

Amusement TODAY

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ANNIVERSARY

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THE PARK
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BONUS SECTION B

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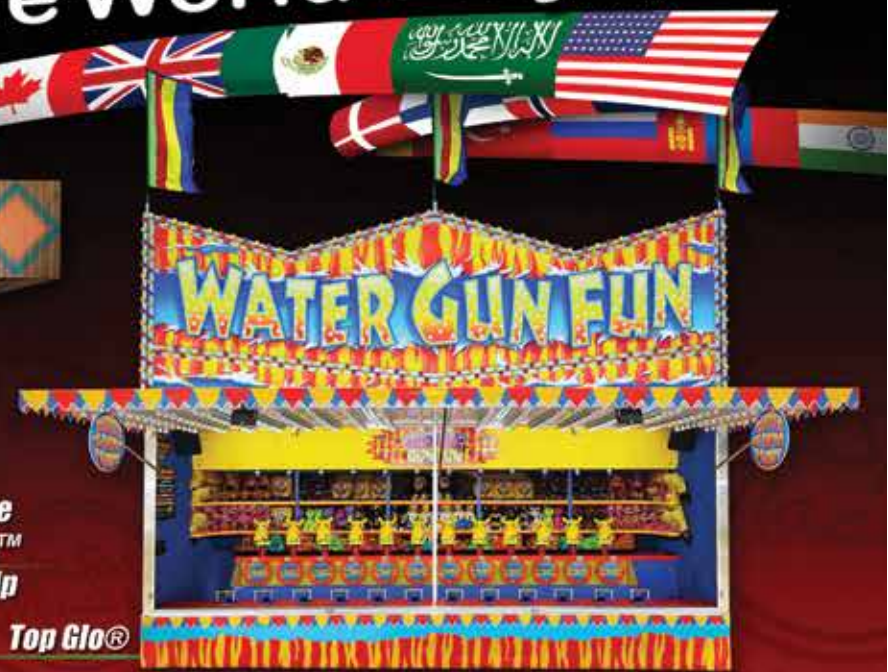
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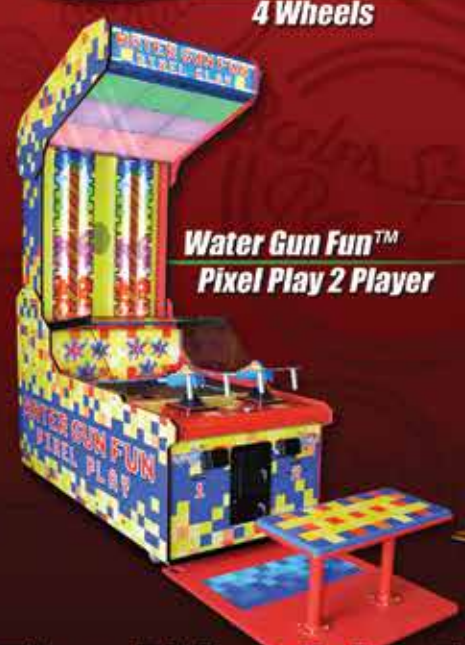


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NEWTALK

EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

Intamin's innovations have left lasting worldwide mark at parks



Slade

As industry supplier **Intamin** celebrates 50 years of providing world-class rides to the amusement industry, we can't help but remember all the ride innovations the company has presented to the parks.

Coaster enthusiasts will be the first to promote that Intamin's engineering has taken steel and wooden roller coasters to designs never thought possible.

Having worked at **Six Flags Over Texas** in the late 1970s and seeing the development of the original river rapids ride, Thunder River, at sister park **AstroWorld** in Houston, I believe that this innovation may have just been Intamin's most challenging. As many engineers at the time told me, any time you have water involved, the project takes on a whole new level of challenges. The success and demand on this whitewater rafting experience is certainly one worthy of a historical book all its own — and no doubt Thunder River was a huge learning experience for all involved.

Second on my Intamin innovation list has to be its adaption of linear synchronous and induction motors and magnetics in the use of amusement rides.

AT takes a look at Intamin's 50 years on pages 59-61. We hope you enjoy reading it. Also, check out an archive photo of Thunder River on page 70.

Congratulations Intamin on your 50 years of industry contributions and innovations!

NRCMA needs your financial help

The **National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives** (booth #4317) is launching its second wave of fundraising during the **2017 IAAPA Attractions Expo**, and the 501c3 non-profit organization needs your support!

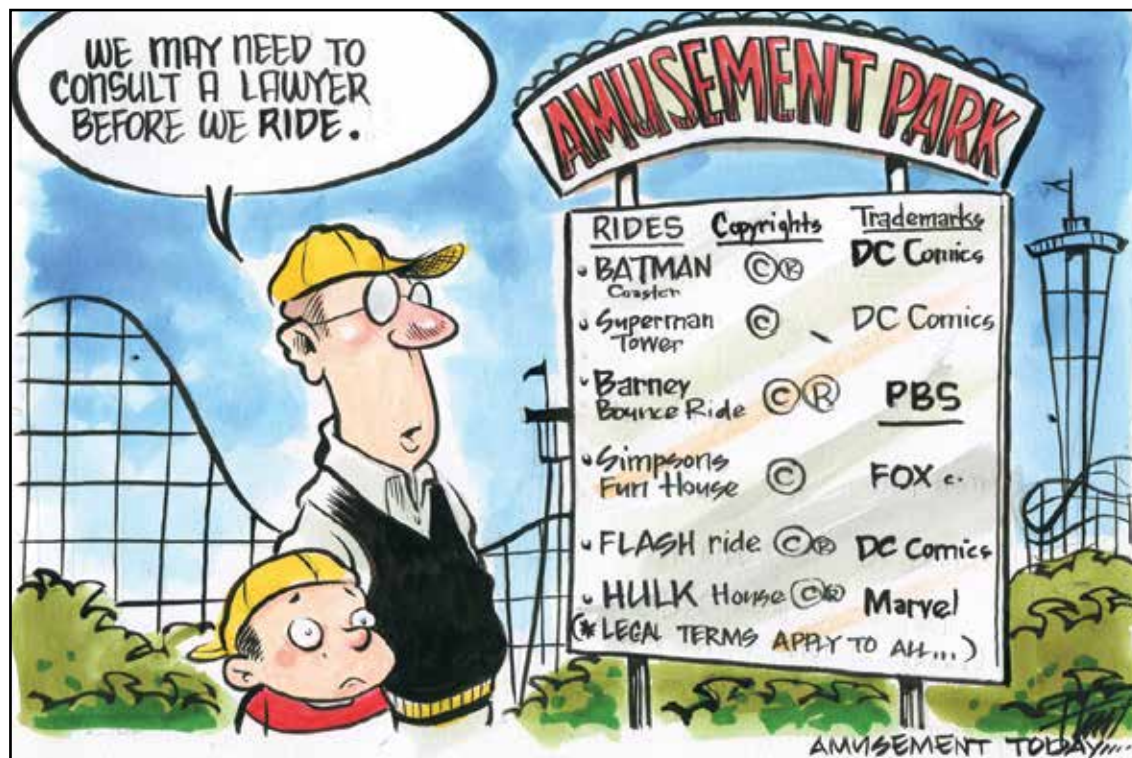
During last year's Expo, the organization raised more than \$322,000 in a single day thanks to the generous **Uremet Corp.** seed donation of \$100,000 to get the campaign funding underway.

The NRCMA is planning to break ground on a new **Mark Moore Memorial Building** in the months following the Expo. The building is named for Moore who was a board member at the time of his unexpected death.

Funding is still needed to help build out the interior of the building that will create the first, full-working amusement industry museum housing collections that range from coaster vehicles, waterslides, dark rides, carousel horses, rare early 1900s working ride models and more.

If you have not yet contributed to this worthy cause, please consider doing so during or following the Expo. See pages 70-71 for more details. This is your chance to help preserve history for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Andrew Mellor, amellor@amusementtoday.com

Choosing the right IP

The use of intellectual properties (IPs) in amusement and theme parks has become increasingly popular over the years. Parks of varying sizes are making use of a wide range of well-known licensed characters and products from around the world that lend themselves to individual attractions and themed areas.



Mellor

Looking back, quite a long way back, in fact, it was more of a general theming route that many parks took to create something a bit different. The Wild West, for example, was an obvious theme choice for many, with fairy tales, the animal world or sci-fi offering up a few alternatives. That, of course, was before the industry really honed in to the use of more specific IPs and began utilizing successful and popular TV and movie characters to create themed attractions and whole areas based on often globally recognized licenses and franchises.

Many parks have picked up on an IP or two and they have been used to varying degrees and, it must be said, with varying levels of success. Picking the right IP to appeal to your tar-

get market is, clearly, absolutely vital, but it is equally as important to do it justice and make full use of what you are paying for.

IPs aimed at young children seem to work particularly well, and two of the best examples I know of are, coincidentally, to be found in my home country of England, namely Thomas Land at Drayton Manor Theme Park and Peppa Pig World at Paultons Park. Both are fully themed areas which were designed with great care and attention to detail, which have been massively successful as a result. Indeed, so much so that Drayton Manor expanded Thomas Land a couple of years ago, while Paultons Park's Peppa Pig World will be expanded for the 2018 season (see page 10).

These are just two examples of how making the very best use of the very best IPs can be hugely beneficial to attendances and in turn to the bottom line, which after all is what it's all about. It's something many more operators have done or are considering doing — but picking the right IP and doing a great job with it are the keys to success.

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2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow



Eric Anderson showcases Quassy's upcoming water park expansion. COURTESY QUASSY

Eric Anderson, Quassy Amusement Park

As a young boy, **Eric Anderson** enjoyed hanging out in the arcades at **Quassy Amusement Park** in Connecticut, one of the last of the old-time trolley parks in the United States. He soon found himself working at the park and hasn't looked back since. Now as president and owner of Quassy, Eric is considered a jack-of-all-trades kind of guy and has a special passion for customer service, team building and strategic planning. He loves spending time with family and always wishes he had more time for one of his hobbies ... golf!

Title: President and Owner.

Number of years in the industry: 42.

Best thing about the industry?
The excited look on guests' faces when they arrive at the park.

Favorite amusement ride?
Our Wooden Warrior roller coaster!

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be...
No idea what I would be doing!

Biggest challenge facing our industry: Safety.

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is...
It is fast-paced and full of challenges.

Favorite childhood television show...
The Six Million Dollar Man.

If you could learn something new tomorrow and succeed at it for life what would it be?
Golf.

It's November! What's your favorite fall activity? Again ... golf.

What would you say is a big waste of time?
Government paperwork.

This always makes me smile...

Sunny weekends.

My idea of a good surprise is...
Seeing an old friend.

The most comfortable place in my home is...
The living room.

What would you rather give up... your television or your iPhone?
My iPhone.

The yuckiest thing I have ever eaten is...
Haggis (a traditional Scottish pudding-like dish).

Which do you usually listen to, your head or your heart?
My heart.

What topic makes your brain ache?
Politics!

What month of the year best describes who you are?
July.

It's football season — the team I cheer for is...
The St. Lawrence University Saints.

On a Saturday night you will usually find me...
Spending time with my wife of 25 years.

If the amusement industry was a sitcom, it would be called...
"Raised by Clowns."

I have always wanted to visit...
China.

My favorite thing to eat for lunch is...
A hamburger from the Quassy restaurant.

If I had an extra hour in each day, I would spend it...
Probably working.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Roller Coaster Museum

AT: Richard Munch



NOVEMBER

•**1906:** Construction of a new park in Chicago, Illinois began in mid-October, at the corner of 52nd Street and Halsted Street. The short-lived park opened as **Luna Park** in 1907 and competed with other parks in the Chicago area during its short existence, including **Riverview Park** and **White City**. Located on a former picnic grove, it was created by a local investment group and serviced by trolley lines. At only 10 acres, it included a midway, small roller coaster, merry-go-round, a ballroom, restaurants and other attractions. Because of its small size and expanding competition, including **Sans Souci Park**, attendance began to decline as the other area parks continued to expand with new attractions and entertainment. The park closed for part of the 1910 season, while owners looked to sell the failing operation. It opened for only part of the 1911 season, after which, most rides and structures were removed in 1912. Today, the former neighborhood of Luna Park contains single family homes.

•**1924:** When the **State Fair of Texas**, in Dallas, Texas, closed on Oct. 24, the new Lightning roller coaster at the Dallas Fairgrounds was credited for bringing in the crowds, as nearly a million visitors enjoyed the fair. Many had come out to ride the new 3,000-foot-long, out-and-back wooden coaster, which had first operated on Aug. 7. Officials credited the new ride for increasing attendance from the 1923 fair, in conjunction with a new midway and other mechanical rides. Paired up with the nearby **John Miller** Skyrocket, the state-of-the-art Miller coaster, built by **F.W. Pearce**, it thrilled fairgoers for nearly a decade. It was the first time the Fairgrounds operated four wooden coasters.

•**1946:** The October 2 fire at **Coney Island**, Brooklyn, N.Y., was the final nail in the coffin for **Thompson and Dundy's Luna Park**, which had closed permanently after a devastating fire two years earlier. Sparks from a worker's blow torch ignited refuse under the remaining section of the Mile Sky Chaser coaster. The four-alarm fire lasted into the night while subway and trolley service near the former park was halted. With the flames moving to other structures in rapid succession, the fire consumed everything that was left except the ballroom, pool and administration building. The park was in the process of being torn down to make room for a housing project, which did not materialize at that time. It was used primarily as a parking lot until the city began construction of the Luna Park Houses (a set of high-rise, low-income housing projects which still stand today) in the late 1950s.

CHARACTER CORNER

Kozmo, Knoebels Amusement Park

Kozmo, Knoebels Amusement Park's mischievous chipmunk, has been a fixture at the park since 1987. Originally sketched by Michael Tobin, creative director for AdOne Advertising in Sunbury, N.Y., Kozmo first appeared in ads, brochures, on billboards, and as a stuffed toy in the park's general store. Eventually he was incorporated into the park logo. In 2009, Kozmo was given his very own ride — Kozmo's Kurves, an E&F Miler coaster that spans the park's boat ride channel. In 2015 Lauren Muscato wrote about Kozmo and a new park mascot, Dexter — a raccoon, in an illustrated children's book titled *Roaring Creek Rescue, How Kozmo Met Dexter*. Both Kozmo and Dexter can still be seen interacting with guests. CARTOON BUBBA FLINT; HISTORY JEFFREY SEIFERT





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INTERNATIONAL

► U.K.'s Paultons Park announces expansion to Peppa Pig World — Page 10

Legoland Billund to mark 50th anniversary with new additions

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

BILLUND, Denmark — The original Legoland park in Denmark turns 50 in 2018. This major milestone in the venue's history will be marked by a huge upgrade to its Western-themed Legoredo Town, one of the most popular areas of the park.

The area will be expanded with the addition of a new roller coaster for the youngest visitors, while at the same time, the classic Lego Canoe flume ride will undergo a major renovation to ensure continued fun and enjoyment long into the future. Additionally, an extensive makeover of the park entrance is planned, with new Lego models to be brought in for display.

Work is well underway for the 2,500-square-meter (26,910-square-foot) expansion of Legoredo Town. When the park opens for the 2018 season, the area will debut its new coaster from Zierer, which will carry the name Den Flyvende Ørn (the Flying Eagle). Together with a complete renovation of Lego Canoe, Den Flyvende Ørn will become a main attraction in the upgraded themed area.

"Legoredo is the epitome of Legoland nostalgia and is an area that should last for many, many years yet to come. This is why for our 50th birthday we want to renovate the dear old [area], but we have chosen also to expand this particular area with yet another new Lego-themed activity," said Managing Director



Christian Woller.

The new coaster will speed through an impressive Rocky Mountains-inspired landscape to provide guests with a "stomach-tangling" sensation, according to the park, as guests ride on the "back" of the young, flying eagle. Initially, they will be taken to a height of 11 meters (36 feet) past the top of Ørneklippen (The Eagle Rock), from which they can see the eagle mother watch over her chicks in the large eyrie. They then shoot down past the lakes and Lego animals before returning to the station.

Next year also will see the park entrance portal and a large number of facades undergo a major, colorful transformation before the anniversary celebration kicks off on March 24. Among other additions a gigantic, red Lego dinosaur will greet visitors when

Legoland Billund will get a new entrance area (above) for its 50th anniversary year. Den Flyvende Ørn (The Flying Eagle) coaster (right) will be added to the park for 2018. The existing Lego Canoe ride (bottom right) will be completely refurbished for reintroduction next year.

COURTESY LEGOLAND
BILLUND RESORT

they enter the park.

"We want to give our guests the experience of being sucked into an overwhelming Lego universe as soon as they arrive at the park, and that is why we are now giving extra focus to the first impressions. Children should have the feeling that the Lego boxes at home in their room have grown to gigantic sizes and that they are now standing in the middle of them," said Woller.



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U.K.'s Paultons Park announces expansion to Peppa Pig World

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

ROMSEY, England — The world's first Peppa Pig theme park attraction, Peppa Pig World at Paultons Park in the south of England, will be bigger and better next year following the announcement of a significant expansion of the themed area with new rides and facilities.

Fans of Entertainment One's (eOne) hit TV series will be able to enjoy two new ride additions, namely the Queen's Flying Coach Ride and Grampy Rabbit's Sailing Club, when they are unveiled for the new season on May 16.

Full details of the rides will be revealed at a later date, but the former will take families on a tour around the newly extended part of Peppa Pig World in individual coaches on a monorail that begins from the top of the Queen's castle, a signature point of the attraction. Children and parents will be able to board boats at Grampy Rabbit's Sailing Club to



cruise along a new water route around the themed area and discover Pirate Island.

Paultons Park will also debut an additional dedicated baby care center and a new catering outlet in Peppa Pig World called The Queen's Kitchen.

Commenting on the developments, the park's commercial director, Stephen Lorton, said: "This is a very exciting announcement for Paultons Park. Peppa Pig World continues to be very popular and has attracted huge numbers of visitors from all over the world in the six years since its opening. A magical aspect of the expansion is that the Queen's Flying Coach Ride offers panoramic views of Peppa



The expansion of Peppa Pig World will include two new rides, the Queen's Flying Coach Ride and Grampy Rabbit's Sailing Club. COURTESY PAULTONS PARK LTD.

Pig World and the park beyond."

Katie Rollings, head of U.K. licensing at Entertainment One, said: "We are delighted to work with Paultons Park on the expansion of the ever-popular Peppa Pig World. Paultons

Park offers families the opportunity to fully immerse themselves into the world of Peppa Pig, and since opening in 2011, it has become an instrumental part of this beloved brand."

With the addition of the two new rides, there are now

nine rides in total within Peppa Pig World, as well as an indoor play area, water splash area and the largest and only dedicated Peppa Pig shop in the world. There is also a chance for children to visit Peppa and her family in their hilltop house.

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Cineplex to debut new Playdium entertainment center concept

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS

TORONTO, Canada — Entertainment and film exhibition company Cineplex has reimaged its Playdium family entertainment center (FEC) brand for introduction in mid-sized communities across Canada.

The new FEC locations will be specially designed for teens and families seeking an affordable entertainment choice for everyday play, casual dining and celebrating special occasions.

The centers, ranging between 30,000-35,000 square feet, will be customized for each community. They will feature a selection of classic and new-to-market video and redemption games, as well as interactive experiences including virtual reality and play attractions such as augmented climbing walls, bowling, rope courses and two-level laser tag.

Cineplex currently owns



Cineplex has reinvented its Playdium FEC concept for mid-sized communities across Canada and will introduce it in 10-15 locations, beginning with a center in Whitby, Ont., next year. COURTESY CINEPLEX

and operates a successful Playdium facility in Mississauga, Ont. — though the reinvented concept is much more focused on indoor play, fresh fun foods and technology-enhanced amenities. Cineplex also operates three locations of a somewhat more sophisticated FEC variation, The Rec Room, in South Edmonton, West Edmonton Mall

and Toronto.

“Based on the response we are seeing from The Rec Room, there is tremendous potential to create a destination designed primarily for teens, young adults and also their families,” said Ellis Jacob, president and CEO of Cineplex. “Playdium is going to be a place where Canadian families will be able to play


together and also enjoy and share a freshly made meal that is fun to eat.”

About two-thirds of each new Playdium complex will be dedicated to games and attractions for all skill levels, and the other third will offer food and beverage options. They will have private rooms for birthday parties and celebrations, plus lounges for parents

with views of the games floor, and will accommodate larger groups for special events and team building.


Cineplex plans to open 10-15 Playdium locations over the coming years. Construction on the first, Whitby Entertainment Centrum in Whitby, Ont., is set to begin in early 2018.



•cineplex.com



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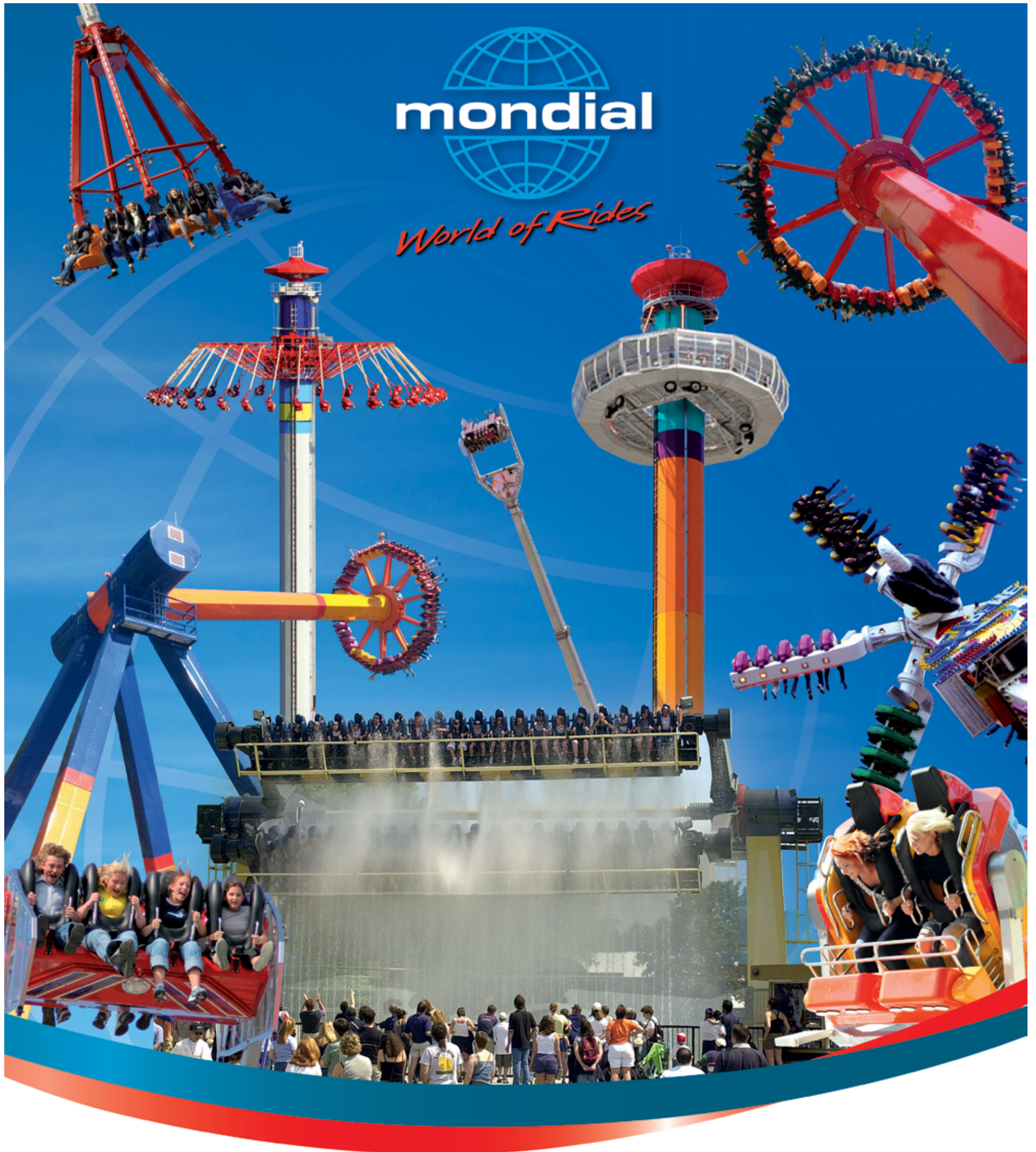
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Rollercoaster Restaurant creator envisions 'car'-musements

VIENNA, Austria — It raised a few eyebrows among amusement industry observers when it began circulating online in early September. But a semi-speculative business release issued by Michael Mack, the man behind the recently introduced Rollercoaster Restaurant concept — notable for delivering cuisine to guests' tables on miniature roller coaster-style tracks — audaciously advanced his notion of automotive amusement rides.

Mack's idea, which he calls Carmusement, turns on the novelty of getting onto a scenic or more thrilling ride without getting out of one's car.



Mack

The unusual transportation technology he has proposed also potentially has more practical and eco-friendly applications in congested urban areas.

Stated the release: "Conventional cars with passengers may soon be able to 'fly' on specially designed Ferris wheels, different types of carousels and roller coasters, as well as ropeway systems. This technology creates a new kind of theme park... and opens the doors for the implementation of environmentally friendly traffic solution concepts in city centers."

In addition to automobile-hoisting observation wheels and looping roller coasters, Mack envisions what he calls CableFlights — a system which transports vehicles and their passengers into and out of cities from suburban locations.

"Instead of being stuck in traffic," said the release, "the flight passengers may enjoy a great view of the city."

Another idea, one which works in conjunction with CableFlights, is the FlyIn-Restaurant — a new kind of fast food drive-through experience involving the use of a mobile ordering app.

Mack has registered more than 20 patents for his various concepts.

• carmusement.com



Industry innovator Michael Mack, the man who created the offbeat and popular Rollercoaster Restaurant concept, is taking some fascinating flights of fancy with his idea for Carmusement — amusements and forms of transport designed to accommodate automobiles along with their passengers. Variations include (clockwise from top) the CarmusementWheel, the CarmusementRollerCoaster and the FlyInRestaurant. The latter is proposed as a fast-food meal stop along a scenic automotive aerial tram called CableFlights, which has been imagined primarily to alleviate traffic congestion in urban centers. COURTESY CARMUSEMENT



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Photos Justin Garvanovic



IAAPA

Warner Bros. Movie World in Australia opens newest thriller

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

OXENFORD, Australia – The Southern Hemisphere's latest major attraction, the DC Rivals HyperCoaster, is now thrilling guests at Warner Bros. Movie World in Queensland, Australia.

Opened in late September and themed around the popular DC Universe franchise, the DC Rivals HyperCoaster, created in partnership with Warner Bros. Consumer Products on behalf of DC Entertainment, is being referred to as a "game changer" for Australian theme parks and is now the longest, fastest and highest hypercoaster in the Southern Hemisphere.

Supplied by German manufacturer Mack Rides, the new coaster was constructed at the front of the park and extends out onto what was a vacant piece of land on the property, meaning no other attractions or facilities had to be removed to make way for it. It features a track length of 1.4 kilometers (0.8 miles) and reaches a height of 202 feet before an 85-degree plunge. Visitors are taken to a maximum speed of 115 kmh (71 mph) and elements include a 131-foot-tall, non-inverting loop and numerous airtime sections.

The ride utilizes two six-car trains, with the last car on each one having a row of two seats facing backwards to provide a reverse ride experience.



vide a reverse ride experience.

Warner Bros. Movie World is one of the parks operated by Village Roadshow Theme Parks, whose CEO, Clark Kirby, said on the ride's opening day: "This is an exciting day for Warner Bros. Movie World. At almost double the length of any other ride in Australia, the DC Rivals HyperCoaster is transformative for our park and we are excited that guests are now able to experience this world-class ride. With a series of impressive features including one of the world's first non-inverted loops, a Stengel dive and a giant airtime hill, the DC Rivals HyperCoaster is a must-do for theme park guests."

And he continued: "The trains on the DC Rivals HyperCoaster are themed around one of the most iconic DC Super Hero characters, Batman, and feature a world-first design with the back two seats facing backwards to allow guests to do the ride in reverse. This is one of the most technologically advanced rides in the world, and it features state-of-the-art safety and operating systems to ensure the most thrilling ride for guests."



The DC Rivals HyperCoaster from Mack Rides is now thrilling guests at Warner Bros. Movie World in Australia. The coaster includes this 40-meter-tall non-inverting loop (above); the last two seats face backward (below) on each of the two six-car trains (bottom). The ride's first drop features a curving,

85-degree plunge.
COURTESY RICHARD WILSON/PARKZ.COM



FAST FACTS

Warner Bros. Movie World

Oxenford, Australia

DC Rivals HyperCoaster supplied by **Mack Rides**; Opened September 2017

Height

61.6 meters/202 feet

Length

1.4 kilometers/0.8 miles

Speed

115 kmh/71 mph

Airtime Hill

40.1 meters/132 feet

Non-Inverting Loop

40 meters/131 feet

High Dive Turn

32.5 meters/107 feet

Inclined Dive Loop

26.8 meters/88 feet

Twisting Hill

16.1 meters/53 feet

Helix

12.3 meters
(480 degrees of rotation)



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INTERNATIONALTM

Frontgrid, Simworx partner on paraglider-themed VR attraction

NORTH WALES, U.K. — Attractions industry newcomer Frontgrid has partnered with dynamic 3D/4D simulation attractions specialist Simworx to introduce a new amusement product.

ParadropVR is a virtual reality (VR) attraction featuring integrated gamification that allows the user to fully control the gameplay and movement. It was launched at Euro Attractions Show 2017 in Berlin, Germany, on Sept. 27.

Developed by the Frontgrid team, led by company co-founders David Wood, chairman, and Matt Wells, chief executive, ParadropVR simulates paraglider flying — complete with realistic movements that include ascending, descending, sudden drops and smooth deceleration. The motion creates the sensation of gliding through the skies.

