Canada, was contracted to build the splash park.

Wild Rivers, the Irvine, Calif., water park that was forced to close in 2011 for an apartment complex, may finally get rebuilt. Wild Rivers is working with the city of Irvine to open an upgraded 26-acre water park at the city's Orange County Great Park.

In March the city council approved Wild Rivers taking the next step and doing necessary environmental studies on the project before finalizing lease terms.



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BUSINESS & NEWSMAKERS

► Women of Influence — page 42 / People Watch — page 44 / Market Watch — page 45

Ferris wheel brings iconic signature to Dallas restaurant

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

DALLAS, Texas — When ordering barbeque ribs, it is common to consider your options of side dishes. Deciding whether to hop on a Ferris wheel once your hands are clean, that's something out of the ordinary.

That's what **Phil Schanbaum** was going for. Along with partner **Brandon Hays**, Schanbaum is involved in eight bars or eating establishment in the Dallas area. Each one has its own name and distinct menu.

Chef **Doug Pickering** is a graduate of the city's **Southern Methodist University**. His expertise in finely-crafted Texas barbeque eventually led him to teaching school courses on it. Pickering's skills propelled him to barbeque stardom within the city in the past few years. Pickering is a fellow partner at this restaurant.

But then, there is this



Partner **Phil Schanbaum** sits on the backyard patio in front of the 50-foot artistic statement.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



Ferris Wheelers offers fantastic smoked meats, but also signature side dishes such as jalapeno bacon cole slaw and southwestern potato salad (right). The view from the top of the wheel offers an overlook of the Dallas skyline (below right).

AT/TIM BALDWIN



wheel.

Schanbaum said with this venue, the group of partners were looking for something different. **Ferris Wheelers Backyard & BBQ** is located in Dallas's Design District, a re-developing neighborhood two miles west from the heart of downtown. Trendy enough to be hip, but never pretentious.

"The area was an up-and-coming district," said Schanbaum, "and the father of a friend of ours owned the property. We like to plant our flag in different neighborhoods around town. The [burger] company was looking to get out. With kids put through college, it was time to relax. With the area continuing to be revitalized, we found the property very valuable. When we approached this venue, we saw a big parking lot in the back, and we needed to eat up some of that space. It was excessive for a 2,500-square-foot restaurant. It is now a 7,500-square-foot patio."

The venue was designed for not only overflow crowd, but also live music with a

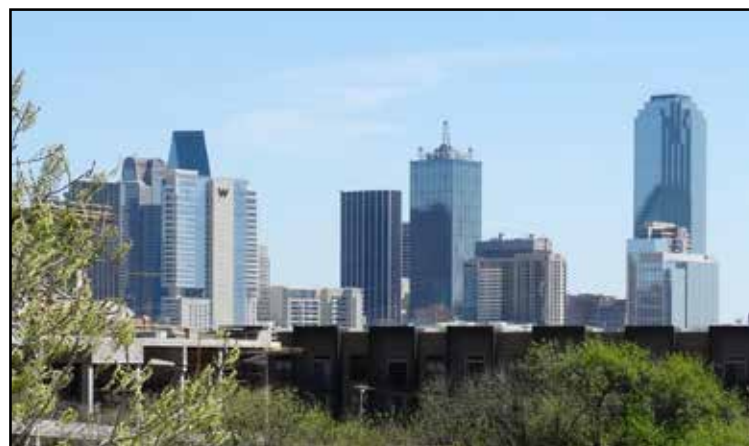


stage set up for evenings.

"Sometimes we have a couple of beers and put our creative minds to work, and we thought about something that would create an attraction — something iconic that would be a mini fixture of the skyline," Schanbaum told *Amusement Today*. "We thought about the nostalgia of a Ferris wheel, and it lights up people's faces when they see it."

Schanbaum admits that his partners had never explored the idea of an amusement ride before. "We felt, 'Why not?' Surprisingly enough, it was easy to find one. It was in pretty good condition. We made sure it was ready to go."

The wheel is a 50-foot **Eli Bridge** wheel previously



owned by a traveling carnival. Schanbaum said the rehab of the Ferris wheel went down to the nuts, bolts, cable and motor. "We wanted to make sure it was a safe environment for everyone," he said. He also comments with alcohol served, there are specific policies for riding to ensure safety.

Cody Hand, a fourth partner for this facility who also oversees ride operations, spoke toward the operation of the Ferris wheel. "It runs like a charm. Some nights we have people lined up to take a ride. It's really easy to operate, and we have three or four people trained to run it."

Operation of the wheel coincides when there is live music on the patio, which is Thursday through Sunday evening. Sunday afternoon operation is also being added. Once aboard, riders at the top get a nice overview of the skyline of Dallas.

The unique draw of the wheel has brought additional media attention, as well as company outings looking for team building. "It's something like that factor of when you were a kid. It brings you together in a happy way," Schanbaum said.

There is no charge to ride the Ferris wheel.

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Fourth location expands brand

Crayola Experience drives repeat business with creativity

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

PLANO, Texas — **Crayola Experience** evolved from a simple idea. Since 1903, **Crayola LLC** has operated in Easton, Pennsylvania, and 80 percent of the world's crayons are still produced there. What started as a small welcome center for the town of Easton, was eventually re-imagined in 2013 as Crayola Experience. This larger scale facility met the demands of its increasing popularity. Seeing potential of similar experiences elsewhere, a second location opened in **The Florida Mall** in Orlando in 2015, and **Mall of America** in Bloomington, Minnesota, welcomed a third location in 2016. In late March of this year, Plano, Texas, opened the doors to the newest property.

What was formerly a parking lot outside **The Shops at Willow Bend** has been transformed into a 60,000-square-foot indoor attraction in a matter of months.

Similar to the other installations, popular activities include naming and wrapping one's own crayons, activity centers, a Crayola-themed play structure, an entertaining show that mixes live cast members with animated characters, **Adventure Lab** and other assorted interactive opportunities. Three new additions grace the North Texas location: **Kaleidoscope**, an all-new **Melt Down**, and **Silly Selfies**. **Kaleidoscope** allows guests to move and interact with Crayola video backgrounds and create artistic effects that are then emailed to the guest. **Melt Down** finds guests drawing with melted crayons, and **Silly Selfies** places facial features the child col-



Crayola Experience in Plano, Texas, is the fourth installation of the brand. A live show (left) allows kids to see crayons made up close in person. AT/TIM BALDWIN



ors onto images and videos of him or her.

Kelly-Anne Suarez, media communications manager and spokesperson for Crayola finds the new location a perfect fit.

"Anyone familiar with this area knows how family centric it is and how warm and welcoming it is. Ours is a family attraction. The people of North Texas have been so effusive with their welcome of us. We've had great success in every market, but the people of Texas on social media have been especially (pause) ... I cannot tell you. We had 20,000 followers — in a day," Suarez told *Amusement Today*. "We could not be happier here."



Suarez

Scott Poling, general manager, Plano, agrees. Having had experience with **Six Flags** and **Magic Springs**, he joined the company when the Easton location was being re-introduced. He has gone on to work at both the Orlando and Mall of America facilities.

"I can't believe how big

North Texas has become. It keeps growing. All these families are looking for things to do. I think we'll be hugely successful here," said Poling.



Poling

Crayola Experience provides a few hours of fun and activity for parents and their kids, but the company creates numerous opportunities for return business, starting with annual passes.

"Ask any mom if she wants a place on a rainy day or especially hot day to take her kids where she knows they are going to have fun and be stimulated and inspired and engaged — that's the easiest sell in the world," said Suarez.

Crayola Experience even allows visitors unsure if they want to opt for the annual pass to apply their admission of the first day's visit before leaving and upgrade it to an annual pass. Annual passes are valid at all four locations.

"Not only is [the annual pass] a great value, but we have special events that are seasonal," Suarez said. An-

nual passholders have first dibs on attending events, such as a **Marvel Comics** inker appearing in person to teach kids how to draw superheroes.

Other additional events driving the turnstile are home-school field trips, girl scout sleepovers and corporate events. "Crayola After Dark — that is one of the most popular events we've had at our other locations," said Suarez, "and we'll be doing it here. After hours, mom has a glass of wine and works on a structured craft. We have food as well. No kids, adults only."

Birthday parties are a staple, naturally, and three separate rooms accommodate those revenue streams. Still, management explores more opportunities than just families.

"Everyone talks about team building. How can you get your employees in an environment that is engaging and inspiring? There's something to be said for creativity. This is a place to have your meeting and rediscover what it is to be a kid and develop problem solving," said Suarez.

Many amusement parks and attractions have difficulty

justifying a day at a park with today's educational demands. Crayola Experience finds a more natural fit.

"School field trips here incorporate STEM activities," said Suarez. "Teachers like a show we have developed about 'being green.' We also have a Silly Science show that brings in classroom science into a fun atmosphere."

AT asked Poling how the new facility approached the market following two installations being introduced to tourist areas (Orlando and Mall of America). He said, "Everywhere we go, we are primarily there for the local market, we're there for the local families. We are part of the community. We try to participate in as many things as we can."

Poling said the attraction currently employs 125-150 part-time or seasonal staff members but could expect more than 200 when the peak summer hours arrive. "Most of our employees come in with a pretty high opinion of Crayola which makes it pretty easy."

Poling predicted the Plano location will be the company's most popular. "There's not a lot out there like Crayola Experience. This is a great family attraction where people are doing things they aren't necessarily doing at home anymore, but here we do it in a larger than life way. This is the model we will take going forward. I can't wait to see how the guests respond to it," he said.

"We're never done. We're always updating," said Suarez. "As Crayola continues to innovate the way kids play, Crayola Experience does as well."

•crayolaexperience.com



In addition to artistic endeavors, physical activity (left) engages children during a visit. A variety of Crayola products allow for both two-dimensional work and 3-D sculpture. Large spaces accommodate not only many families, but group outings as well (far right). AT/TIM BALDWIN

100,000-square-foot facility positions ride production for the future

S&S Worldwide has grand opening of new manufacturing HQ

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

LOGAN, Utah — It was a chance to show off its new home. S&S Worldwide hosted a grand opening on April 10. With the former facility visible just a half mile away, the company was in the process of relocating the various team members from the old facility to the new. The manufacturing end had already seen the move, and the administration staff was eagerly looking forward to their new surroundings.

They should be.

Tim Timco, president and CEO, S&S, welcomed staff, their vendors, industry invitees, and dignitaries from the parent company, Sansei Technologies. "It was two years in the making. We had some adjustments and changes as one would in a project of this size, but it has now come full circle, and we have this new facility we are very proud of," he said.

All buildings combined comprised 60,000 square feet previously. Now there is more than 100,000 square feet to improve and update the company's home with the latest in technology and safety.

"The move to our new facility will greatly enhance our flow of production," said Timco. "It will be so much more efficient, so much more cost effective. Even though we



The company's new Steeplechase vehicles (above) are on display in front of the new location. Seven meeting spaces are made for conferences of all sizes, with each meeting location equipped with state-of-the-art technology (top right). The new weld shop (right) exhibits greener and improved safety initiatives. AT/TIM BALDWIN

have experienced tremendous growth, [the previous facility] hindered our growth. We really needed to improve our production process."

"We designed the building around employee happiness and their well-being," Jason Mons, COO, told *Amusement Today*. "We brought in a lot of natural light and colors and made it an enjoyable place to work and a place where the employees would feel like they are going somewhere to be a part of something and not just put in their time."

Shortly after entering, employees and visitors encounter a frosted glass wall that highlights the histories of the companies involved in S&S Worldwide's success. Arrow, Sansei Technologies, and S&S Power have notable moments pinpointed in timelines culminating into a larger glass panel for S&S Worldwide.

The administration end of the building is efficiently structured on two floors. Mons points out that there are unfinished areas of the new facility that will allow for future growth as demands dictate how these spaces are needed and developed.

"I love the light in this facility," said Preston Perkes, director of administration, S&S. "We made a concise effort to give more employees more windows and to offer a lot more natural light. In the [previous facility], we had one conference room. We now have seven areas for collaboration where employees can schedule meetings or drop in. They now have space to grab someone and say, 'Come with me, look at this design.' Now they can talk about it where before they

may have been more reluctant to have an open conversation in a group setting where others were working. They can have a quick meeting and then jump back to their office. With the technology we've put into every one of those meeting areas, it makes it more functional and gives them the resources to get the job done."

"We love it when the parks come to visit us," added Mons. "But with the technology we've installed here, they no longer have to do that. We have state-of-the-art video conferencing technology to where we can meet directly with the customers at any moment they want to. But if they do want to come, we welcome that and now have many places to sit down, make them feel comfortable and have a very productive meeting."

Photographic artwork as well as a carefully chosen placement of the red and yellow in the company's logo, as well as the blue from Sansei Technologies, add to the welcoming ambience and make for a colorful, engaging atmosphere.

Beyond the main offices, major planning went into making the new home as efficient as it can be, even down to which side of the building receives the most sunlight to make the transport and delivery of materials the most accessible in the snowy, winter months.

"Our old building was like spaghetti, you went from one building to the next outside, sideways, upside down. Now it flows from one step to the next, just like you would want it to," said Timco.

Each section of the production process is also state of



the art.

"The flow of operations in our previous facility was very scattered with a lot of bouncing back and forth. Here we designed the entire operations group to flow in a clockwise motion," explained Mons. "We've done everything to minimize steps and to keep things flowing to the next. It minimizes handling, increases efficiency and decreases costs. It makes it so our parts can get out to our customers faster."

"Before, the business and the building grew up around us, not vice versa. We forced the building to do what we needed it to do. We had forklifts to move things around, which is what the equipment was built to do, but it was a lot of moving and handling. Now all the tools are in their work station. We've minimized the movement of materials from one place to another, which minimizes the opportunity for accidents. It's safer," Mons said.

"I think our welding section has to be one of the best welding facilities I've ever seen," added Timco.

Perkes agreed. "When I think of our weld shop, I think of 'dark, smoky, stinky — all those things.' Now you have a facility that is bright, that has all the resources available and now we have air that is cleaned every six minutes," he said.

From the delivery of materials to welding, to blasting and painting and then to the staging area to be shipped, the clockwise flow organizes each project in logical fashion.

"If a customer out there needs a part, we now have the capability to manufacture, have it painted, cured and shipped that same day," Perkes said. "It makes a difference to having a ride open or having it remain closed. Our service techs, our installers and our customer service departments are all grouped together in the same areas to better serve the customers and respond to their needs quickly."

S&S is the largest U.S. manufacturer of amusement rides. With more than 400 roller coasters and attractions installed in more than 30 countries around the world, the company is now poised to handle major projects lined up for 2019 and the many years following. The larger, updated facility appears to meet the needs of both employees and customers with incredible efficiency.

