

AmusementTODAY

www.amusementtoday.com

November 2017 | Vol. 21 • Issue 81



IAAPA
Attractions
Expo
**PRE-CONVENTION
ISSUE**
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NEWSPAPER

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Association completes relocation to Orlando

IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017 ready for big show

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions staff hit the ground running at the beginning of this year, and there seems to be no calm before the storm as they prepare for the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017, set for Nov. 13-17 at the Orange County Convention Center.

If the 2017 event hits 2016's numbers, which, of course, IAAPA is hoping will happen, the staff won't have time to catch their breath either. Last year's attendance surpassed all attendance records in the association's 98-year history. It drew

35,100 attendees and scored 1,136 exhibiting companies on the event's largest-ever trade show floor, with 578,460 square feet of exhibit space booked.

"We are pleased with how things are going," said IAAPA President and CEO Paul Noland. "As of today [Oct. 6], advance registration is on track with where we were last year at this time. More than 1,100 companies will showcase their innovative new products and services on nearly 580,000 net square feet of exhibit space, which is similar to last year. Overall, we are enthusiastic and optimistic for IAAPA Attractions Expo."

A little over a month after the record-setting 2016 expo,

the association began the transition of its global headquarters from Alexandria, Va., to Orlando. Noland said about one-third of their employees made the move to Orlando. They have recruited others to fill the remaining posts.

"Our last staff member moved to Orlando in early October," Noland said. "We are excited the moves are now complete and our team has been transitioning to the area and the new offices quite well. They completed the move into the temporary offices in August and are busy working with designers and contractors to complete the permanent offices. They expect to move into that sometime in 2019.

"This has been a busy year for the association," he added. "Our staff relocated while remaining focused on serving our members and coordinating our signature events. This is the beginning of a great next chapter for our staff and our members."

Noland said that the association's advocacy efforts to help represent the industry to the federal government are important and "we will continue to maintain an office in the D.C. area specifically for that purpose."

And, if that is not enough, during 2017, the association presented successful events including: a sold out IAAPA Leadership Conference in March, the Asian Attractions



Mondial, which will be on hand at the IAAPA expo, continues to have success with its transportable Giant Wheels, this installation is located in Paris. COURTESY LEISURE LABS



This Whopper Water is just one of the games Bob's Space Racers will be featuring at their booth at the upcoming IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017. COURTESY BOB'S SPACE RACERS

Expo in June and the Euro Attractions in September.

Yet to the association, nothing compares to the size and scope of the Orlando expo. The IAAPA staff has put together about 100 educational sessions that will take place over the five days of the convention. They have made way for about 1,100 exhibiting companies to take up about 580,000 square feet of exhibit space.

And, for their part, exhibitors have been busy getting their displays prepared and updating product lists.

Trade show hours this year are: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday, Nov. 14-16, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 17.

Lisa Hargrove, Chance

Rides, said for the first time in a long time that company plans to offer a ride experience in its booth.

"We will have one of our Unicoaster 2.0 cars operational in our booth so that people can actually have the experience of the ride," Hargrove said.

Chance also will feature its new electric CP Huntington train and will showcase several of its carousel horses in the booth.

Another exhibitor, Rocky Mountain Construction, is planning to unveil its brand new Twisted Cyclone's first car.

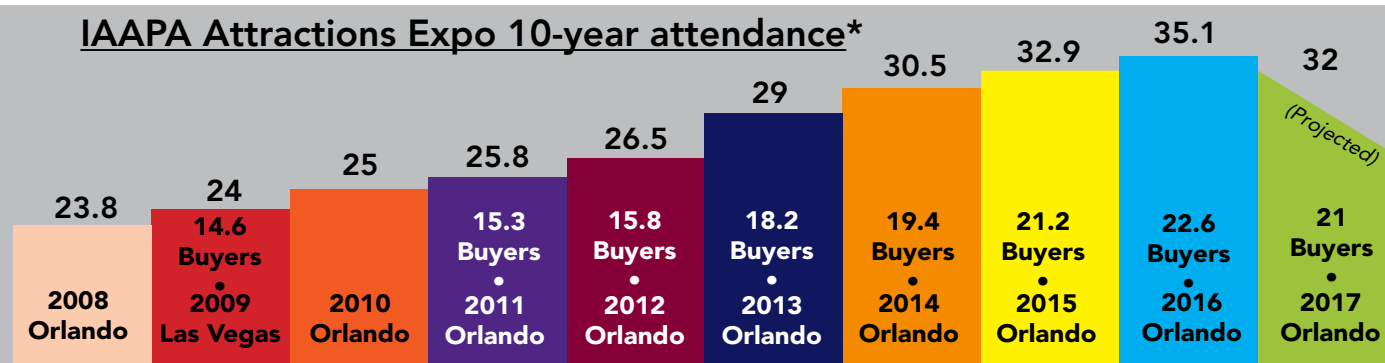
"This is for Six Flags Over Georgia," said Amy Garcia, for

► See EXPO, page 6

FASTFACTS



IAAPA Attractions Expo 10-year attendance*



*in thousands (AT Research)



NEWTALK

EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

Don't forget these booths!



Slade

With the size of the **IAAPA Attractions Expo** trade show floor, there is no doubt that one can easily get sidetracked and let time totally slip away while walking the miles of carpeted aisles between booths. We remind attendees of a few partners of AT that are worthy of your visitation time:

• **AIMS International** (#4527) produces our industry's largest safety seminar each year.

• **Give Kids the World** (#4134) is always seeking financial support to host the many families and children

who spend their vacation together at Give Kids the World Village. If you have not yet toured this amazing property, be sure to inquire about doing so at their booth.

• **NAARSO** (#3619) is another great association producing an annual safety forum with a diverse range of classes.

• **National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives** (#4317) is raising funds for the **Mark Moore Memorial Building** that, when completed in the next two years, will start the beginning of giving the amusement industry its first fully operating museum dedicated to the wide range of rides and people — not just roller coasters — that have built this great industry. Your financial support is great appreciated. See advertisement page 39.

• **New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions** (#3126) is a great association that helps support parks and entertainment facilities in the New England area. If you operate a facility in the NE area and are not yet a member, be sure to go by their booth and join!

• **World Waterpark Association** (#4502) is an association dedicated to support water park facilities, aquatic facilities and the red hot indoor facilities and resorts. This is another great association worth exploring membership opportunities.

PRINT SUBSCRIBER NOTICE

Amusement Today would like to remind subscribers that, as in the past, we are publishing two November issues for the **IAAPA Attractions Expo**, set for Nov. 14-17, 2017, in Orlando, Fla.

• **November I** (Pre-IAAPA) Bonus Issue contains interviews and other useful information about the upcoming IAAPA event, as well as an advance look at the trade show floor exhibitor list — for those wanting to map out their appointments early! The issue was mailed on Oct 24.

• **November II** (IAAPA convention Issue) is AT's normal November issue and is our largest of the year, packed with useful news, in-depth exclusive interviews and late-breaking news along with features for your reading pleasure. This issue mails the week of Nov. 6.

Both issues will be distributed at the IAAPA Attractions Expo from AT's booth #4215 and from **IAAPA's Publication Bin** distribution area at the Orange County Convention Center.

As it has for the past 20 years, AT will deliver both issues poly-bagged together to the **Orlando Hyatt Hotel** (IAAPA headquarters) and the **Hilton Orlando** for door-to-door delivery on Tuesday morning, Nov. 14, for the kick-off of the expo.

AT reminds our loyal readers and followers that both issues will also be posted digitally and are available to read by downloading the *Amusement Today* app. For more information visit: amusementtoday.com.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Dean Lamanna, dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

Loving Las Vegas

Since the awful night of Oct. 1, there has been much news coverage of the heroes who arose from the Route 91 Harvest country music concert tragedy in Las Vegas. The inspiring stories of first responders, doctors, nurses and especially the selfless festival-goers who risked, and gave, their lives to save others have aided our collective coping and healing.

Earning additional recognition are the police, firefighters and resort security personnel whose readiness not only proved crucial during the crisis, but which on a daily basis keeps this global tourist destination — host to almost three million visitors monthly — incredibly safe. They are among the many thousands who work to make Las Vegas a uniquely beautiful place.

Attraction operators and entertainers. Housekeepers, chefs and servers. Maintenance and landscaping crews. Architects and contractors. Civic leaders and planners. All of the folks who contribute to making our industry gatherings, personal vacations and impulsive jaunts to the Strip so memorable deserve acknowledgement at this time, as well as our sympathy and love.

The city itself as an American institution, and we should feel protective of it.



Lamanna

Two decades before Orlando became a major tourism magnet, and years before Disneyland's debut in Southern California, Las Vegas was the nation's playground. Gambling was the main draw, of course, but leisure, fun and first-rate performers were part of the package. It's where hospitality was honed to a science.

Like many urban centers, Las Vegas has seen its fortunes soar, dwindle and rebound.

It has been pulling steadily out of the 2007-09 economic downturn, with new visitors lured by its outsize charms. The half-finished, 68-story Fontainebleau resort complex — the city's worst lingering symbol of the recession — recently found a new buyer with fresh ambition. And, after previous tries, the city has struck a balance between adult and family appeal, introducing innovative amusements — from ziplines and waterparks to the landmark High Roller observation wheel — suitable for all.

Even as it considers new ways to enhance security, let's remember that Las Vegas has long been there for us — shimmering oasis-style by day, beckoning jewel-like by night. It's a comforting, familiar, reliable escape. It's a birthright, really, that never should be taken away.

Our continued support will ensure it won't be.

AmusementTODAY
Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

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 2017 by Amusement Today Inc., all rights reserved.

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Industry Affiliated Charities

Give Kids the World Village, Morgan's Wonderland, National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives



2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow



Andreas Andersen smiles aboard Liseberg's Carousel. COURTESY LISEBERG GROUP

Andreas Andersen, Liseberg Group

As **Andreas Andersen** moves into his new role as Chairman of the Board for **IAAPA**, he brings with him a deep knowledge of the global amusement industry and strong relationships with colleagues the world over. Andreas is president and CEO of **Liseberg Group** in Sweden and has been an active member of IAAPA and his community by serving on several boards and committees over the years. His sense of calm, genuine passion for the industry and straight-forward approach will help guide the Association in 2018.

Title: CEO and President.

Number of years in the industry: 18.

Best thing about the industry: The people.

Favorite amusement ride: The 1914 Roller Coaster at Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would ... Still be an enthusiast and visiting parks all the time.

Biggest challenge facing our industry: Accelerating speed of change in culture and values.

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is ... Walking through Liseberg on a summer evening, after a good day in the park.

I am looking forward to this most of all at the IAAPA Attractions Expo ... Meeting friends from all over the world.

Favorite place to hang out ... The forest behind my house, with my dogs.

When making dinner for guests, my specialty is ... Homemade pasta.

Are you a wine or beer type of guy? Wine!

For me, one piece of clothing that never goes out of style is ... My Aigle rain boots (for those walks in the forest).

The last time I went to a concert was ... Watching Alice Cooper perform at Liseberg.

In one word, my friends would say I am: Direct.

The quietest time of my day is typically: Drinking coffee and writing emails in the morning.

Favorite sport: Running.

My all-time favorite song: Anything by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Most helpful invention in the last decade: The iPhone.

My television show I absolutely don't want to miss is ... I really don't watch TV, apart from news.

The best dessert I've ever had is ... I am not a dessert person, but I love cheese.

On a rainy day, I like to: Cook.

Three things I always take on vacation are: Swimming gear, running shoes and my laptop.

My next vacation: Crete, with my mother.

My hidden talent is: Eating! A lot! Therefore, the running.

My favorite app: The podcast app.

MAILBAG

Response to Six Flags Confederate flag column

Hi Gary,

Points well taken, Gary, in your October issue Six Flags Over Texas removes Confederate flag, editorial. History is history — plain and simple — and we need to at least accept what has happened and learn from it, taking the good with the bad.

When these types of issues arise, I always relate to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower during World War II, when he ordered photos be taken of everything related to the Nazi atrocities. He said that the photos would serve as proof to future generations that what happened indeed happened, as he anticipated the truth would be challenged (and it has been on several occasions in recent years).

The uproar created by some vocal groups should not be allowed to change the face of history in our nation, yet that is what is happening with the dismantling of statues and to some degree the lowering of flags.

We're not a perfect society by any means and don't see eye-to-eye on all of the issues. However, we can be thankful that we have the many rights that we do — rights denied to individuals living in many other countries.

Should these knee-jerk reactions continue, does this mean Georgia's great Stone Mountain will have its face wiped clean and the appearance of our currency changed because former slave owners appear on some of the bills? Will Mount Rushmore crumble as well as national monuments in Washington D.C. based on these movements?

Thanks for taking a stand on history in our industry.

Ron Gustafson, Quassy Amusement Park
ron@quassy.com

J.R. "Bob" Minick collection loaned to NRCMA

Dear Gary,

J.R. "Bob" Minick spent a lifetime learning the amusement park industry from the ground up. He began his career at Disneyland when his Aunt Dollie and Uncle Owen Pope invited him to live with them inside the park at the Pony Farm. He would roll out of bed, walk under a bridge and begin his shift on the Snow White ride. Not one to brag, but he was proud of being one of only three residents of Disneyland. One of Bob's proudest possessions was his Uncle Owen's "55" Disney gold ring.

From Disney, Bob became part of the history of parks working in design with his mentor Randall Duell involved in design with Six Flags Over Texas, The New York World's Fair Texas Pavilions, Universal Studios Tour, Cedar Point and Busch Gardens, along with numerous other projects.

Bob was hired as VP/GM for Pirates World to be built in Dania, Fla. where the park was successful for several years until the property became too valuable for amusements. He was one of the first employees hired during the planning and design of Magic Mountain helping develop the program for rides, entertainment, food service, merchandise and support service. There is a list on his website, www.minickassociates.com with all his accomplishments.

After a career in design and management in top amusement parks, Bob opened his design firm, Minick Associates, creating and overseeing master planning, conceptual designs, sketches, painting, renderings and design development drawings for clients and their projects and garage and small. These included amusement parks, fairs and expositions, FEC's water parks, restaurants, hotels, casinos and specialty shopping centers.

Bob was known as a walking encyclopedia of amusement parks, because he was there for most of them. And he kept everything: drawings, files, memorabilia, all of it.

Gary Slade, after attending Bob's Celebration of Life and suggested Rich Poling, head designer at Minick Associates, go through what he needs to continue our company and loan the rest to the National Roller Coaster Museum. Rich, Bob's son Randall and I agreed and we are all thrilled Bob and his life's work has been secured for future generations to enjoy at the NRCMA.

Thank you,

Lottie Minick, Rich Poling, Randall Minick
minickassociates@gmail.com

IAAPA 2017 – ORLANDO

FAST FACTS

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IAAPA Attractions Expo: Nov. 13-17, 2017
Orange County Convention Center
9899 International Drive, Orlando, Fla.

Trade Show Hours

Tues.-Thurs., Nov. 14-16: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 17: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

By the Numbers

1,100: Number of exhibiting companies
21,000: Estimated 2017 qualified buyers,
representing more than 100 countries
32,000: Estimated 2017 attendance
580,000: Net square feet of exhibit space

INCOMING CHAIRMAN: Andreas Andersen

Sustainability
important to 2018
IAAPA chairman

ORLANDO, Fla. — Andreas Andersen, CEO and president, Liseberg, Gothenburg, Sweden, will become the 2018 chair of International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions during the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017.

He takes over from Greg Hale, vice president and CSO, Walt Disney World Resort, who served as the 2017 chair.

Below, are some of Andersen's thoughts about the coming year.

What is your goal as
2018 IAAPA chair?

I don't have one, specific goal. Being part of an association like IAAPA is very much a team sport, and the



Andreas Andersen
Incoming IAAPA Chairman

role of an IAAPA chairman is as much about facilitation as it is about leadership. There are issues I care a lot about – safety, sustainability, globalization – and they are already topics and issues the association is addressing in collaboration with our members.

Is there one area of the

association that is more important to you and on which you would like to focus?

I believe sustainability is an important topic for all of us as we look to the future. I think as an industry, including IAAPA as the association, we will need to be more focused on this topic in the years to come.

What do you think are
the biggest challenges for
the association?

IAAPA's challenges are very similar to the challenges we are all facing today: the need to keep up with an escalating speed of change. We must be attentive and we must adapt. We have to be nimble, and most importantly, we must be brave.

What are you looking
most forward to as the 2018
IAAPA chair? What do you
think will be your biggest
contribution?

I look forward to meeting as many colleagues and members as possible. And I hope to continue to drive IAAPA's journey toward becoming even more global, modern and agile for our industry.

—Pam Sherborne

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On the cover



As an annual tradition, *Amusement Today* and cartoonist **Bubba Flint** once again highlight on our Pre-Convention issue cover, the chairman of IAAPA and the vice-chairmen that will follow in the coming years. Featured on the cover are incoming chairman, **Andreas Andersen** (2018); first vice chairman **David Rosenberg** (2019) and second vice chairman **Amanda Thompson** (2020).



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IAAPA 2017 – ORLANDO

►EXPO

Continued from page 1

Rocky Mountain Construction. "In addition, we will have scaled down versions of our tracks."

Michael Coleman, Zamperla, said his company will exhibit a third generation WindstarZ as well as an updated and redesigned Mini Jet.

"We will showcase a brand new kiddie observation ride," Coleman said. "This ride has a small footprint with an up and down and rotating motion."

"We also plan to have a virtual reality room in our booth," he said. "That way people can take virtual rides on our roller coasters."

One of the rides Len Soled, Rides 4-U, plans to exhibit is a new Visa Spinning Coaster. This ride, he said, will have a new LED package and a tunnel effect.

"We will have an SBF portable Drop 'N Twist tower and a Frog Hopper, which is now being made by Wisdom," Soled said. "We are excited about a new Visa family ride we are bringing into the market. It is Mini Break Dance. We plan to exhibit Visa's Mini Pirate Jet that has an adult capacity. Outside we will have a brand new KMG Speed ride."

Janine Rebbie Matscherz, Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters Inc., said that company will focus "on exhibiting our current coaster trains, including the PTCI 360 and also our newly patented ADA Device, The Amusement Ride Transfer Accessibility Device for the physically disabled."



The past year has been a banner one for ProSlide, and the company is excited about showing some of its more recent projects. This ProSlide RocketBlast LTG (low-to-grade) is a completely new water coaster experience for ProSlide. A 2017 Golden Ticket Award winner, it is new this year at Six Flags Fiesta Texas. COURTESY PROSLIDE

"This past year has been a banner year for ProSlide, with several new product introductions," said John Collins, ProSlide's marketing and creative director.

"We'll be talking a lot about these new products at IAAPA in Orlando," Collins said.

Collins said ProSlide debuted the all-new ProSlide Double TornadoWave, a never-before-seen thriller that sweeps riders up one massive wall and then into an breathtaking drop before entering a second zero gravity wall experience. This year also saw ProSlide's Flying-Saucer 60, a high-speed, high-adrenaline rush that banks riders along the massive saucer, sticking tight to the wall as the five to six-person rafts drop and dive.

The company also premiered the six-person ProSlide TDO 32, a unique funnel-based

adventure alternating between weightless hang time and intense G-forces that adds to the ProSlide's growing stable of ultra-high-capacity water rides.

The other two new rides are the PowerRiver from ProSlide, a high-capacity family raft adventure, and the ProSlide RocketBlast LTG (Low-to-Grade), a completely new water coaster experience for ProSlide.

Intermark Ride Group also has some exciting things going on. At the 2017 IAAPA show, Gina Guglielmi said she is excited to present the Stormforce 20 (patent pending) by RES/WillTec, a thrill ride with a high capacity and unique gyroscopic motion. She said the new ride has generated a great worldwide response.

"As the exclusive representative for Gosetto in North America, we are thrilled with the addition of their family spinning coaster to their catalog," Guglielmi said.

Gosetto currently has five spinning coasters installed and four are in production.

She also plans to feature Specialty Vehicles' new Electric Trolley open air design. It seats 22 passengers plus the driver and offers an affordable, battery-powered solution for parks, zoos, resorts, and others in need of people movers.