The two-minute ride also features an interactive competitive element controlled by the participant. Points are awarded to individual riders as they make their way “back down to earth” via a series of targets through which they must fly to score.

With multiple theming and content options, plus a modular design that provides high hourly capacity and low operating costs, ParadropVR is designed for operation not only at events and mobile attractions but in a wide range of venues. These include theme parks, family entertainment centers, shopping malls, destination attractions, cinemas, bowling locations and cruise ships.

Wells, a former British Army Paratrooper and a lifelong adventurer, said: “Our mission is to create world-first, iconic adventure experiences with strong brands and protectable IP, underpinned by disruptive, high-growth, high-return business models. We are delighted to have partnered with Simworx, a world leader in its field, to create and bring to market the first of our experiences.”

• frontgrid.co.uk



The ParadropVR paraglider simulation (with gameplay) attraction offers standard configurations of four-to-12-rider units, in single or double row, and six-to-20-rider units in a circular layout. COURTESY FRONTGRID



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Ukraine floating fountain show draws accolades

Fountain Roshen, a spectacular multimedia water display in Vinnytsia, Ukraine, that is said to be the largest floating fountain in Europe, has been ranked as a top visitor choice by the Australian travel guide book publisher Lonely Planet. Additionally, it has earned TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence every year since 2014. Emotion Media Factory of Bad Endorf, Germany, designed and developed the free attraction, which is located on the river Southern Buh, in 2011, and it has been delighting tourists and local residents ever since.

COURTESY EMOTION MEDIA FACTORY



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Vekoma Rides delivers new coaster to Poland's Legandia

Bermuda Blitz model features thrilling improvements

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

CHORZÓW, Poland — Legandia is a park that has been around since the late 1950s. Originally known as Śląskie Wesołe Miasteczko, it has grown significantly in 2017.

For this season, the park has burst onto the scene in a big way not only with new themed lands which reflect on cultural legends and fairy tales, but many new ride offerings. Along with a handful of relocated, smaller coasters, the park also debuted a new model from Vekoma Rides called Bermuda Blitz. Legandia has given it the name Lech Coaster.

Standing more than 131 feet, Lech Coaster travels a twisted course just shy of 3,000 feet of track. According to the park, it is the biggest roller coaster in Central and Eastern Europe.

"The Lech Coaster is special in the sense that it combines a great variety of ride elements — rolls, hills, twists — in a very compact yet fluid design," said Charlotte van Etten, Vekoma Rides.

Through the course of the ride, 20 riders per train encounter many directional changes

and three inversions. Once over the lift, the first drop delivers a breathtaking beyond-vertical twist into a dramatic dive through a tunneled arch which is visually impressive.

Each of the three inversions is distinct. The first of the inversions is sometimes termed a "reverse sidewinder," which looks like a slightly warped second half of a traditional Vekoma boomerang. A zero-G roll twists riders upside down through the loading station, which is unquestionably the ride's signature moment as awaiting riders gawk at the screaming passengers rushing overhead — upside down. The final inversion is a corkscrew.

The tangled course is taken at a top speed of 59 mph and utilizes not only Vekoma's new, smoother track system, but also vehicles featuring vest restraints that secure passengers with nothing near their heads for a more comfortable ride experience. These Vekoma improvements are a strong plus as the layout includes many thrilling directional changes. Of note, the majority of the course is placed over water, which accents the excitement.

Legandia Managing Director Pawel Cebula said, "Most of our guests exit the Lech Coaster with a great reaction. They are full of emotion and smiles, constantly commenting on their ride. A large part of our guests immediately after leaving the coaster, queue again for another ride. Visitors are impressed by the whole theme and the pre-show before each ride."

"All elements are arranged such that the experience never becomes repetitive," van Etten said. "The ride constantly changes direction, both vertically and horizontally, while forces change from positive to negative and back throughout its course. It's a fast-paced, extreme experience."

Cebula commented toward working with Vekoma: "It was a pure pleasure to work with professionals who are leaders in entertainment ride production in the world. We learned a lot; it was a very good partnership."

At present, the ride sports one train but is designed to operate with a higher capacity.

The ride's cost is reported to be 4.36 million euros (\$5.1 million). Construction was done by RCS GmbH.

"The construction of this



Vekoma's new Bermuda Blitz coaster model has debuted at Legandia in Poland. In addition to the ride's new comfortable restraint system, the coaster has been enhanced with themed elements, such as being placed over water (above), and an exciting, upside-down station fly-through inversion (below right).
COURTESY LEGANDIA



attraction required the coordination of several companies in a very small area, often 400 people in the same place at the same time," Cebula told *Amusement Today*. "The work proceeded mainly in the winter, which in Poland is not considered the best time for construction. In spite of the inconvenience of many complicated elements, the construction went through without much difficulty and the ride was opened on schedule."

Previously the park had a typical annual attendance of 200,000 visitors. In 2015, Tatry Mountain Resorts assumed

management and ownership. The company operates 75 percent of tourist destinations in the Silesian Townships. With rebranding as Legandia and the addition of new lands and new attractions (such as the new Lech Coaster), the park's new owners are hopeful for an attendance increase approaching 300,000 visitors this season. Currently the increase in attendance is 69 percent, so it would appear the park will reach its goal.

With that momentum, management looks to continue growth. The 2017 season brought a lot of changes. On March 30, the park transformed from a typical amusement park into the biggest theme park in Poland, gaining more thematic zones: Magical Village, Valley of Dreams and Magical Forest. The next year is planned for another investment in new rides, as well as construction of a new thematic zone named Adventure Valley.

FAST FACTS

**Lech Coaster/
Legandia**

Chorzow, Poland

• **Supplier**

Vekoma Rides

Height

131 feet/40 meters

Length

2,979 feet, 908 meters

Speed

59 mph/95 kph

Ride time

1:40

Inversions: 3

Cost

€4.36 million/
\$5.13 million

•

Notable features

Beyond-vertical, twisted first drop; upside-down station flythrough; new train design with lap bar and vest restraints

Construction:

RCS GmbH

Opened:

July 1, 2017

Innovative Leisure adds Pirate-themed Water Wars to two U.K. venues

DURHAM and CAMBRIDGE, U.K. — U.K. adventure attractions specialist Innovative Leisure has announced the opening of the first examples of its new Pirate Themed Water Wars attraction at two venues in England.

The new attractions have been entertaining guests at Adventure Valley, in Durham, and Milton Maize Maze, in Cambridge, this summer and have proved an instant hit with visitors of all ages.

Produced by Innovative Leisure in the U.K. from timber as opposed to the more familiar steel, the Adventure Valley Pirate Themed Water Wars fits well within the park's own theming and is positioned alongside an existing pirate galleon. Made up of four battle stations constructed from a combination of Scotch pine and cedar, each station can accommodate up to four 'able sea' adults and children, for a total of 16 players at any one time.

Combined with the Depth Charge upgrade to the game, it has proved highly successful on Water Wars installations at



Two U.K. properties have recently added Pirate themed Water Wars through Innovative Leisure. Above left is the installation at Adventure Valley in Durham. Above right is the game as seen at Milton Maize Maze and Cambridge.
COURTESY INNOVATIVE LEISURE

York Maze and Bocketts Farm Park, also in the U.K., the 'battle to rule the seven seas' gets even wetter than usual. Mounted on the roof of each player unit is a target for the opposing crew to aim at with their water balloon launchers and when a successful hit is registered a sensor sends a signal to the water tank in front of the opposing station which triggers the Depth Charge, sending a wave of water into the air towards the adjacent crew, drenching

them in the process.

Milton Maize Maze's Pirate themed Water Wars also marks another 'first' in that it is the first such attraction to feature Innovative Leisure's new easy fill tap upgrade for the balloons. With the press of a button, the easy fill tap automatically fills the users' balloons with the perfect amount of water, the new tap replacing the action of manually turning the faucet on a traditional tap. This helps operators to run a

more efficient balloon filling station, thus saving time and water.

The Water Wars game has proved a popular addition at a variety of attraction venues and with a wide range of age groups as it is the perfect activity for the whole family to take part in, allowing parents to participate instead of watching from the side lines, while it's also great entertainment for spectators too.

"Water Wars has proved

extremely popular over the years with many different attraction venues and their guests," said Innovative Leisure Managing Director Phil Pickersgill, "and this new themed version is another great option. We are delighted with the response it's received at Adventure Valley and Milton Maize Maze and we've got a lot of interest from other operators too for further installations. It's been an excellent addition to our product range."



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As master planner for the Lionsgate section at Motiongate Dubai, Falcon's Creative Group was responsible for turning the cinematic world of *The Hunger Games* into a three-dimensional experience, as illustrated here. The themed zone opened Oct. 20.
COURTESY DUBAI PARKS AND RESORTS

'Hunger Games' zone debuts at Motiongate

Falcon's Creative Group brings hit film franchise to life

DUBAI, U.A.E. — The excitement of *The Hunger Games* has been attuned to the appetites of thrill-seeking guests at Motiongate Dubai.
An entire attraction zone based on the hit international film franchise debuted in the

Lionsgate section of the Dubai Parks and Resorts theme park Oct. 20.
Orlando, Fla.-based Falcon's Creative Group, the master planner of the Lionsgate section at Motiongate, worked closely with DXB Entertainments and Lionsgate to achieve an authentic experience straight out of the movies — one that brings Katniss Everdeen's world to life.

Falcon's scope of services for the project included attraction design, media/audio production and executive production for several major media-based attractions. Responsible for creative guardianship, the company had to carefully protect the style of the *Hunger Games* films — adding depth and dimension to a dynamic storyline to create

► See MOTIONGATE, page 23

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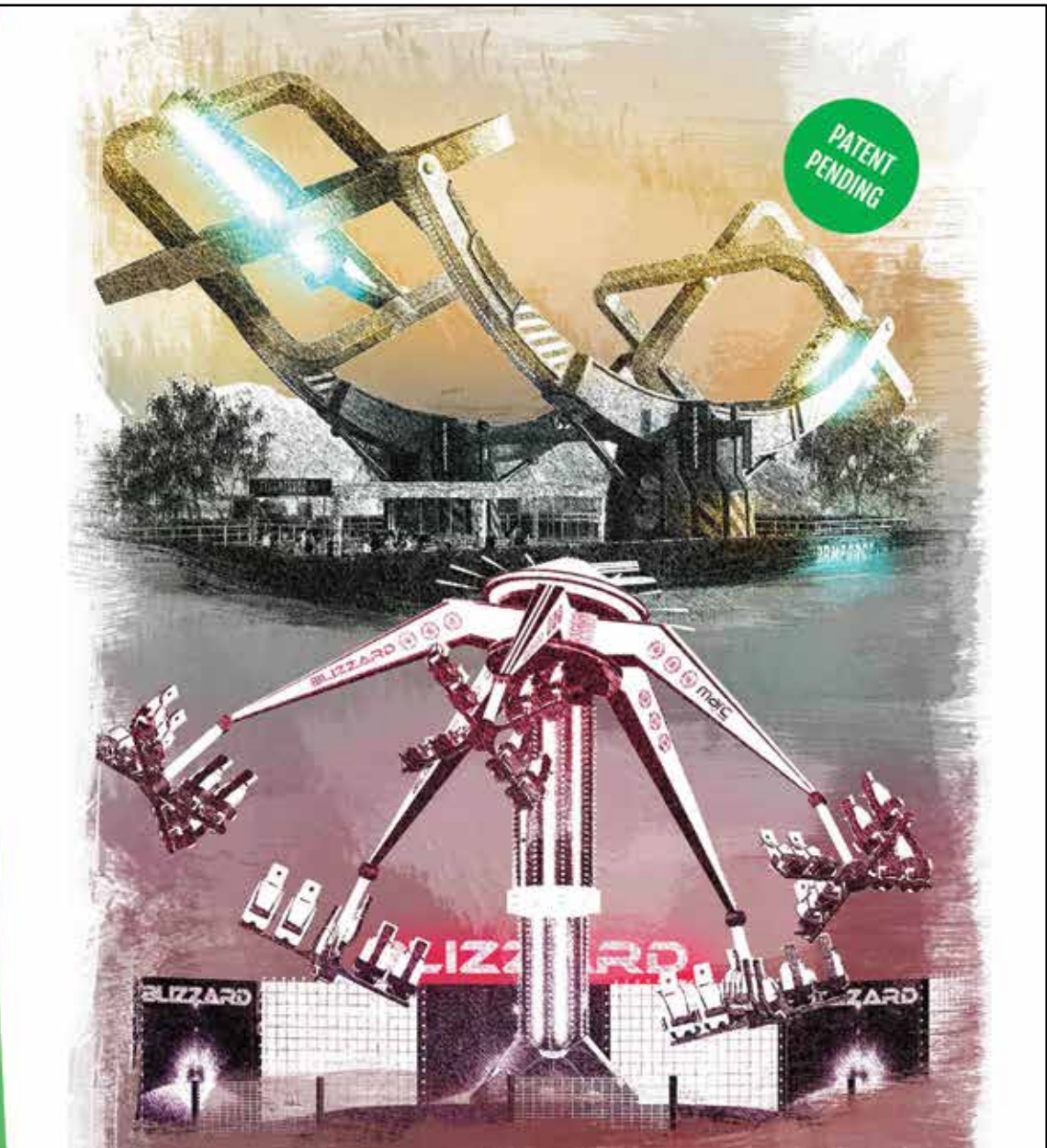


Willy Walser
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Falcon's Creative Group delivered detailed theming, and more, for two major rides at Motiongate Dubai inspired by *The Hunger Games* — including the Panem Aerial Tour, which takes guests in hovercrafts on a 3D flight that becomes a thrilling adventure. COURTESY DUBAI PARKS AND RESORTS

► MOTIONGATE

Continued from page 22

an immersive experience.

Falcon's Creative Group Executive Producer Jason Ambler and his team worked with actors from the films, including Elizabeth Banks, to create custom footage for the attractions. The project demonstrated the company's commitment to honoring the integrity of intellectual property.

"We selected Falcon's because we needed a design/build partner that understood our vision and requirements for quality, budget and schedule," said Matthew Priddy, chief technical officer for Dubai Parks and Resorts. "We were not disappointed. They will continue to be part of our team as we move into subsequent phases with new challenges."

In addition to master-planning the entire Hunger Games zone, Falcon's Creative Group also designed two themed attractions: the Panem Aerial Tour, which takes guests on a 3D flight over Panem to see the iconic landmarks of the Capitol, and the Capitol Bullet Train Tour, a launch roller coaster that carries them on a journey from District 12 to the Capitol.

Covering four million square feet, Motiongate Dubai consists of five distinct zones — all based on popular Hollywood entities. In addition to Lionsgate, they are Studio Central, Columbia Pictures, Smurfs Village and DreamWorks.

•motiongatedubai.com

Industry professionals tour Rulantica construction



Around 45 top-level representatives of the international theme park industry visited Europa-Park, Germany's largest theme park, on Sept. 29 and 30. In addition to a flight on the new Voletarium attraction and sightseeing at the construction site of the new water world, Rulantica, the group, led by IAAPA President Paul Noland, left with a strong impression of Europa-Park and its future plans. Here, Jürgen Mack (seventh from left) and Michael Mack (fourth from left) conduct the site tour of Rulantica. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

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WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► Whitewater-supplied water park a highlight of Carnival Elation cruise ship makeover — Page 26

Wet 'n' Wild Toronto reopens for 2017 season

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

BRAMPTON, Ontario — Following an extreme makeover, the shuttered Wild Water Kingdom reopened as Wet 'n' Wild Toronto to an eager public after a two-year hiatus. The 45-acre park originally opened in 1986 as Sunshine Beach, then later became Wild Water Kingdom. The previous owners made only moderate investments to the park which started to look a little rough around the edges, and in 2015 the park closed.

That's when Premier Parks of Oklahoma City decided to get involved. The enormous population base of the Toronto market, lack of stand-alone water parks, and the Canadians' fondness for waterslides were all contributing factors in the decision to invest in the property.

Complexities in ownership made a straightforward purchase impossible. The land, 100 acres of it, is actually owned by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, which had rented it to the previous owners. Some of the land includes green space, and part of it hosts a sports complex that includes a sports dome and a driving range. Premier negotiated a lease with the TRCA, took over

management of the complex, and started renovating the water park in 2016 investing more than Canadian \$25 million (U.S. \$20 million).

Premier Parks turned to ProSlide of Ottawa, Canada, for restoration of the existing slides as well as several new attractions. Aquatic Development Group provided a new master plan. Tube slides added to the park include Typhoon — Canada's first ProSlide CannonBowl 30, Caribbean Chaos — a ProSlide TornadoWave 30 and Krazy Kanuck — a ProSlide Mammoth raft ride. The latter two slides replaced a mini golf course at the front of the park.

The cleverly named Oh Canada! is a double Super Loop installation body slide with SkyBox — ProSlide's version of the drop floor capsule. Klondike Express is a four-lane version of the popular OctopusRacer and Hurricane is a Pipeline racer.

Premier also selected, from the ProSlide catalogue, a number of new attractions for the younger guests including two RideHouse play structures — Bear Footin' Bay and Wet'n'Wild Jr. Both play areas are surrounded by cabanas which include two chaise lounges, a patio table

with chairs, couch, personal wait staff and options to add on with souvenir Igloo items and all-you-can-drink fountain beverages.

Cabanas also surround the Big Surf wave pool which was added to the park in 1992 and is one of the largest in Canada.

Separate from the water park but still part of the facility is the unique climate-controlled sports dome. The 300-foot by 200-foot dome can be divided into three 100-foot by 200-foot fields to accommodate a variety of sports and activities including soccer, frisbee, football, volleyball or a golf driving range. The facility can also be configured for birthday parties, corporate events such as team building or retreats, training camps and clinics. The dome can be rented for one-hour increments, 24 hours a day.

The makeover included repainting and renaming of just about everything in the park. All of the facilities such as food vendors, changing rooms and lockers were either rebuilt or upgraded. Premier wanted the park to feel and look new even though it had sat idle for two summer seasons. It was important to present the park as new and fresh to overcome the long-standing public perception that Wild Water Kingdom was old



Guests partaking in the Oh Canada! Super Loop slide first enter a SkyBox floor-drop capsule. Bear Footin' Bay is one of two new ProSlide RideHouse water play structures to entertain families with children. COURTESY WET N WILD TORONTO

and long past its glory days.

In keeping with other Premier-run Wet'n'Wild properties, the parks are not themed with the exception of a few Caribbean highlights. Instead the parks are nicely landscaped, include vividly colored attractions and feature touches of the local culture. For the Toronto Wet'n'Wild, that includes a Canadian maple leaf on the staff uniforms, Canadian artists on the in-park radio system, and the inclusion of regional food items such as poutine, Beavertails and Pizza Pizza — one of the largest pizza franchises in Canada.

Premier Parks appointed Steve Mayer as the general manager of the new property. Mayer's previous experience included management roles at Wet'n'Wild Hawaii, Hawaiian Falls in Texas, Geyser Falls in Miss. and Waterworld California.

The park had a soft opening in June with a grand opening held on Canada Day weekend (July 1). The season

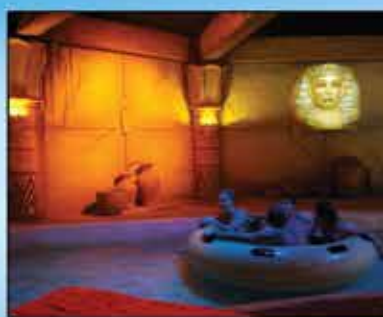
continued through Canadian Labour Day (September 4).

Premier Parks LLC operates 16 amusement and water parks throughout United States and Canada, including Wet'n'Wild water parks in Hawaii, Palm Springs, Phoenix and Houston. Wet'n'Wild is a brand used for many water parks including those owned by Village Roadshow Theme Parks of Australia; EPR Properties of Kansas City, Mo. — which uses Premier Parks to operate its parks; and stand-alone properties Wet'n'Wild Water World in Anthony, Texas; and Wet'n'Wild North Shields in England. The first Wet'n'Wild water park was built by George Millay in Orlando, Fla., and opened in 1977. Millay went on to build six more Wet'n'Wild water parks in the United States, Brazil and Mexico. In 1997 and 1998 he sold the parks to various owners, which is why several operators continue to use that brand name.



The refurbished Big Surf wave pool (above) is one of the largest in Canada. Berkley the Bear is a Canadian-themed mascot unique to Wet 'n' Wild Toronto. COURTESY WET N WILD TORONTO

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Water park a highlight of Carnival Elation cruise ship makeover

MIAMI, Fla. — Carnival Corp. completed a multimillion-dollar renovation of its Carnival Elation cruise ship in early October that added an expansive water park, plus 38 new cabins, 98 state-room balconies and an array of recreation, food and beverage offerings.

The water park, called WaterWorks and featuring equipment supplied by WhiteWater West of Richmond, B.C., Canada, includes an enclosed 300-foot-long waterslide, two 82-foot-long rac-

ing slides and a splash zone for kids.

Some of the ship's other new and refreshed leisure-oriented attractions:

•**Camp Ocean** — a marine-inspired play area for kids 11 and under showcasing the wonders of the sea through more than 200 ocean-themed activities, including arts and crafts, science-oriented programming and more.

•**Mini-Golf Course** — a nine-hole miniature course that has been reconfigured and relocated to Deck 14, pro-

viding family fun in the sea air.

•**Guy's Burger Joint** — a poolside venue developed in partnership with Food Network personality Guy Fieri, serving handcrafted burgers and fresh-cut fries amid California car culture décor.

•**RedFrog Rum Bar** — a poolside watering hole offering the quintessential Caribbean vacation vibe with Caribbean rum-based frozen drinks and beers, including Carnival's own private-label draught brew, ThirstyFrog Red.

•**BlueIguana Cantina** — a poolside Mexican eatery where guests can enjoy authentic burritos and tacos on homemade tortillas, as well as fully stocked salsa bar.

•**BlueIguana Tequila Bar** — an outdoor bar with a festive, Mexican-themed atmosphere and tequila-based frozen drinks and beers.

The Carnival Elation resumed its year-round schedule of four-to-eight-day cruises from Jacksonville, Fla., on Oct. 7.

•carnivalcorp.com



With equipment supplied by WhiteWater West, the expansive WaterWorks water park is a major feature of the just-renovated Carnival Elation. COURTESY CARNIVAL CORP.



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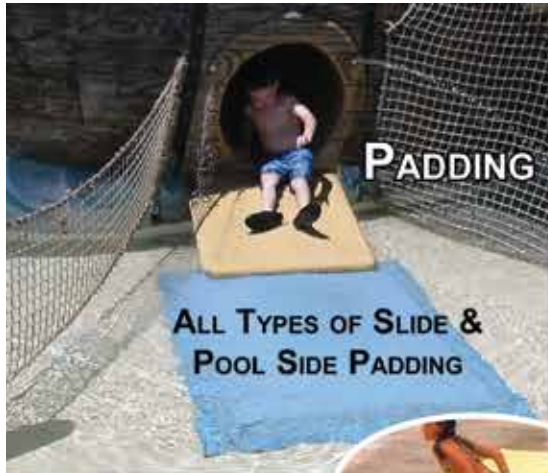
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Despite its popularity, **Great Waves Waterpark**, Alexandria, Va., is at risk of losing its lease. The city signed a 40-year lease in 1981 with **Nova Parks** to build and operate a water park on city-owned property within Cameron Run Park. The 26-acre water park which includes batting cages and mini-golf attracted 105,000 guests last season and brought in \$506,000 for the parks authority. The city was ready to extend the lease another 40 years until a few special-interest groups stepped in claiming that the city failed to give residents a chance to voice their opinions. Some feel the property would be better used for youth soccer fields instead of a water park. Others believe the water park already provides the best recreational opportunities for the largest number of citizens. The city council has delayed any decision on the lease until at least late fall to allow for public input. After that, the council will decide whether and when to vote on the proposal.

The **California Pool & Spa Association (CPSA)** is expanding its geographic focus, forming **The Pool, Spa & Aquatics Alliance (The Alliance)** and combining with the **National Swimming Pool Foundation** effective January 1, 2018. CPSA will continue its support of businesses and members who design, build, service, and supply pools and spas, through ongoing endorsement of only reasonable laws and codes. The organizations are actively engaged together in planning their future.

The combining of NSPF a 501(c)(3) foundation, and CPSA, a 501(c)(6) trade association, leverages resources more efficiently to collectively serve the industry, government, and society. NSPF focuses on providing educational programs that keep pools safer and that encourage water-based activities to keep pools open. CPSA builds relationships with government legislators and regulators to ensure the same.

Ocean Breeze Waterpark has announced a new family raft ride for the 2018 season. The partially enclosed Mammoth River from **ProSlide** starts at the top of a 70-foot tower and will plunge guests into a dark, enclosed tunnel section. The dark section offers unpredictable twists and turns, and a few surprise drops. Upon leaving the tunnel, thrillseekers will encounter an open Mammoth River with back-to-back S-curves, before sliding into the catch pool at the end.

A conveyor lift will bring the four-person rafts to the top of the tower, saving guests from having to struggle with carrying their own raft. The as yet unnamed slide will have a patriotic theme to help capture a bit of the Virginia military spirit. It is being described as a red, white and blue "star spangled addition."

Grand Texas, the on-again, off-again resort complex north of Houston appears to be trudging forward. In October, contractors were solicited to submit bids for the **Grand Texas Big Rivers Waterpark** along with the **Gator Bayou Adventure Park**. Together the two projects will encompass 40 acres of the overall 630 acres that have been procured for the resort. Although specific plans have not yet been released the project bids called for a main entrance building, central rest room and water slides within the water park. The adventure section is to include zip lines, platform jumping, fishing and live alligators. Both are projected to open in time for the 2018 summer season.

Currently the complex includes an RV park and **SpeedSportz Racing Park** — go-kart racing. Plans for the resort include the addition of a theme park, sportsplex, and outlet shopping mall.



NEWS SPLASH

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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 U.K.'s **Center Parcs Longleat Forest** resort found itself in hot water following the closing of one of its premier waterslides during the height of the holiday tourist season. Wild Water Rapids, one of the most popular attractions at the park was closed for a six-week period. The distinctive attraction is a body slide/action river combination that is suitable for most ages. It is popular because families can ride together at their own pace. Center Parcs describes it on its own website as "unmissable."

Many of the guests affected say that they booked their holiday at Longleat Forest specifically for the Wild Water Rapids. Those who learned of the closure tried to change to another Center Parcs or location or cancel their booking, but the company refused to make changes. More than 400 people have joined a Facebook group to complain about the company's treatment, stating that Center Parcs failed to advise guests prior to booking or prior to accepting their final payment, even though they knew the attraction would be closed.

The new water park in Butte, Montana, may soon have a name. The Council of Commissioners held a naming contest for the new park, and of the more 200 names submitted, has narrowed the field down to two — **Treasure Cove** or **Ridge Waters**. The former plays on Butte's East Ridge and headwaters to the Columbia River system while the latter plays on Montana's nickname. Design of the \$8.7 million pool and water-slide complex was approved by the council in January and contractor bidding started in March. The park is currently under construction with an expected opening date of April 2018.

Alabama Splash Adventure has announced a new water attraction for 2018. A new kids' slide complex and interactive water play structure is expected to be open in May 2018. **ProSlide** will supply the five kids' slides, ranging from gentle straight slides to a little more exciting with twists and turns. All the slides will empty into shallow water. The water play structure is from **Vortex Aquatic Structures**. It will also feature a zero-depth pool for added safety.

"This new attraction will be perfect for the children and families that visit Alabama Splash Adventure, and will help us increase our water park capacity as we continue to expand," said **Dan Koch**, president, Alabama Splash Adventure.

Aquatica water park at **SeaWorld Orlando** has announced a unique three-element waterslide for the 2018 season. Ray Rush, supplied by **WhiteWater West** will feature a combination master blaster-style start, a transparent AquaSphere and a Manta half pipe

element. Guests will begin their adventure by boarding four-person rafts atop a 60-foot tower. Upon dispatch the rafts will be blasted with water jets across a level piece of waterslide trough at a rate of 33 feet per second into the first element — the translucent sphere. There riders will oscillate randomly before exiting into an enclosed tube section that drops into the final element, an open-air halfpipe that resembles the shape of a manta ray. Rafts will soar back and forth on the wings of the manta before entering the final enclosed tube section that leads down to the ending splash pool.

"Ray Rush will offer a ride experience you won't be able to get anywhere else in Florida. Aquatica will be the first waterpark in the state to combine these three unique elements into one attraction" said **Cathy Valeriano**, Aquatica Orlando vice president. "Ray Rush is the perfect addition to our attraction portfolio, complementing what is already one of the most family-friendly waterslide lineups in Orlando."

With a 42-inch minimum height requirement, families with children will be able to ride together aboard the four-person rafts. The new slide is located on the north side of Walkabout Waters.

In order to make way for the new attraction, HooRoo Run closed permanently on October 31, 2017. To accommodate construction, Walhalla Wave also temporarily closed on this date and will re-open in spring 2018 alongside Ray Rush. For a limited-time, Aquatica pass members were given a one-time Quick Queue to ride both HooRoo Run and Walhalla Wave on select days in October before construction began in November.

Of note, this is the first time multi-person family rafts will be propelled with water jets, since the original Family Blaster was introduced at **Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort** in New Braunfels, Texas, in 1994. That ride has since been removed.

Adventure Island Tampa Bay will open a multi-slide attraction for the 2018 season. Vanish Point will be similar to the Vanish Point set of slides that currently operate at sister park **Water Country USA** in Williamsburg, Va. The Tampa attraction will feature two 425-foot ProSlide SuperLoop with SkyBox drop capsules. A third option begins with traditional horizontal loading that drops into a 450-foot speed slide.

Issiquah, Wash., could be home to a new indoor surf venue called **CitySurf**. The city has approved a site development permit filed by **Trisha and John Hoss of Bambora Global LLC**, for a 10,180 square-foot commercial recreational facility on a 1.24-acre site. CitySurf is being hailed as the nation's first deep-water urban surf park, and it will consist of a two-story building with a restaurant, surf pool with an electronically-generated standing wave, an "edible garden landscape," and retail area.