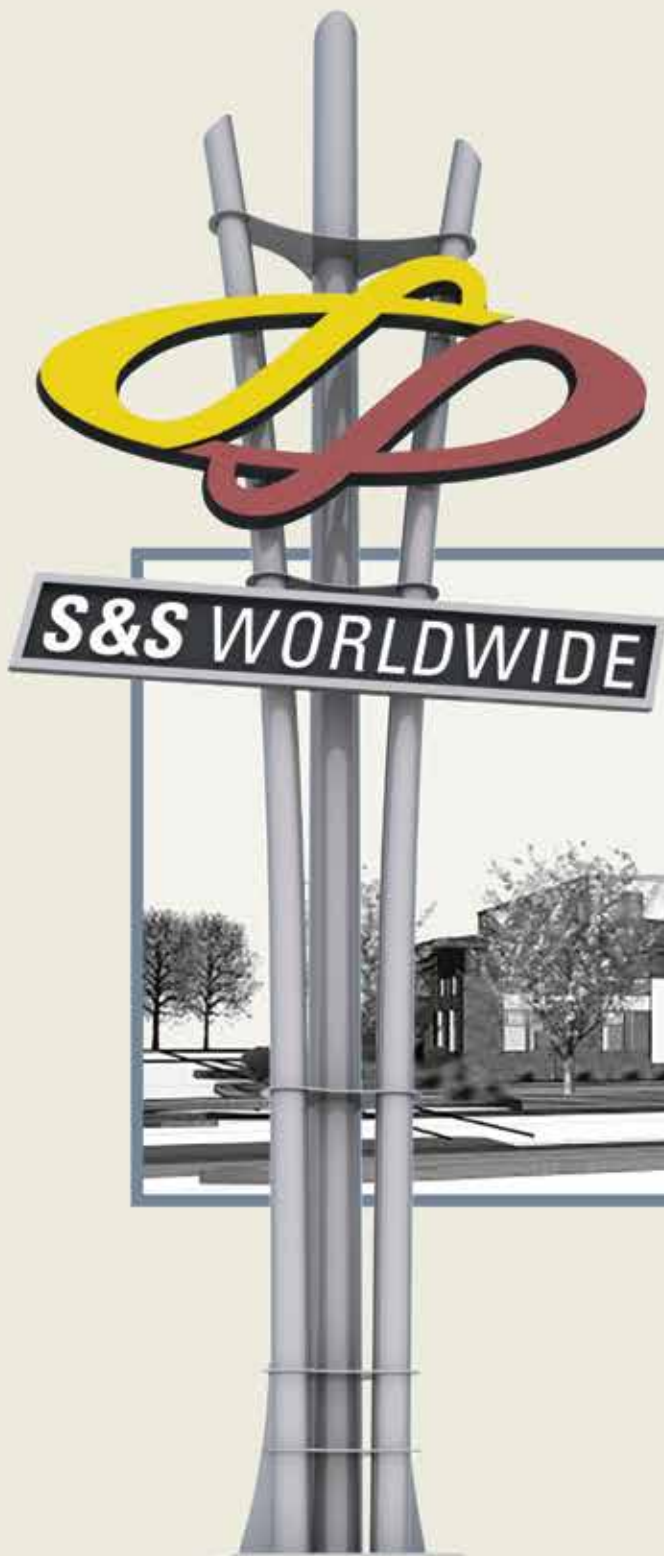
"I like the open collaborative aspect of our building, so we can work together as a team," said Timco. "We're a great team, and we needed better avenues to work together as a team. This new building really promotes better teamwork."



Spare parts are now more easily identified and located with barcode technology, allowing for speedier processing of orders.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

COMMITMENT DEDICATION PASSION



As a result of the tremendous and successful growth we have experienced at S&S, we are excited to open our new manufacturing and administrative facility. Our new facility will allow us to better serve our expanding list of worldwide customers, that we appreciate and value so much!

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Women INFLUENCE

A view from the top...

I am proud to lead Allied Specialty Insurance into our 35th anniversary of contributing time, talent and quality insurance protection to the amusement business.

Allied was created and continues to be operated by "children of the carnival industry." Having lived it, we genuinely understand and appreciate this industry. It's a unique factor that has contributed to our success. And we're looking for even more success now that we're integrated with XL Catlin as part of the XL Group companies.

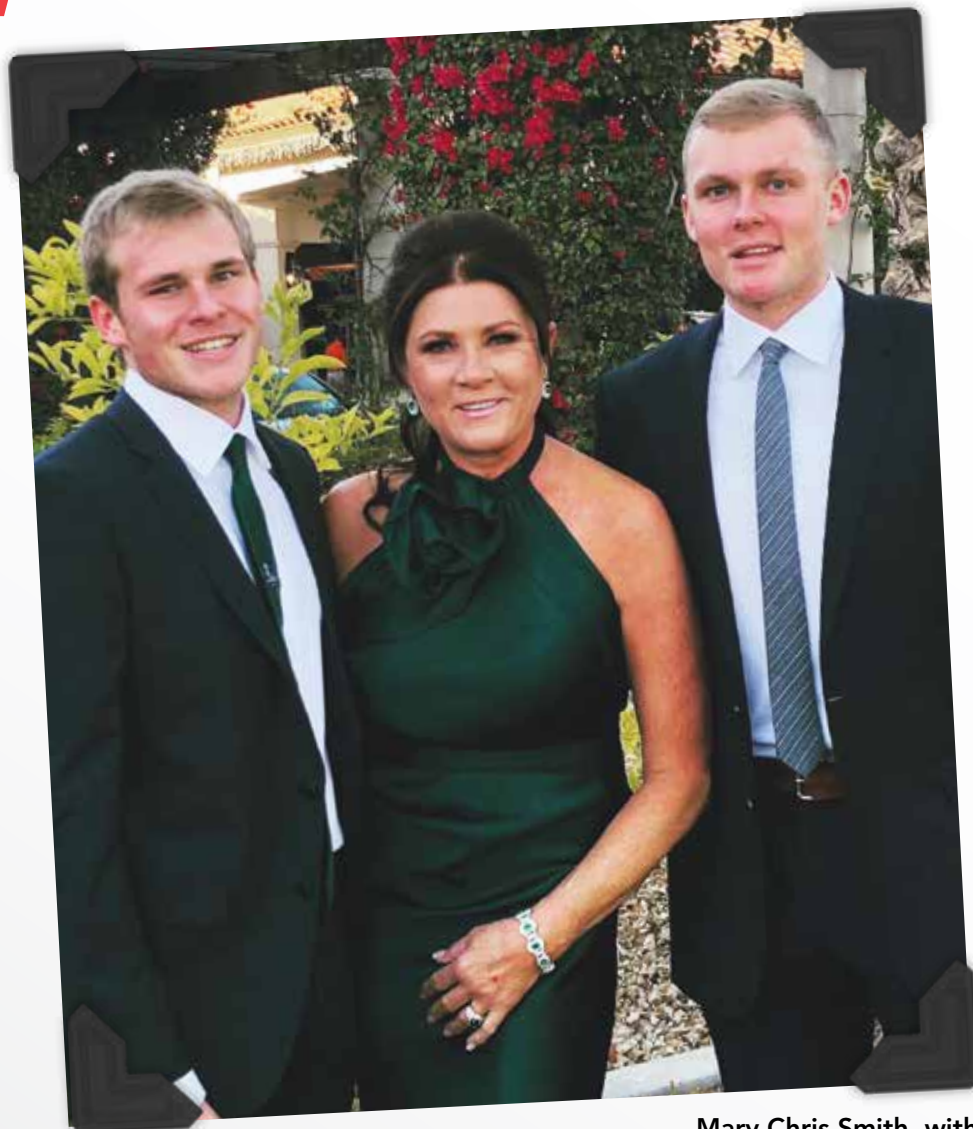
Part of what makes our connection to XL Catlin so strong is our shared focus on customer service. It's the foundation on which we built at Allied, and it's also at the bedrock of XL Catlin. In fact, in 2017, J.D. Power named XL Catlin "Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Large Commercial Insurers" for the second consecutive year. XL Catlin had the highest scores of all commercial insurers in the categories of service interaction, program offerings, price, billing process and claims. It is no accident that our companies found each other

Accomplishments and affiliations...

- Board of Directors,
Outdoor Amusement Business Association
- 2nd Vice President,
Showmen's League of America
- 1st Vice President,
Showmen's League of America (St. Louis Chapter)
- 2014 Show Person of the Year,
Northwest Showmen's Club
- 2005 President,
Ladies Auxiliary of the Showmen's League of America
- Outdoor Amusement Business Association Scholarship Committee
- Chair, Scholarship Committee,
Showmen's League of America (St. Louis Chapter)

Mary Chris Smith

President, Allied Specialty Insurance
Executive Vice President, XL Catlin
Treasure Island, Fla.



Mary Chris Smith, with
sons: Conner William Smith and Daniel Roy Smith.
COURTESY ALLIED SPECIALTY INSURANCE

My thoughts on insurance, the industry, family, teamwork and more...

It's hard to believe how far we've come since our humble beginnings in 1983, when Paul "Duke" Smith and his son, David Smith, started Allied Specialty Insurance. Duke owned a carnival when he realized the need for an insurance company dedicated solely to the amusement and entertainment industries. Since then, Allied has focused on serving the unique risk management needs of this industry, and our focus is unwavering.

I, too, know what it takes. I am the granddaughter of Hub and Winnie Luehrs, who founded Luehrs Ideal Rides in 1957. Their children — my Uncle Jon, Aunt Jean and Aunt Lorelei, along with our father, Bill — grew up on the carnival. In my younger years, I traveled with the carnival with my family: Bill (Hub's oldest son), Maggie and my two sisters, Lisa and Annie.

In 2012 and 2013, I brought Lisa

and Annie into Allied knowing that their talents and knowledge of the industry would be an asset. So, David and I were both children of the industry. In fact, I was introduced to David by my Luehrs Ideal Rides family! Aunt Jean (Luehrs) and Uncle Joe Clair, Uncle Andy and Aunt Lorelei (Luehrs) Schoendienst, and their children still own and operate the show. Duke passed away in 2002 and sadly, I lost David two years later.

I am most proud to be the mother of my two sons, Conner William Smith, 21, and Daniel Roy Smith, 19, who tragically lost their father David at ages 8 and 5. They have grown to be fine young men. David would be proud.

I also take great pride in the team I have cultivated at Allied. In fact, some of our team members have been with us for 20-plus years! We have exemplary talent, and each member is genuinely excited about the amusement industry's future and committed

to working with industry members to promote prolonged success.

Our team continues to grow and evolve as our company, the industry and the technology in the world around us changes. What doesn't change is how much our team cares for their clients — as if they are family. It shows in the service they provide. Everyone on the Allied team shares in our growth and success.

As I continue on this 35th year, I look forward to my tradition of traveling with my staff to visit clients across North America. I did this during my years with David and have ever since. I love to visit to see their beautiful business that they take such pride in!

As business owners in the amusement industry, Allied's founders understood that industry organizations are critical to keeping the business thriving and growing. Without industry organizations, we would not have the navigation tools needed to

deal with the challenging regulatory and economic environment.

Since 1983, Allied has partnered with some of the amusement industry's leading trade organizations. Some of those we sponsor include the Outdoor Amusement Business Association, Showmen's League of America, International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, and the American Pyrotechnic Association.

My team and I also sit on committees and attend the many conventions, dinners, golf tournaments, conferences and more. We are involved!

Allied is looking forward to accomplishing even more. We're intent on growing our business and our team to support our clients' and this industry's insurance and risks management needs.

(Allied is a subsidiary of XL Group Ltd.)

—Reported by Pam Sherborne

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The team at Allied Specialty Insurance congratulates our President, **Mary Chris Smith**, on her prestigious honor of being featured in the first-ever 2018 Woman of Influence issue for *Amusement Today*!

Insurance policies are administered by Allied Specialty Insurance, Inc. (in California, dba Allied Specialty Insurance Agency) License No. 0748144. XL Group and Allied Specialty Insurance are global brands used by XL Group Ltd's insurance subsidiaries. Coverages are underwritten by the following XL Group Ltd insurance companies: Greenwich Insurance Company, Indian Harbor Insurance Company, XL Insurance America, Inc., XL Specialty Insurance Company and T.H.E. Insurance Company. Coverages not available in all jurisdictions.

Schlitterbahn responds to charges arising from 2016 Verrückt waterslide accident

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — A fatal waterslide accident at **Schlitterbahn Waterpark Kansas City** in August 2016 has led to multiple charges against the park, its parent company, a company co-owner, and several former and current employees.

The charges have stunned many in the industry with their severity, scope and potential repercussions. The case was still developing as *Amusement Today* went to press.

The charges stemmed from a Wyandotte County grand jury indictment unsealed March 23 following a 19-month investigation into the Verrückt waterslide accident, which resulted in the death of 10-year-old **Caleb Schwab**. The 168-foot-tall waterslide was billed as the world's tallest attraction of its type.

Along with the water park, **Tyler Austin Miles**, 29, a former park operations director, and **Jeffrey W. Henry**, 62, one of Verrückt's designers and a co-owner of New Braunfels, Texas-based **Schlitterbahn Waterparks and Resorts**, were included by name in the 47-page indictment. The indictment brought 20 counts against the park and Miles ranging from aggravated endangering of a child and aggravated battery to involuntary manslaughter.

Miles turned himself in and pleaded not guilty to the charges filed against him. He was freed on a \$50,000 bond, with a trial set for Sept. 10.

Following the unsealing of a second indictment three days later, Henry was taken into custody in Brownsville, Texas, and extradited to Kansas City. He was released on a \$500,000 bond after being booked on charges including second-degree murder.

Another designer of the waterslide, **John T. Schooley**, 72, also was arrested in Texas and extradited to Kansas on similar charges.

Among the findings of the grand jury investigation was that Verrückt, since its opening in July 2014, had already hurt at least 13 people by the time Schwab, the son of Kansas Rep. **Scott Schwab**, was fatally

injured on it.

Several counts in the first indictment concerned interference with law enforcement. They alleged that Miles hid or destroyed documents related to injuries riders had previously sustained on Verrückt.

The indictment described the ride as a "deadly weapon" that was "never properly or fully designed to prevent rafts from going airborne." It found that Verrückt met "few, if any" of the safety standards set by the **American Society for Testing and Materials**.

Schwab's injury reportedly occurred when the raft he shared with two female riders, upon cresting the waterslide's second hill, flew upward and hit a metal hoop supporting safety netting.

The boy's family reportedly secured close to \$20 million in settlements from the park and other parties connected to the ride's creation. The two female riders, who suffered serious injuries, settled with the park privately.

"We were shocked by the allegations being made... about Tyler and our [Kansas City] park," said Schlitterbahn in a written statement dated March 23 and emailed to AT by company spokesperson **Winter Prosapio**. "The allegation that we operated, and failed to maintain, a ride that could foreseeably cause such a tragic accident is beyond the pale of speculation. Many of us, and our children and grandchildren, have ridden the ride with complete confidence as to its safety. Our operational mantra has been and will forever be Safety First."

"The accusation that we withheld information or altered evidence is completely false. We have operated with integrity from day one at the water park — as we do throughout our water parks and resorts. We put our guests' and employees' safety first; safety and maintenance are at the top of our list of priorities."

"Since the date of the incident we have worked closely with law enforcement; at no time have we withheld evidence; at no time have we altered evidence. The indictment uses quoted statements from a reality TV show [*Xtreme Waterparks*, aired on the Travel Channel] that was scripted for

dramatic effect that in no way reflects the design and construction of the ride.

"Quotes were purported to be from definitive design meetings, when they were, in fact, 'acting.'"

"During the civil matter, attorneys involved noted that we cooperated fully, provided thousands of documents, and that nothing was withheld or tampered with."

The statement went on to claim that the indictment was "full of false information," that Schlitterbahn fully stands behind its staff and parks, and that the company will fight the charges "point by point" and "aggressively."

In a follow-up statement posted by Schlitterbahn March 27 regarding the second indictment, the company said: "This indictment, as in the previous one related to Tyler Miles, is wrought with references to the outtakes of a dramatic, scripted television show, and filled with information that we fully dispute. Jeff Henry has designed waterpark rides the world over. Nearly every waterpark that exists today has an attraction or feature based on his designs or ideas."

"The incident that happened that day was a terrible and tragic accident. We mourn the loss of this child and are devastated for his family. We know that Tyler, Jeff and John are innocent and that we run a safe operation — our 40 years of entertaining millions of people speaks to that."

"We are confident that their innocence will be proven in court where we know the facts will show this was an accident."

Prior to the tragedy, the state of Kansas permitted amusement parks to conduct their own annual ride inspections. The state has since moved to toughen requirements for annual ride inspections, inspector qualifications and accident reporting.

Verrückt was closed permanently after the accident. Schlitterbahn has said it would dismantle the attraction when it was permitted to do so by officials.

The Kansas City water park was expected to open for the season as scheduled on May 25.