Mack Rides, Great Coasters International Inc., Mondial — World of Rides, and Sunkid/Heege also plan to feature some of their specialties at the show this year. According to Bob Dean, Leisure Labs — Rides & Attractions, which has partnered with these four manufacturers to represent them in sales and services,

Mack has been featuring its new Extreme Spinning Launch Coaster and their Power Splash this year. Great Coasters International Inc. has been focusing on its steel frame wood coasters and Mondial continues to have success with its Giant Wheels. Leisure Labs' newest partner, Sunkid/Heege, will feature its interactive kiddie rides.

In Bob's Space Racers' booth this year will be models of the Hot Shot, Disco Drop, Jersey Wheels, Whopper Water and Water Fun Pixel Play, according to Eddie Roseboom.

More than just a trade show

The IAAPA expo trade show, although an exciting adventure, is not all that makes up the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017.

And, even though this year's show officially starts on Monday, Nov. 13, there is a session that starts on Saturday, Nov. 11, the IAAPA Rookies and Newcomers. That class starts that afternoon and continues all day for the next two days, Sunday, Nov. 12, and Monday, Nov. 13.

The IAAPA Institute for Attractions Manager runs all day Sunday and Monday.

The educational sessions and workshops start in bulk on Monday, Nov. 13, and run all day for the remaining of the convention.

Topics include an array of issues for all areas of the amusement industry. Led by experts in the attractions industry, attendees are exposed to 80-plus, 75-minute educational seminars designed specifically

for amusement park, family entertainment center, water park, museums, zoo, aquariums and theme park professionals.

Some of those topics include: food and beverage, games and retail innovations, redemption, combating fraud, marketing in all arenas, point-of-sales issues, human resource recruitment tools, and group sales.

Several educational seminars are translated simultaneously into Spanish and/or Portuguese.

Many of IAAPA's most popular educational events are those that provide participants with more intensive opportunities to explore subjects. IAAPA's in-depth learning experiences offer attendees exclusive access, networking, and expertise.

There are three charity events to benefit Give Kids the World planned. On Sunday, the 15th Annual IAAPA International Charity Golf Tournament and the IAAPA Motorcycle Ride will take place. The third, the IAAPA Charity 5K Run and 1K Walk will take place Thursday morning.

Special networking events includes: Lunch and Learn: Featuring Bob White, Village Roadshow Themeparks, on Monday; the Kick Off event that opens the trade show floor to attendees, Tuesday; the Opening Reception on Tuesday evening; the GM and Owner's Breakfast featuring Nick Varney, CEO, Merlin Entertainment, Wednesday; and IAAPA Celebrates at Pandora - the World of Avatar at Disney's Animal Kingdom, Thursday evening.



For the first time in a while, Chance Rides is providing a ride experience in its booth at the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017. The company will have one of its Unicoaster 2.0 cars fully operational. Shown here is an artist rendering of the ride showing the car. COURTESY CHANCE RIDES



Gosetto's family spinning coasters have proven very successful. As the exclusive North American sales representative, Intermark Ride Group will feature this coaster at the 2017 IAAPA event. Gosetto currently has five spinning coasters installed and four are in production. COURTESY GOSETTO



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IAAPA 2017 – ORLANDO

Staley takes over as VP of IAAPA's North American Operations

ORLANDO, Fla. — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions announced last month the departure of long-time attraction and hospitality industry veteran **Richard M. Jackson**, vice president of IAAPA North American Operations.

Karen Staley, senior vice president of IAAPA EMEA



(Europe, Middle East, and Africa) Operations, assumed Jackson's role Sept. 30.

Jakob Wahl, who recently rejoined the IAAPA EMEA

office, will succeed Staley as vice president of EMEA Operations.

Paul Noland, president and CEO, IAAPA, said at the announcement that during Jackson's tenure, he had a significant impact on the growth of IAAPA's member base and enhanced the association's focus of providing outstanding service to

members throughout North America.

"He (Jackson) worked closely with our global headquarters team to connect attraction operators and industry suppliers with valuable resources, while creating and facilitating many meetings and networking events throughout the region," Jackson said. "We thank Richard

for his many contributions to IAAPA and for strengthening the support we could offer to our North American members."

As the senior vice president of IAAPA EMEA Operations, Staley managed the regional office in Brussels, Belgium. She has relocated to IAAPA's global headquarters in Orlando, Fla., to lead the continued expansion of North American member services and programs. Staley will report to **Doug Stagner**, chief operating officer of IAAPA.

"Karen's leadership has been instrumental in establishing and expanding our Europe, Middle East, and African region," Noland said. "She has a proven record of successfully developing and maintaining key partnerships and alliances."

Staley has more than a decade of service to IAAPA, having joined the association in 2004 as manager of marketing and exhibit sales for IAAPA's conference and trade shows in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

In 2006, she assumed the role of operations manager for IAAPA Europe and the Euro Attractions Show (EAS). She was promoted to director of operations in 2008, named deputy director of IAAPA Europe in 2009, and executive director in 2010.

Wahl joined the IAAPA team in 2009 as a program manager for several years, and most recently served as director of communications and executive assistant to management at **Europa-Park**. Wahl will also report to Stagner.

"We are pleased to welcome Jakob back to IAAPA," Noland said. "His return will ensure a seamless transition so that our North American and European members are continuously provided with optimal levels of service and support."



Staley



Wahl

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IAAPA 2017 – ORLANDO

IAAPA BOD elects Amanda Thompson as second vice chair

Blackpool Pleasure Beach leader to chair IAAPA in 2020

BERLIN, Germany — The board of directors of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) elected Amanda Thompson

OBE second vice chair-man during its meeting on Sept. 25 in Berlin, Germany. Thompson is managing director (CEO) of Blackpool Pleasure Beach and will serve as IAAPA's



Thompson

second vice chair in 2018. She will be first vice chair in 2019 and then lead the global attractions industry trade association as its chairman of the board in 2020.

"Amanda's first-hand knowledge of leading a successful family owned business and her diverse industry experience make her the

perfect person for this role," said Mario Mamon, chairman of the IAAPA Governance Committee and president and CEO of Enchanted Kingdom in the Philippines. "She is a third-generation attractions industry leader and a long-time IAAPA volunteer. All of this, coupled with her passion for the in-

dustry make her the right leader at the right time for IAAPA."

Thompson brings life-long industry experience and knowledge to the IAAPA role that is as much generational as it is personal. Blackpool Pleasure Beach was established by Amanda's great grandfather, W. G. Bean, in 1896. Her grandfather, Leonard Thompson, assumed leadership in 1931, and her father Geoffrey Thompson oversaw the business from 1976 until 2004. Since that time, Amanda has led the park as managing director (CEO).

Thompson has been part of Blackpool Pleasure Beach throughout her entire life. In 1982, she founded Stage-works Worldwide Productions, an entertainment company that produces shows around the world.

Thompson has been a dedicated and involved IAAPA member for decades. She has served two terms on the IAAPA board of directors and currently chairs the IAAPA Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) Regional Advisory Committee.

Thompson received the coveted Order of the British Empire (OBE) honor for her services to tourism in 2012. She has produced content for 15 variety shows for Her

"Thanks to my grandfather, Blackpool Pleasure Beach became the first IAAPA member outside the United States when he joined the association in 1935. My father, Geoffrey Thompson was the chairman of the IAAPA board in 1996," said Thompson. "Today, I'm excited for this opportunity to give back to this industry I love. It's been a part of our family and our family business for many decades. I want to ensure that IAAPA is the global association of our industry and that we support and serve our members in all regions."

Our industry employs over 2 million globally, so it is a key industry, and a great industry to work in. I hope to serve as a role model for the increasing number of young women leaders in the attractions industry."

**Bubba Flint will be signing
20th Anniversary Amusement Today prints
during IAAPA Expo 2017 at the Amusement Today booth #4215!**
Nov. 14 - 2 p.m. • Nov. 15 & 16 - 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. • Nov. 17 - 11 a.m.
(while supplies last)

BUBBA FLINT, CARTOONIST
An Editorial Cartoonist for 30 years, Bubba has won several Best Editorial Cartoon of the Year awards. His cartoons have appeared in over 20 books and he has drawn editorial cartoons for the Dallas Morning News, Ft. Worth Star Telegram, Dallas Cowboys Weekly as well as several other publications. He has been syndicated to over 100 newspapers and illustrated six children's books. He holds a BFA in Art from Southern Methodist University and his paintings are in several galleries.

Amusement TODAY 1997-2017
YEARS OF NEWS
Booth #4215



Congratulations to Gary Slade as he celebrates his 20th Anniversary as Founder, Publisher & Editor of



The Amusement Industry is fortunate to have such an outstanding individual represent us to the world. Gary is an honorary member of ACE, past board member of AIMS International, and immediate past president and current member of the board of directors of the National Roller Coaster Museum.

He is also an avid photographer of the amusement industry, sports and landscape, shooting photos for numerous park's marketing plans and supplier catalogs.

Gary's Amusement Today publication won the IAAPA Impact Award for Best New Product in 1997. In 1998, just one year after first publishing Amusement Today, he organized the Golden Ticket Awards which continues to be coveted by everyone in our industry. Gary has been a very important voice for the independent amusement parks throughout the world and we all appreciate his efforts.




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IAAPA 2017 – ORLANDO

2017 IAAPA Attractions Expo exhibitor listing

List is current as of Oct. 9, 2017. For last minute changes, booth additions & cancellations, consult the IAAPA show directory.

#s			
1602 Group, LLC.	3280	Anagram International	4440
Directboats.com	4508	Anchor Industries, Inc.	4702
50% Off Plush	105	Andamiro.	1302
A & A Global Industries.	200	Aoqi Inflatables Limited	5586
A&A Electric Motors & Pumps	4165	AP Equipment Financing.	4635
A.C. Lighting Inc.	452	Appetize	3181
Aardvark	3220	Apple Industries, Inc.	1600
abc rides switzerland.	3031	Aqua Case/ Magic Mug	3978
accesso	4840	Aquakita	3049
Action Lighting	4708	Aquatic Development Group, Inc.	2646
Action Portable Rides	7230	Aquatics International	3010
Active Constructions	4782	Aquaventronics	4890
Adolph Kiefer & Associates, LLC	3582	Architectural Design Consultants, Inc.	2056
Adrenaline Amusements.	426	Arihant Water Park Equipment	3663
Adrian Fisher Design LTD	1673	Arrival Productions LLC.	7135
Advanced Animations, LLC.	1669	art attack	5140
Adventure Games Manufacturing	8420	Artistic Contractors, Inc.	169
Adventure Golf Services	4231	Aryca	4610
Adventure Sports HQ Laser Tag	4200	Asia Amusement Machine Co. Ltd.	439
Adventureglass	5131	Asia Attractions Magazine.	4535
Aerodium Technologies	4642	Astro Carpet Mills	4206
Aerodium Technologies	7365	Astro Carpet Mills	4308
Aerophile S.A.S.	3469	AstroSystems, Inc.	2011
Wavesurfer - AFP Technology	2950	Atlas Chairs + Tables.	3081
AIMS International.	4527	ATM Merchant Services.	4684
ALBERICI	4364	Audio Innovators Inc.	2827
Alberts Co., Inc. R. S.	3224	Autoclear LLC	7075
Alcorn McBride, Inc.	669	Autograph Folliages	2069
Alinco Costumes, Inc.	2610	Automated Batting Cages Corp.	2835
Alive Risk	3566	AUXEL SRL	3617
Hunter Exports	7125	Avalanche Waterslides, Inc.	152
Allied Bowling Corporation.	2046	AVS Companies.	2109
Allied Specialty Insurance, Inc.	3021	Axalta Coating Systems	2156
Allstar Vending	341	B J Toy Company	2706
Koala Ice	3856	Backyard Canvas & Signs	7575
Alterface	259	Backyard X-Scapes Inc.	3589
Alterface Projects	262	Bad Dog Tools.	138
Aluvii Software.	4672	Bailey Rides Inc.	4026
Alvarado	4654	B-AIR	5478
amaze'n mazes	3110	BungeeSupply.com	5286
amaZulu, Inc.	2060	BungeeSupply.com	5288
AMEGA Teknoloji Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S.	1850	Bandai Namco Amusement America Inc.	900
American Alpha, Inc.	280	Bandai Namco Amusement America Inc.	1000
American Amusement Machine Assoc. (AAMA)	1808	Barron Games International	2015
American Changer	2006	BASYS Processing	4059
American Changer	2008	Baton Lock & Hardware Co., Inc.	1619
American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE).	4318	Battech	3821
American Earth Anchors, Inc.	4665	Bay Tek Games, Inc.	1015
American Holtzkraft, Inc.	3712	Bears Playgrounds.	4075
American Locker	4400	Beaudry Interactive	2074
American Paper Optics, LLC.	4711	BeaverTails USA Inc.	3460
American Specialty Insurance	4602	Beijing Hi-tech inflatables Co., Ltd.	5974
American Wave Machines.	1386	Beijing Jiuhoa Amusement Rides Manufacturing Co.	3610
Americo, Inc.	4259	Beijing ShiBaoLai Amusement Equipment Co.,LTD	671
AMOA	342	Beijing Water Design Technology Co. Ltd.	1875
Amusement Advantage Guest Experience Solutions	4518	Benchmark Games International.	700
Amusement Construction Co. Inc.	5119	Benchmark Games International.	800
Amusement Devices & Mfg. LLC	4669	Bepoz Point of Sale.	4456
Amusement Products, LLC	5115	Berg USA, LLC.	4736
Amusement Products, LLC	7030	Berk Concession Supply	4173
Amusement Supply Co.	5566	Berk Concession Supply	4417
Amusement Today	4215	Bertazzon 3B Srl.	4831
Amusements & Attr. Food Purchasing Organization	3956	Best Union.	5104
Amusements International	3404	Betson Enterprises	515
		Betson Enterprises	615
		Betson Enterprises	815
		Big Sky Miniature Golf.	3040
		Big Squirt!	3612
		Big T Toys & Sports	1328
		Billings Productions, Inc.	1660
		BirdBuffer LLC.	3754
		Birket Engineering.	1671
		Yu Kids.	5800
		Bloolooop	2974
		Bob's Space Racers, Inc.	2615
		Bob's Space Racers, Inc.	2815
		Bob's Space Racers, Inc.	7640
		Bodolo Amusement Equipment Co., Ltd.	4291
		Bolliger & Mabillard Inc.	4815
		Bomar Soft Playgrounds International	3289
		Bonita Marie International/BMI Merchandise	1824
		Bounce Time Inflatables	5475
		Bounce Time Inflatables	8630
		Bounceabouts Leisure Limited	5680
		Bouncing Angels, Inc.	5554
		Bouncing Angels, Inc.	8330
		Bowling Center Management.	312
		Bowling Proprietors' Association of America	4013
		Breakscape Games	3873
		Breeze Creative	2075
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		Brogent Technologies, Inc.	5815
		Brown Entertainment	3872
		Bruce D. Robinson Design Group.	2067
		Brunswick Bowling Products	2206
		Be the Hamster	3457
		Bumper Boats, Inc.	3421
		Trams International	4189
		Robolabs	6112
		Buzzpark	3891
		C. and S. S.r.l.	1637
		C. Cretors & Co.	3202
		C. Nelson Mfg. ,Co	4057
		C.P.I. Amusement & Pageantry World	2640
		Calico Cottage, Inc.	3719
		Calplush Incorporation	3204
		Camaleon LED	5836
		Cannonball Air Blaster.	4764
		Capitol Online Auctions	5289
		Cappuccine Inc	3660
		Caravan Softtoys	4213
		CardConnect.	3658
		Artificial Plants Unlimited	3564
		Carolina ATM Services	1842
		Carousel & Automatic Music News.	4020
		Casio America Inc.	3465
		Caster Town.	2983
		Castle Golf, Inc.	2664
		CAVU Designwerks	1086
		Cawley Co.	4126
		Honolulu Hot Dog.	6110
		Celina Tent, Inc.	3502
		Centaman	3106
		CenterEdge Software	1839
		Chairkit GmbH	4628
		Chance Rides.	5124
		Characters Unlimited, Inc.	4100
		Chef's Fun Foods	3557
		Chengdu MiFo Biological Technology Co., Ltd.	4583
		Chestnut Identity Apparel.	3200
		Chicago Gaming Company	1804
		Chills 360.	3757
		China Assoc. of Amusement Parks and Attr. (CAAPA)	3588
		Christie Digital Systems.	1043
		Chuck Wagon Old-Fashion Soda	4311
		Churchill Container	4264
		CIEE Work & Travel USA	2959
		Player One Amusement Group.	806