Co-founders Trisha and John Hoss were first inspired to create CitySurf after they saw an outdoor, man-made surfing competition in Europe three years ago. The highlight of the facility is the Rogue Wave, a machine that moves 240,000 gallons of water per minute to form a deep-water, 33-foot-wide standing wave. Rogue Wave is a standing, deep-water wave, similar to a river wave or the wave produced by a wakeboat. The difference is that the sweet spot is 33-feet wide and is adjustable up to five feet. Because the wave is made in deep water, a pillow of water will cushion any fall. The new patent-pending technology is unlike anything currently available in the United States. The waves will be able to accommodate a real surfboard, body board, paddleboard, and even a kayak.

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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► New attractions and events on tap in 2018 at SeaWorld San Antonio — Page 34 / Fairs — Pages 48-56

SeaWorld Ent. spends on two non-marine life parks

Sesame Place, Busch Gardens Williamsburg amp up fun in '18



In 2018 Sesame Place will see the arrival of a family wooden coaster, Oscar's Wacky Taxi (above and below), supplied by The Gravity Group. COURTESY SESAME PLACE



LANGHORNE, Pa., and WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc., is making significant expenditures for the 2018 season at two of its Eastern Seaboard properties.

At kid-focused Sesame Place, northeast of Philadelphia, the nation's only theme park based entirely on the award-winning public television program *Sesame Street* will unveil its first hybrid roller coaster next spring. The new ride, called Oscar's Wacky Taxi and supplied by The Gravity Group of Cincinnati, Ohio, is one of the largest attractions to be installed at the park in its 37-year history.

Combining wooden track and steel supports to create a smooth but zippy journey, the coaster — featuring a bright-yellow, taxi cab-inspired train with the grouchy, trash-candwelling Oscar character at the helm — will have a first drop of 40 feet and traverse 1,200 feet of twisting, airtime-delivering track.

"Oscar's Wacky Taxi will bring a whole new level of excitement to Sesame Place in 2018," said Bob Caruso, park president. "We're constantly looking for ways to enhance our guest experience, and [this] is a thrilling addition to the park."

A 40-inch rider height requirement with a supervising companion, or 46-inch requirement for single riders, will make Oscar's Wacky Taxi an appropriate first coaster for many younger park guests.

The new ride will join Super Grover's Vapor Trail as the second coaster at the



Busch Gardens Williamsburg will debut *Battle for Eire*, from Falcon's Creative Group, next year. The VR attraction will utilize HTC Vive headsets. COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS WILLIAMSBURG

14-acre park, which has more than 25 rides and attractions.

In Virginia, Busch Gardens Williamsburg is readying an attraction hitched to the virtual reality (VR) trend for a spring debut: *Battle for Eire* — Action VR Ride.

Located in the park's Ireland village, the ride is a marriage of a motion-based theater simulator technology and state-of-the-art, 360-degree virtual reality headsets. Riders will be completely immersed in the story and able to see, hear and feel fictive action happening around them.

The story involves a fierce fairy warrior named Addie who leads guests on an adventure through her Irish homeland. Addie's goal is to rescue the Heart of Eire, which represents the magic of Ireland, but she needs some help along the way. A host of characters — some heroic, some villainous — join Addie during the quest.

Orlando-based Falcon's Creative Group is the lead

supplier for the attraction, which will utilize HTC Vive headsets.

"Battle for Eire will be the type of experience that only Busch Gardens can deliver," said David Cromwell, park president. "The combination of innovative VR headsets with our flight simulator will create an immersive, exciting environment for guests of all ages."

"We are taking guests on an incredible journey," concurred Larry Giles, vice president of engineering for Busch Gardens. "The movement of the simulator combined with interactive special effects from the VR headsets will deliver an exciting, high-energy experience with a great storyline."

Following the addition of *InvaDR*, the park's first-ever wooden roller coaster, earlier this year, *Battle for Eire* represents Busch Gardens' continued commitment to investing in innovative attractions.

—Dean Lamanna

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New attractions and events on tap in 2018 at SeaWorld & Aquatica San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — A Sesame Street parade, a waterslide, a summer celebration and a beer festival are among the new experiences coming to SeaWorld and Aquatica San Antonio in 2018. The additions continue the evolution of growth at the park, which has added major events and attractions annually since 2011.

"We're continuing to invest in our guest experience with our 2018 event additions and expansions," said Park President Carl Lum. "From families to foodies and thrill seekers to music enthusiasts, SeaWorld and Aquatica San Antonio have something for everyone and we're constantly working to grow our reputation as a leader in fun, one-of-a-kind experiences."

Sesame Street Parade

The iconic brand expands out of the Sesame Street Bay

of Play and onto the pathways with the addition of a neighborhood street party parade. This daily event features everyone's favorite Sesame Street friends, 10 themed floats, contemporary tunes including Sesame Street favorites and three show-stopping performances throughout the parade route. The Sesame Street Parade will make its debut in spring 2018.

Taumata Racer

Taumata Racer, named for a famous hill in New Zealand, is slated to open in spring 2018 at Aquatica San Antonio. It's a high-speed waterslide, from Whitewater West, where riders zoom downhill head first on foam bodysurfing mats. It's also a competitive ride with six side-by-side lanes. Taumata Racer launches riders in an entry tunnel that makes a swooping, 180-degree turn,

then straightens out to make two additional descents over the 375-foot slide length and 55-foot drop in under 10 seconds.

Electric Ocean

An all-new nighttime experience, Electric Ocean, headlines SeaWorld's summer offerings with a nightly fireworks display and party zones with electronic dance music (EDM) that will create an electrifying dance club atmosphere. Also, returning to the summer lineup are guest favorites like HydroPower Xtreme FX and Shamu's Celebration: Light Up the Night, as well as an encore of Sea Lions Tonite. Electric Ocean will light up the summer night sky from June 15 to August 12.

Bier Fest

Inspired by more than 200 years of Oktoberfest traditions, Bier Fest will feature a lineup of more than 100 beers from around the globe, including a variety of local favorites. The Bavarian celebration will also feature authentic German food and festive music. Bier Fest will take place over the course of three weekends, beginning September 1, 2018.

Expanded event offerings

SeaWorld will also expand its existing event offerings, packing in more dates and a lot more fun for 2018. The calendar kicks off with an expanded Wild Days celebration, featuring an action-packed month of unique and exciting animal shows perfectly timed for spring break, including Jungle Jack Hanna. The Seven Seas Food & Wine Festival returns in April with a new food location, local bands and more globally inspired culinary fare than ever before. All-new frights, including a spectacularly scary nighttime stage show, await during Howl-O-Scream with fall family activities available at Spooktacular. With the holiday season comes an expanded Christmas Celebration featuring an awe-inspiring 11 million lights, a contender for one of the largest lighted Christmas displays in North America.

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ADG double Alpine Mountain slides open at Camelback

Updated version of Alpine Slide that endured a 26 year run

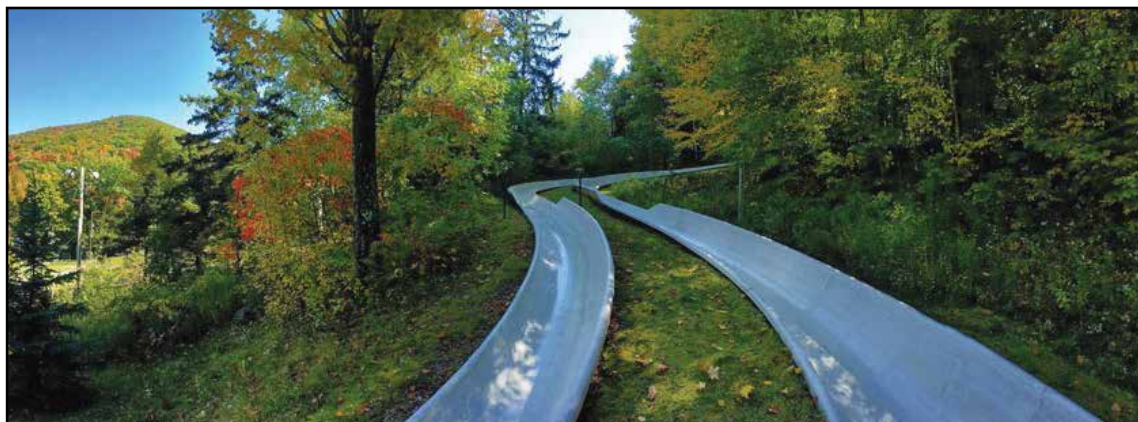
AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com



TANNERSVILLE, Pa. — Camelback Resort, located in the Pocono Mountains, opened Pocono Pipeline Alpine Mountain Slide on June 24 as an additional attraction at Camelback Mountain Adventures. The ADG-designed-and-built dual slide track features an upgraded and newly designed fiberglass track system with updated sleds as well.

The ride is reminiscent of the once popular Alpine slide

that operated from 1977-2003 at the mountain resort aiding in transitioning Camelback Resort from a winter ski resort to a year-round destination. The Pocono Pipeline takes everything nostalgic about the once popular attraction, ratcheting it up a notch. Traditional alpine slides were built on a



Camelback Resort has opened an undated version of an alpine slide that endured a 26 year run at the Tannersville, Pa. property. Opening on June 24, the Pocono Pipeline mountain slides, from ADG, features dual slides, traveling a course of 2,800 feet each and reaching speeds of 25 mph. COURTESY CAMELBACK RESORT/ADG

the ride.

A mountain coaster and dual alpine mountain slides, while similar, offer different experiences. "Many guests grew up riding the alpine slide here at Camelback, and due to popular demand we brought it back with new technology that gives the rider greater control of speed and breaking. Although they are similar, they each have their own unique experience," said Stack. "We have had guests recount tales of excitement and adventure from their childhood on Camelback's alpine slide, and you hear it now as these guests bring their children to share a multiple generational experience."

The Appalachian Express Mountain Coaster handles approximately 100 guests per hour, while the dual mountain slides handle up to 120 guests per hour. Being located adjacent to each other, guests can try each one if they like. This also allows the resort to transfer guests from one attraction to the other based on capacity.

The Pocono Pipeline is priced at \$10.00 per rider or can be bundled with other attractions for a customized day of adventure, appropriate for all ages. Drivers must be at least 52 inches tall, while riders must be at least 36 inches tall. The combined passenger weight cannot exceed 300 lbs.

The Pocono Pipeline alpine mountain slide does not operate when it's raining or when the slide surface is wet. It is open eight months out of the year. As Stack points out, "Four months of the year it is under approximately eight feet of snow, but if we can figure out a proper tunneling system, we will be good to go!"

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poured concrete "luge" track, using rudimentary brakes and controls in the cart. The new Pocono Pipeline uses a fiberglass track with a state-of-the-art cart and braking system.

"The alpine slide has real sentiment among those guests who grew up coming to the Pocono Mountains and Camelback Resort," said Arthur Berry III, co-owner of Camelback Resort. "We are really excited to bring back a new and improved version of this iconic attraction from ADG, and many of our guests tell us they're looking forward to sharing this nostalgic ride with their own children."

Riders first travel to the beginning of the Pocono Pipeline alpine mountain slide via the 1,769 foot long Raceway chairlift ascent. There are two dueling chutes at 2,800 feet, each carrying up to two riders down the side of Camelback Mountain through a series of switchbacks, multiple dips, high G turns and tunnels. A non-abrasive fiberglass track offering a smooth surface heightens the sensation of speed with improved control over older models. The ride can go up to 25 mph. Riders experience a bobsled-type ride sensation in a wheeled car that navigates the slides, controlled by a hand brake for complete speed control. ADG also revamped the sleds with rear wheels that better follow

the curvature of the track to eliminate "fishtailing," while a speed restrictor increases guest safety without negatively impacting rider enjoyment.

"Recent advances in both track and sled design have greatly improved the overall safety and rider experience over the original version of the alpine slides. At ADG we continuously strive to set the gold standard for a new generation of fun in all of our ride developments," said Ken Ellis, president of ADG, the developer of the new and improved Pocono Pipeline. He is also co-owner of Camelback Resort.

The new dual slide attraction has been in the planning stages for quite some time. "We have been in process of relaunching this Pocono classic for the past three years. Camelback at its core is a ski resort, so we spend four months of the year skiing over the same terrain where we were building the Mountain Slide. (This) creates a unique set of challenges for the manufacturer," said A.J. Stack, events and promotions manager, Camelback Resort.

The Pocono Pipeline sleds sport a new appearance. Gone is the old yellow and red style paint scheme that has been around since the 1970s. The new sleds are green and black reflecting an updated 21st century look and feel to

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There are all kinds of fun down on the farm with the Farm Fair GameChanger interactive ride system from Lagotronics Projects. Barnyard party animal characters welcome participants to a farm fair-themed competition via a combination of proprietary technologies developed by the company. COURTESY LAGOTRONICS PROJECTS

Lagotronics Projects introduces Farm Fair GameChanger

VENLO, The Netherlands — The Farm Fair GameChanger, from Lagotronics Projects, is a new interactive rotating dark ride that was introduced at the recently held Euro Attractions Expo in Berlin. It's a combination of the company's GameChanger design, which recently received a patent and IP for its new game concept called Farm Fair. This design is a wild and hilarious 3-D interactive rotating dark ride, completely designed in a farm theme.

Farm Fair is based on a story with three main characters: a horse, cat and a rooster. The imaginative storyline gets comical when these three friends get the crazy idea to organize a big fair. All farm animals are impressed and are soon totally out of control. They invite the guests (ride visitors) to come along with them and enjoy the Farm Fair. The farm is home to many different locations and objects that can be used to create a funny interactive experience.

Lagotronics Projects has sold its first Farm Fair GameChanger system, with a scheduled opening in May 2018. The company will announce the park and location soon.

Company introduces newly designed website

Lagotronics Projects has announced that its newly designed website is now live and providing the latest news, products and technologies, showcases, concepts and much more. It offers an overview of the company's main activities – each capable of creating unforgettable memories. Visit: www.lagotronicsprojects.com.

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**Steel Pier
Observation Wheel
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The nations' third-highest observation wheel is expected to open in mid-November on Steel Pier in Atlantic City, N.J. The Technical Park wheel offers 40 spacious, climate-controlled gondolas and breathtaking views of the Atlantic City skyline and coastline from 180 feet high. The enclosed gondolas provide Steel Pier the opportunity to operate the wheel year-round. The wheel is just part of the overall \$23 million renovation to the pier by the Catanoso family. Technical Park is represented in North America by Carlo Guglielmi, Ital International in Nashville.

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**IAAPA completes
move to Orlando**

ORLANDO, Fla. — IAAPA's global headquarters has completed its relocation to Orlando, Fla. IAAPA's North American Office has been moved to Orlando while IAAPA's Safety and Advocacy team remains in Alexandria, Virginia.

Below is helpful information when contacting IAAPA:

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Disney Springs unveils first look at NBA Experience

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Walt Disney World Resort unveiled the first look at the new NBA Experience coming to Disney Springs in 2019.

Inspired by the modern architecture of new NBA arenas around the country, the building designs create an unmistakable and entertaining connection to the NBA in true Disney style. It's one of several ways Disney Springs is growing and adding new experiences to delight and entertain guests.

The state-of-the-art space will include interactive games and competitions, immersive experiences, a retail store and an adjacent restaurant.

The NBA Experience at Walt Disney World Resort will be a one-of-a-kind basketball-themed experience featuring hands-on activities that put guests of all ages right in the middle of NBA game action. There will be immersive NBA video productions and numerous interactive experiences and an exciting retail store that will offer something for all NBA fans worldwide.



Disney Springs has released the first look at the new NBA Experience scheduled to open in 2019.
COURTESY DISNEY SPRINGS



Merlin Entertainments moves forward with Legoland N.Y.

Company CEO Nick Varney makes new park official

GOSHEN, N.Y. — Merlin Entertainments Chief Executive Officer Nick Varney officially announced that Legoland New York is being built. The gathering took place at the Palacio Catering and Conference Center in Goshen today, Oct. 25, with more than 250 people attending.

After Varney officially announced that Legoland New York will open in 2020, more than 30,000 Lego bricks were dumped onto the stage by construction vehicles and 1,500 balloons cascaded from the ceiling much to the delight of local school children in attendance.



Varney

"We have spent a lot of time building relationships in the community, listening and responding to concerns, and we are looking forward to building a theme park that will enhance the community and be a tremendous neighbor," said Varney. "I am honored to announce Legoland New York is officially moving forward."

After more than a year of public meetings and hearings in addition to a thorough and transparent review process by officials, Legoland New York has been granted conditional approval of its site plan by the Town of Goshen Planning Board, allowing it to officially move ahead with building the Park.

The New York park will be open seasonally from April 1 to November 1. Additionally, a 250-room Legoland Hotel will be built and open year-round. The hotel will immerse guests into a creative Lego world designed to bring children's imaginations to life with specially-themed rooms. Millions of Lego bricks will make up the hundreds of Lego models that will be located throughout the hotel.

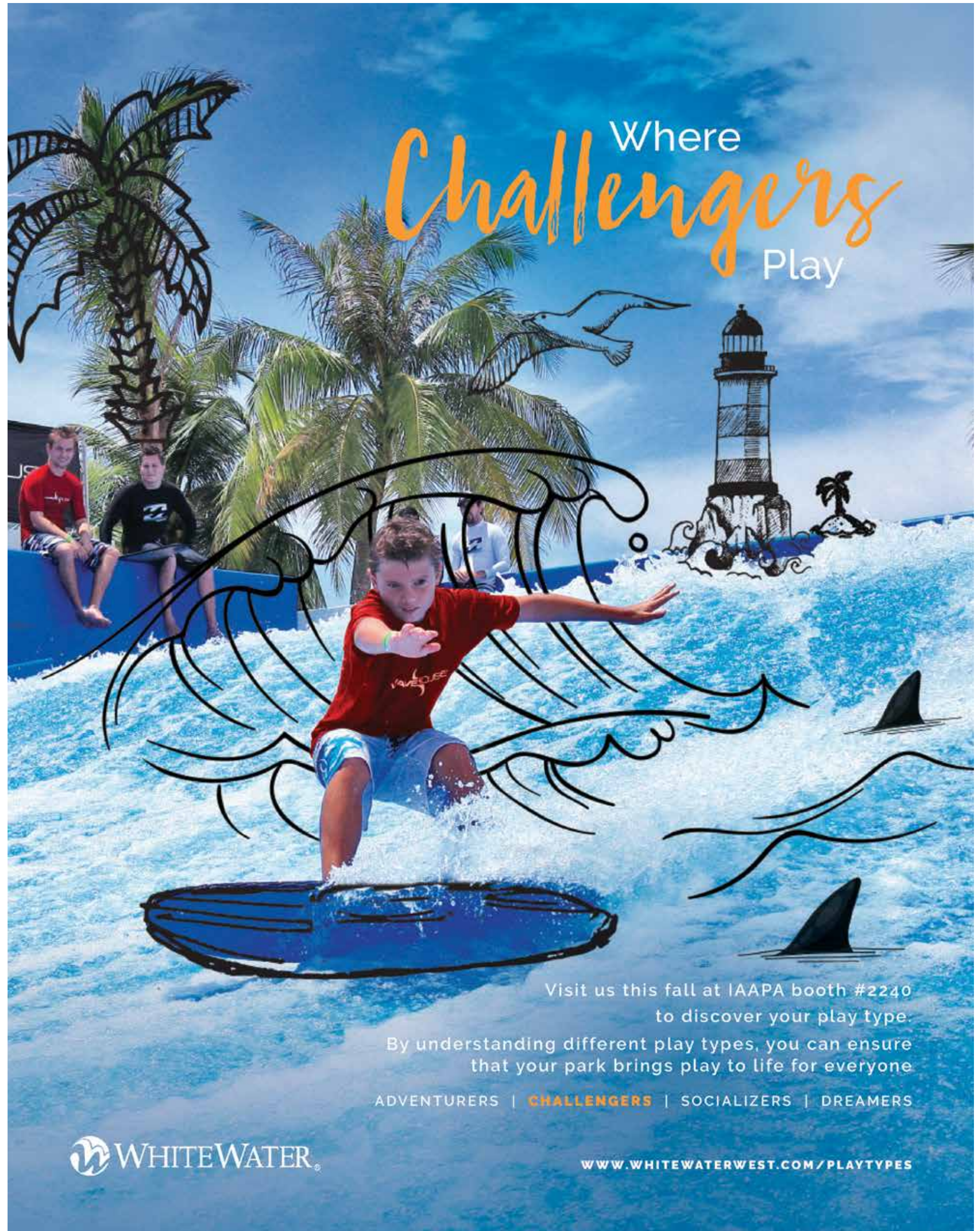


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Zamperla provides entire ride package for The Park at OWA

Poarch Creek Indian tribe develops new Alabama resort

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

FOLEY, Ala. — It is not every day a new amusement park opens, or even every year for that matter. While water parks have tended to pop up over metropolitan areas, the opening of an amusement park is notably scarcer. **The Park at OWA** opened in late July, beginning a deep impact on the state's economy. The amusement park is just Phase 1 of a multi-phase project to develop 520 acres of land into a large resort destination. The entire enterprise includes the amusement park, hotels, an event center, an entertainment district and an RV park. A water park is planned in the years ahead, as well.

Throughout construction, the increased economic output for **Baldwin County**, in which the town of **Foley** and the **OWA Resort** reside, will be \$109 million. The increase in payroll for the South Alabama region, which includes the employment of both direct and indirect hires, will average more than 2,000 people a year.

The development's name, Owa, means "big water" in the Muscogee Creek language. This reference could refer to the 14-acre lake at the center of the unique attraction, but of note, the



The Park at OWA showcases 21 rides from Zamperla, including the Rollin' Thunder roller coaster shown here (above). Architectural detailing and landscaping (bottom) were important to giving the new destination an authentic park atmosphere. AT/TIM BALDWIN

resort is only situated seven miles from Gulf Shores' Orange Beach.

"This project has been planned since 2013," said **Kristin Hellmich**, director of marketing, OWA. "In 2010, this area of Alabama experienced the **BP** oil spill. Our economy tanked. It happened in May and all our visitors disappeared. The one factor that did not get impacted was sports



Hellmich

tourism."

As the southern Alabama community suffered from the oil spill fallout, the City of Foley took a proactive stance. The focus was to not only get visitors to the city, but to make them return.

"Sports tourism was an economic driver," Hellmich told *Amusement Today*. "You get families and kids introduced to this area and it creates future fans."

Foley did not have sports facilities, although they did have the Tanger Outlets shopping center, which draws more than six million

people a year. Looking for a different avenue for tourism, Foley has now built the largest sports fields facility in the region. The OWA Resort is built adjacent to those fields and now offers teams and families something to do between and after games. In 2016 the OWA brand was created to revamp tourism interest in the area.

"This concept was not based on just a leap of faith. It was based on six different national firms that studied visitor patterns and what they are looking for, and what is missing," said Hellmich. "Eco-

nomic firms did a ton of studies for us as well. We also hired **PGAV Destinations** out of St. Louis. They've done our master planning and helped us develop this hospitality concept of a 'southern town.' You see these architectural details that are representative of southern culture. Our architects went out into the community and engaged all these local towns."

The amusement park portion of the resort, simply called **The Park at OWA**, is a sparkling facility stocked with 21 brand new rides. The entire ride package was supplied by **Zamperla**. The complement contains a range of thrills, ranging from small children's rides to high-profile extreme machines.

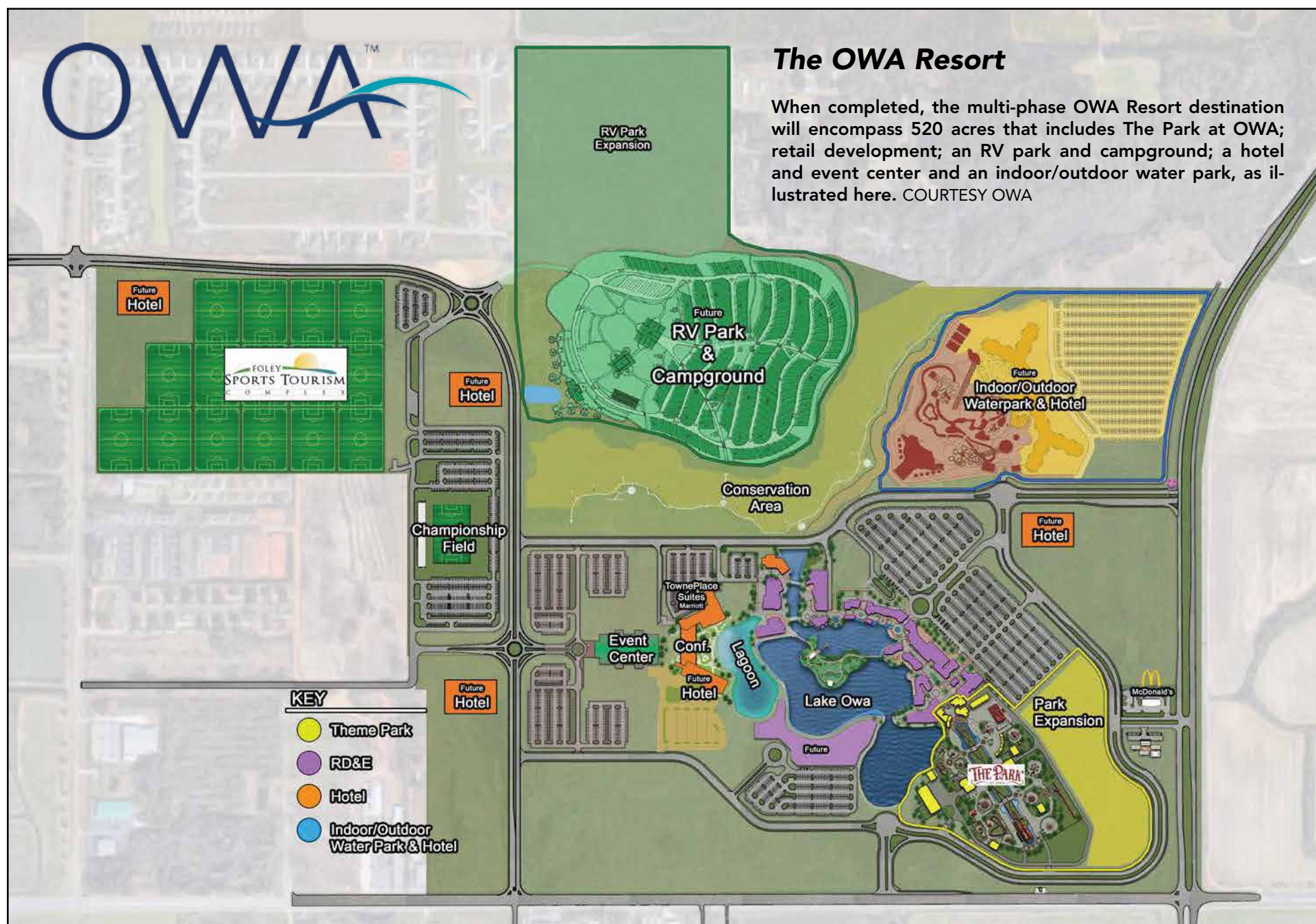
AT asked Zamperla if there is a learning curve to satisfying all the needs of such a project.

"This is the fifth park that we have completely supplied throughout the history of our company," said **Michael Coleman**, North American sales manager, Zamperla. "The one thing you learn is that something is going to happen. Whether it is the logistics of shipping hundreds of containers, weather delays or the local electric companies...there is always going to be something that comes up. It's just about how you react to it. You roll with it and develop an action plan."

"Zamperla has been a fabulous partner for us," said Hellmich. "It was extremely important for us to have the right mix of rides

► See OWA, page 3B





The OWA Resort

When completed, the multi-phase OWA Resort destination will encompass 520 acres that includes The Park at OWA; retail development; an RV park and campground; a hotel and event center and an indoor/outdoor water park, as illustrated here. COURTESY OWA

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians branch out with OWA

FOLEY, Ala. — The **Poarch Band of Creek Indians** are descendants of a segment of the original **Creek Nation**, which once covered almost all of Alabama

and Georgia. Members of the Tribe have lived together for almost 200 years in and around its reservation in Poarch, Alabama. The only federally recognized

Indian Tribe in the state of Alabama, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians is a sovereign nation with its own system of government and bylaws.

A vital force in the economy of Alabama, the Poarch Creek Tribal Government and its enterprises employ more than 3,500 residents in Alabama. The employers include three **Wind Creek Hospitality Resorts** (Wind Creek Casino & Hotel Atmore, Wind Creek Casino & Hotel Wetumpka and Wind Creek Montgomery) as well as **Muskogee Technology**, the **Muskogee Inn** located in Atmore, **TownePlace Suites** at Redstone Gateway in Huntsville, and a racetrack in Mobile.

"For every visitor, OWA will provide a top-notch experience," said **Tim Martin**, president of **Creek Indian Enterprises Development Authority**, the Tribe's business entity charged with



developing the property. He continued, "It is an added benefit that families who

come to Foley for sporting events will also have all of OWA's offerings available to them. We believe that this is a winning combination that will have families coming back to Alabama for years to come."

The OWA Resort is the Tribe's first venture into a family entertainment development.

—Tim Baldwin



At The Park at OWA's grand opening, members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians led the procession down the red carpet. AT/TIM BALDWIN

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►OWA

Continued from page 1B

here. Families are our primary audience, so we wanted to make sure we had something for teens all the way down to the youngest children to have ways of being entertained here."

"It was probably a two-year process in the ride selection," said Coleman. "Through a collaborative relationship, we listened to key words in what they were looking for. We decided together using our expertise and their vision to get a cohesive package. It wasn't just supplying an entire amusement park, but it also allows for an amusement park to grow."