•schlitterbahn.com

PEOPLE

Amy Altman has joined **Polin USA**, the stateside sales office of **Polin Waterparks** in Salt Lake City, Utah, as director of sales and marketing. Formerly national sales manager for **Aquatix Landscape Structures** of Eden Prairie, Minn., Altman will oversee strategic marketing initiatives, sales team development and design coordination in her new role. Polin's stateside office is positioned to help the company better serve its customers and partners in the U.S.



Altman

Cleveland, Ohio-based **McGowan Amusement Group** has named **Ryan Gillenwater** vice president. Gillenwater, who has spent the past 10 years building a reputation as a top family entertainment center (FEC) insurance expert, has created several successful insurance programs for the FEC sector. Focusing on education and prevention, McGowan Amusement Group is a leading provider of insurance and risk management services to the amusement industry, focusing on education and prevention.



Gillenwater

Philip Hancox has been appointed general manager of marketing and communications for **Dreamworld** theme park and **SkyPoint Observation Deck and Climb** on Australia's Gold Coast. Hancox, who has 16 years of experience across several industries and markets, most recently with Brisbane-based **Flight Centre Travel Group**, will provide strategic direction in brand strategy, direct and digital marketing, social media, partnerships / loyalty, public relations and internal communications for both attractions, which are owned by **Ardent Leisure**.



Hancox

Water park and water attraction designer / builder **Aquatic Development Group** (ADG) of Cohoes, N.Y., has named **Bruce Quay** COO. Quay has led and grown businesses in the manufacturing, distribution and commercial services sectors for over 30 years, working with such companies as **GE** and **Cookson Group PLC**, and as an owner of companies within the aquatic sector. He served as executive VP for ADG in the early 2000s — leading the company's manufacturing division, including the introduction of FlowRider to the North American market.



Quay

Pradeep Sharma, who has been helping to develop the water park market in India as vice president of business development for Vancouver, B.C., Canada-based **WhiteWater**, has been appointed president of the **Indian Association of Amusement Parks and Industries** (IAAPI). He was previously vice president of the organization. Sharma has chaired various committees on safety and training; he also drafted India's first safety standard for amusement rides (IS 15475 — Amusement Rides Safety) for the Bureau of Indian Standards on behalf of IAAPI.



Sharma

New Zealand-based **Magic Memories**, now operating in 10 countries, has moved to strengthen its senior management team as part of its aggressive global growth plans this year.

As new head of development, **CJ Little** will be responsible for effectively leveraging technology to deliver world-class products and experiences to different demographics across multiple platforms via multiple channels.

Little will be working with **Jason Kirby**, group head of product; **Jeff Vier**, group vice president, engineering; and **Brent Canning**, group general counsel. All have joined the company with a wealth of experience in scaling global brands, including **Mozilla**, **Cradlepoint** and **Infoblox**.

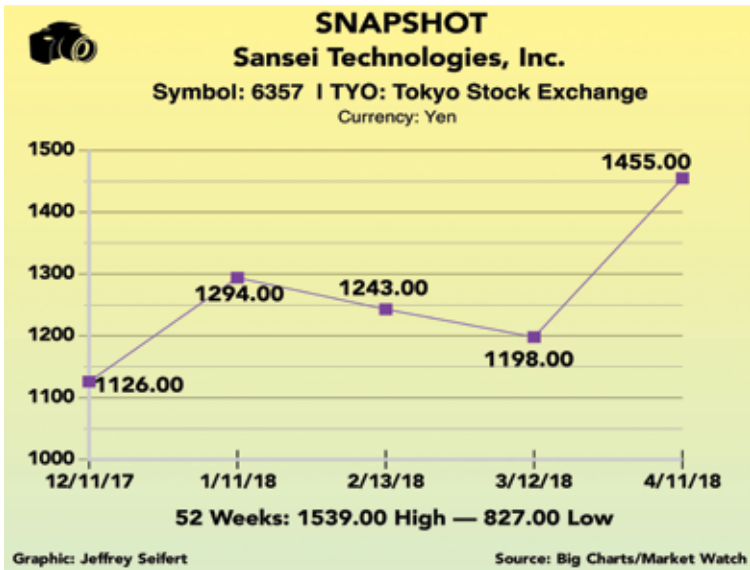
In addition to expanding its executive team, Magic Memories has grown its board of directors to help guide business direction and support global growth. **Sanjay Dholokia**, formerly chief marketing officer of **Marketo**, will support the company's strategy of becoming an omni-channel revenue-generating business, while **Jeff Ryan** will ensure the company remains an aspirational, fun and safe place to work.

MARKET WATCH

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 04/11/18	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	30.98	37.52	28.85
Merlin Entertainments Group / Legoland	MERL	LSE	343.20	537.50	317.10
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	63.85	72.56	59.66
Comcast Corp./NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	33.56	44.00	32.74
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	100.80	116.10	96.2
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.44	1.02	0.43
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	55.06	76.90	51.87
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	2813.00	3400.00	1910.00
Haichang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	2.04	2.21	1.55
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	7.12	8.51	7.03
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	33.68	38.41	27.01
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	12.56	17.45	11.69
NEW ▶ Sansei Technologies, Inc.	JP:6357	TYO	1455.00	1539.00	827.00
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	15.52	19.23	10.42
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	61.93	70.44	51.25
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	8.90	16.36	8.46
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	674.00	688.00	540.00
Village Roadshow	AU:VRL	ASX	3.16	4.21	3.05

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 04/09/18	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$3.024	+\$0.446
Midwest	\$2.957	+\$0.442
Gulf Coast	\$2.844	+\$0.398
Mountain	\$3.086	+\$0.446
West Coast	\$3.226	+\$0.454
California	\$3.717	+\$0.782

CURRENCY	
On 04/11/18 \$1 USD =	
0.8105	EURO
0.7062	GBP (British Pound)
107.09	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9562	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.2916	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.2650	CAD (Canadian Dollar)

BUSINESS WATCH

Board to review Playland management contract

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — The **Westchester County Board of Legislators** will be undertaking a review of the county's contract with **Standard Amusements** to manage the **Playland Amusement Park** in Rye.

The contract between the county and Standard Amusements was signed in 2016 by former County Executive **Rob As-torino**. New County Executive **George Latimer** has said that his administration would be looking at the Playland agreement with “a fresh set of eyes.”

“Public-private partnerships are designed to be a win for both parties. The public-private partnership with Standard Amusements to manage Playland has steadily shifted the burden to the public,” said Legislator **Catherine Parker**, the Board’s Majority Leader and representative of the district where Playland is located.

Parker, who has called on the Latimer administration to terminate the agreement, continued, “Given the stated County obligation of tens of millions of dollars for capital improvements in the contract, that we know is significantly higher, the mechanism to recoup those investments is not in the agreement. The goal to unburden the public was negotiated away under the last administration, with substantive changes since the BOL vote in 2016. I look forward to hearing what the new administration has learned related to the management of Playland since taking office.”

The board’s own review of the contract will be undertaken by the committees on Budget and Appropriations; Law and Major Contracts; Parks, Planning and Economic Development; and Public Works.

DreamVision founder found guilty of fraud

SHOALS, Ala. — On March 20, **Bryan Kevin Robinson** plead-ed guilty to a count of securities fraud and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. He's also banned from the securities industry in Alabama and has to pay more than \$7 million in restitution to more than 40 investors, according to the **Alabama Securities Commission**.

In February 2015, Robinson and Florida-based **Dream-Vision Inc.** announced **DreamVision Soundscape**, a \$3.5 billion music-themed amusement park that would be located in Muscle Shoals. They said the park would be 1,400 acres of music-themed rides and entertainment and bring thousands of jobs to the area. DreamVision also had similar plans for a park in Fort Worth, Texas.

In Brief:

•WASHINGTON, D.C. — On March 23, **Congress** passed the 2018 omnibus appropriations bill which funds the government for the remainder of the fiscal year. **IAAPA** successfully advocated for a provision in the bill which sends a strong positive message to the Administration about the value of the **Summer Work Travel Program** (J-1 Visas), widely used by the attractions industry. The provision requires consultation and notice to Congress regarding the estimated economic impact of any changes to the program and how changes would affect the public diplomacy goals of our country. The purpose of the provision is to ensure reasonable consultation with Congress and stakeholders prior to the Administration making substantial changes to the program which could have a negative impact on either the businesses that host **Summer Work Travel Exchange Visi-tors** or the exchange visitors themselves.

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2018 WHAT’S NEW GUIDE | INTERNATIONAL

Compiled by Jeffrey Seifert

Australia
Dreamworld, Gold Coast....Vekoma i-Ride Panoramic Flight Simulator

Austria
Diesel, Edelschrott....Steirarodl - Wiegand alpine coaster
Familypark, St. Margarethen....Almjudier – Zierer freefall towers; Fairytale carousel — Wooddesign/Vermolen Rides

Bahamas
Pirate's Cove, Freeport....Zip Line — High Extreme Tours 540-foot zipline

Belgium
Aqualibi, Wavre....700-square-meter water playground
Bellewaerde, Leper....Son of Bigfoot — nWave 4D film
Bobbejaanland, Lichtart....VR headsets on Dreamcatcher suspended coaster
Walibi Belgium, Wavre....Tiki-Waka — Gerstlauer bobsled coaster; Popcorn Revenge — ETF/Alterface interactive dark ride

Brazil
Beach Park, Aquiraz....ProSlide double Tornado Wave 60
Mirabilandia, Paulista....Vekoma Giant Inverted Boomerang; Intamin eight-inversion coast-er relocated from Terra Encantada
Parque de Praise, Brazil....Soaring Eagle Zipline
T-Rex Campinas, São Paulo....Dina Coaster — SBF Visa spinning compact coaster

Bulgaria
Aquamanai Aquapark, Albena....ProSlide RideHouse 200

China
Atlantis Sanya, Sanya....New resort with 15 ProSlide attractions including RocketBlast, Speed Slide, Tornado Spin — Behemoth Bowl 40/Tornado 60 hybrid; Tornado Tantrum
Chengdu Wanda City, Dujiangyan....Intamin launch coaster
Chimelong Ocean Kingdom, Xiangzhou....Zierer Force coaster; Zierer Force Two coaster
Chimelong Water Park, Guangzhou....Wiegand-Maezler Slide Wheel
Colourful Yunnan Happy World, Jinning....New park with multiple rides including Bolliger & Mabillard wing coaster; Mack Rides coaster; Mack Rides supersplash; Golden Horse mine train
Daqian Happy World, Shizhong....China Zhipao 6-ring roller coaster; Golden Horse family roller coaster
Ever Grande Ocean Flower Island, Danzhou....New resort with Vekoma Firestrom launched coaster; multiple ProSlide attractions including RocketBlast, SuperLoop with SkyBox, 3x Tornado 24 hybrid, OctopusRacer, Tornado 24/Tornado Wave hybrid, Behemoth Bowl 40/Tornado 60 hybrid, Aquatic Play Structure
Fantawild, Wenfeng....Vekoma junior coaster
Fantawild, Handan....Vekoma Hyper Space Warp
Fantawild, Taiyuan....Vekoma family boomerang; Vekoma Hyper Space Warp
Fantawild, Wuhu....Vekoma Hyper Space Warp
Fantawild Asian Legends, Quingxiu....New theme park with multiple rides including Asean Express — Vekoma boomerang coaster; Jungle Trailblazer — Martin & Vleminckx/Gravity Group wooden coaster
Forise Changchun Water Park, Changchun....ProSlide RocketBlast, 3x Pipeline, Twister
Hainan Ocean Paraduse, Hainan....S&S Combo Tower
Happy Valley, Beijing....Family Roller Coaster — Bolliger & Mabillard family inverted coaster; Music Roller Coaster — Bolliger & Mabillard hyper coaster
Happy Valley, Jinniu....Western Regions Heaven— Bolliger & Mabillard dive coaster
HiDream Indoor Theme Park, Songbei....Beijing Shibolai sky loop coaster
Hot Go Dreamworld, Fushun....Bolliger & Mabillard wing coaster; Preston & Barbieri coaster; Bolliger & Mabillard hyper coaster
Hot Go Water Park, Fushun....ProSlide BehemothBowl 40/TornadoWave 60 hybrid, 2x Tornado24 hybrid, BehemothBowl 40
Huayi Brothers Movie World, Wuzhong....Bolliger & Mabillard wing coaster; Golden Horse family coaster; S&S Combo tower
Kunming Colorful Yunnan Happy World, Kunming....S&S Double Tower
Magic Forest, Rencheng....multi-element roller coaster
Ocean Paradise, Lingshui....New park with multiple rides including Intamin multit-element coaster; Intamin spinning cars coaster
OCT Nanjing, Jiangshu....ProSlide Tornado 60, FlyingSaucer 45, BehemothBowl 60, Mammoth
Oriental Heritage, Changsha....Vekoma Space Warp; Vekoma family suspended
Oriental Heritage, Cixian....Vekoma Space Warp; Beijing Jiuhua family coaster
Polar Ocean Park, Pudong....new park with multiple rides including Intamin LSM launch coaster; Zamperla family coaster
Quancheng Euro Park, Qihe....Children Coaster — Beijing Jiuhua children's coaster
Shanghai Disneyland, Pudong....Rex’s Racer — Intamin launched shuttle coaster; Toy Story Land themed area with three new attractions
Shengming Universal City, Yubei....Suspended Roller Coaster — inverted roller coaster
Silk Road Culture Expo Park, Xiongguan....Vekoma Boomerang; Beijing Shibaolai suspended looping coaster
Sun Tzu Cultural Park, Guangrao....Launch Coaster — S&S Worldwide compressed air launch coaster; two 12-seat S&S combo tower rides
Sunshine Dream Park, Xingyi....multi-element roller coaster
Sweetland Water Park, Dalian....ProSlide HyrdroMagnetic Rocket, Tornado 18, CannonBowl 40, Octopus-Kracken Racer

Three Gorges Happy World, Wanzhou....Roller Coaster — Qin Long family roller coaster
Tongguan Kiln International Cultural Center, Changsha....Cavu Designworks Flying Theater
Wanda Movie Park, Huangdao....New park designed by Legacy I GGE; multiple rides including indoor roller coaster; spinning cars coaster; multi-dimensional cinema robotic roller coaster from Premier
Weihai Rio Carnival, Weihai....S&S Combo Tower
Window of the World, Kaifu....S&S Worldwide compressed air launch coaster
Zhongnan Baicao Garden, Anji....Gold Roller Coaster — Golden Horse suspended roller coaster

Colombia
Parque Del Café, Montenegro....Yippe — Gerstlauer family coaster
Cafamlandia, Bogotá....ProSlide Kidz Mini River, Bowl 14, Twister, OctopusRacer, 4-lane ProRacer, Tornado 24
Piscalago Water Park, Melgar....ProSlide Mammoth

Cyprus
Parko Paliatso Luna Park, Ayia Napa....Looping Star — Schwarzkopf looping star

Denmark
Djurs Sommerland, Nimtofte....Jungle Rally — Zierer Force Zero coaster; Safaribussen — Zamperla Crazy Bus
Fårup Sommerland, Saltum....Golf Island — 12-hole mini golf course
Knuthenborg Safaripark, Knuthenborg Allé....Dinosaurskoven — Outdoor dinosaur exhibit
Legoland Billund, Billund....Flyvende Ørn — Zierer Force Custom coaster; Refurbished Lego Canoe ride; Legoredo Town expansion
Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen....Tik Tak — Mondial Shake R5; Winter in Tivoli; Chess - the Musical

England
Alton Towers, Alton....Wicker Man — GCII wooden coaster
Blackpool Pleasure Beach, England....Icon — Mack Rides multi-element launch coaster
Chessington World of Adventures, Chessington....Land of the Tiger — Endangered Tiger exhibit; Tiger Rock — retheming of Dragon Falls log flume
Fantasy Island, Canvey Island....Huss Frisbee and Huss Magic
Paulton's Park, Romsey....Little Africa — animal enclosure; Queens Flying Coach — Metallbau Emmeln monorial; Grampy Rabbit's Sailing Club — Mack Rides boat ride
South Pier, Blackpool....Crazy Coaster — Reverchon spinning relocated from Arcadia City
Thorpe Park, Chertsey....The Walking Dead - The Ride — retheming of X Vekoma Enigma coaster