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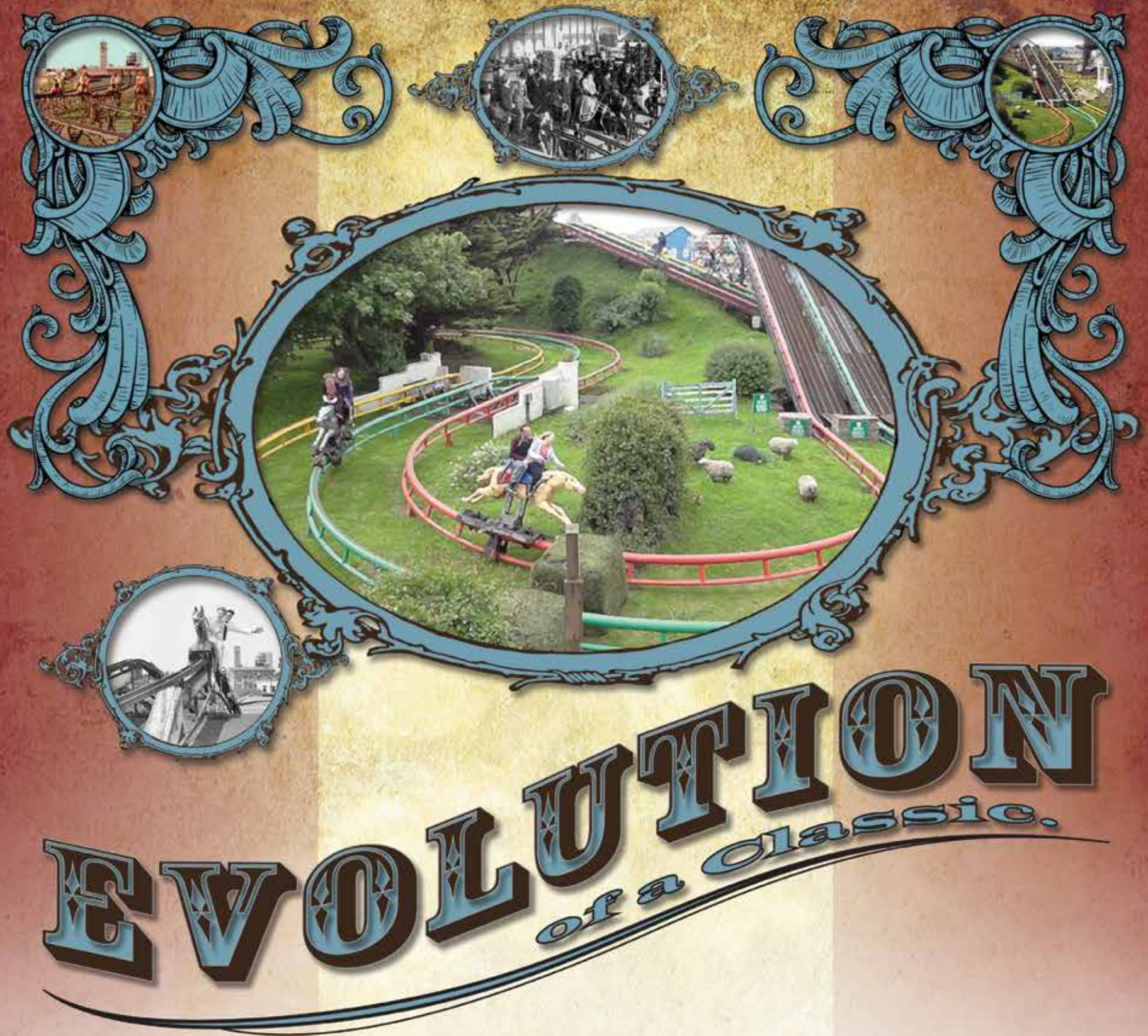
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Citc Special Effects Equipment.....	3654	Do Do Paper CO., LTD.....	3881	FAST Corporation.....	3000
Citigraph Theme Park Maps.....	185	DOF Robotics.....	1089	FEC Builders.....	2691
City Splash Tours.....	1936	DongGuan Lijiefa Inflatable Products Co., Ltd.....	5842	Felimana Luna Park SA.....	2203
CJ 4D Plex.....	2247	Dongyang Lefunland Recreation Equip. Co.Ltd.....	2683	FetchRev.....	150
Class Act Performing Artists & Speakers Inc.....	2958	Doppelmayr / Garaventa.....	2838	Fibrart.....	2278
Classic Toy Company, Inc.....	2809	Dorfman Museum Figures, Inc.....	1766	Fiesta.....	1735
Neptune/Splash Radio.....	4257	Doron Precision Systems.....	1871	Fin Fun.....	4778
Clearwater Enviro Technologies.....	4757	Dotto S.r.l.....	4451	Firestone Financial.....	1813
CLM Entertainment.....	3431	Drape Kings.....	3273	YourMapp.....	3180
Cloward H2O.....	467	DreamCraft Attractions LTD.....	1088	Five Star Redemption.....	1620
Club Speed, Inc.....	443	Dreampark International.....	3874	Flagship Carpets.....	4859
CNP Co., Ltd.....	3960	Dynamic Attractions Ltd.....	1073	Flip Factory LLC.....	7130
Coastal Amusements Inc.....	1024	Dynamic Designs & Associates, Inc.....	3258	Flitz International, Ltd.....	4219
Coastal Amusements, Inc.....	924	Dynamic Motion Rides GmbH.....	1886	Florida Attractions Association.....	2837
Coaster Pedicab Mfg.....	7145	E&F Miler Industries, LLC.....	4718	Florida Seating.....	4281
Cogan S.R.L.....	1300	E2M Technologies.....	652	FlowRider.....	2245
Coin Tech.....	221	Eastern European co.....	2931	ForeverLawn Inc.....	4509
Cold River Mining.....	2680	EB Entertainment LLC.....	880	Formula K Equipment.....	2644
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Commercial Silk International.....	875	ECO Middle East Engineering Services LLC.....	3580	FotoMaster LTD.....	4462
Concept 1900.....	3229	Eco Finish, LLC.....	2789	Fotosmile.....	4008
Concierge by Foodbuy.....	3559	Economy Tent International.....	4600	Foundations Children's Products.....	4658
Conductix-Wampfler.....	4629	Eddie Cole's Jumpshot.....	4404	Freedom Outdoor Furniture.....	3708
Connect&GO.....	7455	Elaut.....	1315	FreeStyle Slides, Inc.....	3037
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FEC Music.....	1741	Electric Time Company Inc.....	1765	Fujifilm North America Corporation.....	4436
Convergence, LLC.....	1884	Electro Freeze.....	3119	Fujimi, Inc.....	4158
Coogar Products, LLC.....	4265	ETC.....	1864	Fun Express.....	624
Cool-A-Zone.....	4164	Electrosonic.....	867	Fun Light Amusements.....	4380
Core Cashless, LLC.....	4863	Eleventh Hour.....	865	Fun Parts Xpress.....	2631
Cossio Insurance Agency.....	4662	Eli Bridge Company.....	4621	Trampoline Park Equipment by Fun Spot.....	1883
Cossio Insurance Agency.....	5583	Elton Amusements Ltd.....	2020	Fun Sweets.....	3359
Cost of Wisconsin, Inc.....	4726	Embed.....	1336	Funlandia Play Systems Inc.....	1350
Costume Specialists, Inc.....	4427	Emiliana Luna Park S.r.l.....	4021	Funovation, Inc.....	1648
Cotton Love.....	4210	Empex Watertoys.....	3406	FX Emotion.....	7235
Crane Payment Innovations (CPI).....	2003	Triaxe Scooter.....	184	Galaxy Multi Rides.....	5178
Robot Costumes USA/Creations JCT.....	3069	Epmar/Kemiko.....	4733	Galaxy Multi Rides.....	5484
Creative Visions.....	2062	Tredsafe.....	2935	Galaxy Multi Rides.....	8030
Creative Works Theme Factory.....	4271	Escalera Inc.....	4580	Galaxy Multi Rides.....	8035
CrowdControlStore.com.....	7140	Essentra.....	1635	Galaxy Multi Rides.....	8040
Crp USA, LLC.....	543	ETF Ride Systems.....	4812	Galaxy Multi Rides.....	8130
Cultural Homestay International.....	4710	Etigo.....	2117	Game Art (Hong Kong) Limited.....	229
CBS, Inc. (Custom Business Solutions).....	4756	Euclid Chemical Co.....	2936	Game Show Mania, LLC.....	4611
Custom Sales and Service, Inc.....	3554	Holoverse.....	3486	Game Time International (GTI).....	1736
CXC Simulations.....	1151	Eurogames SRL.....	3667	Games To Go.....	5486
Cyclone Distributors.....	5553	Eurolink/CTM Group, Inc.....	3621	Gantom Lighting & Controls.....	862
D&D Technologies.....	2780	European Body Art.....	7160	Elemoose.....	1860
D3D Cinema.....	684	Eli Play.....	1891	GGE Entertainment + Design.....	1062
Daher Manufacturing Foam Products.....	4117	Event Rental Systems.....	4660	Gatemaster Systems, Inc.....	4069
Dandy Cotton Candy.....	4056	Evolution Insurance Brokers/ISERA.....	4517	Gateway Ticketing Systems, Inc.....	4854
Daniels Wood Land, Inc.....	2078	Evoqua Water Technologies GmbH.....	4469	geckobrand.....	2883
DanKen.....	4675	Eworks Pro.....	4615	GEP Productions, Inc.....	419
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Dator Inc.....	3082	Eye Candy Inflatables.....	5857	Gilderfluke & Co., Inc.....	1667
Deacero.....	2972	Eye Candy Inflatables.....	8550	Give Kids the World.....	4134
Deep Blue Communications.....	358	Eye Candy Inflatables.....	8551	Glimmer Body Art.....	4473
Delice Global, Inc.....	4054	EyeClick.....	3862	Glo Cone International.....	1836
Delta Strike International Ltd.....	839	EZ Inflatables.....	5148	Archery Tag@/S.A.F.E.Archery@.....	3812
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Deltronic Labs, Inc.....	813	EZ Street Company.....	183	Global Cash Card.....	4128
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Gold Standard Games.....	1906	Wipeout.....	7550	Innovative Attraction Management, LLC.....	1742
Tiki Mundo/Palmex USA.....	159	Holovis.....	1046	Hero Adventure Trailers By FireZone.....	7060
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Good Stuff Company.....	3827	Huadong Entertainment Equipment Co. Ltd.....	3286	Jolly Roger.....	449
Gooest Media Technology.....	4084	Huaxia Amusement Co. Ltd.....	1826	Joy Carpets & Co.....	639
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Greenheart Exchange.....	4558	Infinite Therapeutics.....	2215	Kartworld Go-Karts.....	235
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Grimm Industries Inc.....	3860	i2K.....	5186	Kcc Entertainment Design.....	469
Groupon.....	4483	i2K.....	4875	Kellytoy U.S.A., Inc.....	3411
Rhino Diversion.....	7350	i2K.....	8220	Kenwood/CGX Radios.....	4559
Guang Yang Amusement Technology Co., Ltd.....	224	i2K.....	8320	Kern Studios & Mardi Gras World.....	878
Guangzhou 9D Electronic Technology Co. Ltd.....	3086	Ice Creative Entertainment.....	4664	KettenWulf Inc.....	3127
Guangzhou Arccer Amusement Technology Co., Ltd.....	600	iCombat Laser Tag.....	4086	Kevins Worldwide.....	3062
Guangzhou Cowboy Recreation Equip. Co., Ltd.....	3373	Replica Hydrants.....	2981	Kino-mo.....	3478
Guangzhou Donsel Animation Technology Co., Ltd.....	104	Ideal Software Systems.....	1846	Kirmes & Park Revue.....	2859
Guangzhou Flying Animation Technology Co. Ltd.....	1686	Ideaman, Inc.....	3080	Klopp: Money Handling Equipment.....	1810
Guangzhou Funshare Amusement Co., Ltd.....	1339	Ideas Extremas, S.A. de C.V.....	3669	KMG International B.V.....	5811
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Guangzhou Gold Hunter Electronic Tech. Co. Ltd.....	3981	igus Inc.....	4682	Kolmax-Plus.....	4071
Guangzhou Haimao Animation Tech. Co., Ltd.....	4082	Ilertren Tourist Trains.....	4410	Kono Pizza.....	3857
Guangzhou Huale Inflatable Products Co., Ltd.....	5191	Imagination Corporation.....	980	KristallTurm GmbH & Co.KG.....	7150
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Guangzhou Lilytoys Co., Ltd.....	8415	Impact Canopies USA.....	4408	KumbaK The Amusement Engineers.....	1989
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Guangzhou Sealy Electronic Technology Co., Ltd.....	1006	Imprintor.....	4649	Kwik-Covers of New York.....	4303
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H.B. Leisure Ltd.....	4119	Innovative Concepts in Entertainment, Inc. (ICE).....	1106	Laser Ammo USA Inc.....	3182
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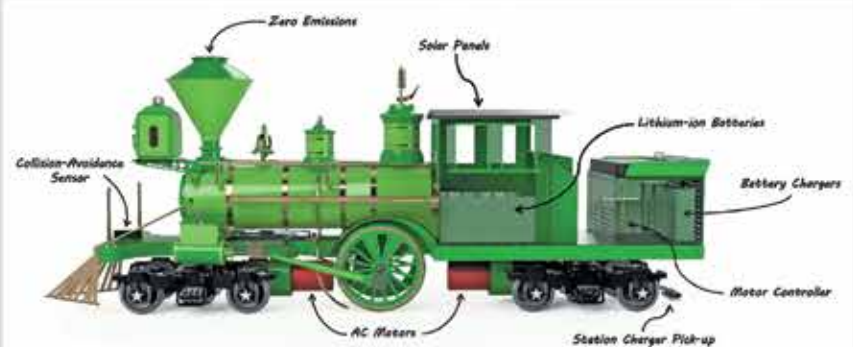
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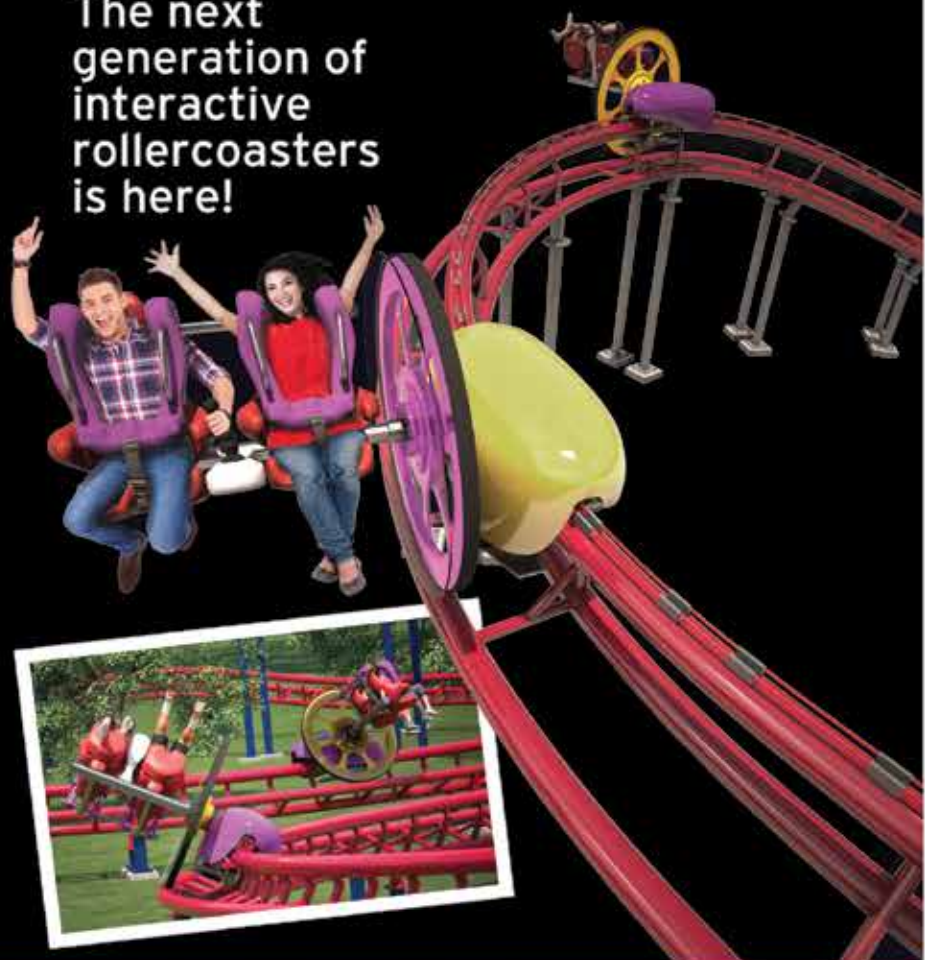


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INTERNATIONAL

► Toverland to open new €30 million themed area for 2018 — Page 26

Full steam ahead for Europa-Park's Rulantica water world project

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amellor@amusementtoday.com

RUST, Germany — The first signs of the latest major addition to Europa-Park in Germany are now rising as construction of the park's new themed water adventure world moves into full swing following a foundation stone laying ceremony.

Covering an area of 450,000 square meters (4,843,759 square feet) and scheduled to open at the end of 2019, Rulantica will feature a Nordic theme and 25 water attractions that operate year-round. Additionally, a new four-star themed hotel, Krønasår — The Museum Hotel, will be a key feature of the new area and the sixth themed hotel at the Europa-Park resort.

The development is being built close to Germany's largest theme park on a 45-hectare (111-acre) site in the south east of the municipality of Rust and will be one of Europe's largest water-focused venues. With both indoor and outdoor areas, there will be a 32,600 square-meters (350,903 square-foot) indoor area with eight Nordic themed areas open throughout the year. Among these will be the mystic Trøll Valley for younger guests while 17 waterslides, Germany's largest indoor wave pool, a relaxing Mystery River and a variety of other highlights that likely will maintain the high volume of visitors Europa-Park has come to expect.

Spacious rest areas will offer 1,700 deck chairs and there will be eight individual cabanas with catering ser-



Europa-Park's new Rulantica water adventure world (above and below right) will be the largest single investment ever at the park. The multifaceted, year-round attraction will feature an elaborate Nordic theme. Thomas, Ann-Kathrin, Michael, Jurgen and Roland Mack (below left) present a model of the project. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK



vices for an exclusive family retreat.

The outdoor area will cover 8,000 square meters (86,111 square feet) and will offer 500 deck chairs and a swimming pool, while culinary options will include a family restaurant in the style of a boathouse, a self-service restaurant, café, a bar and pool bars in both the indoor

and outdoor areas. Three shops will also be available and the new water park facility will be linked to the theme park and its existing hotels by a shuttle service.

The new water adventure world at Europa-Park is the largest single investment at the park by the Mack family and one of the most extensive individual invest-

ments by a private company in the region. As in the past, the family business is implementing the large-scale project independently and without the use of state subsidies.

Owner Roland Mack said: "The expansion of our overall offer and the realization of this unique water world is an important step towards securing the future

of the location. We cannot afford to stand still if the region is to remain attractive to guests who are traveling from further afield. This lighthouse project not only provides a positive impulse for tourism development, but at the same time creates 550 new jobs and increases leisure value for the local community."

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The Gold Coast's highest outdoor experience launches Night Climbs

QUEENSLAND, Australia — When the sun sets on the Gold Coast, the skyline is illuminated in shimmering lights. Now, for the first time ever, adventure-seekers can see this spectacle from a whole new perspective on the city's highest outdoor experience.



SkyPoint, at the top of the iconic Q1 building in Surfers Paradise, one of Australia's tallest residential buildings, launched Night Climbs on Sept. 15 — just in time for the Queensland school holidays.

SkyPoint in Queensland, Australia, will offer new after-dark adventure starting Sept. 15. COURTESY SKYPOINT

Climbers reach a height of 270 meters (885 feet) above sea level, ascending and descending a total of 298 stairs in the dark of night, while admiring the views below, far and wide.

Experienced climb leaders will take climbers on the 90-minute journey from Australia's only beachside observation deck, SkyPoint, to the summit where they will enjoy uninterrupted 360-degree views of the Gold Coast in the open air.

SkyPoint Executive General Manager Paul Callander said the new Night Climbs are a unique way to see the Gold Coast after the sun goes down with a little adrenalin rush added in.

"The Gold Coast has one of the most iconic skylines in Australia, and what better way to see it light up than 270 meters above the hustle and bustle of Surfers Paradise," Callander said.

"We have been operating day time and sunset climbs for five and a half years with great success, and this new Night Climb is a great way for locals and visitors to experience the Gold Coast like they never have before."

SkyPoint climbs start from \$74. Night Climbs will be held every day during the Queensland school holidays, and every Friday and Saturday outside school holiday times.

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IAAPA
Attractions
Expo

IAAPA's EAS 2017 continues to show growth and success

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

BERLIN, Germany — The annual Euro Attractions Show (EAS), the largest such event for the theme park, water park and attractions industry in Europe, took place in Berlin Sept. 26-28, with IAAPA organizers hailing the show another big success.

Held in the city's Messe Berlin Exhibition Centre, initial estimates put the total attendance at this year's event at 12,400 (both exhibitors and visitors) from 100 countries, just below last year's 12,600, with 8,400 qualified buyers and 542 companies from around the world displaying their products and services in six different halls, up from 525 in 2016.

"We are pleasantly overwhelmed by the success of EAS 2017 in Berlin. The



Attendee figures were 8,400 for the three days of the show. Great Coasters International was one of a number of U.S.-based companies taking part in EAS. Pictured (above right) are the company's Clair Hain, Jr., and James Swinden. AT PHOTO

buyers were serious about finding products, services and new ideas to grow their business in the future. They discovered them on the trade fair floor and in the extensive conference program. It's been a great

week," said IAAPA Vice President of IAAPA EMEA Karen Staley. "The exciting news is that the innovations they saw at EAS 2017 will make amusement parks and attractions even more spectacular in the future."



The show floor offered the familiar plethora of products and services for attendees to view and learn about, with cutting-edge attractions utilizing the latest

► See EAS, page 27

EAS
Euro
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Toverland to open new €30 million themed area for 2018

B&M wing coaster will be a major new addition

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

SEVENUM, the Netherlands — A new themed area that is set to increase the size of the park by one and a half times and which will feature a new entrance area, wing coaster and major boat ride will open at Toverland in the Netherlands in the summer of 2018.

The development of the new seven hectare (17 acre) themed area, to be called Avalon, will see an investment of approximately €30 million (\$35.3 million) in the park, the largest ever since it first opened in 2001. The storyline around it has been inspired by Celtic legends about the well-known wizard Merlin, King Arthur and the magical sword Excalibur, with Toverland chief designer Peter van Holsteijn commenting: "Avalon is a magical place with Merlin in the center. Together with his ally Fēnix he ensures that the good magic prevails. The dark side, personified by the evil witch Morgana, always lurks."

Key attractions within the new area will be a Bolliger and

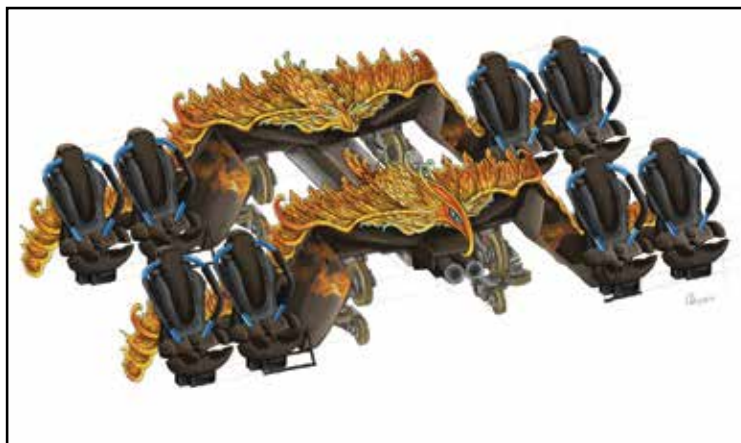
Mabillard wing coaster, Fēnix, and a Mack Rides boat ride named Merlin's Quest. The former will be the first such ride in the Benelux and the longest such ride in Europe, as well as being the first coaster at the park to take riders upside down.

