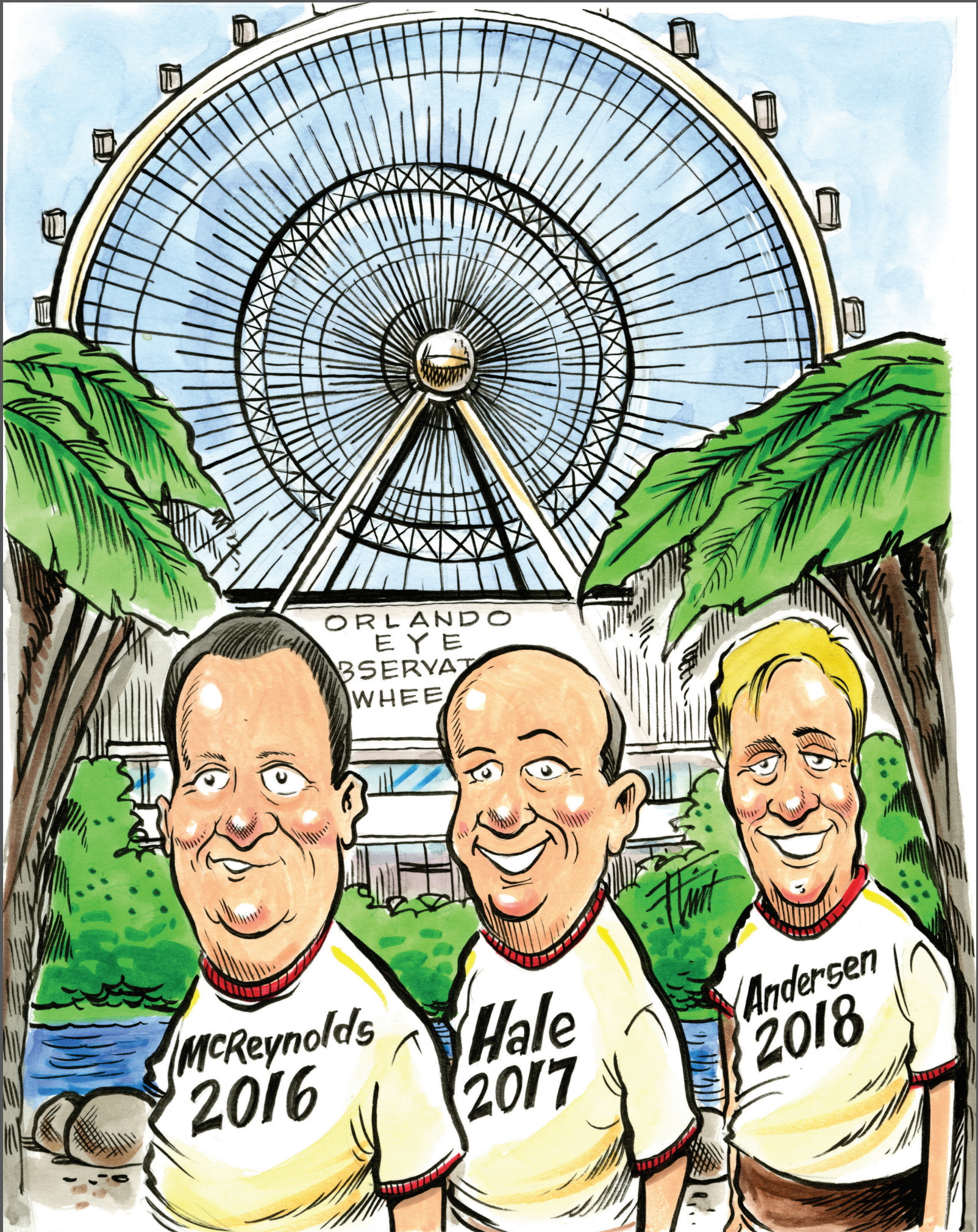


# AmusementTODAY

www.amusementtoday.com

November 2015 | Vol. 19 • Issue 8.1



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## 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo

# Outlook very positive for annual industry convention

AT: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — It's been a good year for the leisure industry.

It seems officials of worldwide theme and amusement parks, as well as water parks, family entertainment centers, zoos and other entertainment and attractions continue to report a climb in business.

Of course, there are exceptions. Yet, good news seems to outweigh the bad.