Finland
Särkänniemi, Tampere....Preston & Barbieri Wave Swinger

France
Babylan-Amiland, Saint-Pierre-du-Perray...Bûche Dansante — SBF Visa spinning coaster; Jet — Schwarzkopf Jet Star from French traveling fair
Cita-Parc, Lille....Dauphin Express family roller coaster
Dennlys Parc, Dennebroeucq....Squadron 13 — Technical Park Aerobat
Didi'land, Morsbronn-les-Bains....Baby Flum — Soquet junior flume ride; l'Apollo Side Car — Technical Park Sidecar; Cirque Rodéo — circus act
Disneyland Paris, Marne la Vallée....25th anniversary celebrations; major overhaul of Phantom Manor
Futuroscope, Chasseneuil-du-Poitou....Through Thomas Pesquet’s eyes — 4K Imax Laser production with 3D audio
Jardin d'Acclimatation, Paris....Rockets — Gerstlauer bobsled coaster
Kingoland, Plumelin....Pistone Tower — SBF Visa Drop'n Twist
Le Pal, Saint Pourçain-sur-Besbre....Yukon Quad — Intamin family launch coaster
LeFleury, Wavrechain-sous-Faulx....L'épée D'odin — Zamperla Freefall
Mer de Sable, Ermenonville....New Mexican-themed area with Condor — Zamperla Family Swinger; Tornado — Zamperla Sombrero
Nigloland, Dolancourt....Zabeilles — Zierer Roundabout; Eden Palais — Carousel and museum
Parc Ange Michel, Saint Martin de Landelles....Tourbillon — Gosetto spinning cars coaster
Parc de la Vallée, Massais....Circuit Bobsleigh — Schwarzkopf City Jet relocated from Nigloland
Parc Saint Paul, Saint Paul....Wood Express — Gravity Group wood coaster
Parc Spirou, Monteaux....New park with multiple rides including Zierer Force Two; Zierer ESC 535; Zierer force zero; Zierer Kontiki
Puy-du-Fou, Plailly....Le Mystère de La Pérouse — new show for 2018
Walibi Rhône-Alpes, Les Avenières....Dock'N Roll — Zamperla Rockin' Tug; Balloon Race — Zamperla Samba Balloon; Hurricane — Zamperla Vertical Swing

Germany
AltmühlBOB, Riedenburg....Speedbob — Wiegand sport coaster (dual alpine coasters)
Bayern-Park, Reissbach....Stadlgaudi 4D — Lagotronics interactive rotating Farm Fair GameChanger; Farm Race — Metallbau Emmeln electric vehicle ride; Tractor Ride — Metallbau Emmeln electric track farm tractors
Eifelpark, Gondorf....Log Flume Pirateninsel
Europa-Park, Rust....Redesigned Eurosats with separate loading station for VR , Jim Button Journey Through Morrow Land children's ride.
Ferienzentrum Schloss Danker, Haren....Achterbahn — abc Rides tube coaster

2018 WHAT’S NEW GUIDE | INTERNATIONAL

Freizeit-Land Geiselwind, Geiselwind....Cobra — Interpark Wild Wind coaster formerly on German fair circuit

Hansa Park, Sierksdorf....Barcos del Mar — Technical Park Sidecar; Son of Bigfoot — 4D cinema

Heide-Park, Soltau....Peppa Pig Land — new themed area; Schorsch Dino-Abenteuer — Metallbau Emmeln electric track vehicle ride

Holiday Park, Hassloch....New indoor expansion with indoor pool and waterplay structure, slides, 500-seat theater, Zierer Force Two coaster, Zamperla Windstarz

Karls Erlebnis-Dorf, Wustermark....K2 — abc Rides family coaster

Kurpfalz Park, Wachenheim....Wutzels Piratenflug — Zierer Wave Swinger

Legoland Deutschland, Günzburg....Pirate Island Hotel — new pirate-themed lodging; Ninjago 4D cinema; Mack Media VR on Project X - Test Strecke

Movie Park Germany, Bottrop....Excalibur - Secrets of the Dark Forest — retheming of park's river rapids ride by IMAscore, Leisure Expert Group and Tema Design

Rasti-Land, Salzhemmendorf....Brückenturm (Bridge Tower) — new play area with sliding boards; water playground

Rodelmekka Pottenstein, Pottenstein....Wiegand Hexenbesen suspended coaster

Schwaben Park, Kaisersbach....Wilde Hilde — Ride Engineers Switzerland roller ball coaster

Skiliftkarussell Winterberg, Winterberg....Brandaeur alpine coaster; Wiegand alpine coaster

Sommerrodelbahn Ruhpolding, Ruhpolding....Chiemgau Coaster — Wiegand alpine coaster

Therme Erding, Erding....Big Wave — Wiegand-Maelzer combination slide with curve and sidewinder

Tier- und Freizeitpark Thüle, Friesoythe-Thüle....Njordland — Viking-themed children's play area

Wild- und Freizeitpark Klotten, Klotten....Klotti's Adventure Farm — Playhouse for small children (under 3)

Zoo Safaripark Stukenbrock, Stikenbrock....Alpen-Coaster — Schwarzkopf Wildcat relocated from Schwaben Park

Greece

Olympia Aqua Park at Riviera Resort, Peloponnese....New water park with multiple slides from Polin Waterparks

Indonesia

Atlantis Water Adventure, Jakarta....ProSlide SuperLoop with SkyBox

Cartoon Network, Bali....ProSlide RideHouse 300, Kidz OctopusRacer, Mini River, 4-lane ProRacer

Trans Studio Mini, Kubu Raya....Crazy Cab Coaster — Vekoma junior coaster

Trans Studio Mini, Kupang....Vekoma junior coaster

Ireland

Tayto Park, Ashbourne....Spinning cars coaster

Italy

Gardaland, Castelnuovo del Garda....I Corsari: la Vendetta del Fantasma — retheming of I Corsari boat ride; Peppa Pig Land — new themed area with swinging ship and balloon ride

Luneur Park, Rome....Spinner — Eos Rides spinning cars coaster

Movieland Park, Lago di Garda....Pangea, The World of Dinosaurs — outdoor truck ride through a dinosaur forest

Osteria Ai Pioppi, Treviso....Catapulta — park-built shuttle coaster

Japan

Shirakaba Resort Family Land, Koshoku....Shirakaba Wood Coaster — steel shuttle coaster

Universal Studios Japan, Osaka....Final Fantasy XR Ride — VR on Space Fantasy The Ride

Malaysia

20th Century Fox World, Genting Highlands....Rebranded Genting Theme Park with multiple rides including Alien vs Predator — Dynamic Attractions steel coaster; Wings Over Rio — Setpoint suspended coaster; Sons of Anarchy & Weyland Yutani — twin-tracked coaster; Ice Age-themed coaster

Big Adventure Waterpark, Desaru....ProSlide Tornado 60, 3x Tornado 24 hybrid, Tornado 18, CannonBowl 30, RideHouse 500; Kidz Mini river, Bowl 14 Tornado 12, Twister, 2-lane racer, 4-lane racer

Borneo Samariang Water Park, Kuching....Proslide Mammoth, 2x SuperLoop with SkyBox, 6-lane ProRacer, 2x Pipeline, CannonBowl 30, RideHouse 200, Kidz Twister x2, Kidz MiniRiver, KIDZ ProRacer, Kidz Bowl 14

Legoland Malaysia, Johor Bahru....The Great Lego Race — VR addition to former Project X roller coaster

Movie Park Animation Studios, Ipoh....Intamin 10-inversion coaster

Mauritius

Casela World of Adventures, Cascavelle....Wiegand alpine coaster

Netherlands

Attractiepark Rotterdam, Rotterdam....Shuttle Loop — Schwarzkopf flywheel shuttle loop relocated from Toshimaen, Japan; Nauta Bussink Evolution

DippieDoe Attractiepark, Best....Dolle Pier (Mad Earthworm) — Big Apple/Wacky Worm style coaster

Drouwenerzand Attractiepark, Drouwen....KMG Freak Out

Efteling, Kaatsheuvel....Retracking of Python, Vekoma looping coaster

Toverland, Sevenum....Fênix — Bolliger & Mabillard wing coaster; Merlin's Quest — Mack Rides tow boat ride; Magic Store — Lagotronics Magic Wand

Wildlands Adventure Zoo Emmen, Emmen....Tweestryd — two Vekoma family boomerang coasters

Norway

Dyreparken, Kristiansand....Spøkelses-Huset — haunted house attraction

Tusenfryd, Venterbro....Steampunk Hunters — VR on former Western Expressen Vekoma junior coaster

Oman

Hawana Aqua Park, Dhofar....New water park with waterslides, leisure pools, toddler's pool and wave pool

Pakistan

Bahria Adventura, Karachi....New park with multiple rides including Compact Dragon Coaster — Preston & Barbieri coaster; Golden Horse Fruitworm coaster

Onederland, Karachi....KIA roller coaster — indoor spinning coaster

Peru

Granaj Villa, Lima....Cuycolo — Zamperla twister coaster

Poland

Energylandia, Zator....Hyperion — Intamin mega coaster; Speed — Intamin water coaster

Holiday Park Kownaty, Torzym....Majaland — new indoor themed area with Wickie Coaster — Zierer Force Two

Legendia, Chorzów....Bazyliszek — interactive dark ride from Alterface and Jora Vision

Portugal

Aquashow Hotel, Quarteira....ProSlide Tornado 45

Qutar

Adventure Island, Doha....Dragonfire — Premier Rides LSM launch coaster

Russia

Children's Park, Anapa....Maurer Rides wild mouse relocated from Attrapark Moscow

Dream Island, Moscow....New indoor theme park with 29 attractions including Intamin launched coaster

Golden Bay, Gelendijk....ProSlide Tornado 24/Tornado 60 hybrid

Play Ventura, Kursk....Roller Coaster — I.E. Park indoor coaster

Saudi Arabia

Al-Shallal Theme Park, Jeddah....Soaring Eagle Zipline

Dana Beach Resort, Al Khobar....ProSlide Tornado 45, 4-lane OctopusRacer, CannonBowl 40, 2x Pipeline, 2x Twister

South Korea

Blue One, Gyeongju....ProSlide 2x Kidz Twister, 4-lane Kidz ProRacer, Kidz Mini River

Gyeongju World, Gyeongju....Draken — Bolliger & Mabillard dive coaster

Lotte World, Sokcho....ProSlide RocketBlast, ProBowl, Twister, RideHouse100

Ocean World Water Park, Gangwon....ProSlide FlyingSaucer 45, Mammoth

Robotland Theme Park, Incheon....Zamperla Thunderbolt coaster

Shinwa Water Park, Jeju....ProSlide RocketBlast, FlyingSaucer 30, Double TornadoWave 60, 2x Tornado 32 hybrid, 3x Pipeline

Spain

Ferrari Land, Salou....Junior Red Force — SBF Visa Group race coaster; Zamperla Mini Jet, Speedy Coaster, Balloon Race; SBF Visa Fly Over

Parque de Atracciones de Madrid, Madrid....Twist and Splash ride

Siam Water Park, Tenerife....ProSlide Mammoth

Sweden

Daftöland, Västra Götaland....Skutan — family coaster

Furuvik, Gävle....Spöjkakten — new interactive dark ride from Sally Corp.

Liseberg, Gothenburg....Valkyria — Bolliger & Mabillard dive coaster

Switzerland

Conny-Land, Lipperswil....Catapul — Space Shot Tower; Lost World/Dino Attack — Lagotronics upgrades to dark ride to make it interactive

Trinidad & Tobago

Chaguaramas Waterpark, Chaguaramas....ADG wave pool

Tunisia

Carthageland, Hammamet....Spinning cars coaster from Eos Rides

Turkey

Land of Legends Theme Park, Antalya....Mack Rides hyper coaster; Gerstlauer family 360 coaster; SBF Visa race coaster

United Arab Emirates

Aqua Fun, Abu Dhabi....Floating Wibit Sports obstacle course

Atlantis The Palm, Dubai....ProSlide Aquatic Play with multiple Kidz slides; ProSlide Twister

Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi....Mission Ferrari — Dynamic Attractions special effects coaster

Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi....New park with multiple rides including Tom and Jerry Swiss Cheese Spin — Zamperla spinning coaster (indoor); Intamin inverted coaster

Ukraine

Ocean Plaza Shopping Center, Kiev....Vekoma family coaster

Vietnam

Kittyd & Minnied, Châu Thành A....Dragon Flight Roller Coaster — Golden Horse spinning coaster

Sun World Danang Wonders, Đà Nẵng....Highway Boat — Intamin suspended family coaster with vertical lift; Paradise Fall — Intamin family launch coaster

Vinpearl Land, Thu Thiem....New theme park with multiple rides including Vekoma mine train; Vekoma Firestorm launched coaster; Vekoma family suspended

2018 WHAT'S NEW GUIDE | NORTH AMERICA

Compiled by Jeffrey Seifert

CANADA
British Columbia
Cultus Adventure Park, Cultus Lake....Larson Intl. Super Shot Drop Tower

Ontario
Canada's Wonderland, Vaughan....Lumberjack — Zamperla Hawk; Flying Canoes — Zamperla Jump Around; Splash Works children's pool expansion

Québec
Bromont Water Park, Bromont....ProSlide FlyingSaucer 30
LaRonde, Montreal....Carnaval en Folie — new family zone; Tourbillon — Larson International Tilt-a-Whirl; Petite Roue — Ferris Wheel; Torsade — Scrambler
Méga Parc, Quebec City....Larson International 22m Hubless Ferris Wheel; Extreme Engineering Cloud Coaster
Pays des Merveilles, Sainte-Adèle....E&F Miler coaster relocated from Six Gun City New Hampshire

COSTA RICA
KidZania, San Jose....New FEC — Interactive child-sized replica of a real city, including buildings, shops and theaters, as well as vehicles and pedestrians moving along its streets.