The signature ride to the park is undoubtedly the Rollin' Thunder looping roller coaster that slices down the center of the park. As guests stroll the midways, they become engaged spectators as screaming thrill seekers are zipping above and around them.

"Early feedback we've heard back from third parties is that internal changes we've made to Rollin' Thunder, compared to the original built at **Coney Island**, help deliver a much smoother ride," said Coleman. "The one at Coney continues to be a success for us, but for this to be our second one in operation and take that big of a step is something we're really proud of."

Among the park's lineup of rides is a thought-out selection of groupings of thrill rides, family rides and children's rides. Seven thrill rides, eight family rides and six rides dedicated to younger ones fit the needs of any park goer. In addition to the high-profile Rollin' Thunder, the Park at OWA offers two other roller coasters, a spinning Crazy Mouse and a junior roller coaster called



Late-night hours allow visitation from athletes on the adjacent sports fields once daytime competition has been completed. Rocking chairs throughout the park exemplify hospitality.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

Southern Express.

The tallest ride on the property is Freedom Flyer, a 125-foot-tall swing ride that offers views of the entire park and resort. Another popular attraction is Wave Rider, one of Zamperla's Disk'O Coaster models with outward facing seating, which is one of the rarer installations at the park, as is the Alabama Wham'a, a Zamperla Endeavor.

"Our kiddie rides for a long time have been our bread and butter, but the thrill rides we're putting out — the Air Race, the Endeavor, the Discovery — are ones we have been able to inject into the market in the past couple of years and provide a value buy for the customer and an excellent end result for the consumer at the park," said Coleman.

"Everyone in the entire Tribe, and even those not on the council, were all educated on the project," said Coleman. "They did their due diligence, but took the time to do field research and go out and find what makes our industry tick before they dove into it. They have

their other outside businesses, but this was their first foray into family entertainment and this lets them say to the State of Alabama 'Gaming isn't just what we're about. We're a family entertainment company.' They were a dream to work with and went above and beyond."

Upon entrance to the park, a front fountain stands as a centerpiece with Rollin Thunder's turnaround towering above. To the right is stroller rentals, and on the left is the park's gift shop, accented with photos of nostalgic rides from various traditional parks. With the larger thrills down the left side of the midway, the right side clusters more of the family and children's rides. Each avenue offers dining options, with the shaded Veranda Restaurant and Shady Arbor Restaurant. Various snack carts populate the facility as well, along with midway games.

Each of the rides is accented by creative signage. The concept art was designed by PGAV Destinations, and the implementation of the designs were realized by us-



ing two companies: The **Solomon Group** out of New Orleans and locally in Gulf Shores by **Modern Signs**.

In the search for a management team, OWA reached out to **ProFun Management Group** (Tustin, Calif.). ProFun provided the general manager, **Steve Honeycutt**, and oversees the management of The Park at OWA. The company was selected after a search after reviewing several companies. Today, the park has approximately 125 full-time employees, which include OWA Resort staff. As for seasonal staffing, 1,400 people applied for 400 seasonal positions. Hellmich smiled that The Park did not conduct interviews, but "held auditions." Auditions were two hours long and were held in an *American Idol* format. "It's very high energy." An accessor looked at four different modules: team building, leadership qualities, problem solving skills and critical thinking skills.

"We thought after the summer season that we would have to reduce staff," said Hellmich, "but after Labor Day we continued to have events at the park each weekend and off property, so we were able to utilize staff. Several people have stayed on longer than they originally planned."

While a wide-open dirt field just one year ago, The Park at OWA now boasts a landscaped setting that gives a true feel of a park, which will only grow and fill in with time. Plentiful benches and hospitable rocking chairs are spread throughout.

The Foley Beach Express extends to Interstate-10 and visitors get to the beach much more quickly. This recently developed motorway goes directly by OWA. Hellmich reported that the City of Foley invested \$40 million into the development of the sports fields, roadways and a trolley system that serves the complex. Likewise, the State of Alabama invested \$16 million into the road. "This is a true public/private partnership in all senses," she said.

"Our admission prices are very competitive to what's in the

market along the Gulf Coast," said Hellmich. Regular tickets are \$34.99, but senior, junior and military tickets are \$27.99.

Management officials report that the park is built to hold about 3,200 people at a time and project an attendance of about 6,500 per operating day. The length of stay for the Park at OWA is predicted to be about four hours.

The Park at OWA also has late hours for a facility its size. This makes for visitor opportunities once sundown concludes activities on the fields and on the beach.

In a year filled with headlines about one hurricane following another, management confirmed to AT that everything at the resort is built to withstand up to 150 mph winds.

"We had to take coastal wind loads into consideration," said Coleman. "Every ride that went in there had to be reconfigured to allow for [high winds]."

In August, the park was surprised with the Alabama Top Entertainment Attraction award. After one month of operation, the tourism award was acknowledged. "It isn't just given out free-handedly; it's a very prestigious award, so we were very honored," said Hellmich.

When asked if there has been a learning curve, Hellmich stated: "We knew heat was going to be a huge factor, but our budget year rolls over in October, so we are already looking at things to minimize the heat — misting stations, shaded benches — that's something we are working on so by the time we open for peak season again next March, those adjustments will have been made. We knew heat would be an issue, but didn't realize the impact it would have on how long the guests would stay in the park. And we're asking our guests what next attractions to add. We do a lot of guest surveys. We want to customize the park to what the guests want."

Customer surveys have indicated they like what they see. For its first short season, The Park at OWA scored a 97 on its guest satisfaction surveys, which has delighted park management. "We're ecstatic," said Hellmich. "That's fantastic for us; 94 percent of those folks are likely to return."

The Park at OWA and the entire resort itself has taken its first steps. Grand ambitions and carefully considered plans are on the horizon, backed by developers whose commitment to seeing things through is renowned. First-year visitors who return in a few years could easily be amazed at what transpired in that short time.

"The OWA Resort was the second-largest investment dollars in the state, and we are the largest development for job creation in the state for 2016 and 2017," said Hellmich. "That is major."



Rollin' Thunder's 2,234 feet of serpentine track takes riders upside down three times. Positioned down the center of the midway, this Zamperla coaster is the park's signature, and most visible, ride. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Happy Haulers



Leap Frog



Rockin' Raft



Alabama Wham!
courtesy OWA



Crazy Mouse



Air Racer



Flying Carousel
courtesy OWA



Tea Time



Rollin' Thunder



Wave Rider

Zamperla 21 at OWA...



Twister



Flying Tigers



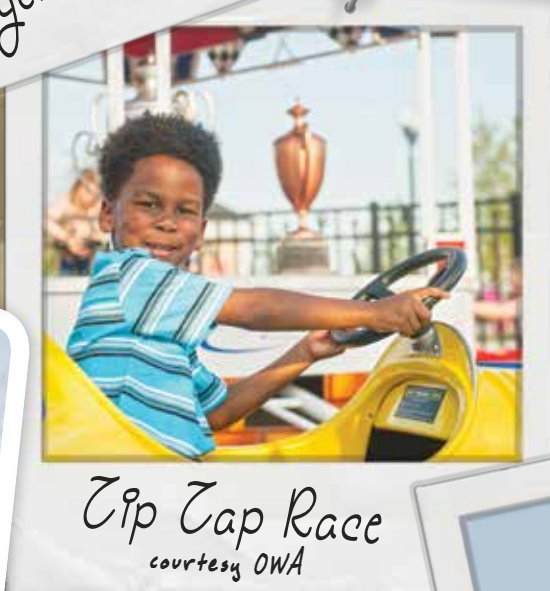
Southern Express



Swingin' Fun



AeroZoom



Zip Zap Race
courtesy OWA



Gully Washer



Flying Aces



Freedom Flyer



Flutter By



Sky Balloons

All photos by AT/Tim Baldwin unless noted

Future planned phases of the OWA project begin to emerge

FOLEY, Ala. — Following the debut of The Park at OWA, the 150-room **Marriott TownePlace Suites** opened on property. It is the resort's first lodging, but won't be the last.

"Our studies show we can hold up to six hotels on this property," said **Kristin Hellmich**, marketing, **OWA**. "We will soon start on our second hotel, which will be 250 rooms and have a conference center."

The Marriott TownePlace is a prototype that allows the interior to match the theme and architecture of the **Warehouse District**, one of the resort's retail and dining areas.

Near the entrance to The Park at OWA is the Downtown District. In time, it will fill with dining and retail options. The first tenant is **Groovy Goat**, which opened October 6, along with an arcade in the District.

Groovy Goat is the latest from successful restaurateur **Andrew Gross**, who operated 10 **Buffalo Wild Wings** locations in Central Florida. Groovy Goat intends to provide something for everyone — great food, great drinks, great games and great sports. With nearly two dozen 80-inch monitors and a 26-foot featured game screen, a high-caliber menu and more than 40 arcade

The District at OWA...



A clock tower (right) and Southern architecture convey a sense of welcome to the retail and dining district at the OWA Resort. AT/TIM BALDWIN



FAST FACTS

Name/Location

The Park at OWA,
10113 Foley Beach Express • Foley, Ala. 36535
Phone: (251) 923-2111 • Web: visitowa.com

Ownership/Staff

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians/
Steve Honeycutt, park general manager

Opening Date

July 21, 2017

Size

14 acres for the park, out of 520 acres being developed as a master-planned resort destination

Admission

\$34.99 regular; \$27.99 junior, senior and military

Rides

21, all supplied by Zamperla including:
Jumpin' Star; Mini Jet; Convoy; Magic Bikes;
Super Happy Swing; Zip Zap Race; WindstarZ;
Jump Around; Midi Tea Cup; Rockin' Tug
Samba Tower; Flying Tigers; Family Gravity Coaster
Discovery Revolution 16; Endeavor
Vertical Swing; Air Race 6.4; Wave Carousel
Disk'O Coaster 24; Twister Coaster and Thunderbolt

Other areas

Midway games, gift shop, two restaurants,
stroller rentals and snack carts

Other Supporting Suppliers

Gateway Ticketing, PGAV Destinations, Coke/ICEE
ProFun Management, Solomon Group, Modern Sign

Other resort Areas Completed

TownePlace suites by Marriott,
16-field sports complex, dining outlets, events center

Other Resort Areas Being Developed

Entertainment district featuring more retail and dining,
conference center, second hotel, 14-acre lake with
boat rentals plus island amphitheater

Future Developments

Water park, luxury RV resort, additional hotels,
resort level condominium and trolley system

games, Groovy Goat is a sport and entertainment restaurant that caters to several interests within a family.

Groovy Goat is the newest concept from **Sunshine Ventures**, an Orlando-based restaurant company, which held the development agreement for Buffalo Wild Wings in Central Florida among several other concepts. Several of his restaurants were in the tourism corridor, including two near the entrances to **Walt Disney World**.

"This area of Alabama has started a tourism renaissance and we're excited to bring to fruition a concept sports fans, families and nearly anyone will find appealing," says Andrew Gross, CEO, Sunshine Ventures. "What the **Poarch Band of Creek Indians** is building will be a true destination for the entire southeast and we believe a concept like Groovy Goat will become an iconic part of this growth."

The menu has new twists as well. For instance, "Tablesides Nachos Your Way" is a new food experience where guests' nachos orders are custom made at their table. Groovy Goat's wings are grilled over a wood fire. There is even a selection of "All-day Hangover" items, where twists on breakfast are served throughout the day.

The 6,000-square foot **Wahlburgers**, the largest in the U.S., also opened in October, along with a **Hershey Ice Cream Shoppe** with a 1950s feel. Six to eight tenants were expected to open in the fall.

"Our Downtown District and Warehouse District are



The first-of-its-kind Groovy Goat restaurant was the initial tenant in the retail/dining district, opening in early October. COURTESY OWA



very reminiscent of what those towns looked like 50 or a hundred years ago," said Hellmich. The theming details on this property are elevated even though it is smaller than some locations that have shopping and dining involved."

Within the 14-acre lake that helps give the resort its name stands an island. As the resort project developed, it was determined the island held more valuable opportunities and a

400-seat amphitheater was built. Corporate events, weddings, concerts and sport opening and closing ceremonies can take place there. There are also boat rentals available on the island, which is an activity that is not common to the area.

A ticket to The Park at OWA is not required to dine and shop at the Downtown District. Also, there is no charge for parking at any of the OWA facilities.

—Tim Baldwin

The Signs at OWA ...



Clever and attractive signage designed by PGAV Destinations give each ride its own character, as illustrated here. AT/TIM BALDWIN

OWA's Town of Terror opened in collaboration with Nightmare Chambers

FOLEY, Ala. — Recently chosen as Alabama's top entertainment attraction, **OWA** collaborated with one of the state's top-rated haunted houses, **Fairhope's Nightmare Chambers**, to create a new Halloween destination: OWA's Town of Terror.

"For more than 10 years, Nightmare Chambers has consistently ranked as one of Alabama's best haunted houses proving they are a natural fit to align their expertise in developing OWA's Town of Terror," said **Greg Rawls**, director of business development for OWA's parent company **Creek Indian Enterprises**. "This is just the start of our planned Halloween program. Over the next couple of years, we will continue to add multiple haunted attractions and even more Halloween activities. OWA will become a must-visit fall destination for fall family fun."

"We brought in a third party operator to do the 10,000-square-foot haunted house," said **Kristen Hellmich**, marketing, OWA. "It really helped generate



Halloween atmosphere, as well as the upcoming Christmas season, help keep The Park at OWA fresh. AT/TIM BALDWIN

traffic and interest in the park when the summer visitors left and we were more dependent on locals. Because we own the **Gateway Ticketing System**, it was easy to work with the third party and to do combination pricing."

In addition to the region's largest haunted house just outside the gates, inside the park, other family activities included trick-or-treating and scavenger hunts.

OWA's Town of Terror officially opened October 6. Creating extended weekends, general operating hours for the haunted at-

traction were Fridays-Saturdays from 6 p.m.-midnight, Thursdays and Sundays from 6-9 p.m.

November happenings begin with a Christmas tree lighting on November 26 with a 38-foot-tall tree placed in the Downtown District. As expected, The Park will be decorated as well as the District. Activities inside the park will include carolers and visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus which will also transition to the hotel with stories being read by Mrs. Claus to children staying on property.

—Tim Baldwin

THE PARK AT OWA ...

OWA contracts ProFun Management to oversee operations of The Park

FOLEY, Ala. — **ProFun Management** was formed in 1999. It first teamed up with Volkswagen to provide full time pre-opening and operational support to the automaker's innovative \$500 million Autostadt brand land in Wolfsburg, Germany. Autostadt opened to great fanfare in 2000, and was awarded the prestigious THEA Award from the **Themed Entertainment Association** for Outstanding Achievement in the Corporate Land category.

Since then the company grew steadily, working on notable projects all over the world. From **uShaka Marine World** in Durban, South Africa, to **Ferrari World** in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates to **Happyland Theme Park** in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, ProFun's projects span across many different time zones and continents.

After an RFP search, OWA enlisted ProFun to oversee the management operations at The Park at OWA.

ProFun Management Group, Inc. is an independent, privately held corporation based in Tustin, Calif., with international staff and project teams around the world.

PGAV Destinations provides OWA with artist concepts, signage design and more

FOLEY, Ala. — Founded in 1965 and based in St. Louis, **PGAV Destinations** was utilized for thematic design and artistic creativity for **The Park at OWA**.

The company team considers itself as sculptors, designers, architects, artists, and strategists devoted to something bigger than experiences alone.

Clients include the **Biltmore Companies**, **National Geographic**, **SeaWorld Entertainment**, **Delaware North**, **Bass Pro Shops**, the **Gettysburg Foundation**, the **Georgia Aquarium**, and many others. Recent assignments include planning and design at many of the world's must-see destinations, including the **Grand Canyon**, the **Pyramids of Giza**, the **Biltmore Estate**, **Busch Gardens**, **Discovery Cove**, **Niagara Falls**, **Kennedy Space Center**, and **PortAventura**.

The company has projects in 35 states and five continents. On two occasions, it has designed the world's largest aquarium and has created seven theme parks from the ground up.

OWA selects Gateway Ticketing Systems as its entertainment software provider

FOLEY, Ala. — **The Park at Owa** awarded its bid for a full-service entertainment software solution to **Gateway Ticketing Systems** of Gilbertsville, Pa. Gateway provides its Galaxy point-of-sale software solution and associated hardware to the resort destination theme park.

The full suite of Galaxy solutions provides all onsite and online ticket sales for the park, boat rentals and event operations; group and reseller sales; access control; retail operations; event management; food and beverage sales; inventory management and customer relationship management.

"When The Park at OWA opens later this summer, it will offer guests a true destination experience," said **Steve Bell**, Business Solutions Architect at Gateway Ticketing Systems when the contract was awarded. "Working with the Owa team since the beginning of this adventure has been a great pleasure. We're able to provide them with not only the technology they need to deliver on their vision of the guest experience, but also to share with them our experiences with other destination attractions to help add value to their offering."

"We've been very pleased with our interaction with Gateway," said **Kristin Hellmich**, marketing, OWA. "It has helped us out with the online ticketing. It's been a great experience with our guests."

Bell added, "As an annual visitor to the Gulf Shores region, I'm looking forward to sharing this exciting new experience with my friends and family."



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Mega-mall developer's projects aim for 'best of everything'

Triple Five's Don Ghermezian dreams, innovates and builds big

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

NEW YORK, N.Y. — With the promise of the Manhattan skyline as a backdrop, the decade-plus-old East Rutherford, N.J., construction site that by early 2019 will be home to American Dream — a sprawling destination retail-entertainment center — hummed back to vigorous life last summer.

The renewed activity accompanied an announcement in June that Triple Five Worldwide, the multifaceted real estate development group based in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, that created West Edmonton Mall and Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn., completed \$2.77 billion in construction financing through the sale of \$1.1 billion in bonds.



That news marked the culmination of several years of ceaseless effort by Don Ghermezian, president of Triple Five, which his family founded in 1972 and still manages together. But it represents just one of several major hurdles he's cleared to realize what for him and his extended clan — and, he hopes, for the New York / New Jersey metro area — truly is a dream.

The project, located on state-owned land in the Meadowlands Sports Complex and known as Meadowlands Xanadu before Triple Five took over it in 2011, wields impressive stats: Three million square feet. Some 23,000 permanent jobs. Acres of theme park rides and waterslides in addition to more than 450 stores. A projected 40 million visitors annually.

Triple Five pioneered the highly experiential "retailtainment" template for American Dream 36 years ago with West Edmonton Mall. Mall of America, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, is the largest integrated indoor amusement and shopping complex in the U.S. Expansions are in the works at both.

As of August, American



Dream was about 80 percent leased, and planning approvals also were well underway for the 225-acre American Dream Miami, which will be Triple Five's fourth destination mega-mall in North America. "It's still several years out, but there's a lot of demand for the Florida project," Ghermezian told *Amusement Today*. "We're happy with the progress we're making there."

For now, it's all about New Jersey for the executive, who spared a few moments to share his enthusiasm for American Dream and his family's business traditions.

Where does your sense of retailtainment "showmanship" come from?

It comes from the top down. When my father and his three brothers came to North America [from Iran] some 50 years ago, they were visionaries. They didn't leave their families to come here to do anything small. They wanted to be able to create memorable projects, and that's what they've done.

And that's how we were raised. When you'd come to the office every day and see the level at which they were operating and the things they were trying to pull off — the world's largest shopping mall, the world's largest indoor water park — those are monumental tasks. And to grow up in an environment where you're watching that type of thing, it sinks in, and you sort of gravitate toward it.

How complicated an undertaking has American Dream been?



When the opportunity came to do American Dream — I guess the name says it all! — in this market, it was not one we were prepared to pass by. It's a generational, once-in-a-lifetime type of opportunity to have a location and a project of this magnitude. We jumped all over it.

With American Dream, prior to our involvement, the timing was off. It was almost 80 percent built and almost 80 percent leased [by former project owner Mills Corp.] when the capital market collapsed in 2008-09, and some of the lenders went bankrupt. If not for that, it likely would have opened successfully.

In terms of the complexities, they are, quite frankly, enormous. The consensus out there was this project was crazy, but everybody believed that if it could be pulled off, it could very well be the most successful retail-entertainment center in the world, given its location. The reason we were able to do it is because we've done it before. Mall of America is one of the most successful centers in

the world, generating between 35-40 million visitors a year. And West Edmonton Mall is one of the top ten-grossing centers in North America when there's only about a million people who live in Edmonton; it generates that much tourism for the city.

We spent almost two years just conceiving of what American Dream needed to be in order to succeed in this market. Once we had a vision, we started speaking to various brands and retailers — and they jumped on pretty quickly.

How did you determine which amusements should be added to the mix?

I take my kids all around the world, and I tell them to go to every single attraction. The ones they like the best, and the ones I like the best, are the ones we generally go after. It's not rocket science but it has always worked for us. [laughs]

We're a privately owned company. When we first set out to build West Edmonton Mall and Mall of America, my father and his three brothers took all of us around the world — rid-

Don Ghermezian, president of Triple Five Worldwide (left), and his family are constructing American Dream (above), a destination retail-entertainment center in northern New Jersey. An indoor Nickelodeon theme park, a 285-foot-tall Ferris wheel and 450-plus stores are part of the project's three million square feet. COURTESY TRIPLE FIVE WORLDWIDE

ing rides and experiencing experiences. The attractions we thought were the best were the ones we tried to bring into our centers.

It's about bringing multiple concepts together. And because of the market you're in, you've got to be top-in-class of everything. It's got to be the best theme park, the best water park, the best indoor ski hill. And you have to combine it with the best retail.

When they think about doing entertainment, other developers add restaurants, movie theaters, bowling alleys, arcades. American Dream will have those things, but I don't include them on the list of 14 major entertainment components it will have.

American Dream will be between 52 to 55 percent entertainment and the balance retail. We have so much demand for both the retail and entertainment space that I'm actually turning away entertainment concepts. I'm able to be very particular about who I do a deal with.

► See TRIPLE 5, page 47

►TRIPLE 5

Continued from page 46

You've announced partnerships with DreamWorks, Merlin Entertainments and other major companies for American Dream. How do you decide which brands and IPs are best for your properties?

We want to be associated with top-tier brands. Nickelodeon, for example, was a no-brainer for us; they're phenomenal to work with. They have a great relationship with Mall of America, so when the opportunity arose for a Nickelodeon Universe theme park in our New Jersey project, we went after them.

The DreamWorks indoor water park concept was something we sort of created. When I approached [DreamWorks cofounder] Jeffrey Katzenberg with the idea, he liked it. And we negotiated a deal very quickly because he appreciated the world-class stage we would put his brand on here in the New York/New Jersey market. And we have water park experience, obviously, at West Edmonton Mall, which has one of the top indoor water parks in the world.

What we've tried to do is think about what brands can we bring to this market. Merlin doesn't have a Sea Life aquarium here. KidZania doesn't have a single family entertainment center in North America. Same with a DreamWorks-branded water park. Those environments and attractions don't exist in Manhattan or Brooklyn or Queens or the Bronx. We wanted concepts that would compel New Yorkers and tourists to come to us in New Jersey.

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That's exactly what we want this center to become. We want it to be everything to everybody. And we've been very successful in putting together the right pieces so that it can become that. A lot of it is based on our experience with Mall of America and West Edmonton Mall.

Are you reserving space for some of the newer amusement technologies, such as virtual reality (VR)?

Aside from the entertainment concepts we've announced for our American Dream projects in New Jersey and Miami, there are multiple concepts we're creating with various entities — whether with Hollywood movie studios



American's Dream's DreamWorks Water Park (above) will occupy more than 225,000 square feet and feature the Hollywood studio's characters. The 16-story Big Snow America indoor ski and snow park (below and right) will cover 180,000 square feet and allow for near-schuss-in shopping as well as downhill thrills.

COURTESY TRIPLE FIVE WORLDWIDE



or VR companies from different parts of the world. And if there are unique ideas we've got in our minds, we've worked on creating those concepts, as well.

Our VR concept, we think, will be unrivaled. I have gone through just about every VR experience there is, and I've become incredibly selective as to the partner we'll bring in. With so many concepts and developers out there, finding the best of the best is not easy. But this is where the world is headed, and

VR will be a very strong focal point of American Dream.

Has the migration of retail toward the internet impacted your business model?

Not as much as I imagine it's impacted other [mall] developers. Our two existing centers are between 15 to 20 percent entertainment and 80 percent retail. A lot of the entertainment concepts we have in both are powerful enough to draw customers, and our experience has been that they end

up shopping.

With online shopping and how it impacts centers, it's a lot easier to buy shoes or clothing when you're sitting at home. But what makes us unique is that you can't go to a water park or a theme park online. You can't go to a Cirque du Soleil show online, or a ski hill or an ice rink or an aquarium.

So we haven't been affected, really. We've got enough good deals in the waiting; if a tenant goes bankrupt country-

wide, we're able to replace that tenant in short order.

On the development side, is your project commitment and focus ever tested by community impatience, media criticism or political pressure?

Not in the least. When we set out to build American Dream, we, as a family, had a vision of what it needed to be in order to succeed as the next generation of retail and entertainment. This caliber of project doesn't exist anywhere in the world. We took our time to make sure we did everything right.

We knew there would be naysayers, negative publicity and bad articles, but we are full of conviction. People are just afraid of the competition, and how much of a game-changing project this will be to the retail landscape of North America. As long as I was able to sign deals, quietly, behind the scenes, I knew I'd one day come to a point where the project was 80 percent leased and all financing was in place.

How supportive have the local and state governments been with American Dream?

Both have been extremely supportive, as has the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority [NJSEA] and everybody we've dealt with. Once they understood exactly what it was that we were working to bring to New Jersey, the support levels from the governor on down were right where we needed them.

We thank NJSEA, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and East Rutherford for their assistance in the bond sale.

How does being a family-founded business inform your operations and extensive global philanthropy?

We're Orthodox Jewish. Most important for us is our religion and our family values, so everything emanates from there. We've got a very strong moral compass; everything we do is at the highest level, the highest moral caliber.

We do all that we can to work with our partners and tenants, regardless of the position they are in or we are in. You'd be hard-pressed to find anybody out there that will tell you that, when they dealt with the Ghermezian family, they had anything other than a really great relationship and experience. That's very important to us.

•triplefive.com

Attendances for late season fairs a mixed bag

AT: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

NORTH AMERICA — Late season fairs report a mix of ups and downs as far as attendances, as *Amusement Today* continues with its fair roundup.

Washington State Fair
Puyallup, Wash.
2017 dates: Sept. 1-24, 2017
2017 attendance:
approximately 1.1 million
2016 attendance: 1.1 million
2017 midway:
Funtastic Traveling Shows
2018 dates: Aug. 31-Sept. 23

Fair officials were pleased with the attendance at this year's Washington State Fair. Attendance was on par with 2016's total, drawing about 1.1 million visitors this year, the same as last year.

Highlights this year included: Animals of the World, End Zone Sports Bar, Ford F-150 Drive the Future of Tough, Friday Fireworks Spectaculars, Northwest Outdoors, Piglet Palace, and new this year was the Giant Insect Adventure.

There was a variety of strolling entertainment and musical performances.

Funtastic Traveling Shows provides the midway at the fair. The carnival brought in close to 70 rides.

The carnival also utilizes the Funcard System, a cash card system first developed in 2000 by Funtastic Traveling Shows. The system has been in use by Funtastic since then and has been further developed over time. Sold exclusively through Amusement Consulting Services, Inc., the Funcard is in more than 120 different venues across the country.

And, of course, there is always an array available. New food items this year were a new ice cream created by Fisher scone and a raspberry scone ale created by Puyallup River Brewing. A new concession called Puyallup Pro featured gluten-free food.

A first for the fair was a food stand that sold insects: scorpions, Chile-roasted grasshoppers, and BBQ crickets. The stand also featured exotic kangaroo sausage.

Approximately 100 contests and competitions were presented ranging from fine arts, photography, food and



The Washington State Fair, Puyallup, Sept. 1-24, drew about 1.1 million fairgoers this year. Funtastic Traveling Shows provides the midway. COURTESY BOB NOBLE MEDIA

knitting.

The agricultural and livestock competitions were also successful.

Great Allentown Fair
Allentown, Pa.

2017 dates: Aug. 29-Sept. 4
2017 attendance: 303,000
2016 attendance: 394,000
2017 midway provider: Powers Great American Midways
2018 dates: Aug. 28-Sept. 2

The 2017 Great Allentown Fair saw many successes despite challenges from the remnants of Hurricane Harvey that brought attendance down.

During the 2017 event, fair officials planned celebrations for the 165th anniversary of its founding. In addition, the fair commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the years 1917-1919 when the fair ceased operation to turn the Allentown Fairgrounds into a World War I training facility for the U.S. Army Ambulance Service.

Overall attendance was 303,000, down 23 percent from the 2016 total. Overall grandstand show attendance was 39,777, which was up 12 percent from 2016, a bright spot for the event.

The fair's theme was "The Pick Of The Season."

A new show this year was *America's Got Talent* season six quarter-finalist Dan Mink: the Rhinestone Roper. Mink gave three shows per day which featured horse stunts, roping tricks, knife throwing, and more.

This year's fairgoers also saw the return of the Nerveless Nocks who performed thrill acts such as the dual Sway Poe, Wheel of Destiny, and Wheel of Steel motor

dome.

Other ground acts included The Marvelous Mutts, Robinson's Racing Pigs and Paddling Porkers, Scott's Future of Magic, and New Odyssey featuring "3 guys, 30 instruments."

Powers' Great American Midways provided the carnival rides, food, and games for the fair.

Competitive exhibit participation rose 22 percent this year over last, with 8,450 items on display to be judged. There were a total of 950 animals exhibited.

Sales at the livestock auction were up 19 percent of 2016.

Food is a large part of the Great Allentown Fair. The fair features a Farm to Table series of chef demonstrations and culinary tips. Offered this year were Grain to Glass presentations from local distillers, giving fairgoers the chance to observe the distilling process.