Ride manufacturers such as **Chance Rides**, **Zamperla**, and **Larson International** continue to stay extremely busy while all along creating new rides and tweaking existing rides. Last year, a Chance Rides representative was quoted as saying their manufacturing plant was busting at the seams.

That rate of business con-

tinues.

**Len Soled**, **Rides 4-U**, whose company represents manufacturers **KMG**, **S&S Worldwide**, and **SBF/Visa** products, and also sells used amusement rides and attractions, said his year has already been a good one and that people were respecting they need to get their orders in at the latest by the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)** 2015 Attractions Expo this month or they just might not get the piece they want when they want it in 2016.

So, as the anticipated 28,000-plus attendees, including 18,000 qualifying buyers, begin traveling to Orlando, Fla., for the biggest trade show of its kind, they should keep that in mind. If top decision-makers are on



the trade show floor to conduct business at the 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo, set for Nov. 16-20 at the Orange County Convention Center, time is of the essence.

IAAPA Expo planners are expecting more than 1,000 exhibiting companies. In fact, on the last day of September, planners reported 1,057 companies, to be exact. Those companies will display products in 125 different categories on the 525,000-square-

foot floor of the exhibit hall.

Some of those products include amusement rides and attractions, coin-op and arcade games and rides, and computer systems and software featuring the newest technology in ticketing, people locators, product locators and more.

There will also be exhibitors showcasing design and theming, entertainment, food and beverage, midway games, novelties and souvenirs, and water features.

The first-time exhibitors pavilion, which is traditionally a busy place to be, has sold out with more than 140 first-time exhibitors debuting their brand new products.

New this year to the trade show is a food and beverage area.

"Buyers can sample the newest trends in the food and

beverage sector, including new products, service technology, preparation equipment, concession equipment, green and eco-friendly products, franchise opportunities, and more," said **Colleen Mangone**, director of media relations.

There also is a new IAAPA Brass Ring Award for exhibitors. The Brass Ring Award show is set for 4:30 p.m., Wed., Nov. 18. The new award will be given to a new product that has yet to be installed in a facility and is debuting at Expo 2015. The product does not need to be installed in a park or facility yet, but to be eligible for this award, the exhibitor must display a working prototype or a physical model.

For the first time this year, Expo attendees can get

► See IAAPA, page 4

## IAAPA chairmen share thoughts on industry

### OUTGOING: Gerardo Arteaga

ORLANDO, Fla. — **Gerardo Arteaga**, general manager of **Fantasilandia** in Santiago, Chile, will pass the IAAPA gavel to **John McReynolds**, senior vice president, **Universal Parks and Resorts**, during this month's 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo.

He had a satisfying year, feeling he has reached many goals and had a variety of highlights throughout the year.

Here, Arteaga spends time with AT discussing the past year.

**Last year at this time, you and IAAPA members were busy focusing on the Strategic Plan for the association.**

**Was a plan for the next three years completed? What are the main goals of the association?**

A plan was completed that will take us from 2016 through 2018. This plan builds on the previous plan to strengthen existing programs while providing a solid base for new products and services for our members. Some important goals that we have set out are: to develop a global advocacy platform, to build a global brand, to continue to be a champion for safety, to further engage with

**Gerardo Arteaga**



### INCOMING: John McReynolds

ORLANDO, Fla. — **John McReynolds**, incoming IAAPA chair and senior vice president **Universal Parks and Resorts**, Orlando, is looking forward to the coming year.

He plans to focus on continued international outreach as well as industry safety and education.

Here, McReynolds spends a little time with AT.

**What are your plans as you step into the role as chairman of IAAPA?**

I am honored to follow in the footsteps of some amazing leaders in the industry. These leaders have put the association on a great footing. I look forward to building on that strong foundation by focusing on continued international outreach, specifically in the regulatory and legislative arenas as you would expect with my background.

**How did you come to work in this industry?**

Prior to joining Universal Parks and Resorts, I had the honor to work eight years for United States Senator Connie Mack (R-Fla.). When it came time for me to move on, I was fortunate to have three opportunities: a public relations



**John McReynolds**

► See MCREYNOLDS, page 6





# NEWSTALK

## MAILBAG

### Fairgrounds are jobs!

Dear Editor:

Threatened by war, violence, oppression and poverty in their home countries, hundreds of thousands of people are currently on the run. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) expects, for the current year, a record level on asylum applications. This year, Germany alone expects to receive 800,000 to 1 million of estimated 1.5 million refugees who are in route to Europe in total. The Member States of the European Union are facing the huge challenge of helping the vulnerable, and to integrate them, without overtaxing the cities and municipalities.