MEXICO
Distrito Federal
Kataplum, Mexico City....Vekoma suspended family coaster
Six Flags Mexico, Mexico City....Wonder Woman Coaster — S&S Free Spin coaster

Quintana Roo
Amikoo Theme Park, Mayan Riveira....Vekoma i-Ride Panoramic Flight Simulator

Alabama
Alabama Splash Adventure, Bessemer....Splash Island — ProSlide 2x Kidz Twister; Kidz Mini River; Kidz 4-lane racer; Kidz Bowl 14; Vortex Aquatic Strcutures water play structure; PTCL overhaul of Rampage train

Arizona
Colossal Cave Mountain Park, Vail....Soaring Eagle Zipline

Arkansas
Magic Springs, Hot Springs....Brain Drain — Larson International Super Shot Drop Tower

California
Alpine Slide at Magic Mountain, Big Bear Lake....Soaring Eagle Zipline
California's Great America, Santa Clara....RailBlazer — RMC Raptor track coaster
Disney California Adventure, Anaheim....Pixar Pier — retheming of Paradise Pier with Incredicoaster — rethemed California Screamin' Intamin coaster
Four Seasons Westlake, Westlake Village....ADG FlowRider
Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Park....HangTime — Gerstlauer Infinity Coaster with KCL Engineering lighting package
Legoland California, Carlsbad....Lego City Deep Sea Adventure — Mack Rides submarine ride; Lego Ninjago - Master of the 4th Dimension — 4D theater; Castle Hotel — 250-room premium hotel
SeaWorld San Diego, San Diego....Electric Eel — Premier Rides Sky Rocket II coaster
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Vallejo....Harley Quinn Crazy Coaster — Skyline Attractions Skywarp
Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, Concord....Splash Water Island — interactive water play structure
Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia....CraZanity — Zamperla Giant Discovery
Universal Studios Hollywood, Universal City....Kung Fu Panda multisensory theater attraction
Waterworks, Reading....ADG wave pool
Waterworld Concord, Concord....Splashwater Island — four-story interactive water play structure

Colorado
Carla Madison Recreation Center, Denver....New rec center with indoor water park including lap pool, lazy river, waterslides, kids play structure with tipping bucket
Hyland Hills Water World, Federal Heights....ProSlide 8-lane ProRacer; Upgrade to Lost River of Pharaohs with R&R Creative special projection effects

Connecticut
Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury....Category 5 Rapids — ProSlide Tornado 18 and 2x Pipeline Twister; Splash Away Café; Dennys Electonics LED lighting on Chance Yo-Yo and Sellner Tilt-a-Whirl; commemorative 100th anniversary magazine

Florida
Adventure Island, Tampa....Vanish Point — 70-foot ProSlide 2x Turbo Twister with SkyBox
Aquatica Orlando, Orlando....Ray Rush — WhiteWater West family raft water slide
Beachwalk, Jacksonville....New planned community surrounding 14-acre Crystal Lagoon — first in U.S.
Disney's Hollywood Studios, Lake Buena Vista....Toy Story Land — new themed

area' Slinky Dog Dash — Mack Rides junior coaster; Alien Swirling Saucers — flying saucer ride
Grove Resort & Spa Orlando, Orlando....Safari Water Park — ADG Dual Flow-Rider, waterslides, splash pad, lazy river, zero entry pool
Legoland Florida, Winter Haven....The Great Lego Race — VR addition to former Project X roller coaster; Baynum Painting repainting complete repaint of Project X coaster
Nocatee Splash Water Park, Ponte Vedra Beach....ProSlide RideHouse 300
Sam's Fun City, Pensacola....Emerald Coaster — Pinfari Zyklon Z40 relocated from Ocean Beach Pleasure Park (England)
SeaWorld Orlando, Orlando....Infinity Falls — Intamin river raft ride with record-breaking drop and new-style rafts
Universal Studios Florida, Orlando....Fast and Furious - Supercharged — simulated high-speed tram chase
Vue at 360, Orlando....Funtime Star Flyer

Georgia
Georgia Mountain Coaster, Helen....Georgia Mountain Coaster — Wiegand Alpine Coaster
Great Wolf Lodge Georgia, LaGrange....New indoor waterpark with ProSlide Tornado 24, FlyingSaucer 45, Mammoth, RallyRacer 54, SuperLoop with Sky-Box, Twister; Kidz 2x ProRacer and 2x Twister; ADG wave pool
Six Flags Over Georgia, Austell....Twisted Cyclone — RMC conversion of former Georgia Cyclone coaster
Wild Adventures, Valdosta....Megabugs! Adventure Continues — interactive area with 70 exhibits of insects and arachnids

Idaho
Roaring Springs Water Park, Meridian....Bearfoot Bay expansion — three slides and 20 bear-themed water play toys

Illinois
Great Wolf Lodge Gurnee, Gurnee....New indoor waterpark with ProSlide Behe-mothBowl40/BehemothBowl 40 hybrid, Mammoth; Kidz 2x ProRacer, Twister; ADG wave pool
Raging Waves, Yorkville....ProSlide 2x Drop Slide, Kidz Zone
Six Flags Great America, Gurnee....Mardi Gras Hangover — Larson International Giga Loop 100; Holiday in the Park

Indiana
Holiday World, Santa Claus....Tembo Falls and Tembo Tides — ProSlide chil-dren's slides and ADG wave pool; PTCL overhaul of The Voyage trains

Iowa
Adventureland Park, Altoona....Bernie's Barnyard — kiddie rides, playground, arcade games all geared for young children; Metallbau Enmen Pony Trek; Sky-line Attractions Crazy Couch
Arnolds Park, Arnolds Park....Chance Rides 36-foot carousel

Kentucky
Beech Bend, Bowling Green....Baynum Painting resurfacing of steel and slides on Tiki Aqua Play structure
Kentucky Kingdom, Louisville....Scream Xtreme — Zamperla Endeavour; Rock 'n' Roller family ride; Happy Family The Ride and Journey 2 the Mysterious Island — 5D films

Maine
Palace Playland, Old Orchard Beach....Sea Viper — Preston & Barbieri steel coaster; Wipeout — steel coaster

Maryland
Six Flags America, Largo....Wahoo River — ADG upgraded lazy river; PTCL over-haul of Roar and Wild One trains
Watkins Regional Park, Upper Marlboro....Chance Rides CP Huntington Train

Massachusetts
Edaville Family Theme Park, Carver....Kersplash — E&F Miler Water Coaster relocated from Washington State Fair
Six Flags New England, Agawam....Harley Quinn Spinsanity — Zamperla Giant Discovery; expanded Gotham City area

Michigan
Craig's Cruisers Family Fun Center, Wyoming....Cruiser Coaster — SBF Visa compact spinning coaster

Minnesota
Valleyfair, Shakopee....Delirious — Larson International 22m Giant Loop

Missouri
America's Fun Park, Branson....Interpark SuperNova and Wacky Worm operated by S.J. Entertainment.
Silver Dollar City, Branson....Time Traveler — Mack Rides launched, spinning coaster
Six Flags St. Louis, Eureka....Typhoon Twister — ProSlide BehemothBowl 40/ TornadoWave 60 hybrid
Worlds of Fun, Kansas City....Nordic Chaser — Zamperla Jump Around

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Nebraska

Fun Plex, Omaha....Rockin' Rapids — two SplashTacular tube water slides with translucent fiberglass sections

Nevada

The Linq, Las Vegas....Fly Linq — 10 side-by-side ziplines over the Linq Promenade

New Hampshire

Canobie Lake Park, Salem....Water park expansion — ADG Tidal River; three-slide tower; Ice Jet — Bertazzon Matterhorn

New Jersey

Clementon Park, Clementon....PTCI overhaul of Hell Cat train

Diggerland, West Berlin....Seven-acre expansion; Soaring Eagle Zipline; Kubota Rugged Riders and Farm Tractors; Elevation Station scissors lift; Ventrac 3400Y

Gillian's Wonderland Pier, Ocean City....Drop Tower — Larson International Super Shot Drop Tower

Morey's Piers, Wildwood....Wild Whizzer — SBF Visa compact spinning coaster; Baynum Painting repainting of Doo Wopper coaster

Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson....Cyborg Cyberspin — abc Rides Tourbillon; Baynum Painting restoration of carousel panels

New York

Castle Family Fun Center, Chester....Soaring Eagle Zipline

Darien Lake, Darien Center....Tantrum — Gerstlauer Euro-fighter 380

Fantasy Island, Grand Island....Fairy Tale Forest — new children's area; Skyline Attractions Strike-U-Up; Baynum Painting waterslide restoration and tower painting

Seabreeze Amusement Park, Rochester....Baynum Painting gelcoat of Rip Tide Slide

SplashDown Beach, Fishkill....Megalodon — ProSlide TornadoWave 60; ProSlide Kidz MiniRiver, 4-lane ProRacer

Spish Splash, Long Island....Baynum Painting gelcoat and exterior of Dragon's Den; gelcoat and exterior of Kiddie Cove; resurface exterior of Dr Van Dark Tunnel; resurface tubes of Alien Invasion

The Great Escape, Lake George....Pandemonium — Chance Rides freestyle

North Carolina

Carowinds, Charlotte....Beagle Scout Acres — 8,000-square-foot play structure; Camp Snoopy — playground structures; multiple children's rides

Ohio

Cedar Point, Sandusky....Steel Vengeance — RMC conversion of former Mean Streak coaster; PTCI overhaul of Blue Streak trains

Plain Township Aquatic Center, New Albany....Baynum Painting gelcoat and exterior of waterslides

Zoombezi Bay, Columbus....ADG Adventure Lagoon Water Ride

Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati....Chance Rides CP Huntington Train

Oklahoma

Frontier City, Oklahoma City....Soaring Eagle Zipline; PTCI overhaul of Wildcat train; second Silver Bullet train from Greezed Lightnin' AstroWorld

Oregon

Oaks Amusement Park, Portland....Adrenaline Peak — Gerstlauer Euro Fighter 320 with KCL Engineering light package

Pennsylvania

Dorney Park, Allentown....PTCI overhaul of Thunderhawk train

Dutch Wonderland, Lancaster....Merlin's Mayhem — S&S Worldwide suspended coaster with R&R Creative theming and video package

Hersheypark, Hershey....Breaker's Edge Water Coaster — ProSlide HydroMagnetic with Flying Saucer 45; Whitecap Racer — ProSlide RallyRacer 32

Idlewild & SoakZone, Ligonier....Reopening of Rollo Coaster with new PTCI train; Baynum Painting complete repaint of Wild Mouse

Kennywood, West Mifflin....Thomas Town — retheming of the Olde Kennywood railroad and five children's rides from Zamperla; R&R Creative theming and graphics

Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg....Over The Top — SBF Wave Rider

Sesame Place, Langhorne....Oscar's Wacky Taxi — Gravity Group wooden coaster

South Park Waterpark, Allegheny County....ADG wave pool renovation

Splash Lagoon, Erie....ADG FlowRider

Waldameer, Erie....ProSlide CannonBowl 30; Balloon Race — Zamperla Samba

Balloon; remodeled Fudge House and Cookie House

South Carolina

Neptune Island Waterpark, Hartsville....Water park expansion of previous splashpad — 1,000-foot lazy river, zero entry pool, ADG wave pool, speed body slide, pair of tubular water slides, three mat racing slides

Wild Water & Wheels, Myrtle Beach....ProSlide Drop Slide

Tennessee

Anakeesta, Gatlinburg....Anakeesta Mountain Coaster — Brandauer Summer Toboggan

Dollywood's Splash Country, Pigeon Forge....Baynum Painting repainting of Big Bear Plunge tower, gelcoat Mountain Scream Slides, gelcoat and exterior of Butterfly slides

Mountain Mile, Pigeon Forge....Mountain Monster — Stan Checketts/Soaring Eagle Inc. 200-foot tower with four attractions including swing ride, drop ride and dive ride

Nashville Shores, Hermitage....Aqua Park — Wibit Sports floating obstacle course

Soundwaves at Gaylord Opryland, Nashville....New ADG-designed indoor park with ProSlide Tornado 45, Mammoth, CannonBowl 40, 2x Twister, Pipeline, SuperLoop with SkyBox, FreeFall with SkyBox, 4-lane OctopusRacer

Texas

Aquatica San Antonio, San Antonio....Taumata Racer — Six lane WhiteWater West racing slide

Big Rivers Waterpark, New Caney....New waterpark with multiple slides and ADG wave pool

Circuit of the Americas, Austin....Soaring Eagle Zipline

El Paso Zoo, El Paso....36-foot Chance Rides Endangered Species Carousel

Epic Waters indoor water park, Grand Prairie....New indoor waterpark with multiple slides from WhiteWater and Sunbelt Pools outdoor wave pool

Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier, Galveston....Baynum Painting repainting of Star Flyer Tower and structural steel columns under pier

Kemah Boardwalk, Kemah....PTCI overhaul of Boardwalk Bullet trains; Baynum Painting repainting of Drop Tower

Landry's Downtown Aquarium, Houston....Chance Rides Electric CP Huntington Train

SeaWorld San Antonio, San Antonio....Electric Ocean — light and music celebration; Sesame Parade

Six Flags Fiesta Texas, San Antonio....Wonder Woman Golden Lasso Coaster — RMC Raptor track coaster, Pirates of the Deep Sea dark ride retheme, revamped Spassburg area

Six Flags Over Texas, Arlington....Harley Quinn Spinsanity — abc Rides Tourbillon

Splashway Water Park, Sheridan....ProSlide 3x Tornado 24 hybrid

Trader's Village, Grand Prairie....Chance Rides 36-foot Americana carousel

Utah

Lagoon, Farmington....New GCII trains for Roller Coaster, new candy shop

Vermont

Quechee Gorge Village, Quechee....Wisdom Rides oval coaster relocated from Central Park Fun-Land

Virginia

Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Williamsburg....Battle for Eire — motion base theater with 360-degree virtual reality

Central Park Fun-Land, Fredericksburg....Twist N' Shout — SBF Visa compact spinning coaster

Kings Dominion, Doswell....Twisted Timbers — RMC conversion of former Hurler coaster

Ocean Breeze Water Park, Virginia Beach....ProSlide Mammoth River

Washington

The Rides at Long Beach, Long Beach....Wacky Worm — Big Apple/Wacky Worm-style coaster

Wisconsin

Noah's Ark Waterpark, Lake Delton....Raja - The World's Largest King Cobra — Polin Waterparks King Cobra; theming upgrades provided by R&R Creative; Baynum Painting rehab of shoot the chute boats and structural painting

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Despite nor'easter, 130 make trek to NEAAPA meeting

NEAAPA: Ron Gustafson
Special to Amusement Today



MYSTIC, Conn. — More than 100 people weathered a nor'easter to attend the **New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions' (NEAAPA) 105th Anniversary Education Conference & Annual Meeting** March 12-16 at the **Hilton Mystic** hotel.

Around 30 who had registered for the event were not able to attend as heavy snow and wind swept into the region.

Despite the wintry blast, 130 were on hand for NEAAPA's annual dinner meeting on March 13. The highlight of the gala event was the induction of **George Frantzis II** into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame.

An owner of **Quassy Amusement & Waterpark**, Middlebury, Conn., Frantzis is the third member of his family entered into the prestigious hall. He served as NEAAPA president in 1998-99.

Training and education

The conference kicked off March 12 with a five-day **National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO)** outreach safety school and testing session (see related photo, page 65).

Of the 58 participants, many were state inspectors in New England. Also attending were individual NEAAPA members who inspect and maintain their own rides and others who inspect facilities nationwide.

The **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)** hosted a regional networking event Monday afternoon which summarized a variety of legislative issues and related updates.

Featured speakers were **Erika Scheffer**, IAAPA state advocacy director, and **Erik Beard** from the law firm of **Wiggin and Dana, LLP**, of Hartford, Conn. Beard is a member of IAAPA's Government Relations Committee and is also on NEAAPA's board of directors. IAAPA board member **Rob Norris** of **Seabreeze Amusement Park** in Rochester, N.Y., also was in attendance.

Keynote speaker for NEAAPA's educational ses-

sions on March 13 was **Louie Gravance**, who addressed a capacity audience. Gravance developed training and orientation programs at **The Walt Disney Co.** in Orlando, Fla., and previously had a career in acting — appearing in dozens of television commercials and other projects. Today, he is a consultant and speaker through his firm, **Louie Gravance Creative Concepts**.

"Great Service Serves the Server First!" was Gravance's theme, and it was an ideal fit for the many parks and attractions operators present. He called on audience members for assistance during the fast-paced, 90-minute session.

The morning concluded with a roundtable session devoted to revenue generating. The moderators were **Dave Oberlander**, senior vice president of Mashpee, Mass.-based **Centerplate**, and **Cindy Brewer-Lavoie**, owner of **Southwick's Zoo** in Mendon, Mass.

Showcasing vendors

An afternoon vendor showcase on March 13 was facilitated by **Kevin Estrela**, regional manager for **Dippin' Dots, LLC**. More than a dozen member tables were set up with displays.

Estrela introduced individual speakers after association members made their rounds. The included representatives of NEAAPA member suppliers **Windish Music and Productions**, **S&S-Sansei Technologies**, **Premier Rides**, **Naughton Insurance**, **FetchRev** and **Dippin' Dots**.

The day's final seminar was "Crisis Management — Incident Response and Communication." Speakers were **Steve McPherson**, security and emergency medical services, **Canobie Lake Park**, Salem, N.H.; **Chris Nicoli**, brand manager, **Canobie Lake Park**; and **Todd McGhee**, managing partner of **Protecting the Homeland Innovations, LLC**, Braintree, Mass.