Alaska State Fair
Palmer, Alaska

2017 dates: Aug. 24-Sept. 4
2017 attendance:
Approximately 280,000
2016 attendance: 293,424
2017 midway provider:
Golden Wheel Amusements
2018 dates: Aug. 23-Sept. 3

While estimated and paid attendance were down 3.59 percent and 2.75 percent, respectively, from 2016, Alaska State Fair officials reported a successful fair.

Sales of advance admission tickets, which offered discounts up to 30 percent, were up by 5.5 percent. Attendance on \$2 Buck Thursday, when admission was just \$2 between noon and 2 p.m., was up 29

FAIR ROUNDUP

percent.

For the second year in a row, a record amount was raised at the 4-H Junior Market Livestock Auction. The auction set a record last year, bringing in a total of \$214,312.50. Supporters helped set another record this year, when 94 livestock animals were auctioned for a total of \$221,000.

Golden Wheel Amusements provided the midway with about 35 rides.

Nebraska State Fair
Grand Island, Neb.

2017 dates: Aug. 25-Sept. 4
2017 attendance: 379,108
2016 attendance: 361,107
2017 midway provider: Wade Shows
2018 dates: Aug. 24-Sept. 3

The Nebraska State Fair's 2017 attendance reached 379,108, which was 4.98 percent over last year totaling just over 18,000 additional fairgoers. The number is the highest since the fair moved to Grand Island in 2010 and even exceeds the 2009 figure in Lincoln when folks said goodbye to the old fairgrounds.

State Fair Executive Director Joseph McDermott said, "This number is just 10,000 folks shy of the all time high of 389,171 set in 1997. This is as much a positive endorsement as you'll find. We knew we were running steady in attendance, but it's always great to get the final figures and to know we chalked up some very high numbers. This brings our eight-year total to 2,415,137."

Chris Kircher, fair board chair, added: "This exemplifies what a great job the state

fair staff does in preparing, planning and executing Nebraska's largest entertainment event each year. With this one under our belts, we can get started planning for the 2018 event."

Musical entertainment performances drew big crowds this year as did grounds entertainment, as well as the midway, which was provided by Wade Shows. There were over 40 rides and attractions on the midway.

South Dakota State Fair,
Huron, S.D.

2017 dates: Aug. 31-Sept. 4
2017 attendance: 211,843
2016 attendance: 211,371
2017 midway provider: Gold-Star Amusements
2018 dates: Aug. 30-Sept. 4

The 2017 South Dakota State Fair saw increased numbers with 211,843 attending the five-day event. Attendance was up slightly from last year and the highest number on record since 1996, when the fair was seven days long.

"I credit the rise to not only increased camping numbers and a solid grandstand lineup, but also the fact that we had a well-rounded fair that made South Dakotans want to come take in a day or two," said Peggy Besch, fair manager. "Plus, our exhibitor numbers were strong. It's exciting to see shoulder-to-shoulder crowds during the fair. We are proud of the fact that we had a strong fair and were able to post increases in various areas."

The South Dakota State Fair hosted 1,955 campers, resulting in an increase in camp-

► See FAIRS, page 50



GoldStar Amusements provided the midway for the 2017 South Dakota State Fair, Huron. The fair posted a slight attendance increase. The carnival's revenue was up over 2016 by 4.7 percent. COURTESY SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR

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Eastern States receives Veterans Outreach Excellence Award

John P. Collins, director of the Veterans Administration (VA) Central Western Mass. Healthcare System, U.S. Army Colonel retired, (right) presented Eastern States Exposition with the VA "I Care" award for exceptional support of Veterans' outreach efforts. This marks the first time it has been bestowed upon a community organization. In another first, Collins also presented the Exposition with an Outreach Excellence Award for exceptional demonstration of advocacy for Veterans in New England. ESE President and CEO, Gene Cassidy, accepted the awards on behalf of the Exposition during the annual Big E Military Appreciation Day. Opening Day at The Big E is the largest Veteran event in the nation, with outreach benefiting more than 2,000 Veterans. COURTESY THE BIG E



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► FAIRS Continued from page 48

ing revenue by 6.6 percent.

Other increases included a 20 percent increase in grandstand tickets sold and a 25 percent increase in grandstand ticket revenue.

GoldStar Amusements provided the midway for the fair. Its revenue was up by 4.7 percent.

Total revenue for the South Dakota State Fair was up by over \$200,000.

Youth participation at the South Dakota State Fair increased as 4-H static exhibits were up by 6.4 percent, 4-H livestock exhibits were up 2.8 percent and FFA entries were up 3.7 percent.

Kern County Fair Bakersfield, Calif.

2017 dates: Sept. 20-Oct. 1

2017 attendance: 448,033

2016 attendance: 419,688

2017 midway provider:

Butler Amusements

2018 dates: Sept. 19-30

The 2017 Kern County Fair has broken its own attendance record.

The final count on the number of fairgoers who came through the gates this year is 448,033, up 6.75 percent over last year's 419,688 attendees.

Michael Olcott, CEO of the 15th District Agricultural Association, which is responsible for administering the Kern County Fairgrounds, credited great weather this year for the healthy turnout.

"A lot depends on the weather," he said. "We really had good weather, with most days in the 80s or low-90s."

The strength of the local economy can also affect attendance, he said. The recession years following the housing crash caused a multi-year dip in total attendance, he said.

Last year's 100th anniversary fair also showed record-breaking results, with 14,000 more attendees than the previous year.

Kern County has a large number of livestock exhibited, and Kern's 4-H and FFA programs are very active, which doesn't hurt attendance.

Butler Amusements provided the midway this year with close to 57 rides and attractions. New rides included the Super Shot Drop Tower manufactured by A.R.M. and the Alien Invasion manufactured by Wisdom Rides.



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Avenue of States as seen at the 2017 version of The Big E. The annual exposition smashed its all-time attendance record with 1,525,553 visitors passing through the gates during the 17-day run. COURTESY NEAAPA/RON GUSTAFSON

Attendance mark smashed at The Big E

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The Big E (Eastern States Exposition) smashed its all-time attendance record as 1,525,553 passed through the gates during the 17-day fair here Sept. 15 – Oct. 1.

"I am humbled to see the incredible support of Eastern States Exposition by our loyal fair patrons. The 2017, 101st edition of The Big E broke records again, recording for the first time in history over 1.5 million guests," said Eugene J. Cassidy, president and chief executive officer of the fair.

"Patrons of New England's Great State Fair braved days of punishing temperatures that pushed the heat index to above 100 degrees, they endured a 55-degree drop in temperature accompanied by rain, and yet they came in great numbers to participate in, enjoy and support this organization and all it stands for," he added.

The previous attendance mark of 1,498,605 was set in 2014. In addition, the Sunday, Oct. 1 attendance of 137,208 was also a new record for the final day of the exposition.

A single day attendance record was also set on Sept. 23 when 171,879 guests passed through the turnstiles. Other daily attendance marks broken were: Sept. 21, 85,019; Sept. 28, 89,905; and Sept. 29, 109,871.

Great entertainment

Fairgoers were treated to some outstanding ticketed and free entertainment at the xfinity arena which included Cole Swindell, for King & Country, Grand Funk Railroad, Smash Mouth, Cam, Night Ranger and the TwinE Country Fest.

The Court of Honor Stage in the heart of the fairgrounds, sponsored by xfinity, included classic bands such as Vintage Trouble, Village People, Ten Years After,

the Lovin' Spoonful and The Red Hot Chili Peppers.

In addition, *American Idol* winner Nick Fradiani, with Carly & Martina and the White Hut Cheeseburg Eating Contest also took the stage. The Machine Performs Pink Floyd was the final performance on Oct. 1.

Other daily entertainment included Camel Kingdom, Mardi Gras and Daily parades, The Big E Circus Spectacular, Hilby, the Skinny German Juggle Boy, a variety of car shows, and the Collector Car Experience featuring Mike Brewer and Wayne Carini.

Traditions abound

Fairgoers also enjoyed the traditional Avenue of States where each New England state is represented with a variety of displays and food in respective buildings.

Storowton Village Museum offered tours of its 19th century buildings, staffed with villagers in authentic dress of the era and presenting historic demonstrations on the village green.

More than 40 rides were provided by North American Midway Entertainment on The Big E Midway.

About The Big E

Founded in 1916, The Big E is America's only multi-state fair celebrating the rich history, culture and traditions of the six New England states. As the principal event of Eastern States Exposition, The Big E has presented the finest livestock; agriculture; innovative commercial, industrial, and artistic developments; and the highest caliber of varied entertainment to the people of the northeastern United States for more than a century.

The Big E annually draws more than 1 million visitors through its gates in West Springfield, Mass., and the 17-day event has grown to become the largest fair in the Northeast. The 2018 edition of the fair is slated for Sept. 14-30.

—Ron Gustafson



MIDWAYLIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Judge Tonya Parker of the 116th District Court in Dallas, Texas, has dismissed a lawsuit brought against the **State Fair of Texas** by the Austin law firm **Riggs & Ray, P.C.**, which appeared to be acting to further the political agenda of a party that does not want the **State Fair at Fair Park** in Dallas, according to information released by the fair.

The lawsuit alleged that the State Fair is a "governmental body" subject to the Texas Public Information Act. In fact, the State Fair of Texas is a private Texas nonprofit corporation granted tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is not supported by any governmental money.

Judge Parker dismissed the lawsuit under the Texas Citizens Participation Act (Texas' "Anti-SLAPP" law) concluding that the fair is not a governmental body and awarded the State Fair attorney's fees, expenses and sanctions totaling \$298,206.59.

The State Fair asked the judge to order that the \$30,000 in sanctions be paid into the Fair's Youth Scholarship Program, which gives money for college to graduating high school seniors around the state of Texas who have participated in competitive youth livestock events held at the State Fair, as well as from five **Dallas Independent School District** high schools near Fair Park, the home of the State Fair for 131 years.

"We think that contributing the sanctions awarded to the education of deserving students from the Fair Park neighborhood and throughout the Lone Star State is a good outcome of this senseless lawsuit that was a waste of the court's time" said **Mitchell Gliieber**, president of the State Fair of Texas, in the press release. "We are happy that the judge saw that this lawsuit had no merit. Its purpose was to harass and further a false narrative about the Fair's relationship with the City of Dallas."

The city is the State Fair's landlord, as it owns Fair Park. Under the lease, with which the fair is in full compliance, the fair has contributed more than \$63 million in major maintenance projects since 1998 for improvements to Fair Park, not including an additional \$71 million in projects that the fair has funded for the park and for State Fair operations.

The **Orange County Fair and Event Center**, Costa Mesa, Calif., was host to some 127 horses, six pigs, six goats, six miniature horses and ponies, three tortoises, two sheep and a steer, which were evacuated that was burning in the northwestern edge of the county.

According to a story that ran in the *Orange County Register*, the Fair and Event Center was a designated shelter for large animals during emergencies. In the story, **Terry Moore**, a spokesperson for the center, was quoted as saying: "While the animals were here they were cared for by O.C. Fair and Event Center staff and by volunteers, most with equine experience."

Moore went on to say that plans were in place when the animals began to arrive with employees and volunteers building tempo-

rary horse stalls and businesses donating essentials such as hay for the animals and food and other goods for the volunteers. A pony-rescue group in San Diego loaned horse-stall panels.

Some homeowners weren't at home when their animals were evacuated.

Governor **Andrew M. Cuomo** announced a \$27 million project to renovate the 65-acre Orange Lot at the **Great New York State Fair**, Syracuse. The project was slated to begin this fall and completion is planned before the 2018 fair set to begin Aug. 22.

As currently configured, the Orange Lot is not paved, does not have lined parking, and loses up to 30 percent of its parking capacity during wet weather. This transformative project will bring traffic patterns and parking availability up-to-date to meet the needs of 21st century fairgoers.

"For a century, the fairgrounds went virtually unchanged, and in just a few short years, New York has completely upgraded and transformed this historic attraction into a world class, multi-use operation," Cuomo said. "Transforming the Orange Lot is critical in our efforts to complete the fair's modernization, and will provide much needed additional capacity as we continue to attract more and more visitors to the grounds and to Central New York as a whole."

The Orange Lot serves as the main parking facility for the New York State Fair and Onondaga County's **Lakeview Amphitheater**. This transformative project to upgrade and improve the fair's Orange Lot will include: paving the lot, increasing its capacity and improving traffic flow; new drainage features to prevent flooding; a redesigned intersection and the creation of a new exit.

Guns are officially forbidden from the **Scott County Fairgrounds**, Jordan, Minn. The Scott County Fair Board in September approved the decision following an incident at last July's Scott County Fair. During the fair, a woman legally and openly carried a firearm, according to fair spokesman and board member **Jerry Kucera**.

"She's allowed to, barring any notice otherwise that she's not allowed," he said of the incident.

But, when she was approached by a Scott County sheriff's deputy and asked to conceal the gun or place it in a vehicle, she declined before eventually leaving.

Capt. Steve Collins of the Scott County Sheriff's office said she was within her right to carry. Open carry is legal there, however, carriers are strongly encouraged to conceal the firearms.

Board members felt the new policy explicitly barring firearms on the site would make visitors to the fairgrounds more comfortable.

So far, the decision hasn't drawn widespread public comment. The **Scott County Agricultural Society** owns the fairgrounds and guns can be barred from the premises — whether concealed or openly carried — so long as it is properly posted.

Magic Money continues growth into the amusement, fair industry

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Magic Money, LLC, a gate-to-gate digital ticketing and event management system, continues its growth into the amusement industry with new 2018 contracts.

Signing on to utilize the company's technology capabilities in the new year are: Crabtree Amusements, the State Fair of Louisiana, Shreveport; the Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo, Waco, Texas; North Texas Fair and Rodeo, Denton, Texas; Fort Worth (Texas) Stock Show & Rodeo; and Rodeo Austin (Texas).

These new contracts join the already signed up Talley Amusements, the Iowa State Fair, and the Miami-Dade (Fla.) County Youth Fair, both of which have successfully implemented Magic Money in 2017 for their event operations. The expansion equates to millions of fairgoers reaping the benefits of a software system specifically designed for amusement parks and fairs.

"We're elated by the fact that so many events have elected to implement Magic Money for running their operations," said Brett Enright, Magic Money founder, president, and COO. "Our goal is to revolutionize the industry by providing the best way to pay and play, and we look forward to partnering with a plethora of businesses who share a vested interest in optimizing operations, and giving fairgoers the best experience possible."

Magic Money is a turn-key full-service RFID-based cashless solution. The system has the capability to control every aspect of event operations, from front gate ticketing, payment for rides, games, food and beverage, ticket presales, kiosk-based reloads and redemptions, as well as ride inspection.

The system eliminates collection and counting activities, provides improved auditing, reduces labor costs, and records comprehensive analytics while enabling real-time customer communication. It can streamline the safety compliance process while centralizing records for easier, more accurate accounting.

Enright started the com-

pany with the intent of enhancing the overall event experience for both operators and consumers. Enright, Owner of Juicys and Beer Haven, has more than 30 years of experience in the amusement industry as a concessionaire and entrepreneur.

•magicmoney.com

Magic Money's Brent Enright, left, and company EVP and CFO Alex Sadusky were at the World Waterpark Association trade show in West Palm Beach, Fla., introducing their product to the water park industry.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



A large, colorful illustration of a fairground scene. At the top left, the word "WATERLOO" is written in a stylized font next to a logo of a sailboat. Below it, a banner reads "VISIT US AT IAAPA Booth 2600 / 2604". The illustration includes several circular inset photos showing fairground scenes: a carousel, a Ferris wheel, a game booth, and a red tent. Various fairground elements are labeled: "CONCESSIONS", "SPORTS COM", "AMUSEMENTS", "WATERLOO", "HANDCRAFTED CUSTOM CREATIONS", "PLAYGROUNDS", "AQUATICS", "HOTELS & RESORTS", and "CARNIVALS". At the bottom, a large pair of eyes is visible. The text "ORDER YOUR CANVAS TODAY!" is prominently displayed in the center, followed by the website "www.waterlootent.com" and the phone number "1-800-537-1193". Logos for "Shade Creations by Waterloo" and "Carnival Creations by Waterloo" are at the bottom corners.

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On the Midway

Taking a break from the action: Betty and Pat Imes along with Roger Wadkins, Sr. The Imes family, operating as Oscar's Amusements, played Bel Air, Md., for the first time. They took over the spot formerly held by Wadkins when he operated Sherwood Amusements, Inc. Wadkins was on hand to help transition the ride operation with the Harford County Farm Fair and Oscar's. He also had two food joints at the spot.

ALL PHOTOS AT/B. DEREK SHAW



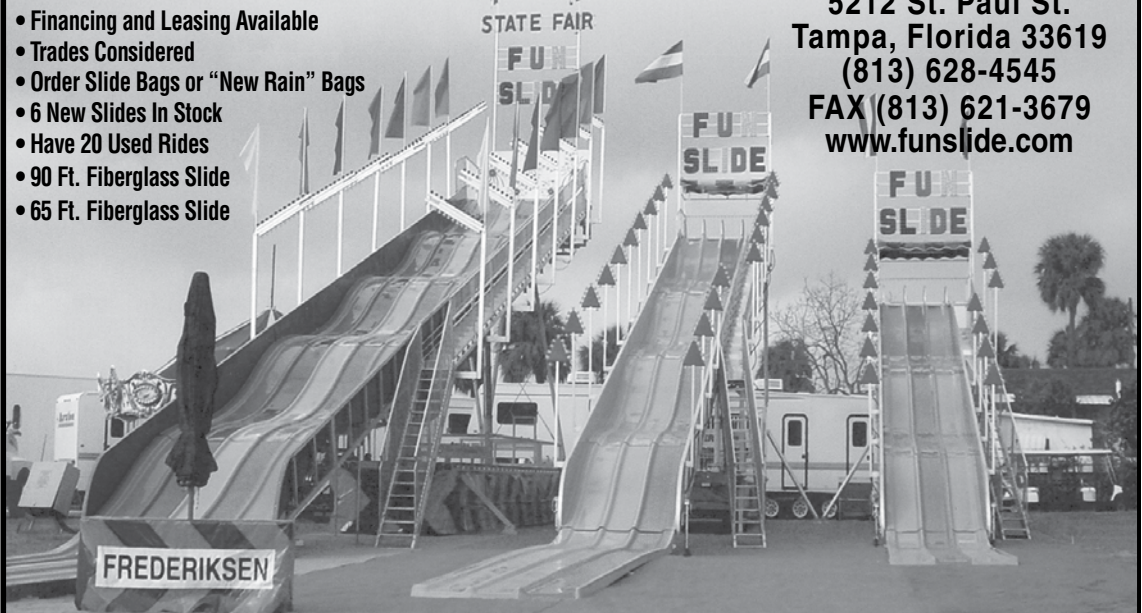
The 13-ride midway included two rides still owned by Sherwood Amusements: Majestic Bumper Cars and a Wadkins Expo Wheel. (Also in the picture is a Hrubetz & Co. Round Up and a Fabbri Double Shock.) Wadkins sold his route to spend more time with his Expo Wheel operation based out of Upper Falls, Md., a business he bought from Bob Childress, Childress Manufacturing, 11 years ago.

The Harford County Farm Fair, now in its 30th season of operation, is run by numerous volunteers in various capacities. Fair operation was extended from four days, to six days, which proved to be a winning move. Seen here (l to r): Aimee O'Neill, Co-Chair of the Fair Board, Donna Mandl, fair director, Marge Traband, volunteer at the Information Tower and Teresa Kendall, chair of the announcer committee. The fair uses 189 acres of the Harford County Equestrian Center, part of the larger Heavenly Waters county park.



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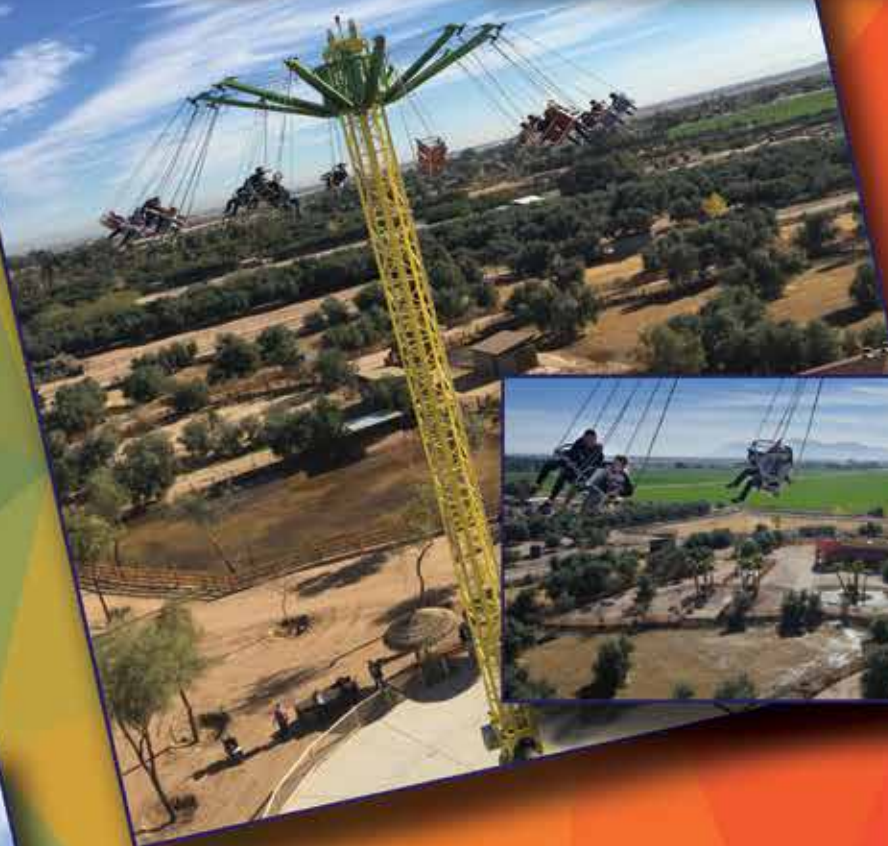
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► Obituaries — Page 66 / MarketWatch — Page 68 / SAFETY — 72-83 / Book Review — Pages 84-85

Picsolve executive sees vibrant high-tech theme park future

DERBY, England — As consumers demand bigger and better thrills, and rides reach the physical limits of possibility, theme parks are using technology to encompass and enhance the experience of their customers while capturing their responses in a non-intrusive way to make additional improvements.

Smartphones and wearables are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the technologies that will be used in the theme park business of the future.

Among the industry leaders looking ahead is **Dan Maunder**, recently installed as chief technology officer of the pioneering attraction photography company **Picsolve**, which has been providing print and digital imagery capture and distribution platforms for leisure and entertainment entities globally for more than two decades.

"As technology advances



at break-neck speed, consumers are demanding seamless digital experiences in all aspects of their lives," said Maunder, pointing out that while millennials are "digital natives," consumers of all ages now live in a connected world with instantly available content. "Technology developments have reset customer expectations and forced all businesses, especially those within the entertainment and leisure industry, to respond by becoming technologically disruptive."

A major trend Maunder sees for theme parks is the use of technology to create increasingly immersive experiences. Artificial intelligence (AI), he said, will advance to a point where it is able to "converse" with visitors and combine its understanding with technologies such as virtual



Dan Maunder, the new chief technology officer for attraction photography company Picsolve, is bullish on the roles artificial intelligence, virtual reality and augmented reality will play in next-gen theme park experiences. COURTESY PICSOLVE

reality (VR); it will then tailor an attraction to the needs of the consumer at specific points throughout the journey.

"Augmented reality and VR will also be used as stand-alone technologies to further

the immersive experience," he pointed out. "Six Flags now uses VR in multiple parks across the U.S., and last year, **Alton Towers** [in Stoke-on-Trent, U.K.] launched the world's first fully dedicated VR rollercoaster, **Galactica**."

It isn't just rides that consumers expect will incorporate VR.

"Our research shows that 95 percent [of guests] would appreciate using VR to browse photography once the ride has finished," Maunder said. "**Derren Brown's Ghost Train** at England's **Thorpe Park** uses this technology to create an immersive experience to manipulate the human mind. It also features hidden, integrated, photography points in the build-up to the ride, creating a sense of anticipation and surprising riders at the end of the experience with images they didn't know were captured."

"In light of the popular-

ity and success of an attraction like this, theme parks of the future will increasingly incorporate fully integrated photography opportunities within rides, adding to guests' enjoyment from the moment they join the line to the point they leave. The ambience, energy and excitement of an attraction will be reflected at every touch point, including when viewing and purchasing merchandise. We're seeing industry leaders turn to experts like us to create themed imaging opportunities."

Maunder also believes that wearable technology is paving the way for facial recognition to drive a better guest experience.

"Last year, **Accesso...** plowed millions into wearable technology, developing its **LoQueue Prism**. This device allows theme parks to

► See PICSOLVE, page 58

Dippin' Dots kicks off 30th anniversary

New Frozeti Confetti flavor to be available beginning December

PADUCAH, Ky. — **Dippin' Dots**, LLC, the iconic beaded ice cream brand that has become a staple among amusement parks and entertainment venues across the nation will kick off its 30th anniversary festivities at the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Attractions Expo** November 13-17.

In defiance of doubters and naysayers when the product was introduced in 1988,

Dippin' Dots has produced and distributed its flash-frozen tiny beads of ice cream, yogurt, sherbet and flavored ice products now for three decades. Made at the company's production facility in Paducah, Ky., Dippin' Dots distributes its unique frozen products in all 50 states and 11 countries through its franchised and direct distribution network.

The company, which officially turns 30 in March 2018, will celebrate with a daily birthday party, serving cake — and, of course, ice cream — at 1:30 pm Tuesday, Nov. 14 through Thursday, Nov. 16 at its IAAPA trade show booth.

Party festivities will also include giveaways and a meet and greet with **Frozeti the Yeti**, the new Dippin' Dots mascot.

During the show, Dippin' Dots will be sampling a new 30th Anniversary flavor: **Frozeti Confetti**. **Frozeti Confetti** is made of blue raspberry and lemon-flavored ice with multicolored popping candy, intentionally designed and formulated to resemble its namesake — **Frozeti the Yeti**.

Amusement Today talked to **Kim Milite**, east division sales manager for Dippin' Dots at the recent **World Waterpark**

► See DIPPIN' DOTS, page 58



Pam Wells and Kim Milite gear up for Dippin' Dots 30th anniversary at the recent WWA show. AT/TIM BALDWIN



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The advertisement features a dark background with a repeating pattern of white text listing various amusement park equipment and services, such as "indoor attractions", "outdoor attractions", "games", "new games", "gaming systems", "equipment", "signage", "security", "merchandise", "part rooms", "conference rooms", "inventory", "pavilions", "water features", "inventory purchases", "electronics", "juke boxes", "coin operated cranes", "video arcades", "arcade games", "video games", "air hockey", "redemption games", "vending", "amusement lighting", "maintenance equipment", "redemption stores", "redemption counters", "virtual reality", "interactive games", "hands-on museums", "children entertainment", "leasehold improvements", "technology upgrades", "facility management and", "construction", "improvements", "capital equipment", "facility up", "expansion", "renovation", "construction", "arena design", "dark rides", "conce", "succession planning", "children's museums", "climbing walls", "roller coasters", "bowling alleys", "bowling centers", "lane machines", "synthetic lanes", "pinsetters", "pinspotters", "mini bowling", "scoring systems", "masking units", "trampolines", "water rides", "water slides", "roller skating", "roller skating centers", "roller skating rinks", "food service", "live oak bank and beverage", "food service", "vending machines", "even & odd", "concession equipment", "snack bar seating", "laser tag centers", "laser tag", "laser arenas", "laser tag events", "laser tag equipment", "laser tag design". In the center, there is a logo of a tree with the text "LIVE OAK BANK" below it. Below the logo, the text "WE SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath that, in smaller white text, it says "Visit us at IAAPA booth #454". Below that, in white text, it says "Work with a bank that understands your business. Talk to us to experience the Live Oak difference." At the bottom, the website "liveoakbank.com/fec" is displayed in white. At the very bottom, in small white text, it says "©2017 Live Oak Banking Company. All Rights Reserved. Member FDIC."

Intamin celebrates 50 years

Company's innovation has served the industry in major way

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SCHAAN, Liechtenstein — If one were to turn back time half a century, the amusement industry would be vastly different. Traditional parks would still dot the American landscape, but the number of theme parks would be a mere handful. Water parks had yet to be conceived. The millions and millions of theme park guests and vacationers of today would be astonished by what was not there 50 years ago, and what has taken place in the past five decades.

The drive for innovation was key as theme parks developed. The new themed experience demanded big, high-profile rides. **Robert Spieldiener**, along with a friend **Ali Saiko**, saw a future in developing rides. Robert's brother, **Reinhold Spieldiener**, soon came on board. **Intamin** was formed as a company, with the name coming from the combination of **International Amusement Installations**. As this trio of gentlemen predicted, the demand came. What transpired was an impressive portfolio of products.

The company credits **Six Flags** with giving Intamin



its big start. Whether it was using the company to broker rides from other companies represented by Intamin or obtaining a variety of offerings from Intamin alone, the catalogue grew. **Six Flags** turned to them for early additions. While **Six Flags Over Texas'** iconic **Oil Derrick** tower was a dramatically visible achievement (opening in 1969), this followed a small family ride installed in 1967. Soon, the **Drunken Barrels** was developed, which became popular in many parks. This new resource for rides took off as theme parks burst onto the scene all over the United States.

Other flat rides such as the **Flying Dutchman**, **Bounty**, **Towboats** and double and triple arm **Ferris wheels** were big sellers.

Six Flags continued to push Intamin for new ideas. Soon, parachute towers arrived. In 1980, **Six Flag AstroWorld** debuted the first river rapids ride



Meeting the needs of the growing number of theme parks got the first family of Intamin off the ground. Shown here, l to r, are: Reinhold Spieldiener, Robert Spieldiener, Patrick Spieldiener and Ali Saiko. COURTESY INTAMIN

in the world. Such a wild, "uncontrolled" concept had never been attempted. As with any prototype, a lot of learning comes with the first of anything. Today, the rapids ride is a staple in virtually every theme park on the globe. Still, new ideas came.