This emergency situation is also aware of the showmen and they also articulate the view that people must be helped in need! The current situation in the municipalities is often extremely tense. Cities, districts and municipalities already partly operating at the breaking point. Even the showmen profession is affected by the rapid development. Due to the current refugee crisis in Germany, three fairground places will be used for building shelters for refugees.

For the European Showmen's Union this way of accommodating refugees poses a threat to the showmen profession. ESU President Albert Ritter stressed that the showmen will not accept the removal of their jobs. Ritter said, "With the closure of fairgrounds the German colleagues will lose their livelihoods, and the air we breathe, and endanger those policy decisions in the region the future of the fairgrounds. If you want to alleviate the plight of one, you can not plunge others into need. This is where the European solidarity is needed. The showmen associations in other European cities should be with the times to ensure that their fairgrounds are preserved."

Fairgrounds are an integral part of mainstream culture that have no threshold and fear of contact, no formal, social, religious or economic barriers to entry. This accounts for their socio-cultural dimension: fairgrounds submit an offer which is aimed at all people. They provide the possibility of participation in social and cultural life and indeed nationwide, in cities and in the countryside.

Fairgrounds offer people, amusement and distance, from everyday reality – and sometimes distance from their problems. At the initiative of showmen, in recent weeks, refugee families with their children could forget their concerns and sometimes traumatic memories for a few hours as families enjoyed the fairgrounds.

This social commitment to people in need can only continue to operate in the future — the showmen and the refugees coming together for the protection of the fairgrounds.

Sincerely,

European Showmen's Union • Berlin, Germany

[www.esu-ufe.eu/](http://www.esu-ufe.eu/)

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Scott Rutherford, [srutherford@amusementtoday.com](mailto:srutherford@amusementtoday.com)

### Time is fleeting

I find myself shocked at how quickly 2015 has flown by. It's hard to believe the regular park season is done and that the IAAPA Attractions Expo is nearly upon us. It feels like a time warp.

As I write this, the temperatures are plummeting and much of the foliage is exploding in amazing shades of yellow, orange and red while many parks are in Halloween high-gear with their own individual takes on the now-classic fall haunt event.

In bygone days, Labor Day would have signaled the end of the season with virtually every park shutting down. The flat rides would've been disassembled and stored away; the coaster trains removed from the track and the carousel horses covered to protect them from the elements. Aside from the maintenance employees who toil tirelessly in the off-season to rehab attractions, most workers would by now have settled in for a long winters rest.

But things certainly have changed. In addition to the year-round properties in Florida,



Rutherford

Texas and California, park-goers have a staggering array of entertainment options thanks to regional operations staying open into November. Then, of course, there are those industrious parks that keep the party going with winter holiday celebrations through New Year's Eve.

Personally, this year saw me wrap up my 12-month stay in the Florida Keys and return home to the Carolinas. Though living in paradise offers plenty of perks like endless sunny days and a 360-degree ocean view, I had no idea just how much I would miss civilization. And that included easy access to the many amusement parks in the eastern third of the U.S. I missed the convenience of a five-minute drive from my Charlotte doorstep to the front gate of my home park (Carowinds).

So, here's wishing everyone a great autumn and a wonderful IAAPA Expo 2015. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going down the street to check out the supernatural happenings at Scarowinds. Time is fleeting...



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Amusement Today is an independent, privately-owned trade newspaper published 14 times per year by Amusement Today Inc., P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005. Print issues are \$50 per year and are mailed Presort Standard Postage (permit No. 2069) Pre-Paid Fort Worth, Texas. The entire contents of this newspaper, and its related web sites, are Copyrighted and Trademarked 2015 by Amusement Today Inc., all rights reserved.

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



# 2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

## John McReynolds, Universal Parks and Resorts

As chairman of the board for **IAAPA**, **John McReynolds** is looking forward to a productive and jam-packed year ahead leading the amusement industry. John's responsibilities at **Universal Parks and Resorts**, where he oversees domestic government relations issues along with community regulatory and real estate entitlement concerns in Florida, have prepared him well for his latest role. His vast experience as an active volunteer for the association, involvement in the travel industry and civic and community organizations are certainly assets as well. With his "look forward, not backward" attitude, "can-do" spirit and energy, John is certain to make a positive impact for IAAPA's members.