The organization's annual dinner meeting followed. It included a brief business agenda to accept the slate of



George Frantzis II of **Quassy Amusement & Waterpark**, Middlebury, Conn. (above), was inducted into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame at the organization's 105th Anniversary Education Conference & Annual Meeting in Mystic, Conn. Presenting the award was **Dorothy Lewis**, NEAAPA president. NEAAPA members attended a reception prior to the annual dinner meeting (below). COURTESY NEAAPA/RON GUSTAFSON



officers for 2019, as well as reports from the secretary, finance committee and nomination committee. NEAAPA President **Dorothy Lewis** also provided a brief report.

During the gala, Lewis presented the following awards: Alan E. Ramsay Safety Award / **Bill Cormier**, **Funtown Splashtown USA**, Saco, Maine; Paragon Award (excellence in graphic promotion) / **Dippin' Dots, LLC**, Paducah, Ky.; Pinnacle Award (excellence in customer service) /

Rachel Morrissey, **Canobie Lake Park**; and Meritorious Service Award / **John Winkler**, **Six Flags New England**, Agawam, Mass.

The 2019 NEAAPA officers are President **Dorothy Lewis**, **Fun Station Entertainment Group**, Danbury, Conn.; First Vice President **Eric Anderson**, **Quassy Amusement & Waterpark**; Second Vice President **Dave Oberlander**, **Centerplate**; and Treasurer **Charlene Conway**, **Carousel Family Fun**

Center, Fairhaven, Mass.

In addition, Lewis recognized past NEAAPA presidents. Membership Milestone Awards, ranging from 10 to 75 years, were presented to numerous members in recognition of their continued support of the organization.

The conference enjoyed a raft of industry sponsors.

Among the companies supporting the event were **Allied Specialty Insurance, Inc.**, Treasure Island, Fla.; **Premier Rides**, Baltimore, Md.; **Dippin' Dots, LLC**, Paducah, Ky.; **S&S-Sansei Technologies**, Logan, Utah; **Naughton Insurance**, Providence, R.I.; **FetchRev**, Tempe, Ariz.; **Carousel Family Fun Centers**, Fairhaven, Mass.; **Windish Music and Productions**, West Chester, Pa.; **Rhode Island Novelty**, Fall River, Mass.; **Daly Cavanaugh, LLP**, Wellesley, Mass.; **Edaville Family Theme Park**, Carver, Mass.; **Whitewater West Industries**, Richmond,

B.C., Canada; **NXT Capture**, Orlando, Fla.; **North American Amusement**, Weymouth, Mass.; **High Mountain Enterprises**, White Plains, N.Y.; **Xpressposts.com**, Danbury, Conn.; **CLM Entertainment Group, LLC**, Woonsocket, R.I. and **Bass Resort Sales**, Mansfield, Mass.

NEAAPA's 105th Anniversary Summer Meeting will take place July 24 at **Funtown Splashtown** in Saco, Maine.

•neapaa.com

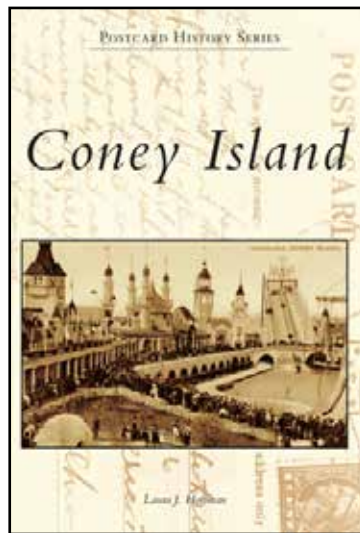
Postcards, images highlight Coney Island's history

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

Coney Island is famous for much more than just hot dogs and wild rides. At the turn of the 20th century, it was known as the "playground of the world." In the beginning, this upscale resort catered to the rich. Between 1897 and 1904, three lavish amusement parks opened in Coney Island. By 1920, the subway extended to Stillwell Avenue, which made Coney Island more accessible for everyone.

The abundant history is remarkable, and its peaks and valleys closely resemble one of its most famous icons, the roller coaster. Coney Island hit its apex between 1910 and 1930. Afterward, it suffered through the Great Depression, went into major decline after World War I, and hit bottom in the 1970s and 1980s. In recent years, there has been a profound revitalization effort to bring the area back to its glory days.

The book, *Coney Island*, from **Arcadia Publishing's Postcard History Series** uses stunning vintage images and postcards to illustrate the history of this unique col-



lection of amusement attractions.

Author **Laura J. Hoffman**, grew up in Mountain Lakes, N.J. and made frequent trips to Coney Island. Although she currently lives in Florida, she is an avid collector of Coney Island memorabilia. She shares her extensive collection of Coney Island postcards to chronicle the storied past of this classic vacation destination. Remarkably, all of the images in the book are from the author's personal collection.

Hoffman hopes the book will inspire others to preserve

what is left of Coney Island's unique culture as well as the amusements and the spirit of the people in the area.

A portion of the profits from the sale of the book are being donated to the **Coney Island History Project** and **Coney Island USA**.

The **Arcadia Postcard Series** takes a look at some of American history's most iconic areas as they appear in carefully curated collections of vintage postcards.

Arcadia Publishing's Postcard History Series seeks to honor the lost art of the postcard with a stunning collection of volumes on a specific topic.

In the early 1900s, postcards were a far more common way to communicate. In many cases, they are also our only lasting images of certain structures, monuments, and places.

Postcards were the social media of the 1900s. According to the book, on an average summer weekend in 1907, visitors to Coney Island mailed more than a quarter-million postcards to family and friends. On a single day in 1906, the Coney Island post office processed more than 200,000 postcards. Thousands more were

probably sold but never mailed, to be saved instead in scrapbooks.

Because this book is a postcard history, the time frame it covers is limited. Some significant Coney landmarks, such as the **Elephant Hotel**, predate the printing of postcards, so images are not included in this collection.

The book is divided into eight chapters, with the first chapter, *The Early Days*, featuring some of the very first picture postcards ever created. Many feature the lavish hotels that catered to the wealthy, some of whom stayed for the entire summer.

The remaining seven chapters highlight a specific park or attraction: **Steeplechase Park**, **Luna Park**, **Dreamland**, **Surf Avenue**, **The Bowery**, **Brighton Beach**, and the beach and boardwalk.

Despite the plethora of rides, theaters and eateries, one of the most popular attractions at Coney was the beach itself. Located at the south end of the peninsula the beach is bathed in sunlight all day long and the waters of Lower Bay are relatively calm.

The bulk of the postcards are from the 1920s through the 1940's a time during which Coney Island

was constantly changing. Fires were frequent and attractions that burned were often rebuilt larger and grander than before.

Competition was fierce, and what was often a hot item one year, could quickly fall out of favor. Attractions were frequently updated or simply torn down and replaced.

Some attractions even tried to capitalize on the frequent fires, by burning every night. Dreamland's *Fighting the Flames* exhibit featured firemen who fought flames and rescued people from a six-story building each night. A competing attraction at **Luna Park** called *Fire and Flame*, had fireman fighting an entire city block that was set ablaze each night.

Ironically real fires played a major role in the eventual demise of both parks. The 1944 Luna Park fire wiped out most of the 22-acre park.

The 128-page soft cover book features 222 black-and-white images highlighted with captions. The book retails for \$21.99 and can be purchased at popular book sellers such as Amazon.com or directly from Arcadia Publishing at arcadiapublishing.com



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Bowling Green State University partners with Cedar Fair

Cedar Fair to build educational facility in Sandusky

AT: Tim Baldwin
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SANDUSKY, Ohio — Known for one of the greatest collections of roller coasters on the planet, the city of Sandusky is gearing up for something different: College classrooms.

Cedar Fair, the parent company of mega-park Cedar Point, has partnered with Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, Ohio) to offer a degree in tourism called Resort and Attraction Management. A new set of classrooms and dormitories for up to 200 students will soon be constructed in the city of Sandusky to specifically focus on this new degree.

This collaboration between BGSU, Sandusky and Cedar Fair could be considered the final feather in caps worn by two former top brass officials — **Matt Ouimet**, former CEO of Cedar Fair and **Mary Ellen Mazey**, retired president of BGSU. The program was spearheaded by the two individuals, who both retired on January 1, and has finally been given the green light.

"We've always emphasized to young people that working in an amusement park is a great career opportunity,"



Cedar Point, one of the largest amusement parks in the world, will be nearby for interns at the new BGSU facility. The new tourism degree will cover various aspects giving students hands-on experience with resort management, restaurants and attractions. AT/TIM BALDWIN

said **Richard Zimmerman**, CEO, Cedar Fair. "As an offshoot of this, several years ago we worked with BGSU on leadership training. That really blossomed as we saw the value in the training and relevancy of BGSU in the community. Matt announced the joint program last year."

Cedar Fair will oversee the construction of the classrooms and dormitories, an expense estimated to be at least \$15 million.

"One of the more innovative features of this relationship is that Cedar Fair is providing BGSU with the school facility, and in conjunction with this we're building a 200-bed housing facility that could also

be used by our seasonal associates as the need arises. So, we're combining market-based apartments with the education facility, and it's a win-win for the company and the university," added Zimmerman.

Students enrolled in this program will find a broad approach to the degree, one which will encompass tourism with resort and business management. With Cedar Point being right down the road, interns can have first-hand experience working with attractions, resorts, restaurants and numerous aspects of the business.

The proximity of the new campus to the park will allow guest lecturers to attend class-

es, and then interns can find opportunities inside the park during the summer months. Other Cedar Fair parks can also be utilized. Kings Island is in the Cincinnati area and Michigan's Adventure is in the neighboring state to Ohio.

"Cedar Point hires interns in a wide variety of roles spread across every park department including responsibilities ranging from culinary to merchandising to logistics and many more," said **Jason McClure**, vice president and general manager, Cedar Point. "The Bowling Green State University program will be a co-op program and students will have the ability to connect with a specific department, or to gain experience in a wide variety of departments during the program. We are working toward the goal of a 200-student program."

While Cedar Fair will fund the building of the new facility, Bowling Green will run the program. For the first two years, students would attend classes on the main campus or the Firelands branch campus in Huron, Ohio (ten miles from Cedar Point). The final two years will focus on the tourism degree and take place in Sandusky.

"We're proud to take a leadership role here," said Zimmerman. "This is a truly unique workforce development arrangement where Cedar Fair serves as a 'labora-

tory' for these students. We see this as a cutting edge way that the college provides work-ready students with a wealth of transferable skills as well as some of the more niche features that amusement parks and resorts value."

"I'm frequently asked by people what is more important: experience or education. The great thing about this program is that it will provide both," said McClure. "Being able to partner directly with Bowling Green State University allows us to embed in to the curriculum some of the nuances related specifically to our industry. The program will provide a wide range of topics that align with the variety within our operation, and most importantly, help them understand that these topics are all connected in some form."

The city of Sandusky will provide the land and financial support in the form of tax breaks. The state of Ohio has contributed \$800,000.

"This has been a triumph of collaboration; it's one of those rare projects that comes along and checks all the boxes — workforce development, civic involvement, private investment, success in working with both the city and the state," said Zimmerman. "**Eric Wobser**, the city manager for Sandusky, has also been a key driver. A lot of pieces had to come together to make this happen."

Kings Island hires noted chef, debuts fast-casual BBQ dining

AT: Dean Lamanna
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MASON, Ohio — With its new season now underway, **Kings Island** is stepping up its food service on both sides of the counter.

James Major, a two-time winner of the **Food Network's Chopped** TV cooking contest and a contestant on **Alton Brown's Cutthroat Kitchen**, has taken on the executive chef position at the Cincinnati-area theme park



Major

An Ohio native and U.S. Navy veteran, Major is a **Culinary Institute of America** Certified Pro Chef II. He previously served as executive chef at **Great American Ball Park**, home of the **Cincinnati**

Reds baseball team, and **Funky's Catering**, also in Cincinnati.

"Kings Island has always been a place where family memories are made," Major said. "It's an honor for me and my team to have the chance to be creative, and to provide great food experiences, that add to those memories and the fun guests have during their visit."

The park is confident Major can deliver the culinary goods.

"Chef Major is here to help create those memorable food and dining options throughout the park that will enhance the guest's visit," said **Mike Koontz**, Kings Island vice president and general manager.

Kings Island already is moving to increase its menu of food-based fun.

Having opened with the rest of the 33-acre property on



With two-time Chopped TV show winner James Major now on board as executive chef, Kings Island is enhancing its food service. Evidencing this initiative is the new Coney Bar B Que restaurant in the Coney Mall section. COURTESY KINGS ISLAND

April 14, and included in the park's dining plans, the Coney Bar B Que restaurant is a new fast-casual dining option. It offers a variety of barbecued choices, such as smoked St. Louis-style ribs, pulled pork, rotisserie chicken and the Cincinnati-based favorite **Queen City Sausage**, as well

as a selection of side dishes.

Located in the Coney Mall section of the park, next to the Scrambler, Coney Bar B Que features architecture and theming that pay tribute to the early days of Kings Island and the very area the restaurant occupies. Covered outdoor seating provides relaxing views of sur-

rounding attractions, including the Grand Carousel.

"In the amusement park industry, you're constantly challenging your team to find new ways to help friends and family come together — and the culinary experience is a big part of that," Koontz said.

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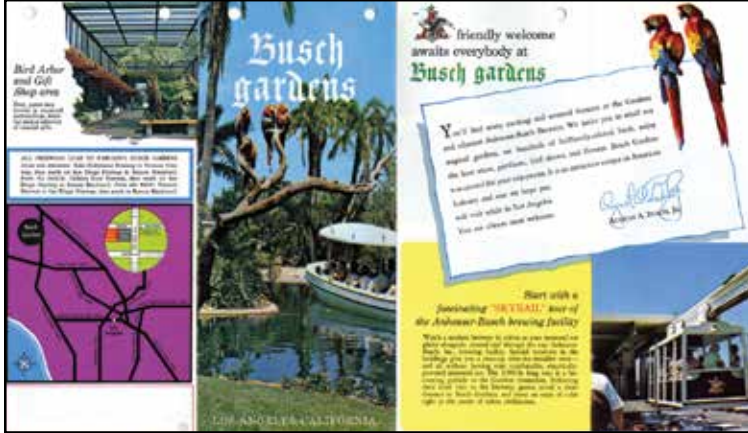
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MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

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

Historic Busch Gardens brochure included with Bob Minick collection



Long before the Busch Gardens theme parks in Williamsburg and Tampa, there were Busch Gardens parks adjacent to several of the company's breweries, where tours were extremely popular — typically given aboard a monorail. The brochure above shows the Busch Gardens in Van Nuys, Calif., just outside Los Angeles. Opened in 1964, the park featured a boat tour, screened-in bird aviary and several open bird areas with flamingos, swans and storks. Attractions included a bird show, penguin exhibit, otter display and relaxing terraces all set amid beautiful tropical gardens.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES COLLECTION



1927:

The Cyclone was a familiar sight to millions of visitors, many traveling from Buffalo, N.Y., by steamship to see this new attraction. Designed by the **Traver Engineering Co.**, the legendary ride opened on July 4, 1927 at **Crystal Beach Park**, in Ridgeway, Ont., Canada. Topping out at 100 feet, the all-steel-structured ride thrilled an estimated five million riders during its 20 years of operation. One of three identical rides in the Northeast, parts of its original steel framing was used in its 1948 replacement, the Comet Coaster. —Richard W. Munch

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► Skynext recap — page 59 / Safety at the Amusement Expo International — page 61 / CALENDAR — page 64

The evolution of ASTM amusement ride standards

Committee F24 celebrates 40th anniversary; now 1,000 members strong

ASTM: Jack Maxwell
Special to Amusement Today



ASTM INTERNATIONAL
F24 on AMUSEMENT RIDES and DEVICES

WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — When adventurous New Yorkers paid five cents to board the Gravity Pleasure Switchback Railway at **Coney Island** in 1884, they found themselves hurtling along at a top speed of nearly 6 miles per hour.