"In the beginning, it is an exciting time when you are a start up," said **Patrick Spieldiener**, president of Intamin and nephew of founder Robert Spieldiener. "But the first really exciting phase was when the rapids ride was conceived. It was a hit from there."

From that point, water played a big importance

in the company's success. River rapids rides took off, and they were soon followed by **Spillwater** rides recreating the classic **Shoot-the-Chutes** attractions. The dramatic impact of a wall of water dousing riders and spectators captivated the industry. Multiple competing companies jumped aboard, and today, Intamin has provided close to 25 such installations worldwide.

At the **2016 IAAPA Attractions Expo**, **Sascha Czilbulka**, executive vice president of Intamin, told *Amusement Today*: "We have quite a few water rides on the books right

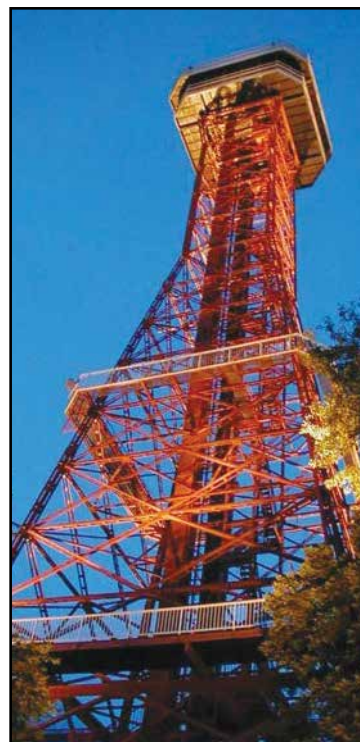
now. That pleases us. If you look back 20 years or so, Intamin was associated with water rides, but today it is roller coasters."

But the popularity of water attractions didn't keep the company from building new towers. In fact, innovation took towers to all new thrills. Working with subcontractor **Giovanola**, the first true freefall attractions premiered in 1982. True to form, **Six Flags** stepped up as the first buyers. Eventually it was a very hot item. Intamin went on to improve the freefall concept by using rare earth magnets for a smoother stop, beginning in the mid-1990s. This brought about bigger heights for freefall rides, some of which are ridden while standing, tilted or even angled 90-degrees to take a 300-foot fall face down.

Just before the new millennium began, coasters would take a front-and-center role for the company. When **Darien Lake**, at the time owned by **Six Flags**, debuted **Superman Ride of Steel** in 1999, the industry took notice. Steeper drops, negative Gs and high speed propelled the coaster lineup to rave reviews.

"The breakthrough for us in roller coasters was the megacoaster," said Patrick Spieldiener. "I was there when it opened, and I saw people riding it and come off beaming. They would run just to get back in the entrance gates to ride it forever and ever. It was an indescribable feeling."

Since then, the company has gone on to manufacture numerous roller coasters that have rated high in AT's Golden Ticket Awards. In the past decade, **Superman Ride of Steel/Bizarro (Six Flags New England)**, **Millennium Force (Cedar Point)** and **El Toro (Six Flags Great Adventure)** have all



Early attractions from Intamin included its first ride, **Jet Set**, at **Six Flags Over Texas**; the popular **Drunken Barrels**; and the company's first observation tower, the 300-foot-tall **Oil Derrick** at **Six Flags Over Texas**. COURTESY INTAMIN

► See INTAMIN, page 60

►INTAMIN

Continued from page 59

taken the Golden Ticket for either Best Steel Coaster or Best Wooden Coaster. And the awards don't stop there. **Blackpool Pleasure Beach's** Valhalla has been awarded Best Water Ride on five occasions.

In addition to awards, Intamin attractions have pushed boundaries as well. Since 2000, the company debuted the first 300-foot and 400-foot-tall roller coasters, as well as the first to have 10 inversions. The tallest freefall ride stands at 415 feet at Six Flags Great Adventure. The tallest gyro observation tower opened at the **State Fair of Texas** in 2013.

The annual **IAAPA Attractions Expo** is a clear example of how enormous the amusement industry has grown. New attractions are introduced every year. Many companies have specialized in a certain genre. Intamin's success, in contrast, has been achieved with a broad catalogue of attractions: towers, flat rides, wheels, simulators, water rides, roller coasters, freefall attractions and more. In September, the company received the Publisher's Pick Golden Ticket Award for 2017 Supplier of the Year. Fifty years ago, the industry needed Intamin for innovation. Today, the company is still doing so.

Amusement Today asked if the company had any celebrations to signify the occasion. "We did not throw any big parties," answered Czilbulka, "but rather have prepared a special book, highlighting all the different kinds of rides and attractions we have and still are engineering/manufacturing including a rough technical description of all the different technical systems used by Intamin. We visited and met with many of our clients, friends and partners all over the world and personally handed over the book. In addition, we will make a contribution to **Give Kids the World**, namely a people mover train for the village."

The prototype ride models...

The models seen here showcase two innovative new attractions developed by Intamin — the world's first river rapids ride and freefall ride. COURTESY INTAMIN



Intamin's rides today...



Continuing to push boundaries, Intamin's attractions show an evolution of bigger statistics, thematic partnerships and iconic rides. Above (from left), Top of Texas (State Fair of Texas) is the world's largest of its kind, while Escape from Pompeii (Busch Gardens Williamsburg) marries the shoot-the-chute with a great storyline, as does the themed flume Chiapas (Phantasialand). The Orlando Eye has become a recognizable icon in the tourist city. Below, Millennium Force (Cedar Point) and El Toro (Six Flags Great Adventure) have been Golden Ticket Award winners. Zumanjaro (Six Flags Great Adventure) is the world's tallest freefall ride, attached to the park's Kingda Ka roller coaster, while Falcon's Fury (Busch Gardens Williamsburg) has riders freefall in a face-down position. COURTESY INTAMIN; AT/RICHARD MUNCH, TIM BALDWIN



INTAMIN FAST FACTS

FIRSTS

- First ride to go 100 mph** — Tower of Terror, Dreamland (Queensburg, Australia)
- First roller coaster with 10 inversions** — Colossus Thorpe Park (Chertsey, England)
- First full circuit roller coaster over 300 feet** — Millennium Force, Cedar Point (Sandusky, Ohio)
- First full circuit roller coaster over 400 feet** — Top Thrill Dragster, Cedar Point
- First river rapids ride** — Thunder River, AstroWorld (Houston, Texas)
- First modern-day parachute ride** — Texas Chute Out, Six Flags Over Texas (Arlington, Texas) and Great Gasp, Six Flags Over Georgia (Austell, Ga.)
- First freefall ride** — Texas Cliffhanger, Six Flags Over Texas (Arlington, Texas)
- First hydraulic-launched catapult coaster** — Xcelerator, Knotts Berry Farm (Buena Park, Calif.)
- First park model observation tower** — Six Flags Over Texas (Arlington, Texas)

RECORDS

- World's fastest roller coaster** (149 mph) — Formula Rossa, Ferrari World (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
- World's tallest roller coaster** (456 feet) — Kingda Ka, Six Flags Great Adventure (Jackson, N.J.)
- World's tallest drop ride** (415 feet) — Zumanjaro, Six Flags Great Adventure
- World's tallest gyro tower** (500 feet) — Top o' Texas Tower, State Fair of Texas (Dallas, Texas)

GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS

(presented by *Amusement Today*)

- Millennium Force, Cedar Point — **Best Steel Coaster** 2001, 2002, 2008 - 2015
- Superman - Ride of Steel/Bizarro, Six Flags New England — **Best Steel Coaster** 2003 – 2007
- El Toro, Six Flags Great Adventure — **Best Wooden Coaster** 2012, 2017
- Valhalla, Blackpool Pleasure Beach — **Best Water Ride** 2003, 2005, 2015 – 2017
- Maverick, Cedar Point — **Best New Ride** 2007
- Publisher's Pick: **Supplier of the Year** 2017

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Bellevue, Wash.-based **VRstudios**, a leading provider of VR solutions for location-based entertainment, released its VRcade Arena system and Attraction Management Platform (AMP) software in July. Designed for turnkey installation and operation, and leveraging patent-pending technology, VRcade Arena is a warehouse-scale VR platform allowing up to eight free-roaming users to participate in full-motion, immersive and competitive gaming experiences.

The VRcade Arena is built on the company's AMP, which integrates first- and third-party hardware and software while providing a comprehensive support and operational environment for entertainment venue owners and operators. AMP enables easy installation and efficient operations, including support of essential day-to-day functions required by the facilities' technicians, operators and managers.

VRstudios unveiled *Terminal 17*, an intense, eight-player game created in partnership with **NVIDIA** that exploits VRcade Arena's capabilities, in August.

VRcade Arena has been specifically designed for commercial entertainment destinations such as theme and amusement parks, family entertainment centers, cinemas and resorts. It will be demonstrated at **IAAPA Attractions Expo 2017** this month in Orlando.

Veteran Japanese arcade game maker **Bandai Namco** is throwing its own hat into the dedicated VR arcade arena. The company's version of the attraction incorporates seated motion platforms and technology from **HTC Vive**, and it will capitalize on marquee video game, anime and manga IPs such as *Mario Kart*, *Evangelion* and *Dragon Ball* in creating experiences.

Bandai Namco debuted a small VR facility in London over the summer featuring several experiences. It is slated to open a two-story, 40,000-square-foot VR arcade in Shinjuku, Japan, in March 2019.

With 55 experiences spread out over three floors and 20,000 square feet, **VR World NYC** debuted in Manhattan adjacent to the Empire State Building in late June. The beginner-friendly facility has a mission to "catalyze the adoption of VR through the fusion of culture and technology."

To that end, the brightly colored space offers room-scale, multi-player VR options in a variety of genres — including entertainment, social impact, music, gaming, sports, science and art. A single, modest theme park-level admission allows access to all of the experiences, while a bar and lounge areas provide for some relaxation between headlong dives into fantastic virtual worlds.

Taking a cue from the gradually increasing popularity of VR ride overlays at theme parks, Lutterworth, U.K.-based **Holovis** has introduced a two-seat, six-axis robotic arm-based system called R3ex (Rideable Realtime Robotic Experiences) to enhance and intensify its visual technology. The company, which demonstrated the motion device at the **Asian Attractions Expo** in Singapore in June, describes the innovation as "uniquely configurable" and one that allows for gesture-based interactivity as well as rider-guided



VRROUNDUP

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

control — switchable among the riders.

Kuka Robotics of Augsburg, Germany, an industrial robot supplier, created the robotic arm, which is similar to the "robocoaster" installations that have been in use at several parks around the world since 2003. A four-seat version of R3ex allowing for higher throughput was expected to be unveiled this month.

Location-based free-roam VR entertainment leader **Zero Latency** of Melbourne, Australia, opened a 4,300-square-foot VR gaming arena in Brisbane capable of running two eight-player VR games simultaneously side by side. It is only the second venue in the world with a dual-arena configuration.

"Zero Latency experienced unprecedented success with the world's first ever epic-scale, multi-player, free-roam VR game arena, which we opened in Melbourne back in 2015 to six-week-long waiting lists," said **Tim Ruse**, CEO. "Since then, we have partnered with venue operators and delivered our patent-pending technology to power successful VR arenas across the globe. Brisbane stood out high and clear as a great city for the next Zero Latency arena with its young and tech-minded population."

The Brisbane venue is the second VR game arena owned and operated by Zero Latency, and it joins other Zero Latency-powered arenas in operation through partnerships with licensees across four continents. The company said it was on track to have opened more than 20 arenas by the end of this year.

Huis Ten Bosch theme park in Sasebo, Nagasaki, Japan, is now home to the VR-King, an attraction that claims to take guests on the "world's scariest roller coaster" — or at least offer a reasonable facsimile thereof. The virtual thrill ride, which finds participants seated in a coaster-style vehicle that doubles as a motion simulator, "plunges" down a 300-meter-tall hill and through buildings, forests and a cave along 3,000 meters of simulated track. The virtual journey, which debuted in August, requires both a head-mounted display and headphones for an optimal experience and lasts two minutes and 30 seconds.

Columbia, Md.-headquartered **Sensics** has introduced a high-resolution headset, called Goggles for Public VR, capable of handling the special demands of arcade, theme park and other out-of-home entertainment usage. The equipment is designed for improved hygiene and comfort, with built-in silent dual fans for ventilation, an adjustable ergonomic head strap that can be detached and sanitized, and a removable hypoallergenic faceplate that is machine washable.

A recent expansion of the partnership between film exhibition companies **Imax Corporation** and **Cineplex** includes the introduction of the first **IMAX VR Centre** in Canada. It will be located at **Scotiabank**

Theatre Toronto.

Similar to existing locations in New York and Los Angeles, the attraction will feature a combination of premium technology and content with 360-degree sound and sophisticated room tracking. The venue's design — proprietary to Imax — consists of pods that allow multiple players to enjoy highly interactive, moveable VR experiences in a social environment.

Imax was aiming to open up to eight additional VR Centre locations in North America, Europe and Asia by the end of this year.

Start VR, based in Sydney, Australia, and Los Angeles, is tapping into our natural wanderlust with the self-paced interactive travel experience *Atlas Obscura VR*, a collaboration with **Atlas Obscura** — the high-traffic online guide to the world's hidden wonders. Allowing "voyagers" to navigate the globe without leaving their homes, the travel experience transports viewers to destinations that are as fascinating as they are unusual.

The *Atlas Obscura VR* experience launches its first season of content with experiential visits to, among other offbeat locations, the **Winchester Mystery House** in San Jose, Calif. The app is available in the **Oculus** store for the Gear VR headset and will soon be available for other platforms.

Madame Tussauds Singapore has opened a racing VR attraction inspired by the F1 Singapore Grand Prix. Placing participants in the driver's seat, the F1 Experience features two full-size, stationary racing vehicles containing a motion simulation system integrated into the cockpit. While waiting for their turn, visitors can "stand toe to toe with [Formula One champion drivers] **Lewis Hamilton** or **Sebastian Vettel**" and view the competition via livestreaming video monitors. *VRoom, VRoom!*

With a mission to create mainstream location-based VR entertainment from its warehouse studio in Culver City, Calif., **Dreamscape Immersive** struck a motherlode of funding earlier this year. After a reported \$6.7 million was raised over the summer from an undisclosed investor, the startup attracted \$20 million in financing from **AMC Entertainment**, the world's largest theater chain. Total funding to date is more than \$40 million.

With **Steven Spielberg**, **21st Century Fox**, **MGM**, **Warner Bros.** and **Westfield** as early investors, and **Kevin Rice**, its CEO, being a 15-year veteran of **Walt Disney Imagineering**, it's no wonder the company is generating excitement. Its concept for a "VR multiplex" venue offering a lineup of VR scenarios is attractive, too — the interactive experiences will rely on technology that permits the participation of up to six customers in approximately nine-minute stories of cinematic quality, complete with fully realized avatars.

The company's arrangement with AMC will see as many as six *Dreamscape* venues roll out by the end of next year, several of which will be located within existing AMC movie complexes. A flagship venue is expected to debut in Los Angeles in early 2018.

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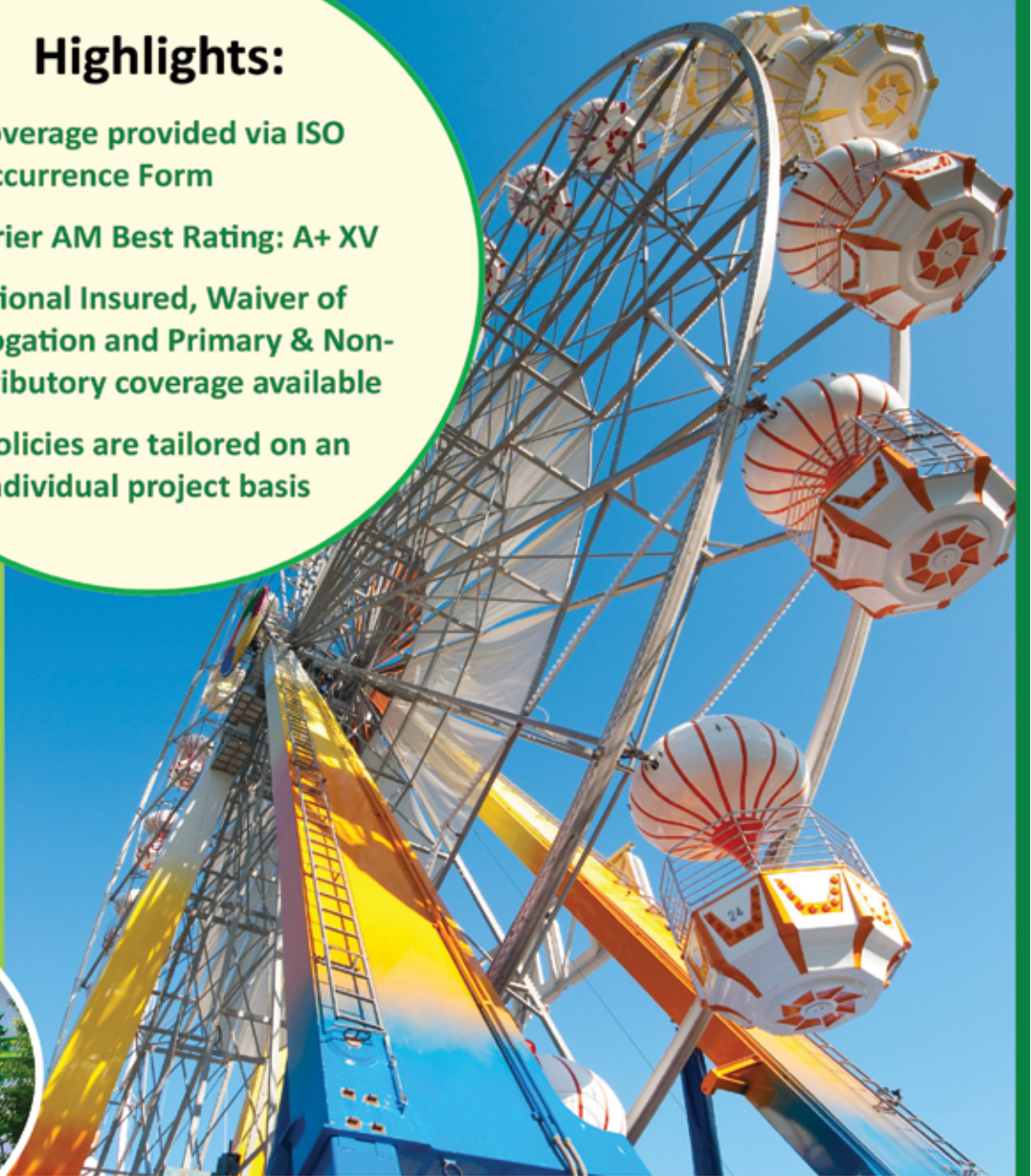
This program is designed for European manufacturers to provide insurance coverage in the United States and Canada to fulfill insurance requirements placed upon them by United States and Canadian customers.

Highlights:

- ✓ Coverage provided via ISO Occurrence Form
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- ✓ Additional Insured, Waiver of Subrogation and Primary & Non-Contributory coverage available
- ✓ Policies are tailored on an individual project basis

Program Structure:

- ◆ \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence – Bodily Injury and Property Damage
- ◆ \$2,000,000 General Aggregate – Each Policy Term
- ◆ \$2,000,000 Products / Completed Operations Aggregate – Each Policy Term
- ◆ \$1,000,000 Personal & Advertising Injury Liability
- ◆ \$100,000 Damage to Premises Rented to You
- ◆ Excess Liability: Up to \$10,000,000 in additional limits available



Contact Dave Harman via phone or email

Dave Harman

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office: (425) 586-1049 | cell: (206) 999-2088
email: dave_harman@ajg.com

in conjunction with

Tom Sheehan

The Sheehan Firm, PC
6 Spring Street | Cary, IL 60013

office: (847) 516-3200 | cell: (847) 778-7913
email: tom@ridelaw.com | fax: (847) 516-3443

- **Cost of Defense is in Addition to Policy Limits**
- **Self-Insured Retention Per Occurrence Including Loss Adjustment Expense \$25,000**
- **Product Design Coverage:** In addition to coverage for your completed rides, components designed or manufactured by you or others and which are incorporated into your completed product are covered at no additional cost to you. This coverage includes warranties or representations made at any time with respect to the fitness, quality, durability, performance or use of your product and the providing of or failure to provide warnings or instructions.
- **Coverage Territory:** United States and its Territories and Canada
- **Covered Exposures:** Your amusement devices and spare parts sold in the United States and Canada
- **Rating Basis:** Tiered Rating System – per \$1,000 of Gross Sales

'Going green' in traditional amusement style

Chance Rides debuts solar battery-powered locomotive model

WICHITA, Kan. — Skilled craftsmen have been manufacturing the C.P. Huntington Train at **Chance Rides** since 1961. Over the years, improvements have been made to the nostalgically popular ride to keep up with current technology, but its very latest advance marks a big leap in innovation.

Beginning with C.P. Huntington model No. 400, Chance Rides is offering the option of a zero-emissions, solar battery-powered electric locomotive. The vehicle, which runs on AC electric motors and does away with oil changes, spark plugs, transmissions, radiators, leaks and exhaust, can run outdoors or indoors.

Some key features:

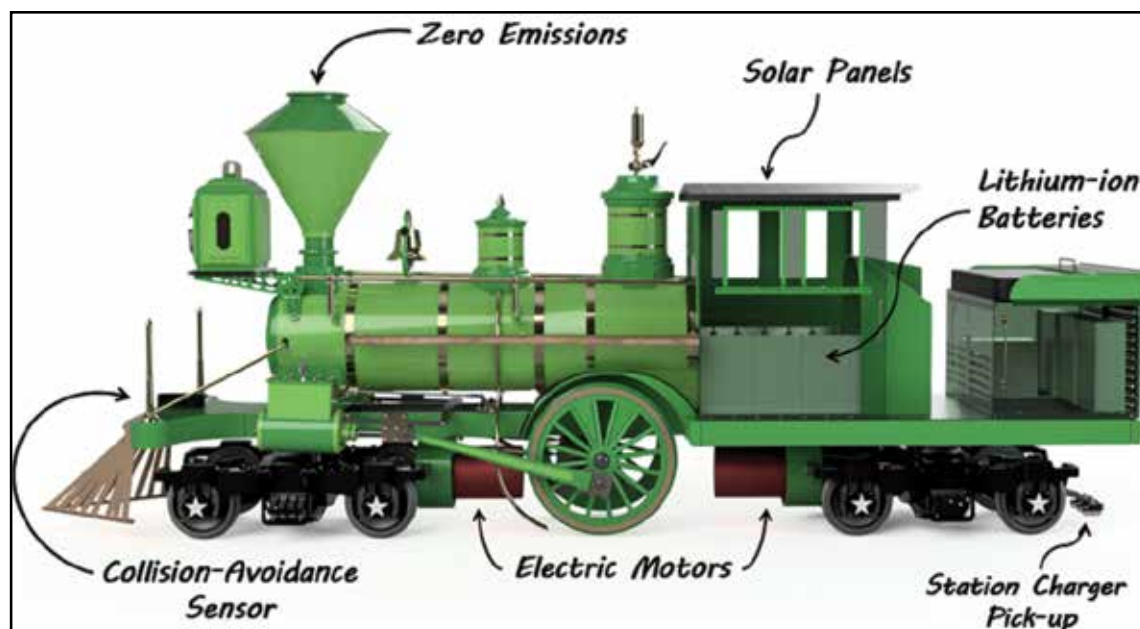
•**Lithium-Ion Batteries** — Utilizing the latest in lithium-ion battery technology results in a battery that lasts longer, charges faster and weighs much less than other batteries. In fact, one lithium ion battery replaces four lead-acid batteries, charges four times faster and lasts eight times longer.

•**Automatic In-Station Charging** — To achieve all-day uninterrupted operation, a hands-free automatic charger is installed on the track in the station area. When the train is parked for loading / unloading, the batteries receive a quick charge. This also reduces depth of discharge for increased battery life.

•**Regenerative Braking** — A regenerative braking system provides additional charging for the batteries. Instead of using traditional brakes, the electric motors are used to slow down the train.

•**Programmable Operation** — Train operators can equip their track circuit with RFID (Radio-frequency identification) tags located at various points to control train speed, position and guest interaction, allowing the train conductor to focus more on monitoring the safe operation of the train.

•**Collision Avoidance** — As an added safeguard, the train can be equipped with a collision avoidance



Chance Rides' C.P. Huntington No. 400 brings the sustainability trend to amusement locomotion. It runs on AC electric motors, doing away with oil changes, spark plugs, transmissions, radiators and exhaust. COURTESY CHANCE RIDES

sensor to help prevent contact with guests or other objects. Once an obstacle is detected in the train's path, braking is activated.

•**Audio Effects** — The electric drive system eliminates the noise associated with

a standard combustion engine. To create a more realistic train experience, an onboard audio system can be installed to mimic an original steam engine, air whistle or any other sound.

Renewable energy utiliza-

tion can be enhanced by adding solar panels to the roofs of the locomotive and trailing coaches to assist in recharging the batteries — further reducing the locomotive's carbon footprint.

•chancerides.com

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Electric C.P. Huntington™ Train

GO GREEN

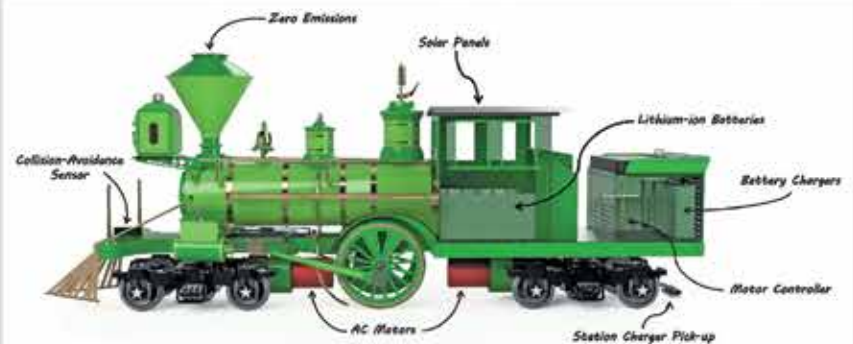


The new lithium-battery powered Electric C.P. Huntington™ Train requires virtually no maintenance while showing your guests that you care about the environment.

FORGET
oil changes,
spark plugs,
transmissions,
radiators, leaks
and exhaust!



Introducing the zero emissions, lithium-battery powered Electric Train!



- Lithium-Ion Batteries
- Regenerative Braking
- Auto In-Station Charging
- Programmable Operation
- Collision Avoidance
- Audio Effects
- AC Electric Motors
- Solar Panels
- Traction Control
- Lower Operating Costs

unicoaster™ 2.0

All the thrills of a looping rollercoaster at a fraction of the cost.

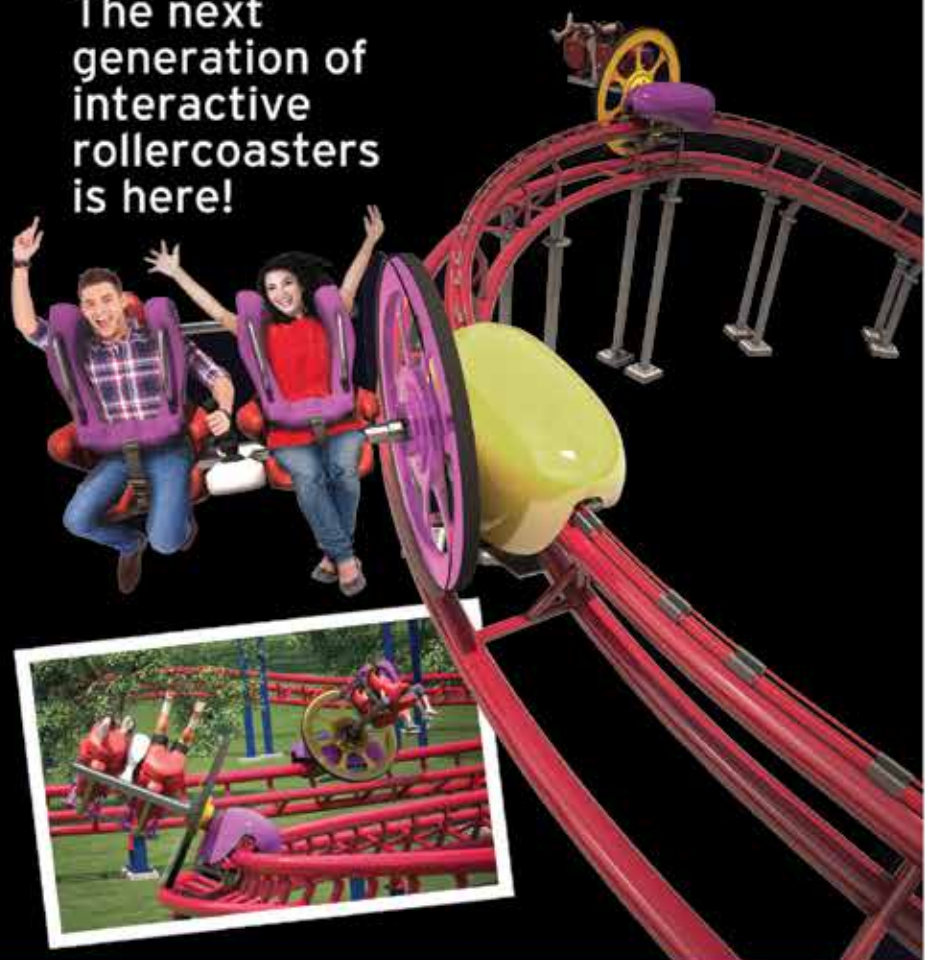


The Unicoaster 2.0 takes our rider controlled, 360° rotating seats and places them onto a customized rollercoaster track. Now you can have the thrills of a looping coaster at a fraction of the cost AND an interactive family coaster in the same space!