John McReynolds, Universal Parks and Resorts

**Title**  
Senior Vice President, External Affairs.

**Number of years with Universal Parks & Resorts?**  
Just passed 20.

**Best thing about the industry...**

The opportunity for advancement no matter where you start or where you come from.



McReynolds

**Favorite amusement ride...**

Both of our main Harry Potter attractions because the ride mechanics remind us to always push the boundaries.

**If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be...**

Leading a venture capital company – I always want to be involved with companies that are change agents in their industry or exploring breakthrough technologies.

**Biggest challenge facing our industry...**

Sustainable workforce and government intervention.

**The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is...**

Since I work for a company that operates year-round, this is a tough question. My answer would be how our seasonal parks serve as a place in many communities where families come together and create memories.

**I am really looking forward to seeing this at the IAAPA Expo...**

Our educational seminars. Nothing makes me happier than to hear one of our seminars helped an operator or one of our M&S members grow their business.

**The last song I downloaded was...**

I recently downloaded *Skyfall* by Adele. Classic Bond song that reminds me of time spent with my father watching the latest film in the series growing up.

**Favorite place to chill out...**

CityWalk at our newest restaurant, Cowfish, on the balcony watching our guests stroll by.

**The best moment of my career so far would have to be...**

The completion and opening of the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. The entire Universal Parks and Resorts team did an amazing job and changed the industry overnight.

**Finish this sentence: The year 2016 will be...**

An amazing adventure for me personally and professionally.

**You just won the lottery! The first person you call is...**

The cell phone company to change my number because friends I didn't even know I had will come out of the woodwork or my financial advisor to make sure I maximize the return.

**The sport I wish I was really good at is...**

Golf ... I'm just a hacker at heart and would love to be a scratch player, but not enough hours in the day.

**The one thing I did lately that I wish I could take back is...**

Nothing, as I don't believe in looking backward except to learn from past mistakes.

**The person from my past I would most like to re-connect with is...**

Mr. Stephens, my high school freshmen year economics teacher who taught us to respect risk, while taking smart calculated chances.

**Pick one: steak or lobster?**

I grew up in Chicago so I am a meat and potato kind of guy – steak.

**When I look out my office window, I see...**

Opportunity and growth.

**My perfect day off is spent...**

Exploring my own area of Central Florida with Star to find unique adventures.

**The household chore I don't mind doing is...**

The dishes. It's a theme park mindset to always pick up after yourself.

**My longest road trip would have to be to...**

Growing up we piled into the family station wagon for a three-week trip to New Orleans and Florida.

**All-time favorite dessert...**

Bananas Foster.

**In the morning, my go-to beverage is...**

A Venti decaf coffee.

**The last movie I saw was...**

Jurassic World.

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

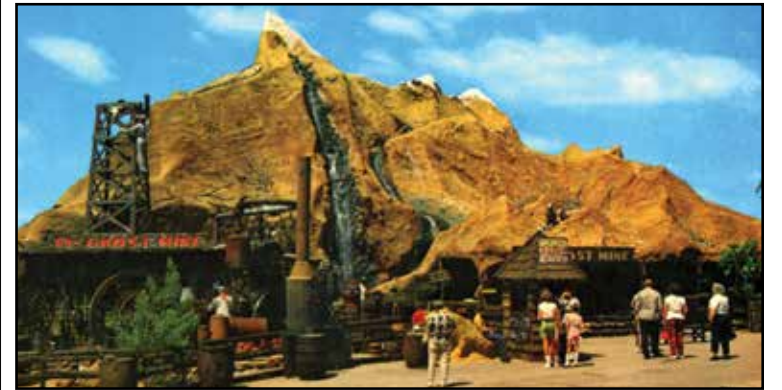
COMPILED: Richard Munch



## NRCMA's photo archives continue to grow

The November edition of This Month in History will be published in the second AT November 2015 issue.

Below, The **National Roller Coaster Museum** shares a brief look from these collections, now in the rapidly growing archives. The NRCMA board of directors thanks all who have donated to the archives.



The Frontier City Ghost Mine dark ride opened with the new Oklahoma City park in 1958. The ride would be remodeled in 1989 and again in 2008 where it operates today with Sally Corp. Ghost Blaster equipment. STEVEN BALL COLLECTION



When Houston's new theme park, AstroWorld opened in 1968, one of the popular rides was the Arrow Development-built Le Taxi car ride. Here, park owner, Judge Roy Hofheinz takes a car for a ride. PAT HOFFMAN/SIX FLAGS COLLECTION



Funland amusement park in Wichita Falls, Texas provided family thrills for many years and was a showcase for Allan Herschell equipment, as shown in this brochure.