Little did they know that this historic roller coaster would help spawn an industry that would someday be capable of sending riders to a top speed of more than 149 mph, as does Formula Rossa in Abu Dhabi.

Although the industry is always competing for the tallest, fastest, newest experience, there is one thing that everyone agrees on — rider safety is the number one priority. Thanks to the hard work of designers, engineers, operators, owners, and others, amusement rides have become both more exciting and safer over the years.

Progress in recent decades has been driven by groups such as **ASTM International's** 1,000-member committee on

amusement rides and devices (F24), which celebrated its 40th anniversary in February 2018 at its meeting in New Orleans, La., USA.

Setting the (lap) bar

In 1978, when the committee formed, amusement parks were in the midst of a roller coaster "arms race." The U.S. **National Amusement Park Historical Association** characterizes the 1970s as "the decade of the roller coaster," with parks seeking to top each other with faster, taller rides and looping inversions — all of which upped the ante in terms of patron safety.

Roller coasters soon became one of the many types of rides and attractions that industry experts began bringing to meet-

ings of the committee, along with classic merry-go-rounds, water slides, Ferris wheels, and more recently, ziplines and trampolines. The group began to set voluntary consensus standards related to design, construction, operations, and maintenance.

Harold Hudson was there from the start. The industry consultant began volunteering in 1979 with the committee, so he had a front row seat (with lapbar and shoulder harness firmly in place, thank you very much) to see the evolution of rides and ride safety. While keeping people safe and secure has always been the number one focus of the industry, Hudson notes that the advent of a formalized, voluntary, standards development process designed to ensure consensus among the many stakeholders was a real game-changer.

"Many of the early standards had tremendous impact on the industry because suddenly there was a bar to be met," he says. "The effect was that overall safety throughout the industry was improved. The parks had a reference for what they needed to do — that is, there was an industry standard."

Hudson points out that those early standards were pretty ba-



Amusement ride safety has grown to include more than just roller coasters and flat rides. Today, the F-24 Committee must decide ASTM regulations on attractions such as ropes courses and ziplines (shown above) as well as new trends, like trampoline courses. AT FILE

sic — just a few pages focusing on performance or results, with little information on how such results were achieved. But "over the years, standards have become more specific and now many are design standards that set parameters and serve as guides for the designer/engineer and operator," he says.

Two of F24's groundbreaking accomplishments, in Hudson's view, are the standard practices for ride design (F2291) and measuring ride dynamic characteristics (F2137). "Dynamic forces are what most amusement rides do, and F2137 was the first practice to standardize how these forces are measured and analyzed," he says. "Now every designer, engineer, inspector, or operator has comparable results because they all use the same standard for acquiring and analyzing forces on amusement rides."

It seems clear that the relationship between ASTM International and amusement ride industry stakeholders is working.

Statistically, amusement rides have become an increasingly safe form of family entertainment. For example, an August 2017 report from the **U.S. National Safety Council** states that: "Compared to 2003, both the estimated number of injuries and the injury rate per million patron-rides in 2016 were down — by 36 percent and 20 percent, respectively." The report indicates 0.8 injuries per million patron-rides in 2016, with only a fraction of those injuries reported to be "serious."

Nimble and responsive

One of F24's most valuable attributes is its responsiveness.

"I think what makes F24 such a great committee for the theme park and amusement industry is that it's the only international standards group where we bring up new topics that are relevant to the industry as soon as they happen, and we're able to release standards faster," says committee mem-

► See ASTM, page 58



Now one of ASTM International's largest committees by membership, the amusement rides and devices committee (F-24) most recently met in New Orleans, La., in February to celebrate its 40th anniversary and work on its standards development. COURTESY ASTM

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►ASTM

Continued from page 56

ber **Linda Freeman**, a functional safety engineer and business development manager for **Rockwell Automation**. "So anytime there's a new challenge in the industry, because of the way ASTM is structured, anyone can bring a topic to a meeting, anyone can propose that a subcommittee be formed, and anyone can request a meeting to discuss a problem. It just makes us a much more relevant and timely-to-the-issues group."

Hudson concurs. "Reaction

time is a key strength of F24," he says. "When new knowledge is acquired, a standard can often be modified to include that knowledge in less than a year. This is important to an ever-improving safety environment."

The challenges Freeman referenced range from addressing the safety implications of new materials and technologies to developing standards from scratch for entirely new categories of amusements and attractions.

A newly published standard approved by the subcommittee on test methods (F24.10) is a



To learn more about the ASTM F24 Committee's work on amusement ride safety visit: www.astm.org/video/F24. COURTESY ASTM

good example of the former. The new standard, F3214, will help ride designers and owners better determine the flammability and other fire properties of materials they use in foams and paddings for riders.

Roger Berry, with the **Ralph S. Alberts Co. Inc.**, notes that ride vehicles, especially those indoors, can sometimes be overlooked by inspectors who focus more on the structure when determining the appropriate building code flame/smoke standard to apply. "Because this is a ride vehicle, we want to provide additional requirements to ensure safety," Berry says. "We have some soft goods involved that are there for the protection and comfort of our guests that are not going to meet a traditional drywall burn standard or a more aggressive burn standard."

Helping to enhance the safety of foam pads and molded goods used on ride vehicles is only the beginning. According to Berry, this new standard is now a living document that will incorporate future changes in the industry. "The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** is constantly changing materials that can be used in the construction of ride components," Berry says, "so consequently there will be a need for future revisions in this area. But we'll also be updating the standard to include composite body structures, as well as electrical and hydraulic systems."

Beyond the traditional amusement rides, Committee F24 is also adjusting to the demand for voluntary consensus standards in new recreational activities that didn't even exist until recently.

Take obstacle course racing. It's only been about a decade since fitness enthusiasts started scrambling up walls and crawling under barbed wire in organized events, but **USA Obstacle Course Racing**, the sport's governing body in the United States, asserts that it is now the number one mass participation sport in the world, larger than marathons, half-marathons, and triathlons combined.

As the sport has expanded, so has the realization among various

stakeholders that standards need to keep pace. To meet this need, the subcommittee on adventure attractions (F24.61) began work last year on a standard for building and operating "land-based pedestrian obstacle courses." Among other things, the proposed standard aims to "remove obvious hazardous conditions by the logical application of existing standards and model codes."

Brian von Ancken, global risk manager and general counsel for **Tough Mudder**, puts it this way: "The growth of the industry and concerns for participant safety led us to think about global standards. The entire event is being examined, including pre-event checks and fall protection."

A strong pipeline of standards experts

In addition to keeping pace with the latest trends and technologies, F24 is one of the most active of ASTM International's 150 committees in regards to building a pipeline of future experts.

"One of the things that's really cool about F24 is that we have a very active student outreach program," says Freeman. "We are doing really well with succession planning for technical people in our industry. In the beginning, we used to have maybe five or six students that would attend. At the last meeting, the number was over 40. So it's really grown over the last four years."

Freeman also points out that amusement attractions will continue to grow in complexity and will require knowledgeable, technically sophisticated engineers and leaders to design, build, and maintain them.

One way to increase the number of candidates capable of filling these roles is to reach out to women.

"Women make up half of the planet's population, so gender representation in technical fields should also be 50-50," Freeman says. "But sometimes that doesn't happen because, when you don't have someone as a role model or you don't feel part of the group,

then you don't join. So it's on all of us to be that role model, because we need more technical people going into that field, and the way to find more bodies is to bring in more women."

Global reach

F24, like many ASTM International committees, is global both in terms of its membership roster and the impact of the standards it develops. With major ride design and manufacturing companies located throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia, and with U.S.-based companies in markets around the world, it's crucial that the work of the committee is carried out in a spirit of cooperation with other standards organizations.

Greg Hale has a long history of involvement in efforts to improve the consistency of international safety standards. As an F24 member for nearly 30 years — as well as in his professional roles as chief safety officer and vice president of worldwide safety and health for **Walt Disney Parks and Resorts**, and immediate past chairman of the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions** — Hale has championed the harmonization of ride standards.

"The harmonization process has consisted of bringing together the ride experts working on the **EN** (European Norms), **ISO** (International Organization for Standardization) Standards, and **ASTM International Standards**," Hale says. "The leaders and members of each of those organizations have been key to the success by working together and sharing their technical expertise so that the core technical requirements of all three sets of these global standards are now harmonized."

Giving two examples of cross-fertilization, Hale says, "ASTM International's F2291 design standard was based on the great work of the EN13814 committee. Conversely, EN13814 has adopted ASTM's F2137 for measuring ride accelerations, and ISO technical committee 254 has also voted to adopt F2137." Hale says this means that there will essentially be only one standard in the world for measuring ride accelerations.

Clearly, the 1,000-plus members of ASTM International's committee on amusement rides and devices are poised to build on their strong legacy of the past four decades.

•www.astm.org

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March/April 2018
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Let's do lunch

Invitation for lunch four years ago, now seeing benefit with more women on F24

WEST CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. —The membership roster of the **ASTM Committee F24** on Amusement Rides and Devices, like that of many other committees, includes many engineers. No surprise there. And most of those engineers are men — also not surprising, considering that only 29,000 of the 337,000 mechanical engineers employed in 2015 in the United States were women, according to the National Science Foundation.

However, what may be surprising to those not involved with F24 is the fact that an outreach initiative that began just four years ago with a simple invitation to lunch is slowly but steadily changing the face of the committee to be younger and more gender-balanced.

"When I first started going to ASTM meetings, around 2000 or 2001, I could probably count on both my hands the number of women that were there," marvels **Linda Freeman**. "Now, I don't even know half of them."

Freeman, a functional safety engineer and business development manager for **Rockwell Automation**, was there for that first lunch in 2014. It came about thanks to a suggestion by F24 member **Kathryn Woodcock, Ph.D., P.Eng.** "I proposed this session because I met many people through Committee F24 and was often surprised to discover that two people who I knew had attended for some time did not know each other, despite having similar jobs," says Woodcock, a professor at **Ryerson University** in Toronto.



Freeman

Freeman had a similar experience. "There are 300 people at the F24 meeting but you might only be in a meeting room all day long with the same 20 people, and don't see the other women," she says. "So that's what I think is important. It's helped us to also increase the number of women that are now frequently attending the F24 meetings."

So what goes on at these meetings? "We usually go around the table and give brief bio and career highlights," Woodcock says. "This opens the door to unstructured discussion of common interests, new developments, observations, and aspirations."

What began as an informal luncheon has evolved into a regular feature of every F24 meeting — and the women who were there at the beginning are thrilled with the results. Freeman remembers, when she was a student, how "any opportunity I ever had to socially interact with professional women engineers, to see role models, really had an impact on me. So it's great to be able to give back and do that for the female students, to inspire them to pursue technical careers."

"I am gratified to see that more of the women of F24 now know each other, and with the importance of networking in the attractions industry, this can only be an asset, not just to the connected women, but to others in their networks," says Woodcock, who also gives a shout-out to her male colleagues. "There have been some wonderful allies among the men of Committee F24, sponsoring the lunches from time to time and encouraging their female colleagues to join us. The supportive atmosphere in this committee is remarkable."

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©ASTM Standardization News, March/April 2018

Amusement industry's future starts taking shape at Skynext

AT: B. Derek Shaw

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ORLANDO, Fla. — Having quickly become an annual tradition each March, **Skynext**, hosted by **Skyline Attractions, LLC**, is a program designed to prime aspiring students and young professionals for a career in the amusement industry.



Offered on a first-come, first-served basis, this year's weekend gathering, which took place March 2-3, drew 60 participants to Skyline's headquarters. Attendees representing 23 states included 13 women and two high school students.

The fourth presentation of the event featured a theme park attraction construction tour and nine guest speakers from throughout the industry, as well as representatives from the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)** and the **Themed Entertainment Association**.

"The construction tour is always a hit, and this year was no exception," said **Scott Parrish**, a Skyline design engineer. "Most



Skynext attendees enjoyed presentations from speakers throughout the industry. The event is a "must attend" for young professionals seeking amusement industry careers.

COURTESY SKYLINE ATTRACTIONS, LLC

of the participants have never been on an amusement ride construction site. **SeaWorld Orlando** graciously provided a tour of their new-for-2018 water ride, **Infinity Falls**, and it provided an up-close look at what goes into constructing a world-class attraction."

Speakers throughout the weekend energized the event and inspired attendees.

IAAPA's **Alex Reszityk** highlighted the opportunities offered by the **IAAPA Show Ambassador Program**, while **Franceen Gonzalez** from **WhiteWater** discussed her career and the job skills she has

developed. **Alexis Papadelias** from **Universal Orlando** and **Mike Kiddoo** from **Universal Parks and Resorts** talked about their roles and provided insight into the daily challenges of operating world-class attractions.

Melissa Ruminot from **The Nassal Co.**, a leader in themed environment fabrication, gave an overview of the company and its history. In addition to offering a concept-to-completion recounting of his company's innovative **SlideWheel** revolving waterslide attraction, **Frank Heimes** from **Wiegand-Maelzer GmbH** told attendees of how a kid who was passion-

ate about the industry was able to follow his dreams.

Jeffrey Siebert, president of **Six Flags Fiesta Texas**, was the program's first-ever virtual presenter — participating via **Skype**. He gave participants a visual tour from the construction site of **Wonder Woman Golden Lasso Coaster**, a cutting-edge, single-rail steel roller coaster from **Rocky Mountain Construction**.

Key takeaways for participants included the importance of networking to enter the industry, the variety of career paths the industry offers and the rewards hard work produces in the form of smiling

customers.

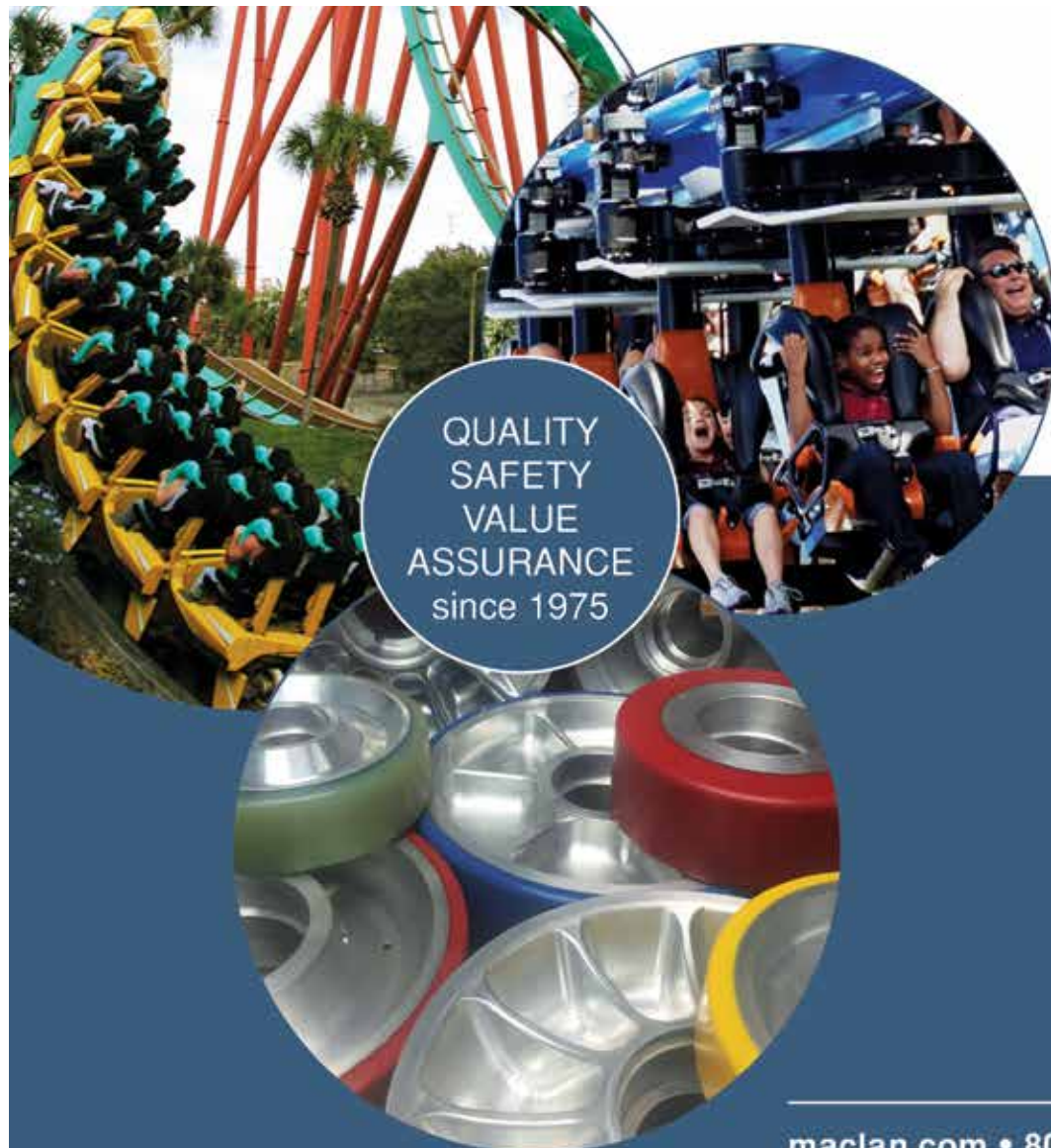
"We continue to learn, year after year, what works well and what doesn't," said Parrish, adding that Skynext 2018 was "the best yet. [We had] a better space for the event, better food, an incredible lineup of presenters and fantastic special events. We've received overwhelmingly positive feedback."