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OBITUARIES

Jeffery Shuper, 48, dies in vehicle accident

HIBBING, Minn. — Jeffery "Jeff" Everett Shuper, 48, Hibbing, Minn., passed away in a vehicle accident on Thursday, Oct. 12, in Canton, Miss.

He was born May 9, 1969, to James and Carol Shuper in Hibbing, Minn.

Shuper, a veteran of the carnival industry with **Farrow Amusements**, became fascinated by the industry when he was a young boy. He began with Farrow Amusements at the age of 18.

Shuper held the highest achievements in amusement ride safety certification. He was known all over North America and Europe as one of the top amusement ride technicians in the United States.

His love for the industry ran deep. A quote he lived by: "To handle yourself, use your head. To handle others, use your heart."

Shuper loved the movies. He also loved to travel. For the last 12 years, he and his partner, Kathy Karatzias traveled all over the world.

Shuper is survived by his father, James Shuper; his brothers Jim and Everett Shuper; sister-in-law Lisa Shuper; sister Carol Jean Shuper; partner Kathy Karatzias; uncle Don Swanson (Kathy); uncle Keith Swanson (Connie); uncle Butchie Swanson (Kittie), nieces Sarah and Toni-Ann Shuper, and great niece Vanessa Shuper.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Emily Swanson, grandfather Everett Swanson and mother, Carol Shuper.

Dougherty Funeral Home, Hibbing, Minn., handled the arrangements. A service was held Oct. 20 at the First Lutheran Church also in Hibbing.

Donations may be made in memory of Jeff Shuper to the **Showmen's League of America Scholarship Fund**, 1023 W. Fulton Market, Chicago, Ill. 60607. Or donations may be made online at showmensleague.org/donate.

OABA trustee Coleman, 91, passes away

PORT SAINT LUCIE, Fla. — Robert Edward Coleman, 91, of Port Saint Lucie, Fla., passed away Oct. 3 at his home. He was son of the late Richard and Ellen Coleman of Middletown, Conn., and a long-time veteran of the outdoor amusement industry traveling with his family's **Coleman Bros. Shows**.

Coleman enlisted in the United States Navy in 1944, and after being honorably discharged for a medical condition, he played center field for the New York Giants in 1948 and 1949.

After his stint with the Giants, Coleman returned home and began working with his father and brother and other family members on the carnival. Coleman's father started the carnival in 1916 and it is still operating today.

Coleman married Rachael Ann Bump in 1950, and they had five children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He retired to his winter home in Port Saint Lucie in 2012 where he lived out the remainder of his life.

His accomplishments include induction into the American Legion Hall of Fame, lifetime member of the Elks Club and the 100 Club, and president of the Outdoor Amusement Business Association in 1989.

He is survived by his son Robert Edward Coleman, Jr. and his wife, Linda; his son Timothy Joseph Coleman and his wife, Arlene; his daughter Mary Ellen Oakes and her husband, Anthony; his daughter Melissa Ann Coleman; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held Oct. 13 in St. Pius Church, Middletown. Burial was held in the family plot in the Indian Hill Cemetery also in Middletown.

Coughlin Lastrina Funeral Home handled the arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to the **ASPCA** at aspca.org.

Jeannie Vondriska, 74, passes away

AMELIA, Ohio — Jeannie C. Vondriska, 74, of Amelia, Ohio, passed away Oct. 1.

She was the wife of 33 years to Kenneth Vondriska, **Vondriska Leisure Consultants LLC**, a consulting company that focuses on preventative maintenance of amusement rides.

She is survived by her husband and children Barbara (Patrick) Schoenhoff, Lawrence (Anna) Dietrich, Kenneth Vondriska Jr., Bill (Tina) Vondriska, and David (Merrilynn) Vondriska. She also is survived by nine grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In addition, also surviving her are siblings Richard (the late Shirley) Butkovich, Lynda Pierceall, and Larry (Candi) Butkovich, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Kathryn and Rudy Butkovich.

A memorial gathering for Jeannie took place Oct. 21 at the E.C. Nurre Funeral Home in Amelia. Memorials may be made to the **National Parkinson Foundation**, www.parkinson.org.



Shuper



Coleman



Vondriska

PEOPLE WATCH

Michael Turner joins CAVU

VICTORIA, B.C. — CAVU Designwerks, Inc. (CAVU), a provider of world-class Media Based Attractions announced the appointment of **Michael Turner** as executive vice president, Global Business Development. Turner has more than 34 years of innovating in the entertainment and attractions industry and has experience working with a variety of CAVU market segments. "We are thrilled to have Michael join our team and lead our global business" said **Peter Schnabel**, founder and CEO of CAVU. "Michael has extensive knowledge of the international attraction business and has a proven track record in building strong relationships in all markets."

"I was attracted to CAVU because of Peter's forte in innovating by applying unique technologies to rides. There is a tremendous opportunity for growth in this segment. I look forward to leading the global expansion of CAVU and bringing the team's innovations to parks and attractions around the world," said Turner.

Turner will oversee all aspects of the company's sales and marketing operations worldwide. His responsibilities will include working to ensure implementation of corporate strategy, extending current market partnerships, and defining new markets to enter.

He spent the last seven years at **Neptune-Benson**, a leader for aquatic filtration and disinfection for recreational water, where he built an international presence to make their Defender filtration system the standard for high-quality parks all over the world. Before that, he was at **Gateway Ticketing Systems** for over 18 years; the world leader in revenue management systems, where he worked on projects extending over six continents.

Wilderness at the Smokies names GM

SEVIERVILLE, Tenn. — Wilderness at the Smokies, Tennessee's largest, indoor water park resort offering year-round family fun and lodging in the Smoky Mountains, announces the appointment of **Phillip Froehlich** as general manager.

In his new role, Froehlich is responsible for the overall successful operations of the 713 room mountain-modern themed Wilderness at the Smokies. Froehlich's experience and background in the hospitality industry is vast, spanning more than 30 years. A former hospitality consultant with **BBC Hospitality Consulting**, Froehlich's resume is extensive in the resort business. Froehlich is most passionate about leading, coaching and inspiring staff members toward their goals and exploring their potentials.

"Phillip's experience within the hospitality segment is extensive," said **Josef Haas**, executive vice president and COO of **Stand Rock Hospitality**, management company of Wilderness at the Smokies. "We are always looking at ways to improve and enhance the guest and staff experience and Phillip's exceptional leadership skills and proven track record made him the ideal candidate to lead the team at Wilderness at the Smokies."



Turner



Froehlich

Long time Disney cast member retires

ANAHEIM, Calif. — After more than 60 years serving up magic and memories at The Happiest Place on Earth, **Carnation Café** chef **Oscar Martinez** retired on September 27.

Oscar began working at **Disneyland** on December 29, 1956 — a year after the park opened. Oscar originally worked as a busboy and later a grill cook in Fantasyland quick-service locations. Moving to Carnation Café in 1967, Oscar has been a staple on Main Street, U.S.A., making famous his recipe for breakfast potatoes, and making friends of guests and fellow cast members alike.

When asked what his fondest memories were of his time at the resort, first was seeing **Walt Disney** walk the park. To a young Oscar, Walt Disney seemed larger than life.

Chance Rides adds Aguilar to team

WICHITA, Kan. — **Chance Rides** announced that **Jay Luis Aguilar** had been named the company's vice president of sales & marketing effective October 11th, 2017.

Jay will report directly to President/COO, **Aaron Landrum**, and be responsible for the sales and marketing team. This responsibility includes revenue growth, new product and customer opportunities, marketing expansion, and successful project execution, while driving customer satisfaction.

Aguilar said, "I am excited to take on this role at Chance Rides. I look forward to leading our remarkably dedicated and committed team to develop unique solutions for our customers. This ultimately creates not only fantastic experiences and memories for families, but also customer performance with our world class products and solutions."

With more than 26 years in manufacturing, sales, marketing, and engineering, Jay was previously the vice president of sales and business development for **Porcelain Industries**.

InterCard add Lisa Oliveira

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — **InterCard** has hired **Lisa Oliveira** as its business development manager for Latin America. A native of Bahia in northeastern Brazil, Lisa is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish and has a deep understanding of the cultures of Latin America. As InterCard continues to grow its global business in debit card technology, Lisa will initially focus on expanding its activities in Mexico and Argentina. She will also develop strategies for the anticipated recovery of the Brazilian market and economy.

Lisa has expertise in analyzing sales trends, developing market strategies and building business in new markets. She comes to InterCard from **Ungerboeck Software**, where she was sales director for the U.S. and Latin America, developing business with large global corporations.

"Lisa Oliveira has helped several leading technology companies to deliver creative solutions and great service to customers worldwide," said **Scott Sherrod**, CEO of InterCard. "As InterCard continues to grow its Latin American business, Lisa will help us strengthen our existing client relationships and develop new ones."



Martinez



Aguilar



Oliveira

Cedar Fair announces planned leadership succession

Richard Zimmerman to become CEO effective Jan. 1

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Cedar Fair Entertainment Company (NYSE: FUN) announced in October that **Richard Zimmerman**, its president and chief operating officer, will succeed **Matt Ouimet** as chief executive officer effective Jan. 1. On the same date, Ouimet will take the newly created role of executive chairman of the board of directors and **Debra Smithart-Oglesby** will become lead independent director. As part of this process, Zimmerman will also be added to the board of directors during the 2018 annual meeting period. These changes are designed to ensure continuity in leadership as the company pursues its ongoing strategy of investing in broadening entertainment offerings and new attractions to create greater excitement for guests, and positioning itself to produce strong results for many years to come.



Zimmerman



Ouimet

"I have very much appreciated the opportunity to serve as the CEO of Cedar Fair and I am proud of what our team has accomplished," said Ouimet. "The market value of Cedar Fair has increased by more than \$2.6 billion during my time at the company. This performance provides us with a solid foundation to build upon and a positive outlook for the future. Richard is a perfect choice to succeed me as CEO and I look forward to continuing to partner with him as the executive chairman going forward."

Zimmerman, 57, has more than 30 years of experience in the hospitality and leisure entertainment industry. He became president of Cedar Fair in 2016, having been named COO in 2011 after serving as an executive vice president since 2007. He also served as vice

president and general manager of the Kings Dominion amusement park beginning in 1998.

"Richard has the skills and experience required to lead the company forward," Ouimet stated. "He has been a great thought partner to me and has made major contributions to our strong performance, including being a key driver behind such successful initiatives as Fast

PEOPLE WATCH

Lane, season passes and our all-season dining and beverage programs."

"Having the opportunity to lead Cedar Fair is a distinct yet humbling honor," said Zimmerman. "We are fortunate to have an exceptional organization with a deep and talented leadership team. We are also fortunate to be a leader in an

industry that continues to have the potential to grow and expand. I look forward to the opportunity to continue broadening our offerings to better serve our guests, as well as providing long-term value for our investors."

In conjunction with Ouimet's move to executive chairman of the board of directors, the company also noted effective Jan. 1, **Eric Affeldt** will transition from

his role as chairman of the board but will continue to serve as a director.

"We are fortunate to have someone with Debra's skills and board experience to take on the role of lead independent director," said Affeldt. "Debra has been a valuable voice in all of our deliberations and will be an even greater asset in her new role as lead independent director."

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MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 10/23/17	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	34.72	35.09	23.33
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	373.90	537.50	355
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	63.63	72.56	56.23
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	36.55	42.18	30.02
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	98.70	116.10	91.66
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.77	1.66	0.73
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	70.33	77.70	65.50
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	2480.00	2624.00	1900.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.94	2.07	1.55
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	7.93	8.99	7.6
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	30.90	34.65	25.15
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	13.25	17.45	11.68
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	12.15	20.13	11.1
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	61.27	65.19	50.56
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	12.84	15	11.6
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	551.00	676.00	425.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	3.78	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

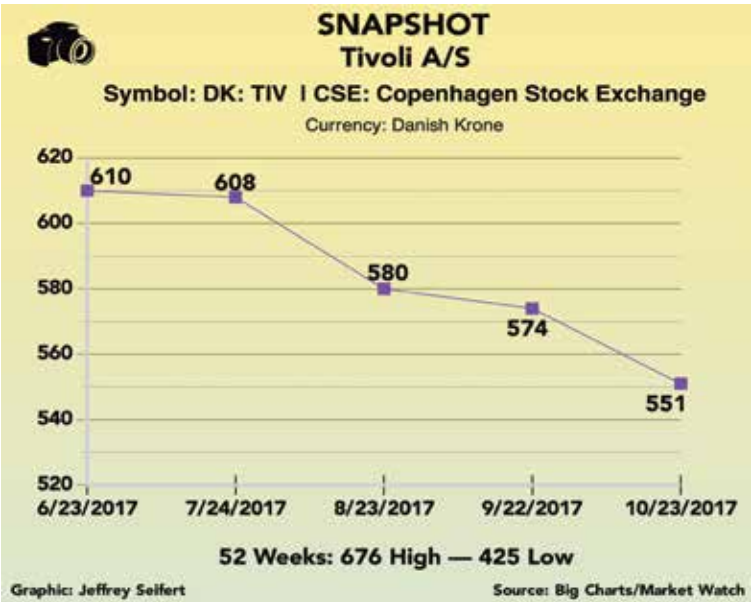
DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 10/23/17	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.797	+\$0.329
Midwest	\$2.779	+\$0.328
Gulf Coast	\$2.614	+\$0.261
Mountain	\$2.917	+\$0.367
West Coast	\$3.015	+\$0.370
California	\$3.166	+\$0.338

CURRENCY

On 10/23/17 \$1 USD =

0.8487	EURO
0.7580	GBP (British Pound)
113.55	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9838	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.2791	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.2624	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

Six Flags announces quarterly earnings

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** (NYSE: SIX), announced on Oct. 25 revenue for the quarter ended September 30, 2017, was \$580 million, an increase of \$23 million or 4 percent compared to the same period in 2016. The increase was primarily driven by a 3 percent growth in attendance to 12.9 million guests, a 2 percent increase in guest spending per capita and a 23 percent increase in international licensing revenue, partially offset by decreases in sponsorship and accommodations revenue. Net income increased \$79 million or 77 percent.

Attendance at the company's parks for the first nine months of 2017 grew 2 percent to 24.3 million guests, while guest spending per capita was essentially flat at \$42.55 compared to the prior-year period. These guest spending per caps were driven by admissions per capita increasing 1 percent to \$24.88 and in-park spending per capita decreasing 2 percent to \$17.67.

Leisure Labs, SunKid team up in North America

SARASOTA, Fla. — Germany-based **Sunkid GmbH** recently announced that Leisure Labs, a specialist in the industry for decades and sales partner of renowned brands, is taking over sales of the Sunkid amusement park products in the USA, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean with immediate effect.

"Our cooperation with Leisure Labs now has us represented in the North American market in the area of amusement parks through a competent and experienced partner on site," said Sunkid CEO **Emanuel Wohlfarter**

Leisure Labs President **Bob Dean** said, "With this step, Leisure Labs covers the important market segment of family rides, and we love the **Sunkid Heege** quality and interactivity. We will also now offer components for rides, such as roller coaster replacement trains. On top of this, it is particularly exciting for us to bring the global market leader in outdoor conveyor belts on board with Sunkid."

•leisurelabslc.com and sunkidworld.com

Dolly Parton announces hurricane relief efforts

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. — **Dolly Parton** will assist with the ongoing relief efforts around the United States and its territories by making a contribution to the **One America Appeal for Hurricane Relief** to assist with immediate life sustaining needs of those affected. The One America Appeal is a joint appeal that was originally launched by all five living former **American Presidents** to encourage their fellow citizens to support recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey. This special appeal has been expanded to include areas most affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

In addition to the financial contribution to the One America Appeal, Dolly will launch a partnership with **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**, the nonprofit social enterprise **First Book**, and **Penguin Young Readers** to provide 500,000 books to hurricane-affected areas through the **First Book National Book Bank**. To kick off the campaign, Dolly's foundation donated 165,000 books and the \$90,750 needed to cover the shipping and handling charges to make books available quickly and at no cost to educators affected by the storms. .

If you would like to learn more or donate to this effort please visit: <http://bit.ly/hurricanebookrelief>.

In brief...

•DURANGO, Mexico — The **Secretary of Tourism of Durango**, Mexico, says an investment of 30 million pesos is planned to completely renovate the **Parque Villa del Oeste**, bringing in more guests to the attraction. The park currently features sets from Western movies filmed in the area. With the investment, new rides will be added and a boutique hotel will be built.

•ORLANDO, Fla. — **SeaWorld Entertainment** is cutting 350 positions at its corporate headquarters and at its theme parks in California and Florida under an employment restructuring geared toward increasing the company's net savings through next year. A park spokeswoman said jobs related to animal rescue and rehabilitation have not been affected. The company will provide severance pay and help affected workers find new employment.

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MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

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

National Roller Coaster Museum to expand building, honor Mark Moore

Second round of funding to launch during IAAPA Expo

PLAINVIEW, Texas — An endowment to the **National Roller Coaster Museum** from founding board member **Mark Moore**, who passed unexpectedly in 2016, is allowing NRCMA to double the size of its current archive facility and to create a showroom for public access to select artifacts within the museum's collection. The expansion will be named for Moore and will quantify his success in the industry and his support of NRCMA.

"The response by the industry to recognize Mark has been unprecedented," said **Jeff Novotny**, NRCMA chairman. "Nearly \$325,000 was raised in one day at the **IAAPA Attractions Expo 2016** in Orlando, which proves Mark Moore was an innovator in the industry and inspiration to his peers. This effort is allowing the museum to realize some of its loftiest goals."

Architectural designs for the expansion have been donated by **Herschman Architects** in Cleveland. Its colorful, whimsical design references the heritage of fun and excitement of the midway while the functional



Herschman Architects of Cleveland, Ohio, is providing the architectural design for the new Mark Moore building expansion of the National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives. COURTESY NRCMA

design provides state-of-the-art display and archive space.

This development joins other endowed expansions of the museum. Building One was donated by fundraising efforts by members of **American Coaster Enthusiasts**. Buildings Two and Three grew the facility two more times thanks to donations from the **Gary and Linda Hays (Cliff's Amusement Park)** and the **Knoebels** family.

A fourth donation allowed for the construction of the current climate-controlled archives area. These four buildings now house equipment donated by **Cedar Fair**; **Disneyland**; **Dollywood**; **Hersheypark**; **Six Flags** and many

others. Major archive collections have been donated by the **Bill Crandall** family; the **Bill Cobb/John Pierce** collection; **Harold Hudson**; **LARC**; **Tom Major**; the **Bob Minick** family; the **Ron Toomer** family and countless others.

As NRCMA continues to expand its collection and to work toward both mobile exhibits and a public museum to showcase the history of the amusement industry, it needs the help of the industry and the general public. Donations can be made by mail:

NRCMA,
Attention: Jerry Willard
PO Box 5424
Arlington, Texas 76005-5424

NRCMA announces board changes

Industry veterans Chris Gray and Adam Sandy added

PLAINVIEW, Texas — As the **NRCMA** meets unprecedented growth with the recently announced **Mark Moore** building expansion to the museum and archive facility in Plainview, Texas, the board of directors is expanding and realigning to meet future challenges.

Jeff Novotny, founding treasurer of the NRCMA board is assuming the role of chairman of the board from **Amusement Today** publisher **Gary Slade** who will remain on the board. **Jerry Willard**, current **American Coaster Enthusiasts** president, assumes the role of treasurer from Novotny. **Carole Sanderson**, principle for **Herschman Architects** will remain as board secretary.

Industry veterans **Chris Gray**, principle

and partner in **Skyline Attractions**, and **Adam Sandy**, chief business development officer for **Ride Entertainment Group**, joined the board in 2016 and have both assumed roles in technology and business expansion for the NRCMA.

Board members, **Pete Owens**, **Tom Sheehan**, **Walt Bowser** and **Richard Munch** remain on the board focusing on marketing and PR, legal, acquisition and history respectively.

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NRCMA
Attention: Jerry Willard PO Box 5424
Arlington, Texas
76005-5424

Archives, collections growing



Industry engineer **Harold Hudson** recently added to an earlier donation with additional photos, this time providing rare construction photos of Intamin's first river rapids ride — **Thunder River** at **AstroWorld**, Houston, Texas, circa 1980. NRCMA ARCHIVES/HAROLD HUDSON



Roller coaster designer **John Pierce** also added to his collection with the donation of additional framed prints, this one of the **Fairyland Wildcat**, the wooden coaster he would later move to **Frontier City**. NRCMA ARCHIVES/JOHN PIERCE

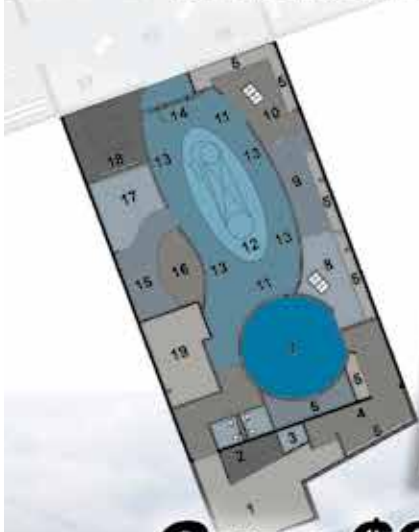


Lottie Minick recently loaned NRCMA the collection of her late husband, **Bob Minick** of **Minick & Associates**, for archiving. Here, from the collection, is a 1986 rendering by **Bob Minick** of the **Kennywood Carousel Arts** building. NRCMA ARCHIVES/BOB MINICK

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-Gary Slade, Amusement Today

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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

Annual safety seminars further the knowledge of those attending

AT: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

NORTH AMERICA – Those associated with the amusement industry spend much of their winter investing in the safety of their businesses and their visitors.

Industry professionals update and test their attractions as well as attend safety seminars to further their knowledge.

The following is a preview of those safety seminars scheduled.

AIMS Safety Seminar Galveston, Texas Jan. 7-12, 2018

Galveston, Texas, is the host city for the **2018 AIMS Safety Seminar**. Classes scheduled for the event, set for Jan. 7-12, will be held in the **Galveston Convention Center** with hotel accommodations at the adjacent **Hilton Galveston** and **San Luis Resort**.

AIMS International is



The 2018 AIMS Safety Seminar is set for Jan. 7-12, Galveston, Texas. It offers about 200 different classes and a variety of safety certifications. Here, attendees are in a restraints course. COURTESY AIMS

a non-profit organization dedicated to the safety of the amusement industry consisting of professionals from all segments of the industry.

The seminar is a comprehensive safety-training experience for individuals responsible for the care and safety of the amusement industry's guests. It includes both sit-down and hands-on classes.

Attendees build tailored course curricula that best suit their needs and the needs of their employers. Seminar planners schedule about 200 classes as well as certification testing and networking opportunities.

Class topics for the 2018 had not been finalized last month, but a sampling of 2017 topics include: amusement



Attendees at the annual NAARSO Safety Forum are offered an array of classes including this one in welding. The 2018 seminar is set for Jan. 28-Feb. 2, Baton Rouge, La. COURTESY NAARSO

park security, electrical controls, fall protection, amusement park railroad, autism awareness, block system troubleshooting, bearing maintenance and inspection, carnival midway inspection, conveyor belts, life safety code, operations inspections and audits, and OSHA updates.

Also offered during the safety seminar are classes

that go toward AIMS certifications in four areas: ride inspector certification, maintenance certification, operations technician certification, and aquatics operations technician. There are a number of levels offered under each program. Certification testing is done the final day of the

► See SEMINARS, page 74



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Top 10 reasons to attend the AIMS Safety Seminar

GALVESTON, Texas — Ten excellent reasons to attend the **2018 AIMS International Safety Seminar** in Galveston, Texas, January 7-12 are:

1. **Safety** — it is the **#1 Priority** in the amusement industry.

2. The mission of AIMS International is to improve amusement industry safety through leadership in education — we do this by offering the **top-rated amusement industry seminar in the world**.

3. The seminar attracts more than **350 students** from all areas of the industry — theme and amusement parks, water parks, carnivals, zoos, FECs, and

other attractions — from maintenance and operations workers to top management as well as industry suppliers. Attendees will also learn from industry peers and make connections useful for years to come.

4. Classes are taught by more than **100 instructors** — all top quality industry experts in their fields. More great connections!

5. No other seminar offers such a **diverse range of classes** — attendees can choose a full schedule to fit their needs.

6. **Learning** takes place in the classroom where students and instructors exchange information



as well as through hands-on opportunities at local attractions.

7. In addition to **AIMS Certifications** in maintenance, operations, ride inspection and aquatics, students can earn certifications in OSHA 10, Certified Pool Operator (CPO), and S.A.V.E. (Security, Awareness and Vigilance for Everyone).

8. **Tuition is \$595** and includes class materials, an opening reception, all lunches and snack breaks, a completion certificate, and continuing education units (CEU). AIMS has secured a discounted rate of \$115 per night at the Galveston Hilton.

9. Scholarships!

•**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 to OABA members who are **first-time** Safety Seminar attendees. Contact oaba@oaba.org for more informa-

tion.

10. **AIMS delivers!** More than 92 percent of those who attend an AIMS Safety Seminar report that they plan to return to another AIMS Safety Seminar.

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

Please stop by and visit the AIMS International booth **#4527** at the **IAAPA Attractions 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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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

SEMINARS

Continued from page 72

seminar.

AIMS Safety Seminar attendance has continued to grow over the past several years. The seminar held in January of this year drew 378 compared to the 340 reported in 2016. Attendance in 2015 was 300.

NAARSO

2018 Safety Forum
Baton Rouge, La.
Jan. 28-Feb. 2, 2018

NAARSO's 31st annual Safety Forum is set for Baton Rouge in 2018 with classes to be held in the Crowne Plaza and the hands-on activity to take place at Dixie Landin'.

NAARSO, a non-profit association dedicated to the advancement of amusement ride and device safety, offers annual safety forums that provide classroom education and inspection and operations certification.

The NAARSO certification program is recognized and used by approximately 18 states or provinces (including Dubai, Canada, and Singapore) as an identifier of individuals authorized to provide jurisdictional or third party inspections. The Annual Safety Forum traditionally draws about 300.

The association provides four levels of Inspection Certification and two levels of Operations Certification.

One of the Inspection Certification levels includes Limited Specialty, which addresses the rental side of the



The International Ride Training (IRT) International Ride Operator Certification school (iROC) has been set for Feb. 6-9 at Knott's Berry Farm theme park, Buena Park, Calif. This three-day seminar is styled as a train-the-trainer safety educational program. Industry leaders present best practices of safety restraints like above as well as offer an array of hands-on instruction. COURTESY IRT/iROC



industry such as inflatable devices, rock walls, trackless trains, bungee jumps, and other rental devices.

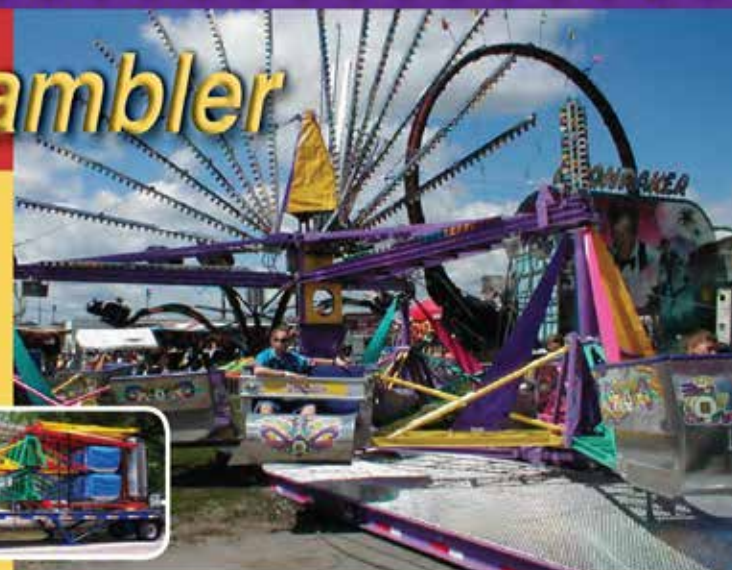
Classes, which run Monday and Tuesday, will include such topics as braking systems, inspector communications, comprehensive inspection

points for traveling rides, comprehensive inspection points for permanent rides, electrical control systems, safety restraints, linear induction systems, miniature trains and arc flash safety.

► See SEMINARS, page 76

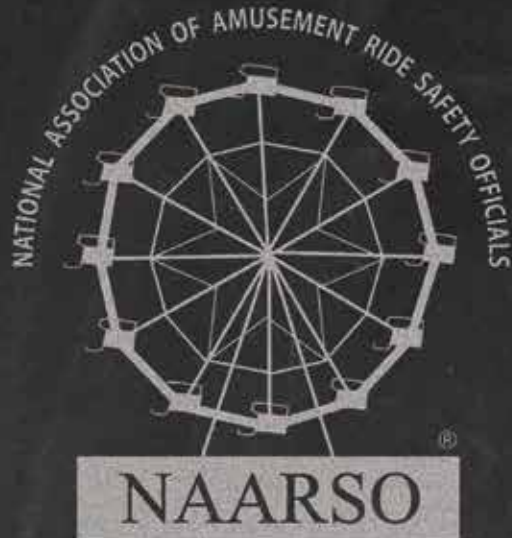
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- Registration begins on Sunday, January 28, 2018.
- Classes end after noon on Friday, February 2.
 - Inspector Level I & Level II certification exams are Friday afternoon.
- Tuition cost is \$445 for current 2018 members of NAARSO, non-member's tuition cost is \$520.

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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

SEMINARS
 Continued from page 74

The classes are broken up into groups: primary, secondary and operational. A participant's path for these two days is determined by previous training experience and/or years in the industry.

General primary curriculum covers basic inspection points and techniques as well

as basic electric, hydraulics, and other related subjects.