With a height of 40 meters (131 feet) and a track length of 813 meters (2,667 feet), riders will reach a maximum speed of 95 kmh (59 mph) as they travel through three wingover drops (an inversion which begins with a half corkscrew and ends in a half loop), an Immelmann and a zero-G roll. Two, 24-seater trains will be utilized and ride duration will be two minutes.

The boat ride Merlin's Quest, to be built by Mack Rides, will take guests on a 12 minute journey across the waters of Avalon on a search for Tir na nÓg, the source of eternal youth, during which the boats sail into a ruin for a dark ride section. A total of 14, 16-seater boats will be used on a 430 meters (1,411 foot) long track. Mack also previously supplied the park's spinning coaster Dwervelwind and the water ride Backstroke.

The new area will also incorporate the Flaming Feather restau-

► See TOVERLAND, page 27



Toverland's new themed area, Avalon (above) will be the park's largest ever expansion and will cover a site of seven hectares. Its B&M wing coaster (left) Fenix will be the first such ride in the Benelux and the longest such ride in Europe. COURTESY TOVERLAND

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The Messe Berlin hosted this year's Euro Attractions Show. AT PHOTO

►EAS Continued from page 25

technology available mixing it with a host of other products for the water park, F&B, theming, safety and other sectors to provide a highly impressive industry shop window.

"EAS 2017 has been a tremendous experience for our company," stated Antonio Zamperla, CEO of Antonio Zamperla SPA. "We met many new clients and reunited with current ones. The show floor was very busy and the buzz of the industry and interest in new products was very strong."

Running alongside the trade show was the most extensive seminar program in EAS history, with attendees participating in 80 hours of educational sessions and programs made up of 25 unique events led by more than 100 attractions industry professionals. Among them were Christoph Kiessling (Loro Parque Group), Robert Dahl (Karls Erlebnishof), Andreas Leicht (Hansa-Park), Martin Kring (Lego-land Deutschland), Andreas Knieriem (Zoo and Tierpark Berlin) and Bas Bakkers (The Coca-Cola Company) who all shared their vast industry experience, knowledge, best practices and insider tips in five focused tracks. These included Digital Safety, Profit and Revenue, Safety and Security, Immersive Experiences and Trends and New Ideas.

EAS 2018 will take place from September 25 – 27 at the RAI Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

►TOVERLAND Continued from page 26

rant, featuring both indoor and outdoor seating areas and the first restaurant at the park in which guests will be waited on.

It is Toverland's intention to achieve more than one million annual visitors during the next few years, with current numbers standing at around 700,000 per year. New areas such as Avalon will clearly help achieve this ambition while plans for a four star hotel resort are also in the pipeline.



The Merlin's Quest ride from Mack Rides will take guests on a 12-minute journey across the waters of Avalon. COURTESY TOVERLAND

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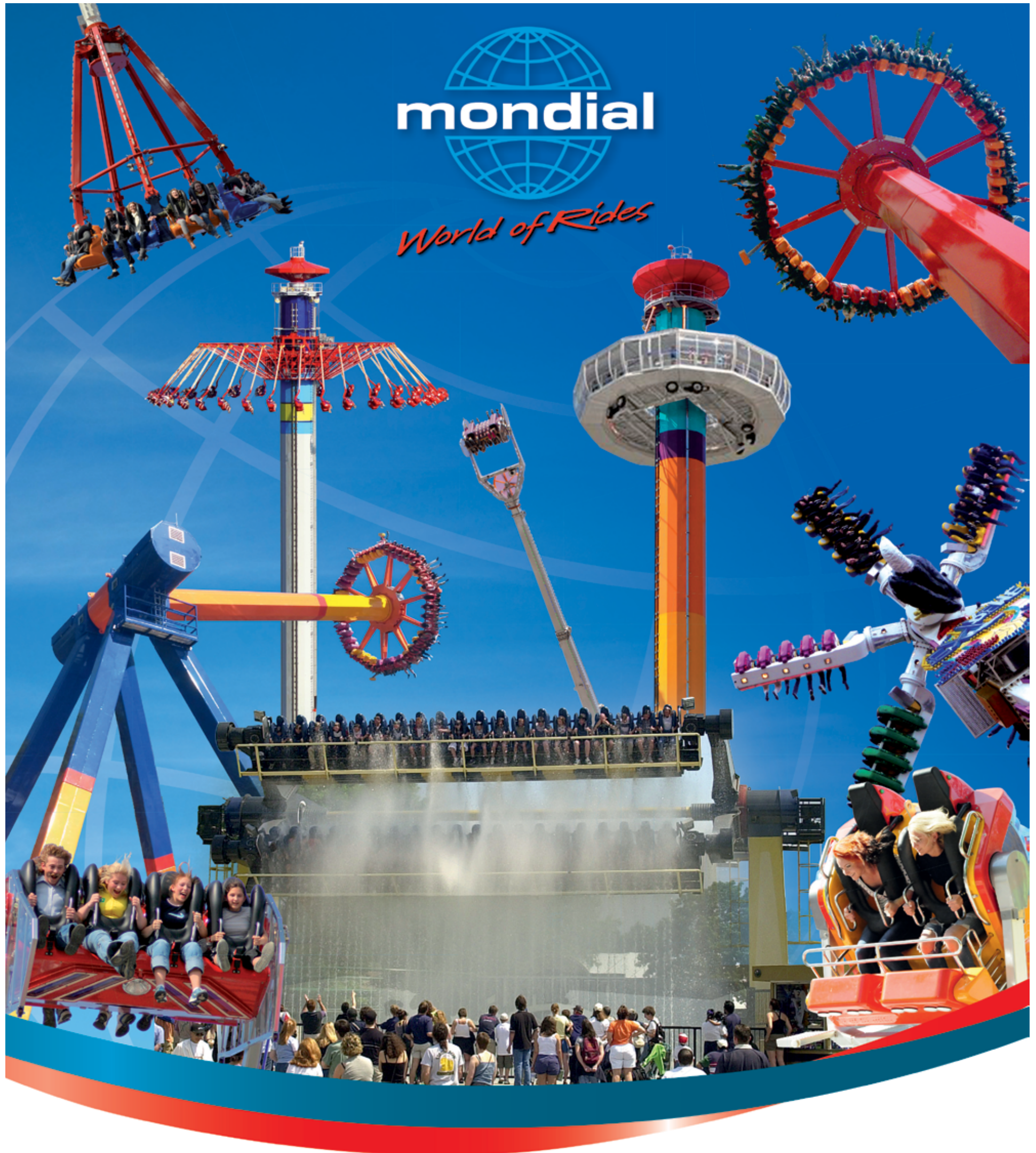
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WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► Hersheypark announces two water park attractions for 2018 — Page 30

Italy's Acqua Village water parks take on Hawaiian theme

AT: Jeffrey Seifert

jseifert@amusementtoday.com

CECINA and FOLLONICA, Italy — The two Acqua Village water parks in the Tuscany region have been undergoing a transformation over the past few years and this past July both reopened sporting new Hawaiian themes.

Acqua Village was founded in 2004 when two previous parks, Aqua Park II in Cecina, and Aqua Park in Follonica, merged under one ownership. The two parks, about 60 kilometers from each other, were both built in the 1990s, with the Cecina park opening in 1993 and Follonica in 1999.

Both have evolved into resorts by including restaurants, bars, picnic and play areas as well as soccer fields. Acqua Village Follonica even sports Disco Village, an exotic nightclub, where every night guests can observe fascinating and glittering dance performances or concerts, or can sit outside under the stars on the African-inspired patio. In addition to restaurants and bars Acqua Village Cecina Mare has a "soapy football" wet soccer field, beach volleyball, an outdoor theater and a trampoline play area.

To retheme the parks, Acqua Village turned to Ozlab FunFactory of Italy. The transformation of Cecina included the addition of Lua Pele — Hawaiian for volcano. The volcano-themed slide tower is provided by Polin Waterparks of Turkey with a Turbolance and Space Boat multi-person raft slides. Passengers on the Turbolance rise into huge Tiki mask before dropping back down, over a speed bump then into the splash pool. The Space Boat is a bowl-type slide



The highlight of the new Lua Pele attraction is a Polin Turbolance (top left). The children's area (top right) now includes whimsical totems, a coconut waterfall and squirting flowers to provide splashy fun. Makai, the "wellness island" (above right and left) features multiple waterfalls and activity pools. COURTESY ACQUA VILLAGE

and here the bowl is inside of a volcano. Although only half-enclosed this season, plans call for the volcano to be enclosed next year with atmospheric lighting, video mapped projections, spray mist machines, LED-walls, and a sound system.

The Mauna Loa Theatre hosts a show specifically designed for Acqua Village. The show was conceived, designed

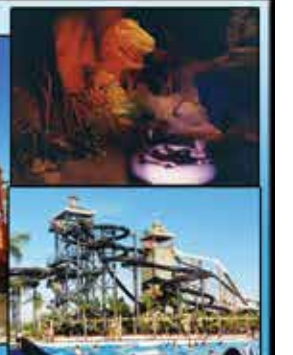
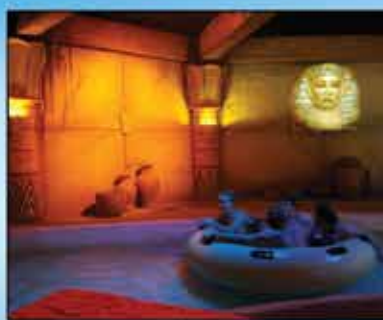
and carried out in collaboration with the famous circus school Mantica. It features six acrobats (five adults and one child) presenting an outdoor cirque-style show with original music comprising the soundtrack. The stage design was created in collaboration with Panel System of Italy which is famous for its work with Gardaland, Mirabilandia and Rainbow Magicland.

Acqua Village Follonica did not receive any new attractions but was given a complete Hawaiian makeover which included a new entrance and the renovation or "restyling" of the park's eight speed slides. One of the highlights of this park is Makai — the wellness island, where guests will find a 900-square-meter pool full of waterfalls, water games, a Jacuzzi, sensorial and energiz-

ing showers surrounded by beautiful Hawaiian scenography. On the island, guests can follow a sensorial path that leads to coffee-scented showers just behind the pool.

The transformation of both Acqua Village parks from traditional water parks to Hawaiian-themed will continue into 2018. Both parks operate daily from June to the middle of September.

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Cemex provides concrete for Volcano Bay

MONTERREY, Mexico — Cemex, a global building materials company that provides high-quality products and reliable services to customers in more than 50 countries, is proud to have contributed to the success of Universal Studios Orlando Resort's Volcano Bay water park.

For the centerpiece of the resort, a hand-carved concrete volcano packed with waterslides, Cemex provided approximately 2,500 cubic meters of sprayed concrete — a special mix of corrosion inhibitor and waterproofing admixture designed to withstand the wear and tear of the structure's water and fire features.

"To complete this project, Cemex utilized three plants, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. One plant ran corrosion inhibitor and waterproofing, while another ran color and a third handled white concrete," said Keith Stewart, Senior Account Manager for Cemex in Orlando.

Hersheypark announces two water park attractions for 2018

HERSHEY, Pa. — Hersheypark, the 121-acre amusement park in Hershey, Pa., has announced plans for two new family thrill attractions for The Boardwalk at Hersheypark water park — Breakers Edge Water Coaster and Whitecap Racer.

Breakers Edge Water Coaster will be the world's first HydroMagnetic water coaster with flying saucer turns. Whitecap Racer will be the world's longest mat racer. The new attractions will be located between the Shoreline Sprayground and the Intercoastal Waterway lazy river and are slated to debut for Memorial Day weekend of 2018.

"We are very excited to announce not one, but two new attractions for 2018 to The Boardwalk at Hersheypark," said Kevin Stumpf, general manager attractions and entertainment of Hershey Entertainment & Resorts. "Our guests always ask for coasters, water and family experiences—these attractions will deliver on all three."

Breakers Edge Water Coaster will feature two fly-



Hersheypark announced plans for two new family thrill attractions for The Boardwalk at Hersheypark water park — Breakers Edge Water Coaster and Whitecap Racer. COURTESY HERSHEY PARK

ing saucer turns in the middle of the ride. After rocketing to the top of the third uphill section, guests will careen counterclockwise around the first saucer section, then immediately enter a clockwise saucer to provide speedy slalom-like S-curved thrills, experiencing strong G-forces as the rafts bank to the left, then to the right. The four-person inline raft gives families a bobsled

ride feeling as gravity drops and smooth Linear Induction Motors (LIMs) power guests up and down hills and turns. The water coaster has an estimated hourly ride capacity of 600 guests and a ride time of about one minute.

Whitecap Racer will be the world's longest mat racer and will take guests 70 feet high as they race to the finish in six side-by-side tunnels to the bot-

tom. Each rider speeds through two tight 360-degree loops, while open racing lanes with low separator lanes allow racers to see and hear each other as they challenge each other using a slider timing system.

ProSlide Technology Inc. is the manufacturer of both attractions. Both rides are family-friendly and have a height requirement of a Reese's category and up (42 inches and up).

The new attractions will be the biggest addition to The Boardwalk at Hersheypark water park since it opened for the park's centennial season in 2007. The area features six water slides, a lazy river, wave pool and more than 600 interactive water features. These new attractions join more than 70 rides at Hersheypark Amusement Park. The Boardwalk at Hersheypark along with Hersheypark theme park and the ZooAmerica North American Wildlife Park are all included with the price of admission, giving guests three parks for the price of one.

—Jeffrey Seifert



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Liseberg, Gothenburg, Sweden, plans to add a 453-room resort hotel with an indoor water park. Located near the back of the park, the resort will feature a Far East design and include a 550-seat main restaurant, 250-seat themed restaurant, 150-seat bistro, 1,350 square meters of meeting space, and a fitness spa. The massive indoor water park is expected to encompass 17,000 square meters (183,000 square feet) and will include 10 slides, eight leisure pools, three water play areas and its own 400-seat restaurant. It is designed to accommodate 2,800 guests. The resort is expected to open in 2021 in conjunction with Gothenburg's 400th anniversary. The water park and resort will be the largest expansion in the history of Liseberg representing an investment of €200 million (\$234 million). The resort will be themed around the Swedish East India Company, a trading company that was established in 1731 to conduct trade with the Far East. Liseberg will add a second entrance to the park to accommodate guests staying at the resort.



COURTESY LISEBERG

Huntington, N.Y., will have a new spray park in 2018. Town officials held a ceremony on September 28 to formally announce the park. The 2,500-square-foot park will feature a number of active water play features. The park will also have a shade structure, six park benches, and a 4-foot vinyl-coated chain-link fence. A memorial trellis with the name of the park will honor **Sgt. Paul Tuozzolo**, a New York City police officer killed in the line of duty on November 4, 2016. Sgt. Tuozzolo's widow, Lisa, was consulted during the planning stages and provided input into the design of the park. Tuozzolo and her young sons, Austin and Joseph, attended the ceremony.

Waterworld, Stoke-on-Trent, England, has been given approval by Stoke City Council to expand the park. Construction has begun on a £10 million (\$13.3 million), 60,000 square-foot expansion that will include a spa & fitness club, trampoline park, water rides and mini island golf. Property investor **Mo Chaudry** acquired Waterworld in 1999 and has since invested millions into the property.

"I am delighted that we are able to move forward with our exciting and ambitious plans for Waterworld Group continuing to make Waterworld one of the most successful and popular aqua theme park attractions in the U.K. and developing the site as a 'leisure world,'" said Chaudry.



NEWS SPLASH

AT: Jeffery L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

"This is a significant investment into the region and will not only help boost the local economy but also strengthen Stoke on Trent's bid for City Of Culture in 2021."

Great Wolf Resorts, Inc. has released additional details of the Great Wolf Lodge under construction in LaGrange, Ga. The resort will include a Dunkin' Donuts service counter, Ben & Jerry's ice cream store, brick oven pizzeria, candy shop, Tex Mex restaurant, upscale steakhouse, buffet restaurant and a bar.

The resort will also include a games arcade, rock climbing wall, ropes course, mini golf course and mini bowling alley. All of the restaurants and dry activities are available to locals and tourists who are not staying at the lodge. The indoor water park is only open to guests who have booked a room at the lodge.

The Hartsville, S.C. city council has given preliminary approval to the city to borrow up to \$10 million for the construction of a water park at Byerly Park. City Manager **Natalie Ziegler** stated that the current plans call for an \$8 million project. The money will come from the issuance of general obligation bonds. The water park is expected to include a wave pool, lazy river and waterslide complex. The water park will be an expansion to the existing Piratesville Splash Pad at Byerly Park.

For the third year in a row, **Vortex Aquatic Structures** has been acknowledged as one of Canada's fastest growing companies on the PROFIT 500 list.

The list, published by Canadian Business, ranks Canada's fastest-growing companies in terms of five-year revenues and has been a respected resource for Canada's business community for the past 29 years.

"During our 22 years, we have always experienced steady growth. Making the PROFIT 500 for the third consecutive year validates our strategy and mission, especially as our percentage revenue growth continues to climb," said **Stephen Hamelin**, president and CEO of Vortex.

"Our goal is to lead the aquatic play industry by continuing to develop the most fun, innovative and safe products for families and children of all ages and abilities."

Vortex's revenues have grown 166 percent over the past five years, bringing in between CA\$50 million and CA\$100 million in 2016. This beats both 2016 and 2015, where growth over the same period was 131 percent and 84 percent.

As reported last month, **Great Wolf Resorts, Inc.**, looking to expand into Northern Calif., had been working with the cities of Gilroy and Brentwood, Calif., as potential locations for a new Great Wolf Lodge resort and water park in Northern California. Great

Wolf had entered into a 60-day exclusivity period with the city of Gilroy, but that ended September 30, without a commitment. Great Wolf Resorts indicated it is still evaluating locations for a future Great Wolf Lodge.

In a statement issued by GWRI, **Jason Lasecki**, corporate spokesperson, indicated, "...we will restart conversations in the near future with Northern California communities in our consideration set and look to finalize a decision soon."

The proposed resort would include up to 700 family suites, shops, restaurants, conference facilities, and the requisite indoor water park for which Great Wolf Lodge has become famous.

Although **Six Flags Mexico** has reopened following the devastating Central Mexico earthquake on September 19, **Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec** remains closed. The epicenter of the magnitude 7.1 earthquake was closer to the water park than the theme park. Although Six Flags has not indicated if there was any damage to the facility, the company is conducting an exhaustive safety and engineering review of all the attractions and the infrastructure to assess damages. The park will remain closed until the inspection is complete and officials are satisfied that the park is safe.

The park was operating weekends only and was not open on the day of the earthquake. The park had planned to continue weekend operation through December, then reopen daily December 14, for the Christmas holiday season.

Prior to the earthquake, attendance at the water park had exceeded expectations and Six Flags was considering expanding the property. The loss of revenue from the closure along with the costs of inspections and potential repair have likely put those plans on hold for the foreseeable future.

The city of San Benito, Texas, has received mixed reactions from its planned \$11 million aquatics center. Revealed at a town meeting, developer **Damian Guevara** proposed a seven-acre water park featuring an enclosed competition pool that includes two water slides. The city is also hoping to partner with the San Benito Boys and Girls Club to build and operate a splash pad adjacent to the pool. City residents have been calling for a new swimming pool for more than a decade to replace the aging city pool that was forced to close eight years ago. In 2008, the city paid \$132,250 to resurface the pool's floor but a year later a cracked floor forced the city to close the pool permanently.

The city is also hoping to partner with the San Benito school district to run the pool. The school district has been looking at ways to build a pool to field a swim team. Even though the developer has proposed a public-private partnership as a way to fund the project without a down payment from the city, opponents cite other city projects that need money, such as street repair.