Planning for Skynext is a six-month effort on the part of Skyline's staff. "We're very passionate about this industry and have experienced the challenges of starting a career in it," said Parrish, "so we push each other to develop an event that truly helps others."

Skyline markets Skynext mainly through its own social media channels. Other companies and presenting organizations also help promote the program — including Stevensville, Md.-based **Ride Entertainment**, which has been a sponsor.

Off-site field trips and evening activities contribute to making Skynext a memorable experience. "We've developed a tradition of participating in a construction tour of an attraction one year and then experi-

► See SKYNEXT, page 60



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►SKYNEXT

Continued from page 59

encing the same attraction in its completed state the following year," Parrish said. "We did this in previous years with the **Orlando Eye** and SeaWorld's Mako. After touring the Mine Blower roller coaster construction site at **Fun Spot America** in Kissimmee last year, we returned to experience the exciting finished product during the first night of this year's event."

Job placements for past participants are frequent. "Many have landed full-time positions in the industry [or]... gone on to receive internships," said Parrish, noting that he himself is one of three past participants who now work full time at Skyline. "We hope to always be a valuable learning experience that is a stepping stone for careers."

Other companies that have scooped up Skynext participants include **Disney**, **Great Coasters International**, **Premier Rides**, **Falcon's Creative Group**, **Entech**, **ITEC Entertainment**, **Merlin Entertainments**, **Recreation Engineering** and **Herschend Family Entertainment**.

Past attendee **Curtis Weiner**, a control system engineer at ITEC, said Skynext and its presentations helped define his path into the amusement business.

"The best part for me was when I was introduced to the presenter from ITEC Entertainment," Weiner recalled. "I really enjoyed hearing about the controls engineering projects they worked on and thought that was exactly what I would like to do."

"I wanted to learn about the industry and see if it was really what I wanted to be a part of. The entire Skynext event did that for me. It played a huge role in my finding a way into the industry, and I recommend it for everyone who wants to learn about the industry."

This kind of testimonial is rewarding for the Skynext team, which is more enthusiastic than ever about the program's potential.

"Our goal is to continue drawing the who's who of industry professionals as our featured presenters, and to provide unique and valuable learning and networking experiences for our attendees," Parrish said. "We hope to continue fostering those relationships and building new ones."

Visit Skyline Attractions' website for information and updates regarding Skynext 2019.

•skylineattractions.com

Keep our amusement park industry strong!
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Customization, convenience are 'key' for lock manufacturers

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — In an era when security comes in all manner of high-tech forms, it can be easy to overlook the simple yet crucial role of the lock. Securing the business of fun was the unifying message of several lock manufacturers at **Amusement Expo International (AEI)** earlier this year.

Specializing primarily in medium to high security for nearly a century, **Camlock Systems, Inc.**, of Southington, Conn., supplies locks for family entertainment centers (FECs), arcades, casinos, kiosks and more. **Redbox** machines dispensing movie and video game rentals utilize the company's locks.

"In addition to hardening a business against physical attack, we look at the broader picture of what security is — understanding things like key control and making it very difficult for people to get access to, or duplicate, a key," said **Chris Martell**, marketing manager for Camlock.

Camlock analyzes risks and what Martell described as



At AEI 2018, Camlock Systems' (from right) Chris Martell, marketing manager, and associates Zoe Rodriguez and Bob Divito demonstrated the company's new Bulk Vending 360 lock (inset). Lock America's Robert Chen, marketing development manager, and Dan Walsh, sales manager, displayed an array of lock options. AT/DEAN LAMANNA; CAMLOCK SYSTEMS (INSET)

"friction points" — factors that might make someone less likely to lock something properly, such as inconvenience or poor ease of use — in determining the right lock style and solution.

The company was spotlighting a new product, the Bulk Vending 360, at AEI.

"It functions the same as a traditional bulk-vending lock but requires only one swift, smooth rotation," said Martell, noting that international patents on the lock are pending.

"It allows the operator to work more quickly while vastly reducing wrist strain."

The Bulk 360 lock installs easily with a small adapter and no expensive retrofitting.

Corona, Calif.-based **Lock America, Inc.**, in business since 1982, displayed low- to high-security locks for any application or budget. FECs and bowling alleys top the company's amusement client list.

Pre-assembled and customized locks resistant to

picking, kicking, drilling and other forms of attack fill Lock America's catalogue. Tubular-style key locks capable of more than 60,000 codes are available.

"We pride ourselves in assembling locks to order," said **Dan Walsh**, sales manager, who pointed out that the cam lock — often used in cabinets and cash drawers — is the most common in the amusement industry. "Our tubular locks and high-security locks come with keys that are registered to your

account, under your name."

Walsh said his company typically deals with distributors who supply amusement operators.

"Anyone who comes to [AEI] is our customer," he acknowledged. "They're here buying amusement machines, and the machines have locks on them, and they make money. And any time you make money, you want to lock up."

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LJM & Associates conduct inspections at Miami-Dade County Youth Fair



Gibson, Fla.-based LJM & Associates, Inc., was on site at the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair prior to the fair's opening on March 15 to conduct ride inspections. Left is the LJM team (left to right): Whitney Wesphal, Rick Warble, Doug Clark and Avery Wheelock. Right, Whitney Wesphal (left) and Deanna Johnson conduct a inspection on the Alpine Bobs during setup at the fair. The fair concluded its 2018 run on April 8.

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Tru-Vu unveils waterproof LCD display

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill. — **Tru-Vu Monitors, Inc.**, a provider of industrial-grade LCD monitors and touch screens, has announced the release of a new 24-inch outdoor waterproof Sunlight Readable LCD display. It is designed to produce crystal-clear full HD images even in direct, bright sunlight.

The new SRMW-24 Series monitors feature over 1,000 nits of brightness (which is four times brighter than a standard LCD monitor) and special anti-reflective glass to ensure superb image quality in any light conditions. The waterproof NEMA 4X stainless steel enclosure and operating temperatures of -4 degrees to +158 degrees ensures it will withstand nearly any environment. • tru-vumonitors.com

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The 2019 Safety Seminar will return to Galveston

Back by popular demand! Galveston proved to be a wonderful location and we received extremely positive feedback on the site, venues, quality of classes and instructors. We are pleased to announce that the **2019 AIMS Safety Seminar** will be held at the Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis Resort, **Jan. 13-18, 2019**.

As the No. 1 Safety Seminar for overall safety education, training, and development in the amusement industry, the AIMS Safety Seminar is where the BEST of the BEST in the amusement industry consistently send their employees for annual safety training, education and certification

Classes will be held at the Galveston Convention Center with hotel accommodations at the adjacent Hilton Galveston and San Luis Resort. The AIMS Seminar offers certification testing in Maintenance, Operations, Aquatics and Ride

Inspection.

The **2019 AIMS Seminar Education Committee**, chaired by **John Jachim**, includes **John Hanschen, David Bromilow, Anna Lisa Bacon, Joe Zdunek, Scott Logue, Liz Nemeth, Adam Hickey**, and **John Nievesky**. The committee is planning many new, exciting and innovative classes for the 2019 Safety Seminar. Along with AIMS classroom offerings, the proximity of local attractions including Landry's Pleasure Pier and Schlitterbahn Galveston allow more hands-on learning opportunities. Stay tuned as details are finalized in preparation for class registration set to open in September. Early registration will begin in July.

Acclaimed for its diverse curriculum (more than 200 different classes) and the quality of instructors (more than 120 industry experts), the AIMS Safety Seminar offers a broad range of safety training and educa-

tion classes that can be tailored to your needs. In addition to AIMS Certification Testing in **Maintenance, Operations, Ride Inspection** and **Aquatics**, the seminar will again offer certification in **CPO** (Certified Pool Operator), and **OSHA 10**.

Call for nominations for the AIMS International Safety Award!

The **AIMS International Safety Award** recognizes an individual or organization that demonstrates leadership, innovation, and foresight in improving safety in the amusement industry. The first annual **AIMS International Safety Award** was presented to **Harold Hudson** in 2016, followed by **Har Kuper** in 2017. We are now accepting nominations for the **2018 AIMS Safety Award**. Nomination forms and more information can be found at www.aimsintl.org. This prestigious award will be presented during the **Golden Ticket Awards** on Sept. 8, 2018, at

Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo.

AIMS News

The AIMS board voted to approve a second term for board President **Tim Viox** for the 2018-2019 year ending March 31. The AIMS Executive Committee includes: President, **Tim Viox**, Leisure Labs; First Vice President, **Franceen Gonzales**, WhiteWater; Treasurer, **Linda Freeman**, Rockwell Automation; and Past President, **Timo Klaus**, KumbaK-the Amusement Engineers. The full AIMS board list can be found online at www.aimsintl.org.

Upcoming AIMS Meeting dates:

The **AIMS Board of Directors** will meet on Sept. 6, 2018 prior to the Golden Ticket Awards at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo.

The annual AIMS International **Membership Meeting** will be held on Jan. 14, 2019, at the Galveston Hilton.

Space for this AIMS page is provided courtesy of Amusement Today as a corporate partner of AIMS Intl. Content is provided by AT & AIMS.

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Asian Attractions Expo, June 6-8

Conference: June 5-8 - Trade Show: June 6-8

Hong Kong, China • www.iaapa.org

PAPA Summer Meeting, July 17-18

Dutch Wonderland, Lancaster, Pa.

www.paamusementparks.com

NEAAPA 105th Anniversary Summer Meeting, July 24

Funtown Splashtown USA, Saco, Maine

www.neaapa.com or email: secretary@neaapa.co

Euro Attractions Expo, Sept. 23-27

Conference: Sept. 23-27

Trade Show: Sept. 25-27

Amsterdam, Netherlands • www.iaapa.org

World Waterpark Assn., Oct. 23-26

Trade Show: Oct. 24 & 25

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Parks and Carnivals Education (PACE)

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(Classroom training location TBA)

Hands-on training at Majestic Midways

Winter Quarters, Dover, Pa.)

www.paceseminar.com/index.html

Pennsylvania Amusement Ride Safety Seminar

Nov. 6-8, Red Lion Hotel, Harrisburg, Pa.

Joe Filoramo, (717) 215-4316

Phil Slaggert, (561) 758-3266

www.paridesafety.com

IAAPA Attractions Expo, Nov. 12-16

Conference: Nov. 12-16

Trade Show: Nov. 13-16

Orlando, Fla. • (703) 836-4800 • www.iaapa.org

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Las Vegas Convention Center, (Hall TBA)

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www.amusementexpo.org

Have a Calender listing you want to share?

Email it to: editorial@amusementtoday.com



Search and rescue training

Resources in Search and Rescue (RSAR), a nonprofit organization with a mission of reuniting lost or missing people with their families, held training sessions on March 28 at Lake Quassapaug in Middlebury, Conn., with Quassy Amusement & Waterpark serving as a host location. The organization consists of nationally-certified canines and handlers and will assist local agencies in searches. For more information about RSAR visit <http://www.rsarinc.com>. Shown with one of the dogs (below) is RSAR volunteer Celeste Robotaille. COURTESY QUASSY/ RON GUSTAFSON



NAARSO at NEAAPA Annual Meeting



Joe Pandolfo, instructor with the National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO), stands before a class of 58 taking part in a five-day outreach safety school and testing session during the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) 105th Anniversary Education Conference and Annual Meeting held in Mystic, Conn., in March. Taking part were New England state inspectors as well as NEAAPA members who inspect and maintain their own rides and others who inspect facilities nationwide. COURTESY NEAAPA

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THIS JUST IN**White Castle coming to Central Park Fun-Land; new Twist-n-Shout coaster opening midsummer**

FREDERICKSEN, Va. — On the extended weekend of Cinco de Mayo, May 3-6, **White Castle** will be returning to **Central Park Fun-Land** with its Crave Mobile. The first weekend in May will mark White Castle's fourth trip coming to Central Park to serve up their world-famous sliders.

Central Park Fun-Land has a strong relationship with White Castle and continues to bring the food company's Crave Mobile to the park twice a year. The goal has been to improve the value to passholders by creating more opportunities for not only fun, but for satisfying food deals as well. White Castle has been one of the most requested events among residents of the Fredericksburg region.

The park will continue to enhance value for visitors with the biggest attraction of the year yet to come, as the all-new **SBF/Rides 4U Twist-n-Shout** indoor roller coaster will arrive this summer.

Central Park Fun-Land offers 10 different rides and attractions inside its 40,000-square-foot building, along with over 90 different arcade games. Nine additional rides and attractions are located outside on seven acres in the middle of the Central Park Shopping District.

Chance carousel heading to Arnolds Park

ARNOLDS PARK, Iowa — **Arnolds Park Amusement Park** has announced that a new 36-foot **Chance** carousel will make its debut this summer.

Park officials said the carousel was funded by donations. The ride is eight feet larger than the current carousel and will be housed in a gazebo that can be closed in the winter to protect the ride from the elements. When it opens to the public, the carousel will have standard horses, but it also will include a chariot, a wheelchair chariot, an elephant, a tiger, a lion and an assortment of other animals. It will also include five upgraded large horses for guests to experience.

"The staff and amusement park board are very excited about the addition of this new ride," said CEO **Jeff Vierkant**. "Our carousel sits at the very front entrance of our park, and this is going to be a showstopper as families walk into our park."

Officials said the donations came from the **Restore the Park** campaign. The renovations thus far have included a new ticket office, a new parking lot, in-park bathrooms, a renovation of the Majestic Pavilion and park administration offices, and an expansion of the Maritime Museum.

New 'werk' structure for Kraftwerk

Audiovisual system integrator **Kraftwerk Living Technologies** of Wels, Austria, is positioning itself for greater future growth and efficient delivery of global projects by adjusting titles and shifting duties. As of March, the management team members are (pictured above, from left): **Alex Sanfilippo**, director of engineering; **Kevin Murphy**, director of sales and marketing; **Christian Hofer**, managing partner / chief technical officer; **Manfred Meier**, managing partner / CEO; **Werner Spiegel**, director of project implementation and service; and **Siegfried Steiger**, director of finance and administration. COURTESY KRAFTWERK LIVING TECHNOLOGIES

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