General secondary curriculum includes a Monday and Tuesday schedule of elective classes covering different topics that focus on inspection of specific types of devices, codes and standards, employee safety, and other topics not related to basic ride inspections.

The operational curricu-

lum includes both primary and advanced operations classes. This curriculum is targeted for those who wish to further their operational knowledge. Exams for both operations levels are set for Thursday, Feb. 1.

Set for Friday, Feb. 2, is a study review in the morning and inspection exams in the afternoon.

IRT/iROC
 Knott's Berry Farm
 Buena Park, Calif.
 Feb. 6-9, 2018

The International Ride Training (IRT) International Ride Operator Certification School (iROC) has been set for Feb. 6-9 at Knott's Hotel and Knott's Berry Farm Theme Park, Buena Park, Calif.

iROC is a three-day, train-the-trainer styled ride operator

safety education program. It offers ride instructor, trainer and operator level certifications by providing class instruction as well as hands-on and scenario-based training.

Industry leaders and speakers share best practices and industry updates throughout the program.

This will be the eighth annual event.

IRT has developed 10 critical duties that a ride operator must conduct during each ride cycle. The instructors learn how to teach these safety and service procedures and how to ensure they are performed to a required and expected standard of performance.

Attendees receive a certificate of completion and an instructor certification if they pass the required criteria.

The 2018 schedule of classes and speakers hadn't been confirmed by AT's press time.

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Northwestern Showmen's Club Safety Seminar
 Portland, Ore.

This year's Northwestern Showmen's Club Safety Seminar has been set for Feb. 18-23, at Oaks Amusement Park and at the winter quarters of Funtastic Rides Inc., both located in Portland, Ore.

This seminar has continued to grow over the past years with 2017's attendance of 208, breaking all attendance records.

The Northwestern Showmen's Club (NWSC) is a non-profit organization consisting of members from the amusement, entertainment, fairs, and festival industry. The NWSC's safety seminar was established 37 years ago.

In 2017, 33 classes were offered. Attendees are able to build a tailored course curricula. Offered are both classroom sessions held at Funtastic Traveling Shows' winter quarters and hands-on instruction at Oaks Amusement Park.

The 2018 seminar is expected to have at least that number of classes.

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 Hands on ride training at Knott's Berry Farm
 Email: cindee@ridetraining.com

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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

Silver Dollar City master-plans for ride efficiency

Park's biggest investment ever faced challenges

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

BRANSON, Mo. — Regular guests to **Silver Dollar City** know that among the park's many notable attributes, the setting in the Ozark Mountains is an enviable signature feature. Sometimes.

Despite the fantastic ambience provided by the hilly terrain, it does come with some challenges. While the sloped topography can make for an exciting roller coaster, the lack of flat land dictates planning. Combine that with mere inches of topsoil before hitting solid rock and any project requires determination.

Announced in August, Silver Dollar City's new Time Traveler roller coaster supplied by **Mack Rides** and sold through **Leisure Labs, LLC** is the biggest investment in the park's history.



Dennis Clevenger
SDC VP of Maintenance
and Construction

With more than 200 columns in a tight footprint and sloped topography, this particular project was made successful by using efficient foresight.

Amusement Today talked to **Dennis Clevenger**, vice president, maintenance and construction, Silver Dollar City Attractions.

"With the challenging topography, we looked at what footings could be put in place without blocking us out to get cranes back in," he said.

"When we received shipments, it sometimes would be parts we weren't expecting, so we had to build a crane path on top of footings to get our way out."

Getting an overall sense of the big picture was key.

"With all the track and shipments coming from Germany, we had all kinds of spreadsheets. You can't visualize an entire ride by spreadsheets," said Clevenger. "We put up a color-coded system so that we would know which footings were dug, which footings had steel in them, which footings had been poured and which columns were in."

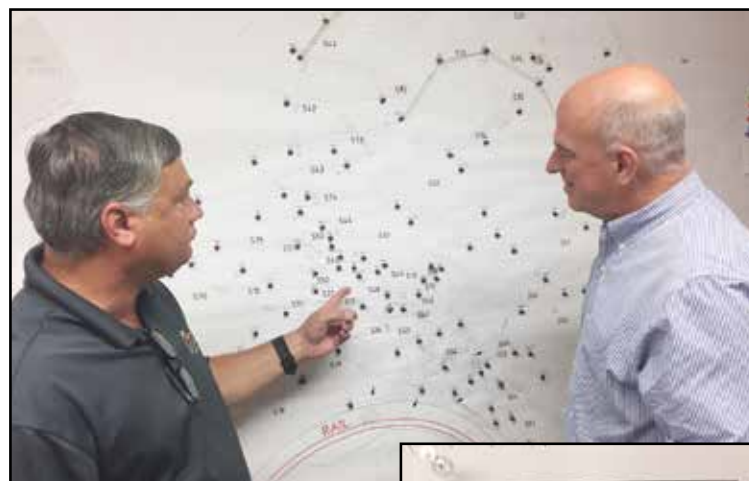
This "color-coded system" came in the simplest of executions — push pins. Creating a project board, the placement of push pins conveyed an incredible amount of information efficiently and easily.

"When they started shipping the ride, we did the same system: what was shipped, what had arrived in the U.S., what had been offloaded and what was installed. We could look at the board and see which pieces are here, pieces that were not here yet and where to go next — kind of like a big jigsaw puzzle, because all the pieces are not necessarily coming in order."

"With all the cranes needed, we had to plan our way in and plan our way out. With this one we had one way in and one way out, so we had to choose it very carefully."

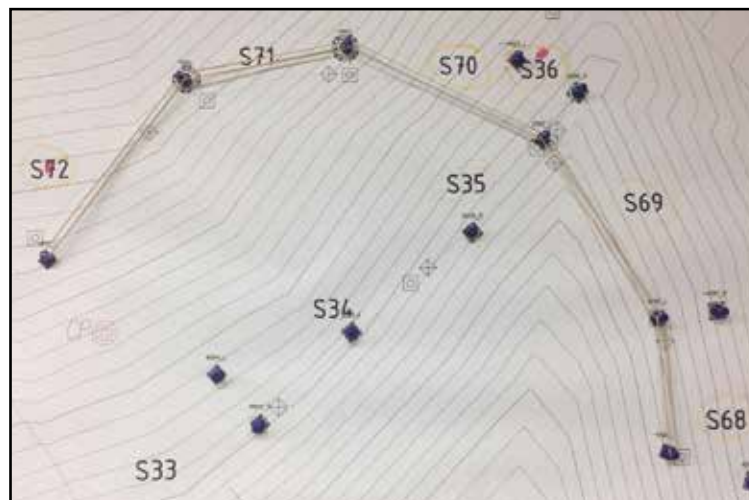
As with any project, large quantities of supplies and parts arrive in a short time. Unlike most parks, Silver Dollar City does not have the luxury of back parking lots to store these shipments as guest parking lots are on the other side of the park.

Clevenger said, "Being in the Ozark Mountains, we don't have very much flat land. Any time we build a big project, we have to look for a laydown yard. With this project we had to plan for about a hundred sea containers to arrive and find a place to put that. We looked at all the available land we had for the closest hilltop [to the project] and had to clear, level, and make it to where we could have a staging area. When the project is done, we will then create an



Above, SDC's Dennis Clevenger (left) visits with park GM Brad Thomas about the department's pin wall that tracks the Time Traveler's supports and track. At right is the color pin schedule. Below rubber bands connecting pins indicate completed track sections.
AT/GARY SLADE

Pin Schedule	
	Engineered
	Digging
	Ready to Form Footing
	Ready to Pour Footing
	Footing Poured
	Ready to Pour Column
	Column Poured



off-site parking lot for either our employees or guests if we have an overflow situation.

"With the location we chose and the road that we built, employees can get to the park without getting back out on the highway. In our real busy season that can sometimes be 45 minutes to an hour. So, this way employees can bypass all that traffic."

Branson is a close-knit community. At times, cost savings and efficiency also benefit the surrounding area.

"We try to do everything we possibly can at the park. The load station and steel was fabricated in our welding shop at the park. We try to do what we can with in-house labor, and then we supplement with local contractors. We plan from the very beginning to the end. Instead of hiring general

contractors, we can then be in charge of the schedule and flow of work," said Clevenger.

While the park didn't have exact figures, management was pleased they could boost the local economy, particularly in the winter when there was not as much work in the area.

"One thing our company prides itself on is tree conservation. Any time we take out a tree, we plant at least two or three more to take its place. We try to help the environment and we recycle everything we possibly can," Clevenger told AT.

Time Traveler's theme and tagline is "Dream Big, Do Good." If the construction phase of the project is any indication, Silver Dollar City seems to be taking the storyline to heart.



On September 19, 2017 SDC Time Traveler track crew (top) installed the final piece of track (above) to complete the installation of the ride's complicated coaster layout.
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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

Power tool safety should never be taken lightly

Home circular saw accident severs six tendons; gloves to blame

Editor's note: This summer Harold Hudson had an unfortunate accident with a circular saw that required a trip to the hospital emergency room and surgery to repair six severed tendons on his left wrist. AT asked Harold to share the details of his accident here to our readers and our safety instructors. His accident reminds all of us in the amusement industry to practice safety at all times, both in the work place as well as at home. After surgery and much therapy, Harold is recovering and on the mend.

AT: Harold Hudson
Special to Amusement Today

Webster's Dictionary defines "accident" as an unforeseen and unplanned event or circumstance. I concur whole

heartedly with that definition. Who plans an accident?

Accidents occurring when using power tools are not uncommon and one must a) know and follow the safety rules and b) be extremely careful, at all times. In this article, safety when using a "Circular Saw" sometimes called a Skil Saw, which is just a brand, will be discussed.

Safety rules for circular saws may be found in the saw manual and on many websites. I found only one website that included the tip I want to focus on. The website

<http://www.circularsawhub.com/circular-saw-safety-tips>

includes 14 safety tips, but one in particular is the focus here:



Hudson



Shown above (l to r) is Harold Hudson's left wrist after a circular saw severed six tendons during a home accident. The photos show the wrist pre-surgery, post surgery and today. The accident reminds all of us that safety must be practiced at all times. COURTESY HAROLD HUDSON

•No gloves:

When working with the saw, it is best not to use gloves because the blade can grab a glove.

We are all aware and careful to wear eye and ear protection and to not wear loose clothing or unbound long hair around machinery, power tools and amusement rides for that matter, because these items can get caught in moving/rotating mechanisms and pull you or your body parts into the machin-

ery. But most of us think we need to wear gloves for comfort and to protect our hands from abrasions. Wrong! Gloves, even tight-fitting gloves, can get caught in the rotating mechanism of power tools and especially the rotating blade of a circular saw. I know.

Recently I wanted to replace the rotten lower six inches of an external 1x4 window frame. To do this, I had to make a horizontal plunge cut making sure I didn't cut or scar the adjacent items. I started the plunge cut by raising the guard to expose the blade and lower the blade into the 1x4. Then the "unplanned event" or accident happened. The saw blade caught the glove on my left hand, ripped the glove off my hand and in the process turned the saw around to where the blade contacted my left wrist and did its damage, including severing six tendons and two arteries.

I drove myself to the emergency room, and luckily, a very good surgeon was on duty and everything was

repaired expertly. Now I know what not to do and I hope others do also.

•Instruction Manual:

Read the instruction manual thoroughly paying special attention to the safety tips and cautions.

•**Check the safety equipment regularly:** Make certain electrical cords are in good shape and all guards are working properly.

•**Replace cracked blades immediately:** Cracked, broken or blades that change shape when rotating need replacement. Never cut anything with a dull blade.

•**Use proper material to remove dust:** After finishing the work, use a brush or similar device to remove shavings; do not wipe with hand or arm! You may get cut yourself if you want to remove the dust with your bare hand.

•**Wear proper attire while working:** You must wear tight-fitting clothes while working. Full sleeves or loose coat can catch eas-

► See TOOL SAFETY page 81

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Here we see a circular saw and a pair of gloves. Saw safety tips indicate that wearing gloves while the saw is in motion can be a safety hazard, as Harold Hudson found out this summer. COURTESY HAROLD HUDSON

SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION**Amusement industry moving aggressively to enhance ride inspections****Government and industry working together to improve ride safety, inspections**

WINTER PARK, Fla. — Government regulators and the amusement industry are moving quickly to improve inspections and testing of ma-

jor amusement rides after a fatal accident at the **Ohio State Fair**. The accident identified a hidden problem that was not detected even though the operator and independent inspectors followed current inspection protocols.

Investigators from the **Consumer Product Safety Commission** concluded: "Ex-

cessive corrosion inside the gondola support beam was the cause of the accident," and "A visual inspection after the ride is in place would not detect corrosion thinning of internal walls."

"Safety is our number one priority," said **Rob Vivona**, whose family has operated **Amusements of America**

since 1939.

"The Ohio incident could have occurred at any venue worldwide," said **Bob Johnson**, president of the **Outdoor Amusement Business Association**. "That is why our industry, **IAAPA**, many state ride inspection authorities and amusement ride safety organizations, such as the **National**

Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAAR-SO), **AIMS International**, **ASTM International**, an organization that establishes safety standards worldwide, and the federal **Consumer Product Safety Commission** met recently to discuss this impor-

► See **INSPECTIONS**, page 83

► **TOOL SAFETY**

Continued from page 80

ily in the moving parts of the machine. Loose hair and jewelry may also get captured by the moving blades of the circular saw.

•**Apply proper technique of cutting:** You should start cutting little material from a bigger material.

•**No gloves:** When working with the saw, it is best not to use gloves because the blade can grab a glove.

•**Eye protection:** Eyes are the most sensitive part of our body. You can protect your eyes with safety glasses from wood flying around or other materials.

•**Nose protection:** Wood dust can damage one's health. Therefore, always use the suction devices provided on the machine. Wear a mask or face shield.


•**Ear protection:** Wear ear protection! Circular saws can develop a volume of up to 105 decibels (dB) A. For comparison, a Jackhammer in seven meters emits 90 dB (A).

•**Hand protection:** You must put both your hands on the saw while cutting. If you are right handed, you should buy a circular saw with the blade on the left. If you are left handed, you should buy a circular saw with the blade on the right.

•**Put the saw in the right place:** After finishing the work, never put the saw on the ground uncovered and do not leave your attached tools unattended.

Everyone should be overly cautious when it comes to circular saw safety. A loose garment, jewelry or glove — which was my case — can cause the intended wood cut to be an unintended flesh cut.

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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION**PTCI awarded U.S. patent for ADA transfer device**

HATFIELD, Pa. — Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc. recently announced that it's Amusement Ride Transfer Accessibility Device for the physically disabled to ride wooden roller coasters was awarded U.S. Patent No. 9,694,292 on July 4, 2017.

PTCI's ADA device is a unique new apparatus that allows guests to board a roller coaster train under their own power and ensures they remain secured and upright as the ride goes through its paces. It can now be found in multiple amusement parks on the roller coaster stations assisting guests into PTCI roller coaster

trains.

The PTCI ADA Device can be adapted to other styles of roller coasters as well. PTCI introduced the product at the 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo.

**Saferparks releases safety tips for parks**

LA JOLLA, Calif. — Saferparks, a non-profit public service organization founded in 2000 to help prevent amusement ride accidents through research, information sharing, and effective public safety policy, presented some tips to keep kids safe on amusement rides.

Saferparks' tips stress the five points of attachment: butt on the seat, both feet on the floor, and both hands holding on.

While children are still young, it's the parent's job to

BRIEFS

make sure that kids stay safely positioned until the ride is over and it's safe to get off.

Saferparks' information also states that kids who are too small to reach the bracing points or fit securely in the restraint should ride with an adult. Family rides where small children sit with dangling legs offer less stability for tots. If the ride has bench seats, parents can ride next to young children to make sure they don't slide or tumble into an unsafe position.

Carousel horses deserve special mention in this category, according to Saferparks. Despite the leisurely pace, there can be a significant fall height and the slippery fiberglass horses aren't the most stable platform for very young children. Parents should board with toddlers, even if an additional ticket is required, and stand next to their child's horse.

Children should not sit on a parent's lap unless the ride

operator explicitly says it's safe to do so. If the ride has restraints, that position could cause the bar or belt to put too much pressure on a child's small body.

If the ride doesn't have restraints, the extra elevation provided by the parent's lap may put the child in a position where an unexpected twist or turn could cause the child to slip out of parents' hands and out of the car.

More information may be obtained by going to www.saferparks.org.

OSHA launches heat related illness campaign

Every year, dozens of workers die and thousands more become ill while working in extreme heat or humid conditions. According to the website of the **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**, which began a campaign to keep workers safe in the heat, more than 40 percent of heat-related worker deaths occur in the construc-

tion industry, but workers in every field are susceptible. There are a range of heat illnesses and they can affect anyone, regardless of age or physical condition.

Under OSHA law, employers are responsible for providing workplaces free of known safety hazards. This includes protecting workers from extreme heat. An employer with workers exposed to high temperatures should establish a complete heat illness prevention program. Provide workers with water, rest and shade.

Allow new or returning workers to gradually increase workloads and take more frequent breaks as they acclimatize, or build a tolerance for working in the heat.

Plan for emergencies and train workers on prevention. Workers should be monitored on a regular basis for any signs of illness.

More information may be obtained by going to www.osha.gov.

INSPECTIONS

Continued from page 81

tant issue."

"We would expect to see new inspection and testing protocols, new safety and design standards and new state requirements to look for this hidden, and until recently, unidentified ride safety issue," Johnson said. "OABA supports the CPSC recommendations for new performance requirements to prevent water pooling or condensation in critical components that could result in corrosion, and means to facilitate visual inspection of the interior of structural beams and criteria to assess corrosion and action to be taken based on the condition of the material.

"Amusement rides are one of the best known, most popular and safest forms of family entertainment," Johnson said. "Our entire industry and the government agencies we work with are committed to addressing the issues raised in Ohio."

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Heinz History Center releases new book on Pittsburgh's Luna Park

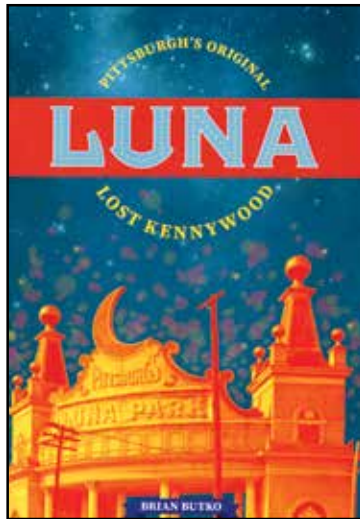
REVIEW: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — The story should be familiar to most readers by now. At the turn of the century, life changed for the average American. Citizens no longer needed to toil all day at work just to keep their families fed. The implementation of automation and increased efficiency were giving a number of Americans free time and the disposable income needed to seek out entertaining diversions such as dance halls, picnic grounds and amusement parks.

In the southwest corner of Pennsylvania, the city known for its steel, glass and pickles, was ripe for the development of leisure activity centers.

In 1889 Philanthropist **Mary Schenley** donated 300 acres to the city of Pittsburgh (then without its “h”) for the formation of **Schenley Park** which was developed for recreational use. With the addition of **Henry Phipps’** glass-house conservatory, the **Pittsburgh Zoo**, and the **Carnegie Institute and Library**, her park became a showpiece of recreation. By 1895 picnic groves, ballfields, dance halls and boat docks lined the Monongahela River and were scattered throughout the city. Two such places — **Kenny’s Groves**, which later became **Kennywood**, and **Luna Park**, are the subject of *Luna: Pittsburgh’s Original Lost Kennywood*.

Author **Brian Butko**, an editor with the **Heinz History Center**, has penned many books covering Pittsburgh area diners, parks, old highways, and various roadside attractions, including the book *Kennywood: Behind the Screams*, published last year. His new book on Luna chronicles the tale of inventor **Frederick Ingersoll** who went from building roller coasters at Kennywood to developing Luna Parks and building hundreds of roller coasters throughout the United States.



The grand and glorious Luna Park opened in 1905 to huge crowds and rave reviews, yet it lasted just five seasons. Contributing factors to its demise included financial overextension, competition from Pittsburgh attractions such as the first Nickelodeon, nearby **Forbes Field** — one of the country’s first modern ballparks, other amusement parks such as Kennywood and a lack of room to expand in its urban location.

The 144-page book is divided into five chapters and includes a foreword from the president and CEO of the **Senator John Heinz History Center**, as well as a multi-page afterword that features *Lost Kennywood*.

The first chapter, “Amusing Pittsburgh(h),” provides a historical account of how Pittsburgh became an industrialized city that was at one time one of the largest producers of steel, coal, glass, aluminum, cork, and also home to the Heinz pickling and preserving plant. Workers needed recreation and savvy landowners were quick to respond. Trolley lines built parks at the end of their lines and used the electricity they were already buying or producing to run electric rides and light midways with dazzling electric lights.

Chapter two is about the Ingersoll family and how Frederick Ingersoll, who came from a

BOOK REVIEW

long line of ambitious inventors entered the amusement business building rides for trolley parks. In 1898 he secured the rights from designer **Edward Joy Morris**, to build figure-eight roller coasters. In 1901 he organized the **Ingersoll Construction Company**. Knowing trolley lines couldn’t be bothered with the amusement park business, he offered to build and run parks for them and pay them a percentage of the park receipts. All they needed to do was supply the electricity. By 1902 his brothers joined the company which then became the **Ingersoll Pleasure Amusement Company**. By 1904 the company employed 1,200 men and was running rides at three dozen parks in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Around that same time **John Miller** joined the Ingersoll company and with his numerous inventions started building multi-vehicle trains to run on larger, wilder coasters. These roller coasters were locked to the track via his patented “Miller Under Friction Wheel” commonly known as an upstop wheel.

With parks popping up all over, it was said that all anyone needed was a shady grove, a dance floor and a few rides to attract customers. However, Ingersoll, along with many others, saw the need for revolution. In 1901, Buffalo’s **Pan American Exposition** caught the attention of many developers who noticed how people flocked to the midways at World’s Fairs and Expositions. Two entrepreneurs, **Fred Thompson** and **Skip Dundy** featured an attraction in Buffalo called a Trip to the Moon, where guests boarded a flying machine called Luna and landed on the moon where they encountered dark passages and grottoes filled with 200 “moon people.” The two made a fortune, and after the exposition, took their idea to Coney Island. They purchased **Boyton’s Sea Lion Park** and set about to expand the park to 40 acres keeping Boyton’s Shoot the Chute ride as the centerpiece. They added Trip to the Moon, along with several more attractions all adorned with exotic towers and spires and 250,000 electric lights. They renamed the park Luna, a nod to the moon ride and its goal to be a nighttime park. The first **Luna Park** was born and by the end of the season the park had cleared \$600,000.

Chapter three chronicles the development of Pittsburgh’s Luna Park, from bare ground to a land of enchantment. Thompson and Dundy were wanting to expand their Luna Park concept and



The impressive Luna Park entrance was adorned with hundreds of incandescent light bulbs.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

looked to Pittsburgh which had the perfect partner waiting for them — or so it seemed. News stories in July 1904 talked of a collaboration of the famous owners of New York’s Luna Park and Frederick Ingersoll, touted as “the most successful and widely renowned showman the world has ever known.” Ingersoll was to be president of the **Pittsburgh Thompson, Dundy Amusement Company**, but within two weeks the partnership had unraveled. Frederick instead decided to go it alone and built his own Luna Parks in Cleveland and Pittsburgh, both set to open in 1905. A harsh winter caused construction delays and the opening of Pittsburgh’s Luna was pushed to June 5. Although work started first in Cleveland and it opened first, that park was always considered Ingersoll’s second Luna.

Pittsburgh’s Luna was described as simply magical and a land of enchantment. The park had a Japanese garden, aquarium, carousel, aerial swing, Cavern of Capri boat ride, Alphonso Funhouse, Shoot the Chute, circus acts, and a midway called The Pike. At night 67,000 incandescent lights lit the property along with 120 arc lights and a 28,000 candlepower searchlight — this at a time when most homes were still lit with town gas or oil lamps.

By the end of the 1905 season, 800,000 visitors had strolled the grounds, netting Ingersoll’s company \$100,000.

The success of Luna Park led to the construction of other parks in the regions such as **West View**, **Dream City** and **Coney Island**. Kenny’s Groves — now Kennywood — had taken notice too, and was adding upgrades to compete with Luna and other parks. Luna responded by making upgrades as well, but for landlocked Luna, changes were expensive. In order to add something new, an existing structure or attraction had to first be removed.

Chapter four takes a look at the changes that were taking place at both Luna and Kennywood. By the end of the 1906 season, Ingersoll, more fascinated with building parks than running them, retired as manager of Pittsburgh’s Luna. In 1907 the stock market took a tumble and remained unsteady. Leery consumers cut back on spending which did not help the now overbuilt and struggling amusement industry. An escaped lion from an animal show at the park mauled a customer and damaged Luna’s reputation.

Economic hard times continued into 1908 and as Pittsburgh (its “h” now returned) celebrated its sesquicentennial, Luna found itself at a Sheriff’s sale at the start of the season. Although the property value was listed at \$76,244, it was purchased by **James W. Kinnear** for \$1,155.70. The park opened for the season and Kinnear promised that nothing would be old except the name. By the end of the year, Luna experienced its biggest deficit year ever. In 1909 Kinnear sold the property to Keystone National Bank for \$1.87. The saga, however, was not yet over. **M.W. Taylor** from Philadelphia agreed to lease the park from the bank for five years. Taylor promised that not only would the park reopen, but it would be more magnificent than ever before. That same year Forbes Field, one of the most modern ballparks in the country, opened near the park, along with Hippodrome Theater. The **Pittsburgh Pirates** had a winning season all the way to the World Series. No matter how much money Taylor sank into Luna, the park could not compete. By August 1909 Luna Park closed its gates forever.

Chapter five covers the aftermath. *Billboard* magazine blamed the park’s demise on a combination of factors: Ingersoll in over his head, the lion attack, the stock



Six buildings comprised the Japanese Village including a theatre that featured exhibitions in fencing, wrestling, juggling, acrobatics, music and other forms of Japanese entertainment.
PUBLIC DOMAIN

► See REVIEW, page 85



The Shoot the Chute went under a pedestrian bridge then out into the lagoon in the middle of the park. An attendant in each boat brought guests back to the loading area.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

►REVIEW

Continued from page 84

market panic of 1907, but mostly it blamed the blue law. Luna park sat closed every Sunday while other places such as the zoo, library, Schenley Park and its art museum, were able to stay open. Ingersoll blamed part of the problem on capacity. Attractions could not turn over paying customers fast enough and customers hated waiting in lines. It's interesting to note that the parks that did survive — Kennywood and later West View Park — installed racing coasters. People liked to do things rather than watch shows, and racing coasters provided high capacity thrills with minimal lines.

Ingersoll was often credited with building Luna Parks all over the world, but in reality his only foreign park was the **Mexidome** in Mexico City. Luna Parks that Ingersoll was directly involved with included Pittsburg, Cleveland, Scranton, Washington D.C., Schenectady and Buffalo.

Ingersoll did build and operate a number of rides and coasters but those successes did not help his financial straits. In 1911 he filed for bankruptcy. Luckily for Ingersoll, the courts discharged all his debts. He continued in the amusement business leasing parks and building rides until 1927. On October 24, 1927, Ingersoll was found dead in a small building at **Krug Park** in Omaha, suffocated by a leaking gas burner. The small building was a place where he often took an afternoon nap. The gas valve had been overtightened and cracked. Back then there was no chemical added to give off an odor and "town gas" had high levels of carbon monoxide mixed with methane.

In 1992 Frederick Ingersoll was inducted into the **IAAPA Hall of Fame**. Frederic W. Thompson and Elmer "Skip" Dundy were inducted in 2009.

In 1995 Kennywood opened its first themed area — Lost Kennywood. The new themed area was an homage to the exhibition-style parks such as Pittsburg's Luna Park.

Luna: Pittsburgh's Original Lost Kennywood tells the fascinating tale at the nearly forgotten Luna Parks. Along the way Butko offers a comprehensive look at the history and development of amusement parks in general. The 144-page paperback book is extremely well researched, cited throughout, with more than 20 pages listing referenced material. In this day and age of "fake news" and poorly researched websites, it is refreshing to see an author who values credibility.

Luna: Pittsburgh's Original Lost Kennywood retails for \$12.95. It can be purchased online at heinzhistorycenter.org, or amazon.com.

Luna Park book release party

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — In any other setting this launch event would have been "over the top," however for the subject matter, it was spot-on.

In late July, author **Brian Butko**, director of publications at the **Heinz History Center** released his latest historical book, *Luna, Pittsburgh's Original Lost Kennywood*. To bring to life the fun and flavor of amusement parks, the Row House Cinema in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh served as the back drop. The free carnival-esque atmosphere included ice cream samples from Isaly's, balloon animals, fortune telling, a "Paper Moon" Luna Park cutout for photo opportunities, and from **Kennywood Park**, **Bob the Juggler**. That was all going on outside on the sidewalk and into the street.

Inside the theater, during the ticketed session, were two other presenters (in addition to Butko) all well-versed on the subject. **WQED's Rick Sebak** who has made several amusement park specials for PBS along with **Andy Quinn**, former part owner of **Kennywood Park**, both gave remarks. The presentations along with Butko's, centered on Pittsburgh's colorful amusement park history and honed in on short-lived Luna Park, along with its connection to Kennywood. The 1997 Lost Kennywood addition to the West Mifflin, Pa. amusement park was based on the main midway attractions found at Luna Park, 87 years previously.

Attendees received a copy of the book upon exiting the theater along with other period-appropriate items.

—B. Derek Shaw



Presenters included (above, l to r): author Brian Butko, WQED's Rick Sebak and former Kennywood management, Andy Quinn. Brian Mendelssohn, owner of Row House Cinema provided a welcome to attendees. Sebak also served as the MC for the evening. Right, Bob the Juggler who performs at Kennywood was also on hand out front of the theater before the presentation helping maintain the carnival-like atmosphere. AT/B. DEREK SHAW





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