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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► **Six Flags announces 2018 ride lineup — Pages 40-41 / FAIRS Pages 46-50**

Next year brings largest-ever ride investment

From attractions to accommodations, Legoland Calif. goes big

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Legoland California Resort has announced an ambitious slate of developments for 2018, a couple of which surely will intensify competition for the family leisure dollar in Greater San Diego.

Early next year, a new 4D movie debuts at the park, followed by the opening of Legoland Castle Hotel in the spring and an elaborate new subma-

rine ride in the summer.

The ride, called Lego City Deep Sea Adventures is parent company Merlin Entertainment's single largest investment in any Legoland property. It will take passengers aboard actual submarines, immersing them in an ocean habitat to search for lost treasure on a sunken Lego shipwreck.

"I'm extremely excited for our guests to experience Lego City Deep Sea Adventure," said Peter Ronchetti,

resort general manager. "For the first time in the U.S., we are bringing our guests onboard a real submarine, where they'll go underwater to discover a truly amazing world filled with more than 2,000 different real sea animals — including several species of stingrays and a variety of exotic sharks."



Ronchetti

Up to 12 guests will board one of eight submarines that are designed after the Lego City Deep Sea Adventure line of toys. Joining the display of natural sea life will be bright Lego-made octopi, tropical fish and scuba divers. Touchscreens at each porthole inside the sub will allow passengers to assist the Lego Minifigure dive team in identifying gems, pearls, Lego gold coins and more throughout the trip.

Legoland's revelation of key details about its submarine ride during a late-August media event stirred buzz about its thematic similarity to Submarine Quest, the centerpiece of the new multi-attraction Ocean Explorer area at nearby SeaWorld San Diego. But the Legoland ride will differ substantially from the SeaWorld one, which offers a dry-for-wet experience with submarine-shaped cars on a raised track and only depictions of marine life.

Preceding Legoland's submarine ride unveiling, Legoland Castle Hotel — the resort's second lodge — will have its grand opening. The 250-room premium hotel



Legoland California launches Lego City Deep Sea Adventure (above) next summer and opens Legoland Castle Hotel (below) next spring. COURTESY LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA RESORT



features three room themes: Knights and Dragons, Magic Wizard and Royal Princess.

"We are excited to expand our Legoland kingdom, not only for the new adventures it will bring to our guests, but also the new jobs it will create for the community," Ronchetti said.

Hiring for 200 positions at the lodge began in late August, and the first room reservations were accepted in September.

Legoland will get a jump on its major warm-weather rollouts on Jan. 12 with the premiere of *Lego Ninjago — Master of the 4th Dimension* in the Lego Showplace Theater. The short film combines 3D computer animation with 4D real-world effects as it takes guests on an adventure with their favorite ninjas: Kai, Jay, Cole, Zane, Lloyd, Nya and Master Wu.

• legoland.com



Legoland parks internationally hitching onto VR coaster trend

POOLE, England — Merlin Entertainments is introducing the virtual reality (VR) roller coaster concept at several of its Legoland parks around the world.

The Great Lego Race, an interactive, family-oriented VR experience, will debut at Legoland Malaysia Resort in November, followed by Legoland Florida Resort and Legoland Deutschland Resort in Germany in 2018. The high-tech overlay will be applied to each park's Project X roller coaster.

Featuring racing characters drawn from the ranks of the popular Lego Minifigure toys, The Great Lego Race pits coaster riders against wild, brick-built contraptions driven by Trendsetter, Pharaoh, Surfer Girl, Wizard and Pirate Captain — including a rocket-powered surfboard and a stylish scooter fueled by espresso.

—Dean Lamanna

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iFly Orlando: new location, exposure

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — The old adage goes: Location, location, location!

If an example is needed, take iFly in Orlando. The company has close to 40 locations around the world. The original opened in Orlando in 1999 as SkyVenture. The company rebranded itself in 2005 and kept the name SkyVenture as the name of the design and manufacturing company. The Orlando location is the only iFly with two flight tunnels, which were the 65th and 66th manufactured.

In early May, the company opened up the iFly experience in a new location in Orlando. Originally situated near the now-shuttered Wet 'n' Wild, iFly opened its new location on International Drive, which is typically a hub for tourist activity.

"Usually if people are in the area they have some free time and are scouring for things to do. It's a good added activity," said Amanda Siegel, general manager.

"It had been there for almost 20 years and had a bit of an outdated design," Siegel told *Amusement Today*. We wanted to open in a new location with a state-of-the-art wind tunnel. It was an opportunity to lure more people in."

International Drive is a hot spot in Orlando as it stretches from SeaWorld past the Orange County Convention Center and up to Universal. Restaurants, retail and hotels populate the busy strip.

As pedestrians stroll the street, they are instantly captivated by the glass façade of one of the wind tunnels and seeing people flying. Siegel said the public reaction was immediate in the early days of the new location.

"Being here at night, when foot traffic is heavier on International Drive and having



Because of the positioning of the tunnel, spectators have great views from both inside the facility and out on the street. AT/TIM BALDWIN

people just stop and watch, just having that visibility is awesome," she said.

The improvements of the new facility over the old are dramatic, starting with newer technology. Siegel refers to the new wind tunnels having smoother air. Exactly what does that mean? The original technology pulled in air from the outside, which would also bring in heat and rain. The visitor check-in area — in a trailer — was completely separate from the flight tunnel, which required guests to climb stairs. There was no visibility to the outside.

"With the old location and the outdated design, we weren't able to facilitate more experienced sky diver training," said Siegel, alluding to the versatility of having two wind tunnels in the

facility. This location has faster, cleaner wind. The new tunnels have smoother air. We recirculate the air and cool it. It's a nicer flying experience. Both tunnels are identical, it just doubles capacity."

The new tunnels can utilize up to 160 mph wind.

"Our old facility didn't have a birthday room or corporate room, but we can rent those out now for corporate events," said Siegel indicating that they could facilitate several hundred people.

The new iFly also hosts "all abilities nights," letting people with various abilities have the exhilarating experience. "Being on one floor lets us be open to so many things," Siegel said.

The minimum age to participate is three. Families are the main demographic, but the old facility had guests even up to 95 years of age. From check-in to completion, the experience can take from an hour and a half to two hours. Part of the process involves "suing up" and training videos. Package prices are available for families and groups. Participants typically get two flights in the tunnel with skilled instructors on hand to give guests the best experience. Groups also enjoy seeing the experts show off their skills inside the tunnel, as do passersby on the street.

Siegel confirms that International Drive was the right move: "There is a lot more foot traffic here. Revenue has increased. We're very happy with the new location."

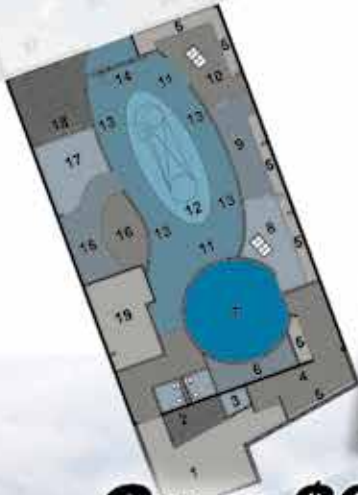


The new location for iFly gives immediate visibility to pedestrians on I Drive in Orlando. AT/TIM BALDWIN

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World's firsts among Six Flags parks 2018 additions

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — As summer wound down, Six Flags Entertainment announced new additions to each of its parks. Among them were roller coasters, water park attractions, thrill rides and a few world's firsts.

Six Flags Over Georgia announced the closure of Georgia Cyclone back in July. Savvy industry folks had seen the chain of parks play this maneuver in years past, so the prediction of a Rocky Mountain Construction (RMC) steel track redesign was a natural. As expected, Twisted Cyclone was just that.

"Six Flags was the first in the industry to introduce this hybrid technology and Twisted Cyclone is a shining example of Six Flags innovation at its very best," said Park President Dale Kaetzel. "This state-of-the-art hybrid coaster is an absolute game-changer. Our guests are going to be blown away by the unbelievable features of this coaster."

"Other Six Flags parks have been very successful with converting classic wooden roller coasters into the hybrid model by partnering with Rocky Mountain Construction," said Gene Petriello, communications manager. "It is going to exceed our guests' wildest expectations. The success of similar rides at other Six Flags parks made the decision to transform Georgia Cyclone into the Twisted Cyclone a no-brainer."

The new RMC conversion will feature a 100-foot, 75-degree first drop. The first turnaround sports two of the



Pandemonium (above), a Chance Freestyle ride heading to The Great Escape, will be the first park model installed in the U.S. Six Flags Over Georgia's new Twisted Cyclone (right) will follow the successful formula of a Rocky Mountain Construction makeover of one of the park's previously built rides.

COURTESY SIX FLAGS

rides three inversions. Steep drops, airtime and a sideways banked turn are all aspects that make the ride one of the park's most daring.

For six of the theme park chain's new rides, it turned to DC Comics to continue to latch onto superhero and super-villain brands.

Harley Quinn, abandoning villainy for ride manufacturing, finds her name on three rides, two of which are the first of their kind in any theme park in the world. Starting with Harley Quinn's Crazy Coaster at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom is the first installation of Skyline Attractions' new Skywarp, which was an IAAPA Attractions Expo favorite in 2016.

"It's very exciting for all of us here at Skyline," said Chris Gray, vice president and partner. "Skywarp was one

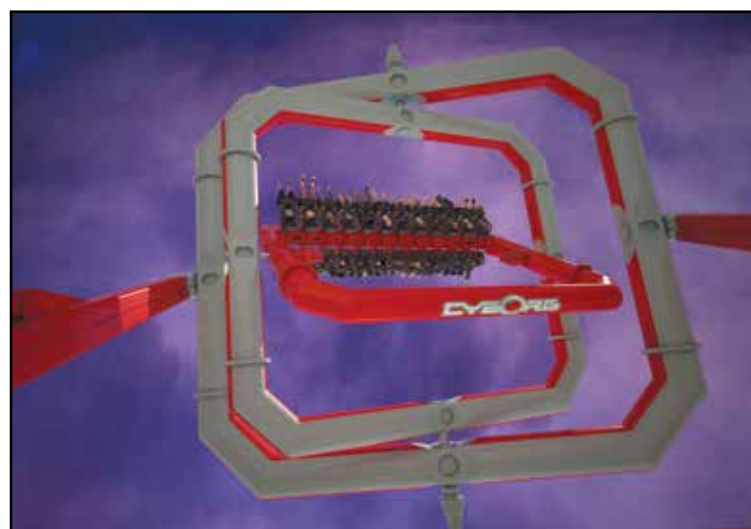
of the concepts we had come up when we were starting the company. "To see it coming to life has been a great experience for our whole team. I think people will be surprised at how hypnotic the ride will look — with both passenger trains flipping around and passing one another in a perfectly coordinated dance of art and engineering. The zero Gs alone will keep the riders jumping back into the queue."

"We can often claim to have a first ever on the West Coast, whether it's the fastest this or the longest that, but to have a ride that features the world's first-of-its-kind, head-to-head dueling coaster experience, it's very special," said Don McCoy, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom park president.

Harley Quinn's Spinsanity at Six Flags Over Texas will also be the first in North America, as well as the first in any theme park in the world. Although, curiously, the park has had an attraction by this name the past two years, the title now finds itself morphed into a major iconic ride for the Arlington theme park.

Built by abc rides, the gyroscope-type attraction has riders seated on the inside of the innermost (of three) rectangular frames that rotate on its own axis.

"This ride is different from anything you've ever seen," Park President Steve Martindale told *Amusement Today*. "It's going to be as much fun to watch as it is to ride. The visual uniqueness of this ride may be what initially draws a lot of people in, but the subsequent and unexpected thrill



Two installations of a Tourbillon ride by abc rides will have different DC Comics themes at Six Flags Over Texas and Six Flags Great Adventure. COURTESY SIX FLAGS

factor is what's going to keep guests coming back. I challenge anyone to get on this ride and figure out which way is up!"

Six Flags Great Adventure will be receiving the same ride, adjacent to this year's Justice League dark ride. There it will be themed to the character Cyborg and called Cyborg Cyber Spin.

"The movement of the triple box design is truly mesmerizing and something guests have never seen before in America," said Neal Thurman, park president. Just wait until nightfall when the light package comes on — the twisting, flipping and pivoting lights will seem to defy logic! The new ride will be a spectacular view when guests enter the new Metropolis area."

The third Harley Quinn ride will be found at Six Flags New England. The new Zamperla Giant Discovery will

receive the same name as Six Flags Over Texas, Harley Quinn's Spinsanity. Three other Six Flags parks have found success with this attraction under other names in previous seasons.

If a "Year of the Woman" could be imagined for Six Flags, two more attractions found a female namesake: Wonder Woman. In our September issue we covered the world's first RMC single rail coaster coming to Six Flags Fiesta Texas — Wonder Woman Golden Lasso Coaster. The second coaster named after the Amazon warrior is Wonder Woman Coaster at Six Flags Mexico. There it will be the park's ninth coaster and the sixth S&S 4-D Free Spin coaster purchased by Six Flags. Previous such coasters by Six Flags have been named after The Joker and Batman.

► See SIX FLAGS, page 41



Wahoo River will be an all-new interactive adventure river at Six Flags America. Six Flags St. Louis has turned to ProSlide Technology for Typhoon Twister. COURTESY SIX FLAGS

►SIX FLAGS

Continued from page 40

Water park attractions are also prominently featured.

Six Flags America has made a grand move so often overlooked in parks. Addressing aging infrastructure but reinvigorating crowd favorites is not always an easy call, but the park has made a bold decision in the right direction.

Wahoo River will be an action-packed river attraction that will feature seven different water action zones that incorporate geysers, waves, leaky pipes, aqua arches and tipping buckets. Rocky formations will add to the aesthetics.

"It's going to look like a showcase," said Denise Stokes, communications manager.

"We've promised new rides and attractions in our park every year," said Rick Howarth, park president. "Our original lazy river dates back to when the park was called Wild World. Wahoo River will have a much greater throughput and capacity and offer a much better experience which will be a great benefit to our guests."

Wahoo River is 33 percent wider than the previous installation — up to 18 feet — and will be 40 percent longer.

Six Flags St. Louis is also adding to their water park. Typhoon Twister combines two slide experiences into one iconic attraction. Riders in rafts of four descend a 125-foot long tunnel and are sent whirling around a 40-foot bowl. From there they plunge through the center into a five-story drop and up a wave wall that offers weightlessness. The ride, built by ProSlide, features tunneled sections as well.

"We felt it was time to bring a new experience to Hurricane Harbor that was completely different from any-



Wonder Woman (above left) will be a new theme for the next S&S 4-D Free Spin coaster headed for Six Flags Mexico. Harley Quinn Crazy Coaster (above right) will be the world's first installation of a Skywarp from Skyline Attractions. Six Flags Magic Mountain Boardwalk area (below left) will see a new revamp, anchored by the tallest Giant Discovery built by Zamperla. The park will also begin year-round daily operation starting in 2018. The largest loop attraction ever built by Larson International (below right) debuts at Six Flags Great America in 2018. COURTESY SIX FLAGS



thing else in the water park," said Pete Carmichael, park president. "This new hybrid bowl/wave wall slide delivers two exciting elements that are brand new to the entire region. My favorite part about this attraction is the 45-foot wave wall. Not only will it be a rush for those riding the slide, it will also provide a great visual element for our midway."

Splashwater Island will be a new play structure at Waterworld Concord. The family play structure includes slides, spray activities and a tipping bucket.

The Great Escape is debuting Pandemonium, a Chance Freestyle spinning ride. It will be the first in the Six Flags system and the first park model in the U.S.

"People are very familiar with the classic motion of the Trabant and Wipeout rides we've had such great success with over the years, but the outward-facing seating really brings a new dynamic to the ride experience," said Angus Jenkins, director of theme park sales, Chance Rides. "It's really a modern take on the ride, plus it has a higher degree of tilt which certainly adds to the action."

Carnaval en Folie will be a new area at La Ronde that sports a fairground atmosphere. Three new rides — a Ferris Wheel, Tilt-a-Whirl and Scrambler — anchor the area.

Going on the notion that bigger is better, two Six Flags parks have taken rides previously successful at their properties and monster-sized them.

Six Flags Great America is introducing the world's tallest closed-loop thrill ride.

Built by Larson International, President and CEO Jeff Novotny told AT: "Six Flags had requested we develop a taller, higher capacity loop ride for some time, but we have

been so busy with production. I'm thrilled we found the time to design this new ride.

"The 100-foot Giga Loop for Six Flags Great America will certainly be the largest loop ride we have ever created, dating back to 1972 when the first one was produced. To make this much larger unit we are investing in larger equipment just to handle the heavy steel track sections," Novotny said. "The Giga Loop will also have a seating capacity of 32 passengers per ride along with a few other unique features."

In an unfortunate bit of timing, Six Flags had to react to current events with this attraction. Reportedly to originally be called Hurricane Force 5, the announcement happened just as Hurricane Harvey had delivered devastating destruction to the Gulf Coast.

Six Flags Magic Mountain is not only getting a bigger ride, but also a bigger calendar. Crazanity is an even bigger version of the Zamperla Giant Discovery. Standing at 98.5 feet/30 meters tall, the swinging pendulum ride will make a dramatic impact on the park's skyline as it swings 172 feet in the air. It comes as Six Flags Magic Mountain is revamping the Boardwalk area where the ride will be located.

"For the past several years, going back to 2011, when Six Flags Magic Mountain opens new rides and attractions, we are also making a point to redo the entire area for guests to enjoy," said Sue Carpenter, communications manager, Six Flags Magic Mountain. "The new Boardwalk area will be fashioned after a quintessential Southern California boardwalk and will sit across the midway from Metropolis. The area from Center Ring games down to the restrooms will all be renovated."

Perhaps bigger news is that the park will be open 365 days a year starting in January. Like the theme parks just an hour south in California, the park feels the tourist demand is there.

"Daily operation was conceived in our long range plans several years ago based on trends and the market," said Carpenter. "The timing is right for our market, especially with the Six Flags brand strong and growing globally. It's a big opportunity to enter the destination world. It was a natural decision to join other parks in SoCal to make destination travel even more attractive. We're really trying to tap into and maximize the travel industry opportunities."



Harley Quinn Spinsanity is the name of a new Giant Discovery from Zamperla headed to Six Flags New England. COURTESY SIX FLAGS

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Kennywood retires 42-year-old Arrow flume

WEST MIFFLIN, Pa. — As Kennywood's 2017 summer season was winding down the park made an announcement that few locals wanted to hear: The Log Jammer would be retired at the end of this season.

To celebrate 42 years of jammin', Kennywood invited friends, families and Pittsburgh visitors to enjoy one last joy ride before the summer season closed on September 17.

In a statement to the press Kennywood announced: "While we know that the Log Jammer is a beloved ride for

many of our guests and has been for us as well, we're looking forward to exploring exciting new developments in that corner of the park in future seasons.

"It is a bittersweet decision, but one that in time will create some exciting opportunities for our guests," said Kennywood General Manager Jerome Gibas. "While no final decisions have been made regarding what will replace the Log Jammer, Kennywood is committed to enhancing our guests' experiences while preserving our signature balance of modern thrills and traditional family favorites."

The Log Jammer debuted at Kennywood in 1975 as the park's first million-dollar attraction. Built by Arrow Development, it was the last remaining example of a log flume with a spillway drop — a feature that included an uphill section. Although included with several log flumes of the era, all had been removed with the exception of Log Jammer.

The site of the Jammer was previously home to attractions including the Kangaroo, Loop-O-Plane, Bayern Kurve, a Ferris Wheel, and, from 1930 until 1974, a pony track.



After 42 years, Kennywood has closed its Arrow-built Log Jammer. the log flume ceased operation on Sept. 17. COURTESY KENNYWOOD

Oaks to add Gerstlauer coaster

PORTLAND, Ore. — Oaks Amusement Park has announced the closure of Looping Thunder and its replacement for the 2018 season. Looping Thunder, a Pinfari Looping Zyklon, ZL42, was installed at the park in 1996. It was likely purchased new from Pinfari, and would have been one of the last ZL42 models manufactured before the company went bankrupt in 1999.

The new coaster, which does not yet have a name, was announced on Aug. 17 through the park's social media platforms.

From the statistics it appears to be similar to, if not identical to, Hydrus, a Gerstlauer coaster which opened this year at Casino Pier, Seaside Heights, N.J. This is a small version of a Euro-Fighter coaster which utilizes single cars, seating eight passengers in two rows of four.

The ride features a 72-foot-tall vertical lift, past-vertical 97-degree initial drop, loop, an Immelman turn, heart-line roll, 45-mph maximum speed, 1,050 feet of track, and a 48-inch minimum rider height requirement.

The historic Portland park, is holding a naming contest on its website accepting entries though December 1.

—Jeffrey Seifert



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Universal Studios Hollywood says 'Hello' to Kitty, DreamWorks

Park rings in 2018 with new Harry Potter holiday fun, more

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. — The coming New Year holds plenty of new kid-oriented diversions and products at Universal Studios Hollywood. And Harry Potter will be working some holiday magic along the way.

With Universal Studios' recent acquisition of DreamWorks Animation, the Hollywood theme park is rolling out the red carpet for a new DreamWorks Theatre attraction in 2018.

The venue will showcase a variety of action-packed DreamWorks-themed experiences, beginning with a multi-sensory adventure inspired by the blockbuster movie franchise *Kung Fu Panda*. Guests will be taken on a filmic journey that fuses storytelling with state-of-the-art projection and LED lighting effects.

Joining the menagerie of

DreamWorks meet-and-greet characters introduced earlier this year will be *Kung Fu Panda*'s Po and Tigress; *Madagascar*'s Alex the Lion, The Penguins (Skipper, Rico, Kowalski and Private) and King Julian; *Shrek*'s Puss 'n Boots; and Poppy and Branch from *Trolls*.

Already "purrr"-ticipating at other Universal Studios parks, Hello Kitty, the beloved, red-bowed pop icon created by the Japanese company Sanrio, arrives next year at the Hollywood property in the form of merchandise and a meet-and-greet character.

Together with other Sanrio friends — including My Melody, Keroppi and Chococat — Hello Kitty will be featured on exclusive accessories, apparel, collectibles and confectionery. The offerings include designs incorporating classic Universal titles such as *Jaws*, *E.T.* and *Back to the Future*.

Universal Studios Hollywood is bridging 2017-18 with an all-new holiday celebration, "Christmas in The Wizarding World of Harry Potter." The experience will transform



Universal Studios will roll out a new Kung Fu Panda multi-sensory theater attraction and introduce Hello Kitty products next year. COURTESY UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD

the iconic Hogwarts castle into a projected-light spectacular choreographed to musical arrangements from the *Harry Potter* movies.

The storefronts in Hogsmeade village will sport individually themed décor. Collectibles available for purchase include a variety of decorative Hogwarts castle snow globes and ornaments, as well

as unique tree toppers and house pennant garland.

Live entertainment will be courtesy of an a cappella Frog Choir comprised of Hogwarts students and their giant frogs performing holiday songs.

"Grinchmas" returns to the park with a Whoville celebration fit for The Grinch and his faithful dog, Max. The event is centered around a

whimsical, 60-foot-tall "Grinchmas" tree, where Martha May Who-vier and the Who Dolls will perform holiday music sets.

"Christmas in The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" takes place daily from Nov. 24 to Jan. 7. "Grinchmas" runs weekends Dec. 2-3 and 9-10, and daily Dec. 15-31.

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Country's largest fairs continue to see an uptick in attendance for 2017

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

NORTH AMERICA — Fair officials continue to report increases in attendances for the 2017 fair season when compared to those figures last year.

That is good news for local economies as well as the amusement industry.

One state fair of note in this continuation of AT's 2017 fair round-up is the Maryland State Fair. Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and state Comptroller Peter Franchot mandated that state schools return after Labor Day this year, leading to an increase in attendance of 20 percent over last year at Maryland State Fair.

Minnesota State Fair St. Paul, Minn.

2017 dates: Aug. 24-Sept. 5

2017 attendance: 1,997,320

2016 attendance: 1,943,719

2017 midway provider:

Independent

2018 dates: Aug. 23-Sept. 3

This year's attendance at the Minnesota State Fair broke all previous attendance records. The previous attendance was set during the 2016 fair. The 2017 theme, Great Minnesota Get-Together, seemed to be just that.

Along with the total attendance record, the fair set three single day attendance records. They were: Monday, Aug. 28, with 144,504 visitors; Friday, Sept. 1, with 187,066 visitors, and Sunday, Sept. 3, with 242,759 visitors.

Although not a record, Labor Day attendance was 171,299.

The Minnesota State Fair's agricultural and creative competitions drew more than 35,000 entries this year, with competitors vying for a share of ribbons, trophies and more than \$1.5 million in prize money.

Competitions included events for livestock, horses, school projects, dog trials, baked and canned goods, fruit, vegetables, crafts, bee and honey products, fine arts, farm crops, flowers, butter, cheese and more.

The State Fair's Fine Arts Exhibition featured the largest competitive art show in Minnesota.

The 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction on Saturday, Aug. 26, set 11 new record prices and raised more than \$655,000 to benefit 4-H programs.

The award-winning CHS Miracle of Birth Center welcomed 145 newborn animals, including 113 piglets, 12 calves and 20 lambs.

There were 30 rides on the

Mighty Midway this year and 30 rides on the Kidway.

A new feature on the midway this year was the new Lamberink's RL45 wheel owned by Michael Wood, Wood Entertainment, and Frank Zaitshik, Wade Shows owner. The wheel carried a total of 124,958 riders 15 stories high into the sky over the 12 days of the fair.

The top 15 rides at the 2017 Minnesota State Fair were:

1. Crazy Mouse Spinning Roller Coaster, brought in by S.J. Entertainment and manufactured by Reverchon;

2. Starship 3000, brought in by Laser Fair, Inc., and manufactured by Wisdom;

3. Sky Flyer, Reithoffer Equipment Co., Inc., Zamperla;

4. New York New York Fun House, Fair Ride Entertainment LLC, Gosetto;

5. Puppy Express Roller Coaster, Prime Pacific Ent. LLC, SBF/Visa Group;

6. Galaxy Roller Coaster, Reithoffer Equipment Co., Inc., Pinfari;

7. Wave Swinger; Fair Ride Entertainment LLC, Zierer;

8. Air Maxx, Mr. Ed's Magical Midways LLC, KMG;

9. Tilt-A-Whirl, Lauther Amusements, Sellner/Larson International;

10. Flipper, S.J. Entertainment, Huss;

11. Equinox, Laser Fair, Inc., KMG;

12. Arabian Daze Fun House, Fun Attractions LLC, Owen Trailers;

13. Magic Maze Glass House, Wood Entertainment Company, Inc., Owen Trailers;

14. Dragon Wagon Roller Coaster, Prime Pacific Ent. LLC, Wisdom;

15. Monkey Maze Glass House, Alamo Amusements, Inc., Owen Trailers.

FAIR ROUNDUP



New rides at the Minnesota State Fair included a Sartori Clown Around (above) brought in by Joyce Hutchins, Joyrides Inc., and the RL45 wheel (right) owned jointly by Michael Wood, Wood Entertainment, and Frank Zaitshik, Wade Shows. The 150-foot-tall portable wheel is manufactured by Lamberink. One of the fair features this year was a nightly fireworks show (above right) that was held between 10-11 p.m., that could be seen from anywhere on the fairgrounds. COURTESY MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

Some highlights for 2017 included: an eat-shop-sip destination in the upper level of the Grandstand called the Veranda; Dress A Sheep Contest; an elevator on the west side of the Grandstand to increase accessibility; renovations to the Swine Barn, increasing pen capacity and ventilation; rocking chairs, phone charging stations, free water and daily entertainment at the Relax & Recharge Station, and the Great Minnesota Knit Together on the Grandstand Ramp.

The 2017 fair featured 31 new foods including: Bacon Fluffernutter, Bacon Up Pup, Bowl O'



Dough, Breakfast Buddy Bowl, Brown Ale and Onion-Gouda Topsy Pie, Cheesy Nacho Corn on the Cob, Cherry Bombs, Chocolate Popover with Peanut Butter Spread, Cranberry Wild Rice Meatballs, Deep-Fried Avocado, Deviation Stout Steak Taco Naan, and Double Dose of Pork Belly.

Wilson County Fair Lebanon, Tenn.

2017 date: Aug. 18-26

2017 attendance: 488,299

2016 attendance: 467,236

2017 midway provider: Amusements of America

2018 dates: Aug. 17-25

Even with a \$4 increase in adult admission this year, fairgoers still came out full force. The ticket price increase took the admissions ticket from \$8 to \$12.

The reason for the increase came as a result of higher operations costs including expenses such as utilities, insurance, security, cleanup, trash and traffic. The fair also pays rent to use the new Expo Center on the grounds. In addition, the cost of entertainment continues to increase.

Randall Clemons, the pro-

► See ROUNDUP, page 48



The Wilson County Fair, Lebanon, Aug. 18-26, saw an increase in attendance this year over 2016 numbers, despite a \$4 increase in admission, from \$8 to \$12. The fair drew 488,299 fairgoers this year. Amusements of America provided the midway with over 50 rides and attractions including this Giant Wheel, manufactured by Chance, and this Rock and Roll Fun House, by Miller Manufacturing. AT/SUE NICHOLS



► **ROUNDUP**

Continued from page 47

motions president, was quoted in the local newspaper, Lebanon Democrat, as saying the budgeted expenses for the 2017 fair were \$1.8 million. The budget predicted a loss of money, which

led the executive committee to recommend an increase in ticket prices to the board of directors.

Despite the increase, the 2017 total attendance came in as the sixth highest attendance on record.

The solar eclipse day on Aug. 21 brought out more than 12,000 people before 3 p.m.

Fair features this year in-

cluded the largest flower show in fair history with more than 800 entries, dairy milking demonstrations for the first time and the unveiling of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics building.

Amusements of America brought in over 50 rides including four new ones. They were: the Free Fall and Skyfall, both manufactured by Fabbri; Power Surge, manufactured by Zamperla, and Polar Express, by Wisdom.

Colorado State Fair Pueblo, Colo.

2017 dates: Aug. 25-Sept. 4

2017 attendance: 480,204

2016 attendance: 466,576

2017 midway provider: Crabtree Amusements

2018 dates: Aug. 24-Sept. 3

While the air was hazy from out-of-state wildfires on the final day of the Colorado State Fair, enough patrons attended to push the final attendance figure over the 2016 numbers.

The 145th expo finished with a total attendance mark of 480,204, 13,628 more, or three percent higher, than last year. Officials attributed the increase to great weather; rain fell only on one day, and a variety of attractions and entertainment. Officials also were pleased that

there was no serious incidents of crime during the 11-day run.

The Fiesta Day attracted the fair's highest number of guests, 66,597.

Crabtree Amusements brought in over 50 rides to the midway this year.

Maryland State Fair Timonium, Md.

2017 dates: Aug. 24-Sept. 4

2017 attendance: 555,841

2016 attendance: 447,684

2017 midway provider: Deggeller Attractions

2018 dates: Aug. 23-Sept. 3

Officials of Timonium, Ocean City, and other Maryland summer event venues, paid close attention to the 2017 Maryland State Fair during its run. Those officials were eager to observe what the economic impact would be after Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and state Comptroller Peter Franchot led the charge to "Let Summer Be Summer" by mandating that schools return after Labor Day.

The decision was of particular importance to the Maryland State Fair that annually runs through Labor Day. Attendance at the fair had been negatively impacted over several decades since schools began to return in mid-August.

Fair General Manager Becky

Brashear was pleased to report the 20 percent increase and the third best attendance on record, even with two days of rain.

"The return of schools after Labor Day not only increases our attendance, but reduces the stress on our 4-H/FFA and Open Class livestock exhibitors, staff, and leadership who had to juggle schedules to participate in the fair," Brashear said.

Deggeller Attractions experienced its third best year this year. The carnival provided more than 30 rides.

In addition, there was a significant increase in attendance and wagering during the Thoroughbred Horse Racing days.

The fair provides a variety of competitions including categories of livestock, farm and garden, and arts. A new competition this year was "Are You Smarter Than an Ag Teacher."

Facility improvements, beautification and the addition of new exhibits and events did a good job in boosting attendance as well.

Some featured attractions included "STEM Growing for You," the State Fair Grand Parade, the Negro Baseball League exhibit, a variety of equine competitions and exhibits, and musical performances and strolling entertainment.



The Maryland State Fair, Timonium, which ran Aug. 24-Sept. 4 this year, reported an attendance increase of 20 percent of the 2016 event. Deggeller Attractions provided over 30 rides for the fair's midway including this KMG Hydra ride. The fair drew 555,841 fairgoers this year. Officials attribute the attendance increase to schools starting after the Labor Day weekend, a 2017 mandate from State of Maryland officials. COURTESY JIM MCCUE, MARYLAND STATE FAIR



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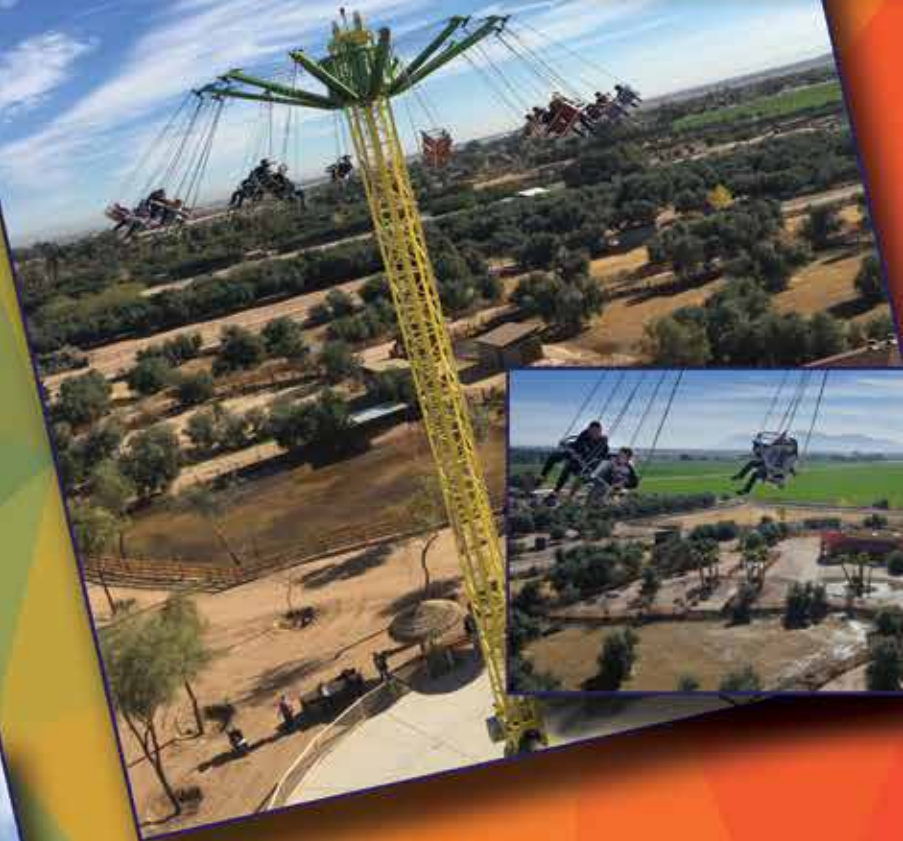
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COMPILED: Pam Sherborne

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The **State Fair of Texas**, Dallas, which ran Sept. 29-Oct. 22, celebrated the 75th Anniversary of **Fletcher's Corny Dogs** at this year's event. To commemorate the special occasion, the Fletcher family planned a number of surprises and activities for fairgoers throughout the duration of the fair.

On opening day and each Friday of the fair, all seven Fletcher's Original State Fair Corny Dog concession stands gave away free Original Corny Dogs to its first 75 customers. Fletcher's also sold their Jalapeño Cheese Corny Dog, Turkey Corny Dog and the Veggie Corny Dog at each location.

A mural highlighting the successful history of Fletcher's at the State Fair of Texas was featured inside the Tower Building. On Saturday, Sept. 30, the Fletcher family was at their newest concession trailer on the Thrillway so that fairgoers could come by and get their photos taken with family members.

The Fletcher family's history at the fair dates back to 1942, when **Neil and Carl Fletcher** opened their first concession stand on the Midway. The duo gave fairgoers bite-sized portions to introduce their new invention. Today, the all-meat sausages dipped in a secret-recipe batter and deep fried in vegetable shortening to a golden brown, is considered a staple for many fairgoers, with more than 600,000 Corny Dogs sold last year during the 24-day run of the fair.

Earlier this year, the late Fletcher's patriarch, **Neil "Skip" Fletcher, Jr.**, passed away. Dubbed the "Corny Dog King," he learned the art and trade of the corny dog business from his father. Although this will be the first year without Skip Fletcher, the Fletcher family will continue his legacy.

After 18 years of service to the **Erie County Agricultural Society**, Hamburg, N.Y., **Dennis "Denny" Lang** announced in September that he is stepping down from his position as chief executive officer and fair manager. His retirement was effective Sept. 29, 2017.

Lang will continue to act as a member of the Society's board of directors. He is being succeeded by current Assistant Fair Manager and Manager of Agriculture **Jessica Underberg** who officially assumed Lang's former position on Oct. 1.

With a personal history at the fair dating

back to the late 1950s, when his father, **Paul Lang**, was a board member, Lang was appointed CEO and fair manager in 1999. At the time of his hiring, the organization faced a growing, year-round operation that included a collection of antiquated heritage buildings, barns that were no longer adequate for the proper housing and showing of animals and an infrastructure of utilities that needed critical updating.

Confronted with challenges and opportunities, Lang's leadership brought the Erie County Agricultural Society into the new millennium with new ideas, creative energy and an aggressive plan to put the organization on a stable financial footing to insure its future.

The 2017 fair ran Aug. 9-20. It opened one month to the day after an EF-2 tornado hit the fairgrounds, causing a massive clean-up effort to get the fair open. Yet, final attendance was 1,193,279, a 21 percent increase from 2016 and the second highest attendance in the fair's history.

Underberg has served as assistant fair manager since 2010. She is responsible for all aspects of the 12-month operations of the 270-acre **Erie County Fairgrounds**. She will lead activities related to the annual Erie County Fair, all non-fair events and oversee 50 full-time, 15 part-time and over 750 seasonal employees. She brings extensive experience in both the fair and the animal agriculture industries to the position.

The **Houston (Texas) Livestock Show and Rodeo** plans to donate \$2 million to Hurricane Harvey relief efforts, officials announced in September.

"With a mission of promoting agriculture and a passion for education, it is only fitting for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo to equally support these areas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey," **Joel Cowley**, president and CEO, said in a release.

The donation is set to be distributed among several organizations and relief funds focused on agricultural and educational support. These include the Texas Farm Bureau's Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund for Agriculture, Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation, Texas FFA Association, Houston SPCA, Greater Houston Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Houston.

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BUSINESS, SAFETY & CLASSIFIED

► Market Watch — Page 53 / Safety — Pages 54-60 / GTA Recap — Pages 61-66 / CLASSIFIEDS Page 68



DNP adds Spanish and Portuguese language options to website

CONCORD, N.C. — **DNP Imagingcomm America Corporation** (DNP IAM) recently announced the immediate availability of two new language options on its website www.dnpphoto.com. Visitors will now be able to select Spanish, Portuguese, or English as their chosen language when navigating the site.

These additional languages were introduced to enhance the level of resources and support to clients and potential clients in Latin American territories.

"Providing a more comprehensive selection of language options on our website is an important part of our ongoing improvements to provide customers with a greater level of immediately available tools and assets to better run their business," said **Katsuyuki Oshima**, president of DNP IAM. "By making our websites available in Spanish and Portuguese, as well as the existing English version, we can immediately reach a broader audience of professional photographers."

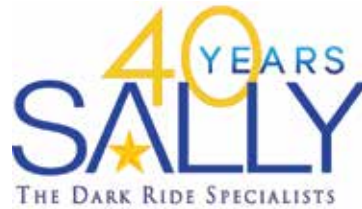
•dnpphoto.com

Sally celebrates 40 years with revamped website

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — With the company's 40th anniversary underway, **Sally Corporation** celebrates the milestone with a new redesigned website that makes it quick, easy and fun to explore SallyCorp.com. Visitors will find a variety of interactive navigation options as they explore 40 years of dark ride innovations and client results, as well as new products, the turnkey process and the world-class team. Every project is showcased in a variety of ways, making it easy for visitors to learn how Sally clients experience value and return on investment.

"We're excited about our new website launch and the robust information it offers customers, partners and media," said **Lauren Weaver**, marketing director for Sally Corporation. "We designed it to be an innovative, educational ride through our his-



tory, our processes and our people."

Amusement Today asked Weaver about the transition between the old site and the new. "We didn't have a lot of time [with the original site] to show a lot of video content because it would slow things down. I think the new video content really pays off. The website before was really just a catalog of our work. It was easy from a sales perspective to go through it, but I didn't find it extremely engaging. We're an interactive company, and I thought there was an opportunity there to really touch our clients and friends coming to explore the site in a more entertaining way. We still have the baseline of our product

pages, but now we have new fun ways to lure guests to the product pages. It's fun and interactive in a way that it wasn't before. We've even put fun facts in there."

The updated site menu, navigation strategies and dropdown menus for both mobile and desktop give visitors to the new site more information with less effort and reading. The company feels visiting the new revamped site is more imaginative, innovative and informative than ever.

"A big task for our marketing department this year was to go out and mine some content," said Weaver. "We went out to some of our past rides to shoot and film them with quality HD footage. Our company has been around for 40 years and some of our rides are decades old; cameras at that time weren't up to speed as they are today. We have gone out and taken time to capture some of our rides as well as some of our

processes here at Sally. We've been creating numerous video projects over this whole year. It has been a labor of love, but we're seeing the benefits now."

The site's integrated social media buttons are designed to make it easy for Sally to stay in touch via Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

"We've also made it not as heavy on the eyes," said Weaver. "It's still maintains that Sally color scheme, but making it easy on the eye and fun to explore."

The team at Sally is eager to remind people to return to the site periodically.

"We have set plans to keep adding to it. We will be doing some special features before IAAPA and afterwards as well. I would say stay tuned and check back often. Our site is going to be growing and changing with more fun content, said Weaver. We'll be doing some interactive additions."

•sallycorp.com

Epcot celebrates 35 years with characters, more

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — On Oct. 1, thousands of Disney fans gathered at **Epcot** to celebrate the park's 35th anniversary by watching a special ceremony that was highlighted with Disney characters, fun performances by the park's most beloved musical acts and more.

During the ceremony, **George A. Kalogridis**, president of **Walt Disney World Resort**, spoke, honoring the park's past and sharing excitement for its future.

"It's been an amazing 35 years," Kalogridis said. And as we look toward the future, there is so much more on the horizon.

Kalogridis was also joined onstage by **Voices of Liberty** and the **Mariachi Co-**



bre — two musical groups that debuted when the theme park opened on Oct. 1, 1982.

"Epcot has always been, and always will be, an optimistic celebration of the real world — brought to life through the magic of Disney," Kalogridis said. "I promise you the exciting plans we have on the horizon will honor Epcot's rich

legacy of creativity and innovation while continuing to exceed the expectations of our guests, for decades to come.

"The spirit of the expansion will continue to evolve Epcot to make it more timeless, more relevant, more family and more Disney, while staying true to its original vision."

Already announced as part of this expansion is a new restaurant for the **Mission: SPACE** pavilion, inviting guests to dine above Earth, two new attractions inspired by *Ratatouille* and the *Guardians of the Galaxy* films, and an updated **Circle-Vision** film for the **China** pavilion in **World Showcase** that highlights the country's splendor and majesty.

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MARKETWATCH



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The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	33.41	35.09	23.33
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	465.40	537.50	422.5
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	62.92	72.56	56.23
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	38.01	42.18	30.02
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	100.07	116.10	90.31
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.75	1.66	0.73
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	70.26	77.70	65.50
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	2355.00	2624.00	1900.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	2.01	2.07	1.55
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	7.97	8.99	7.6
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	30.81	34.65	25.15
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	13.31	17.45	11.68
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	13.29	20.13	11.1
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	60.17	65.19	50.33
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	12.68	15	11.7
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	578.00	676.00	425.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	3.90	5.25	3.22

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

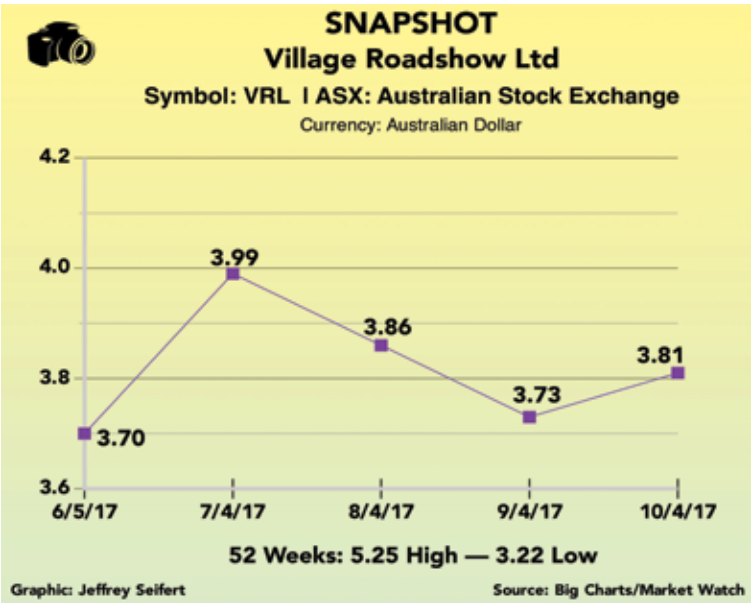
Worldwide Markets: **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock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

DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 10/02/17	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.819	+\$0.421
Midwest	\$2.747	+\$0.391
Gulf Coast	\$2.615	+\$0.365
Mountain	\$2.860	+\$0.393
West Coast	\$3.018	+\$0.494
California	\$3.182	+\$0.416

CURRENCY

On 10/06/17 \$1 USD =	
0.8520	EURO
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112.71	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9768	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.2796	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.2515	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

accesso partners with Village Roadshow

ORLANDO, Fla. — **accesso Technology Group plc.** (AIM: ACSO) has announced a five-year agreement with **Village Roadshow Theme Parks**, Australia's largest theme park operator, to install the accesso Passport Ticketing Suite at **Warner Bros. Movie World**, **Wet'n'Wild Sydney**, **Wet'n'Wild Gold Coast**, **Paradise Country** and **Sea World** (Australia).

The addition of the accesso Passport Ticketing Suite will provide guests with more simplified and convenient access to Village Roadshow Theme Parks. The Village Roadshow Theme Parks properties will utilize the accesso Passport Ticketing Suite, from admissions and reservations, to eCommerce and much more. The platform will go live in spring 2018.

Louis Vuitton group invests in French park

PARIS, France — French organization **Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy**, which produces luxury goods, will invest €60 million in a new steampunk-themed park in Paris, France. The park will be built in the Jardin d'Acclimatation, an 18-hectare green space that has been operated by the company for more than 30 years. Many of the park's 17 attractions will be based on the science fiction world of steampunk. Investors say they hope to attract 3 million guests to the park annually by 2025.

Disney to discuss fiscal full year, Q4 results

BURBANK, Calif. — **The Walt Disney Company** (NYSE: DIS) will discuss fiscal full year and fourth quarter 2017 financial results via a live audio webcast beginning at 4:30 p.m. EST / 1:30 p.m. PST on Thursday, November 9, 2017.

Results will be released after the close of regular trading on November 9, 2017. To listen to the webcast, point your browser to www.disney.com/investors.

In brief...

•BRANSON, Mo. — Bringing home one of the highest awards in the bluegrass music industry, **Silver Dollar City** was recently honored for Distinguished Achievement by the **International Bluegrass Music Association** (IBMA). Presented at the **International Bluegrass Music Awards** held in Raleigh, N.C., the award recognizes the park for a lifetime commitment of "pioneering accomplishments" in promoting bluegrass music and the genre's image. Silver Dollar City has featured bluegrass/roots music since it opened in 1960. The first music festival was a 9-day event in 1975, and it grew into the current Bluegrass & BBQ Festival, now spanning three weeks and featuring nearly 100 bands. The festival was named IBMA Event of the Year in 2011.

•SAN DIEGO, Calif. — The local NBC television station here has reported that an affiliate of San Diego's **Cohn Restaurant Group Inc.**, led by co-founder and President **David Cohn**, has acquired the mixed-use Mission Beach building currently housing **The Coaster Saloon** for \$2.1 million, according to **The Franco Realty Group**. The sellers were **John** and **Darren Renna**, a father-and-son duo who have operated the bar and restaurant at 744-748 Ventura Place since 1982. Brokers said the property buyer, recorded as **Davies LLC**, also acquired the business itself for an undisclosed price, with plans to continue operating it as The Coaster Saloon for now. A statement from Franco Realty Group said the transactions included the property's three upstairs apartment units and the Coaster Saloon's alcohol and entertainment licenses. The sellers received "numerous offers" from various restaurant operators. Brokers said this was the first commercial property sold on Ventura Place in more than a decade. The restaurant is a popular with members of the amusement industry after visiting **Belmont Park**, located across the street.

•TORONTO, Canada — On October 14, Canadian movie-lovers and their families were invited to visit their local **Cineplex** (TSX: CGX) theatres and enjoy a morning of free films for a good cause. For the seventh consecutive year, Cineplex Community Day treated guests to a selection of popular, family-friendly movies, with all proceeds from donations and select concession sales supporting the company's national charitable partner, **WE Charity**.

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SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

2017 AIMS International Safety Award winner

Improving ride safety a daily goal for Vekoma COO Har Kupers

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

VLODROP, Netherlands — Many of us have enjoyed one or more of the steel roller coaster models produced by Vekoma Rides Manufacturing, B.V.: Boomerang, Flying Dutchman, Motorbike Launch and Suspended Looping among them. The company, in fact, is one of the largest makers of such thrill machines in the world.

As Vekoma's chief operating officer, Har Kupers oversees the ride-making process from concept and design to engineering and manufacturing. While high quality and durability are hallmarks of the company's catalogue, the executive himself is renowned for being one of the amusement industry's foremost authorities on ride dynamics and guest safety.

Kupers has invested thousands of hours over almost two



Har Kupers proudly displays his AIMS International honor at Amusement Today's Golden Ticket Awards on Sept. 9. Kupers has been with Vekoma for nearly three decades and is deeply involved in promoting amusement industry safety. AT/DAN FEICHT.

decades in the development and support of European (EN), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and ASTM International safety standards — serving as a facilitator between the organizations behind them and working on an international amusement design standard.



In addition, he was instrumental in bringing ASTM

International development work into the EN Task Group harmonization effort and has been influential in promoting global safety training and certification through presentations at industry seminars, conventions and meetings.

This dedication was recognized on Sept. 9 during Amusement Today's Golden Ticket Awards ceremony at Lake Compounce in Bristol, Conn. (see story, page 61), where Kupers was presented with the 2017 AIMS International Safety Award. After accepting the honor, which recognizes a person or organization that has made a significant impact or contribution in improving safety in the amusement industry, Kupers expressed his gratitude to AIMS and also to Vekoma's owner, Henk Roodenberg, for giving him the opportunity to pursue his passion for ride development and manufacturing.

We caught up with the busy executive about a month after the event to discuss his personal and professional commitment to industry safety.

What have been your primary goals in focusing on and reinforcing safety and design — both at Vekoma and across our industry?

At Vekoma, as in our

industry, "safety by design and attitude" is one of our important core values. The reason for this is quite obvious: We are responsible for the millions of guests going on our rides. We need to take responsibility for our guests, our own families and our employees who create and build our rides. This is the ethical aspect of product safety.

Although an amusement ride is statistically one of the safest environments to be in, its design and operation need our continuous attention and striving for improved safety. Our goal is to prevent any accidents in the use and production of our rides.

There's also the commercial aspect: If an accident happens, whether due to the age of the ride or human error, there is a lot of media attention — and no matter what the cause is, the manufacturer name is always mentioned.

What are the dangers of having inconsistent, or "patchwork," standards across the different standard types — that is EN, ISO and ASTM — and international boundaries?

Standards set minimum safety requirements for design, manufacturing and operation of rides. It's an illusion to think that standards can be exactly the same because they depend on local conditions, rules, regulations and legislation.

For example, an EN standard on amusement rides has to refer to other EN standards where applicable, such as with respect to the structural analysis. An example of local circumstances is the application of loads adapted to wind/hurricanes or earthquakes. The disadvantage, of course is that rides may have to be designed differently for each location, and the danger is that there could be a perception that the standards have different safety levels.

How have you worked between the organizations to bring at least some consistency to safety standards or make them more universal?

It's very important for manufacturers, as well for

► See KUPERS, page 56

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SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

►KUPERS

Continued from page 54

safety in the industry, to keep the standards harmonized as much as possible, and this is done through meetings held both generally and during the trade shows put on by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions [IAAPA] worldwide. I'm one of many who are working on this harmonization. At ASTM, there is a special task force, ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices, devoted to harmonization, and it is chaired by Greg Hale, who is Disney's vice president and chief safety officer and IAAPA's chairman.

My contribution was to attend the plenary meetings and working groups developing the standards and look for consistency in the standards. Also, I often acted as mediator between the different countries in the discussions.

There is one part in working on the harmonizing of standards of which I'm specif-

ically proud. When we started working on the new EN 13814 ["Fairground and amusement park machinery and structures"] safety standard, the writing was divided into eight working groups. Initially, I was chairing and practically the only member of the working group on g-forces; later, I received the welcome contribution and assistance from Matthias Rohde, a professor at Germany's Frankfurt University of the Applied Sciences. I thought my work would be simple — asking permission to use the great work the ASTM g-force task group did, then checking it, implementing it in the new EN and being done with it.

It wasn't that simple. However, at the end it resulted in the technical content of the "Acceleration effects on passengers" [G-forces] being fully harmonized with the ASTM. In 2011, Russia initiated development of an ISO standard for amusement rides and also developed a totally new standard on "Biomechanical effects," including g-forces, in a working group chaired by

Russia. Also, here we managed — with a lot of help from EN and ASTM colleagues — to include the same limits as in EN and ASTM. So the G-force limits will be the same and fully harmonized in all three world standards.

How often are ride safety standards reviewed?

There is a difference between EN and ISO standards, developed by European and global standardization organizations, respectively, which are in countries with government oversight; and ASTM standards, which are developed by a private organization of industry experts. ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices consists of approximately 12 subcommittees and nearly 1,000 members, of which more than 150 meet twice a year in different technical workgroups to develop standards for our industry.

ASTM, originally American, is now international — helping countries with no or reduced standards in specific fields. The experts working on the content of the

standards can be the same people. For example, at the CEN [European Committee for Standardization] and ISO committees, I am representing NEN [Dutch standardization organization], and at ASTM I am representing myself.

The EN and ISO standards are reviewed every five years or sooner, if necessary, for possible revision. However, [revision] can be a lengthy bureaucratic process. To the contrary, ASTM is continuously evolving and can react fast to incidents or new developments in the industry because the members vote on proposed changes, not countries. I prefer the ASTM system.

How do you personally keep yourself informed and updated on safety matters beyond the work you do in-house at Vekoma?

I am member of IAAPA's EMEA [Europe, Middle East and Africa] and Global Safety Committee, and I follow the news through the internet and several publications, including *Amusement Today*. There's also a lot of valuable information presented at IAAPA

safety seminars and institutes in Europe, to which I'm regularly invited as a speaker.

Where did you become interested in engineering, and how did you enter the amusement industry?

In high school, I decided that I wanted to study engineering and build bridges or big buildings, so when I went to university I studied civil engineering and did my thesis in structural engineering. I started working for an engineering consultancy company — designing industrial building structures and specialized dynamic/fatigue loaded steel structures, like cranes and big excavators.

This caught the attention of Vekoma, and I was asked to come and work for them. And here, my passion for engineering rides grew. I eventually became the company's engineering manager, and 10 years ago I became chief operating officer.

I've been with Vekoma 28 years. The industry got into my blood — and has never left it!

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Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity!

The AIMS Safety Seminar offers classroom and hands-on safety training along with valuable networking opportunities for ride inspectors, maintenance, operations, and aquatic personnel in the amusement industry. It is renowned for its diverse curriculum and the quality of its expert instructors who are leading industry professionals.

"The AIMS Seminar Education Committee, chaired by **Jeff Savelesky**, Palace Entertainment; along with **Anna Lisa Bacon**, Sea World San Antonio; **Joe Zdnueck**, Galveston Pleasure Pier; **Alan Barnes**, OWA; **Jeff Sinniss**, Galveston Pleasure Pier; **Scott Logue**, Palace Entertainment; **John Jachim**, Silverwood Theme Park; **John Hanschen**, Thomas Carnival; **Mike Pastor**, Legoland, CA; **John Nievesky**, Universal, CA; **David Bromilow**, Mobar Park; **Tracy Shedd**, SkyTrans; and **Randy Vakiener**, SeaWorld Orlando, has put together a strong curriculum for this year. In light of the unfortunate events we've seen this season, we've added even more classes to address safety and security in the amusement industry," said **Holly Coston**, AIMS Seminar Manager. "Class topics will include a Security Track addressing safety and security at a variety of venues and attractions, an Active Shooter class and both a four-hour S.A.V.E. Program (Security,

Awareness and Vigilance for Everyone - approved through FEMA & The Department of Homeland Security & Operations) as well as a 4-hour add-on S.A.V.E. Train the Trainer program. We are also planning several interactive and hands on classes at the Pleasure Pier and other area attractions."

Testing and Certifications

Testing and AIMS Certifications offered at the seminar include Maintenance, Operations and Ride Inspection and Aquatics. Attendees can register for additional certification in CPO (Certified Pool Operator), S.A.V.E. (Security, Awareness and Vigilance for Everyone - approved through FEMA & The Department of Homeland Security & Operations), and OSHA 10. Certificates in Security, Waterpark, Leadership, Carnival and ASTM F770 are available.

Seminar tuition is \$595 and includes all class materials, the opening reception, daily lunch, morning and afternoon snack breaks, Continuing Education Units (CEU) from Greenville Technical College, and an AIMS Completion Certificate.

AIMS has secured a discounted hotel rate of **\$115** per night at the **Galveston Hilton** for all attendees.

A complete schedule and class list along with hotel and other information can be found at www.aimsintl.org. For more information about the AIMS Safety Seminar, please email info@aimsintl.org or contact **Holly Coston**, Seminar Manager, (714) 697-6654.

Scholarships are available

IAAPA provides five scholarships to the AIMS Safety Seminar in memory of Alan Ramsay. Application forms can be found at www.aimsintl.org. **OABA** offers four scholarships (one in memory of June Hardin) to OABA members who are first-time Safety Seminar attendees. Contact oaba@oaba.org for more information.

Support the mission of AIMS by becoming a Seminar Sponsor

AIMS International is a non-profit association and industry support of this important annual Safety Seminar is vital to the health and prosperity of the entire amusement industry. For information on sponsorship, please contact Karen Oertley at 714.425.5747 or email k.oertley@aimsintl.org.

Please make sure to stop by and visit AIMS International at booth #4527 at the IAAPA Expo!

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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2017

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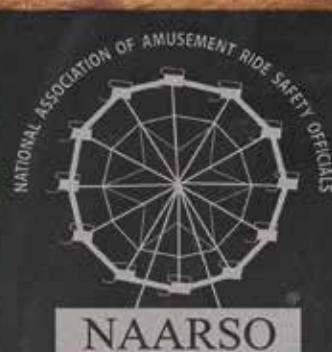
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Aquatics industry to watch case involving water park lifeguard

STAMFORD, Conn. — A criminal case involving the attending lifeguard in a near-drowning incident is being monitored closely by the **New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA)** and those in the aquatics industry.

On Sep. 6, a 23-year-old lifeguard at **Chelsea Piers Connecticut**, a recreation, sports and entertainment venue, was charged with a felony in connection with a near-drowning at the facility that occurred Aug. 3.

According to media reports, the incident involved a five-year-old boy who was submerged in a pool at the facility's **Splash Zone** indoor water park for approximately four minutes.

The lifeguard ultimately located the child and rescued him, administering CPR until emergency personnel arrived. According to media reports, the child is doing well and is expected to recover fully.

Following an investigation by the Stamford Police Department, which included a review of surveillance footage of the incident, a warrant was issued for the lifeguard's arrest on charges of first-degree reckless endangerment, a felony, and risk of injury to a minor, a misdemeanor. The lifeguard turned himself in to police on Sept. 6; on Sept. 19, he was arraigned in Stamford Superior Court, where he pled not guilty.

The case has prompted

SAFETY

NEAAPA to issue the following statement through the organization's secretary, **Ed Hodgdon**: "We are not aware of any precedent in

the U.S. for criminal charges to be brought against a lifeguard arising solely from a missed rescue. There are no reports of any aggravating circumstances, such as cell phone use, drug or alcohol use, or any other factors that might have influenced the

decision to pursue felony criminal charges in this case.

"On behalf of our members, particularly those in Connecticut, we are watching this case very closely, as we believe that it represents a potentially harmful expan-

sion of liability to our members with aquatic attractions. Should you have any questions about this incident or what it could mean to our regional industry, please contact the NEAAPA office at (877) 999-8740 or secretary@neaapa.com."



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2017 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS – CONNECTICUT

The 2017 Golden Ticket Awards showcased traditional parks

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

BRISTOL, Conn. — As most parks had ceased their daily operation, the momentary lull before the Halloween season kicks into high gear is the traditional time for **Amusement Today's Golden Ticket Awards** weekend. Having evolved into an industry networking event, the 20th annual Golden Ticket Awards placed a focus on the traditional parks. As attendees travelled to New England for this year's event held Sept. 8 and 9, two host parks helped them enjoy our industry's roots.

Lake Compounce is the nation's oldest operating park, and **Quassy Amusement Park** is one of the rare remaining examples of a trolley park.

As the weekend began at a Friday social at Quassy Amusement Park, amidst the mingling and engaging conversation was an unmistakable concern for colleagues, friends and parks in the inevitable path of Hurricane Irma. Many registrants had to forgo the event to tend to their parks and guests. Among the celebration were heartfelt wishes to peers the industry knows so well.

But what a celebration it was. Over appetizers and drinks, folks were seen spinning, flipping or screaming on some of the wilder rides or the park's roller coaster, **Wooden Warrior**. If high thrill wasn't a good fit with everyone's personal taste, Quassy opened the train ride and carousel for tamer fare.

Eventually attendees moved into the park's restaurant area with seating set up outside alongside Lake Quassapaug, from which Quassy gets its name. A fantastic dinner offered more time for networking, but as darkness fell, the sky belonged to fireworks. With sponsor **American Paper Optics** providing special glasses, the

► See GTA, page 62



Above, numerous winners of the 2017 Golden Ticket Awards displayed their trophies. Three Publisher's Picks, an AIMS Safety Award and 23 voter categories spread acknowledgements among multiple people and parks. Right, industry presenters helped the live ceremony held at Lake Compounce to be filled with humor and praise.

AT/DAN FEICHT



THANK YOU...



...FOR HOSTING THE GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS!

2017 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS – CONNECTICUT

►GTA

Continued from page 61

spectacle became “3-D.”

The cool fall evening was a great kick-off to the weekend.

“We didn’t want the buses to leave! Everyone was having fun!” said **Eric Anderson**, general manager.

“It was awesome to meet a lot of great people, and the night had a great vibe the whole time.”

Lake Compounce, celebrating 170 seasons, welcomed attendees the next day. The park has intermixed classic rides with newer offerings to blend history and nostalgic with the very modern. With the morning and afternoon to experience the park, it was easy to catch many people giving a go to the park’s award-winning **Boulder Dash** or its newest thriller, **Phobia Phear Coaster** from **Premier Rides**.

The afternoon offered tours of the Haunted Graveyard, revenue and maintenance areas, as well as the park’s campground.

As evening approached, attendees returned to the park a little more spiffed up and prepared to get to the main celebration of the weekend. Dinner and cocktails took place in the park’s catering area. However, one nice surprise greeted every-



one. Attendees to the weekend event were honored as the last riders for the park’s spectacular sky ride. For various reasons, the park has decided to retire the chair lift and has obtained an interested buyer. Many riders had drinks in hand for the 20-to-30-minute passage up and down the New England mountainside while enjoying incredible views.

Board members from the **National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives** took a moment at dinner to assemble for a photo op surrounding a **Wildcat** car donated by Lake Compounce.

As guests proceeded to the main event in the Starlight Theatre, many were caught off-guard as **RWS Entertainment** cleverly enveloped visitors into the show with the ambience of entering through the performers dressing areas. Fun laughs and scandalous photos set the stage for the night. With a burlesque theme in place, singers and dancers emerged from all areas of the theater — the night had begun.

Having become the trademark of the Golden Ticket



Har Kupers was bestowed the second annual **AIMS Safety Award**. Har, pictured at left flanked by the **AIMS** board, is employed at **Vekoma Rides**. **Dick Knoebel**, right, took the stage in costume to accept for **Best Carousel**. AT/DAN FEICHT

Awards, the ceremony was a grand mixture of goofy moments, laughter and touching words to pull at one’s heartstrings.

A moment was taken to reflect upon the approaching hurricane to Florida and the attendees there were missed that evening.

Reflecting on the weekend, **Bob Dean** of **Leisure Labs** said, “You are worried about your family that is still in Florida, but had we stayed, we could have been fighting for our lives.”

As **Dollywood** had taken the Best Food category from its back-and-forth rival, **Knoebels**, Director of Media/Public Relations **Pete**

Owens commented that there was a reason for his physique.

Dick Knoebel, however, received his own laugh while accepting for Best Carousel. Dressed in a carousel horse costume, it made for a great moment. “I didn’t think Dick Knoebel’s legs could get any shorter,” commented presenter **Chris Gray** from **Skyline Attractions**.

Har Kupers from **Vekoma** accepted the **AIMS** Safety Award from **Karen Oertley** and **Jim Seay**. This was the second year for this annual designation.

Ryan Stana, founder and CEO of **RWS**, took a moment to praise Lake Compounce General

Manager **Jerry Brick** for taking a chance on his company 16 years ago. Stana was visibly moved by Brick’s faith and trust and was delighted to bring the entertainment for the evening to the park where it all began.

“Jerry didn’t shy away from a small company that was just breaking into this industry,” stated Stana. “He took a leap of faith. And while we’ve grown, we’ve never ever lost sight of who helped us along the way. People in this room are more than just clients, they are part of the RWS family.”

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2017 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS – CONNECTICUT

Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets shine onstage at ceremony

AT: Janice Witherow
jwitherow@amusementtoday.com

The 2017 Golden Ticket Awards allowed four high school and college students to shine on stage, where they were honored for their service and dedication to the amusement industry.

For the 13th year, Amusement Today recognized a special group of young employees who plan to pursue a career in the amusement industry and who work for this year's host parks – Lake Compounce and Quassy Amusement Park – as Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets. These individuals exemplify the spirit and integrity of the amusement park industry by promoting the cornerstones of safety, service, courtesy and cleanliness at the highest level, while consistently exceeding job expectations.

This is an annual designation by Amusement Today to promote education in the field of hospitality and amusement, as well as to spotlight future leaders in the amusement industry.

The 2017 class of Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets assisted with the ceremony by presenting awards to the winning parks; plus each received a complimentary one-year subscription to Amusement Today and a gift card for school or career supplies. Amusement Today applauds the following students:

• **Kayla Szabo of Quassy Amusement Park**, who is a two-year employee of the park and is a face painter and glitter tattoo artist. Szabo is a senior in high school and plans to attend Florida Atlantic University to pursue a career in wildlife rehabilitation.



Amusement Today's 2017 class of Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets were on hand to assist during the ceremony. From left to right: Frank Hamedl of Quassy, Sheyenne Burks of Lake Compounce, Kayla Szabo of Quassy and Ricky Kudla from Lake Compounce. AT/DAN FEICHT

• **Frank Hamedl of Quassy Amusement Park**, who has been employed at the park for three years and is a rides manager. Hamedl attends the University of Central Florida's Rosen College of Hospitality, where he is studying hospitality and

theme park management.

• **Sheyenne Burks**, supervisor in the Food Service Division at **Lake Compounce**, where she has worked for three seasons. Burks is studying nursing at the University of Connecticut.

• **Ricky Kudla of Lake Compounce**, who has been employed at the park for six seasons and is a supervisor in the water park. Kudla attends the University of Connecticut, where he is studying economics and fundamentals of business.

2017 GTA reflections

"What a phenomenal weekend with friends and two great American parks. Getting the last ride on the chair lift was a great little gift from Jerry and the folks at Lake Compounce. Quassy really blew us away with the fireworks and the amazing meal. All the folks at both Quassy and Lake Compounce have a level of integrity and professionalism that is hard to top."

— **Chris Gray, Skyline Attractions**

"It is always nice to have the industry's eye focused on smaller to medium-sized parks like Quassy and Lake Compounce. Also, a huge tip of the hat to RWS Entertainment for an amazing job in producing the look and feel of the show entertainment!"

— **Mark Rosenzweig, Ride Entertainment**

"It was a pleasure to see the camaraderie of our industry, as we saw suppliers and operators come together to celebrate the success of the industry. We have the best job in the world, delivering memories and experiences to our guests! At the same time, there are incredible stories of passion and creativity behind each attraction, experience and park. This was my first GTA experience, and I was blown away! I thought the entertainment provided by RWS was world class!"

— **Michael Fennel, general manager, Dorney Park**

"Europa-Park is not just a theme park, but 100 percent a family-run business. Awards like this do not come easy, but with hard work, dedication, creativity and a feel for what the guests want next. And we are beginning work on our second park."

— **Jürgen Mack, Europa-Park, accepting for Best Park**

"I was blown away by the RWS show. The attention to detail and performers were so entertaining. I especially loved the entrance to the theater through the 'backstage' area. The entire experience was totally immersive."

— **Walt Bowser, Baynum Painting**

"Thirty years ago, I was making cotton candy — and I wasn't very good at it, so they moved me to sausage."

— **Jerry Brick, park president, Lake Compounce, on receiving the Publisher's Pick for Person of the Year**

►GTA

Continued from page 62

When acknowledged for Person of the Year, Jerry Brick saw his children called to the stage where AT Publisher Gary Slade sat down with them on the stage's steps for a talk show style moment.

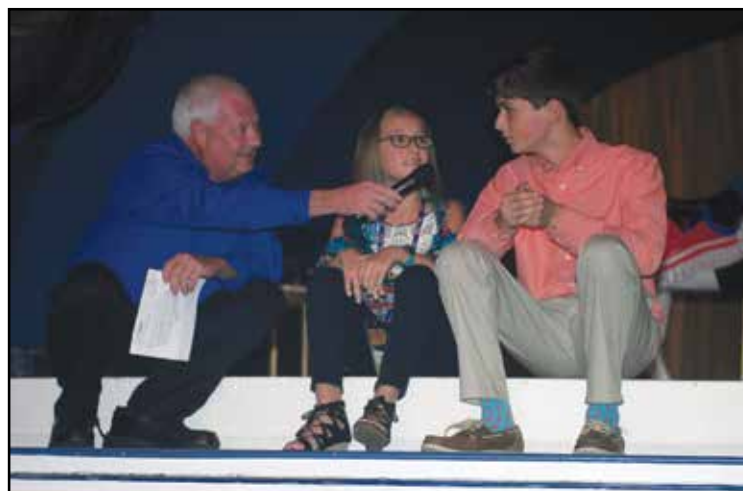
Another moving highlight was when **Bob McCullough** of **Morgan's Wonderland** accepted the Publisher's Pick for Park of the Year as the audience rose to a standing ovation. Many people were not familiar with the park prior to that evening, but those people were surely touched forever having learned about what a special place Morgan's Wonderland is, particularly with the addition of **Morgan's Inspiration Island**.

Following the last awards



and songs, **Silver Dollar City** General Manager **Brad Thomas** took the stage and welcomed attendees to his park for a great time in 2018.

While final photos were taking place, attendees headed toward the lower level and the **Croc Pot** where a sensational post-party took place with desserts, cocktails and live music. Interesting touches by Lake Compounce were the martini luge and the adjacent lazy river accented with firepits and floating, glowing colorful orbs. With the celebration lasting into the late hours, the term "Networking



For the Publisher's Pick given to Jerry Brick, Gary Slade called Brick's children to the stage for an interview. AT/DAN FEICHT

Event of the Year" seemed pleasantly appropriate.

"I think what the team here at the park did was phenomenal," said Brick. "Everyone from our seasonal team, full-time team, and RWS did a great job. So, I'm feeling exhausted, but very proud."

"I especially enjoyed this year's visit to Connecticut's Lake Compounce and Quassy parks," said Thomas. "I have respected the history and legacy of these parks but had never had the opportunity to visit them. The Golden Ticket Awards certainly give us the opportunity to connect with others in our industry, to celebrate each other and to visit parks of all shapes, sizes and themes."

Thomas was certainly inspired and eager to welcome everyone next year. "Silver Dollar City citizens join me with open arms as we plan to welcome the 2018 Golden Ticket celebration! We promise warm smiles, great food and some time travel like never before," he said.

Attendees with flexible travel and work schedules were able to visit Six Flags New England on September 10 with many courtesies offered by the park. Notable hits were the park's high-ranking coasters **Superman The Ride (Intamin)** and **Wicked Cyclone (RMC)**.

The 2018 Golden Ticket Awards will take place Sept. 7 and 8 at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo.



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2017 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS – CONNECTICUT



At left, RWS Entertainment kept the energy going even at the post-party. Jürgen Mack and his son, Frederik, accepted the Best Park award as Europa-Park won for a fourth consecutive year. Right, RWS infused the night with dazzle via song, dance, aerial acts and theatrical flair. AT/TIM BALDWIN; AT/DAN FECHT

2017 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS – THE PARKS



Attendees kicked off the weekend event with a great networking reception at Quassy Amusement Park. Right: Many industry folk were seen taking a spin on Quassy's Wooden Warrior. AT/DAN FECHT; COURTESY MICHAEL GRAHAM



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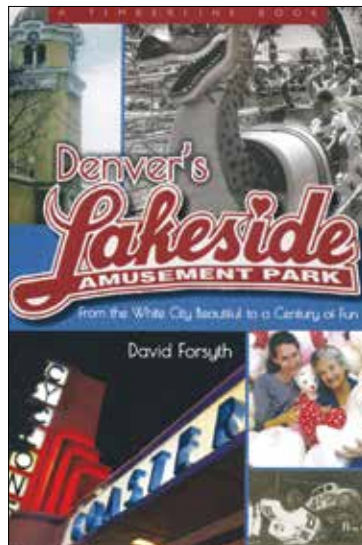
GTA attendees were the final riders on Lake Compounce's monumental sky ride. Above, a behind-the-scenes tour allowed operation teams to network. Six Flags New England continued the hospitality by inviting attendees to the park to enjoy the many attractions on offer. AT/TIM BALDWIN; AT/DAN FECHT



Detailed book recounts history of Lakeside Amusement Park

REVIEW: Tim Baldwin
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BOOK REVIEW



Like many cities and amusement parks, an observance of long histories will demonstrate its ups and downs. Somewhat appropriate for a book about roller coasters and amusement parks, *Denver's Lakeside Amusement Park* is rich in detailing the inner workings of both a city on the rise and the amusement parks that served it. Of all the various parks that served the Denver metropolitan area over the past century, this book vividly depicts **Lakeside Park** as a survivor.

In its earlier years, Mayor **Robert Speer** championed the "City Beautiful" concept. Denver was a rowdy city and he hoped to change that. When diversions were created to offer more wholesome recreation, many amusement parks were created, but they were not always supported.

Lakeside Amusement Park opened in 1908. Chapter Two spotlights the park's main attractions that first season — The Velvet Coaster, The Scenic Railway, the short-lived (and notorious) Tickler and the park's gloriously lighted Tower of Jewels. While the park enjoyed a great first season, its second encountered liquor legalities.

In the years to follow, politics, alcohol laws, and shifts in housing development around Lakeside steered the park's transition from a principal player in the City Beautiful movement across America to a traditional amusement park. Park management found it needed to embrace the working class within its first decade.

Financially, the parks ups and downs are detailed from the late teens to the early years of the Great Depression. By the end of the mid-30s, a clear distinction established Lakeside as a family picnic park while rival Elitch's was viewed as the one for more serious-minded amusement seekers. The two were the only Denver parks to survive.

Benjamin Krasner, a concessionaire, purchased Lakeside in 1935. He led the park to new success, as well as introduced a new look — the emerging art deco style. The park, as well as **Elitch Gardens**, piloted through World War II, coming out successfully on the other side.

Lakeside's transformation into a working-class park was solidified with the **Lakeside Speedway** which opened in 1938. Midget car racing had a slow start but soon took off. There were several tracks around Denver, but Lakeside was the main venue and the races brought in thousands for each event until the rapid decline in popularity in the 1950s.

The '50s decade was a tough time for a number of traditional parks. Many parks were aging and some patrons speculated they were unsafe. Always a survivor, Lakeside carried on, even with a terrifying robbery, a ride incident and **Walt Disney** initiating the rise of theme parks in 1955 with **Disneyland**. Despite that, new flat rides, an adult cocktail lounge, a kiddieland and an exciting influx of passenger trains kept visitors engaged.

A big change outside the park was the sale of land adjacent to Lakeside. This significant development produced Lakeside Mall as summer ended in 1956. It was an instant hit.

Krasner kept Lakeside a thriving venture in the face of newer developments in Denver, including a never-finished theme park and a celebrity-backed entertainment center.

By the 1960s, stock car racing had replaced baseball as the most popular sport in the south. With the Speedway having long been at the park, racing's effect on business is recounted in one of the book's chapters. A horrifying accident causing a fatality in the grandstands in 1988 prompted Lakeside to close the Speedway after thrilling audiences for five decades.

Benjamin Krasner died in

1965 at age 75. His daughter, **Rhoda**, fresh out of college, was thrust headfirst into the business. In the 1970s, several situations challenged the park. The fire department that had supported Lakeside Park and the Lakeside Township reported they would no longer do so. The park had to pick up the reins. A roller coaster collision and a fire in the township created legal troubles for the park.

Following legal investigations, rumors swirled that the park would be sold and condos would be built. Ms. Krasner had to fight the false reports.

The rise of theme parks caused many traditional parks to fold. Denver was seen as too isolated for developers to bring in a theme park, so Lakeside and Elitch's stayed afloat. However, Denver faced a new issue: room to grow. Old laws prevented the city from extending further. Growing "up" instead of "out" caused many landmark buildings to be razed.

Over the span of a century, Lakeside confronted its share of battles, and emerged triumphant each time. Reinventing itself and moving forward when needed, the park celebrated its centennial in 2008. The author states, "The park essentially served as a mirror for Denver's search for its identity." With Lakeside's eclectic blend of art deco, Beaux Arts and the contemporary, when welcoming guests at the park's 100th anniversary celebration, Rhoda Krasner said, "We're not vintage. We're different vintages."

Denver's Lakeside Amusement Park reaches out to more than just a niche audience. Whether the reader is a Denver resident, a fan of Lakeside Park or someone who appreciates history of the amusement industry, the research and detail put into the book is quite thorough. Author **David Forsyth** is an award-winning historian and Denver native who works in the museum field. The book is 300 pages and has close to 50 images. Curiously, the park's most notable ride — Cyclone — seems under-represented in photos, but many images date back numerous decades and show rare views. The book is published by **Timberline Books** and is available at Amazon.com or other online vendors.



Lakeside Park has entertained guests for more than a century with such attractions as the short-lived Tickler (top), the original Merry-Go-Round, the park's iconic, lighted Tower of Jewels (right), and stock car racing, including this dramatic crash (below).
COURTESY DENVER'S LAKESIDE AMUSEMENT PARK



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