KEN MCKINNEY COLLECTION



IAAPA 2015 — ORLANDO

►IAAPA  
Continued from page 1

in on the People's Choice Award. Attendees can get in on the action by voting for their favorite exhibit booth during the Expo. Online and paper voting will take place throughout the event. Each attendee can vote for their favorite booth. The booth with the most votes (regardless of size) will be awarded the People's Choice Award.

Another new addition to the trade show this year is a Quiet Zone, a dedicated area created on the show floor designed to have lower noise levels. This area should provide a more conducive atmosphere for business conversations and meetings. Exhibits in this zone cannot exceed noise levels of 50 decibels, and will be restricted from demonstrating a noisy product or booth element.

Exhibitors in this area also will be asked to not run or test any audio before 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17, and Wednesday, 18.

"IAAPA Attractions Expo is where our industry's game-changing new products and best ideas come to the forefront," said IAAPA President and CEO Paul Noland. "Many of our industry's most successful attractions find the inspiration for their next guest experiences on our trade show floor."

Many times those inspirations come from the many press conferences made on the floor. This year there are expected to be 30 press conferences from exhibitors making announcements about new products that can be expected to be seen in the marketplace in the future.

Other inspirations come from just attending booths to see what exhibitors are displaying. For example, Soled said he will debut the new

SBF Visa Triple Spiral spinning coaster. He also will debut a new family attraction from SBF Visa as well. This new ride, called The Drift, is a participatory ride where passengers will go 360 degrees and at the same time have the ability to guide their vehicles from left to right.

"And, passengers also will be able to shoot at targets as they ride," Soled said.

Outside, Soled will display the popular SBF Groovy Bus, S&S Frog Hopper and the KMG Inversion.

Zamperla's Mike Coleman said his company plans to bring the new Windstarz, interactive family ride that the company debuted this summer at Luna Park at Coney Island, Brooklyn, N.Y.

"This one will be the second of its kind," Coleman said. "It is a park model with a 24-person capacity."

Zamperla also will have its 34-foot tall Fiesta Wheel, which is a trailer-mounted family attraction. The vehicles are made to look like hot air balloons. The company plans to debut its Zip Zap Rack children's park model ride.

Chance Rides will show off its new park model Free-style, and Revolution 20, as well as other rides. The company also will showcase its line of people movers.

Jeff Novotny, Larson International, has been working on new projects as well as existing attractions. One thing he also has been busy with is making his rides ADA accessible.

And, of course, it is not just ride manufacturers set to be on hand this year. Game manufacturing companies such as Bob's Space Racers will debut new park and arcade games as well as its popular existing ones.

Formula K Ltd. will show

FAST FACTS

IAAPA Attractions Expo

Nov. 16-20, 2015  
Orange County  
Convention Center  
Orlando, Fla.

Trade Show Times

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Tues.-Thurs., Nov. 17-19  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Friday, Nov. 20

Projected Numbers

525,000 square-feet  
of exhibit space  
28,000 total attendees,  
18,000 qualified buyers;  
1,000-plus exhibitors;  
100-plus educational  
seminars and opportunities;  
30 hours of exhibition time;  
5 days of networking  
—IAAPA

off its latest go-kart vehicles and companies such as Gateway Ticketing Systems and assessio will showcase new ticketing options and queuing solutions.

►EXHIBITOR LISTING  
See pages 10-18

European outdoor leisure producers and manufacturers were anticipating a successful EAS, which ran Oct. 6-8, in Sweden. Many of those same exhibitors will be on hand at the 2015 IAAPA Expo in Orlando. Some of these include such companies as ABC Rides Switzerland, Technical Park, Sartori Rides, Falgas Industries, Bertazzon, Gerstlauer Amusement Rides, Intamin Amusement Rides, Mack Rides, Mauer Rides and Polin Waterparks.

The trade show runs Tuesday, Nov. 17, through Friday, Nov. 20. Hours are 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday with Friday's hours reduced to 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Of course the trade show is only part of the IAAPA Expo. This year, the association has planned more than 80, 75-minute education seminars, sessions and round table meets designed specifically for amusement park, family entertainment center, water park, museum, zoo, aquarium and theme park professionals.

Some topics to be discussed include: sustainability; games and merchandise; food and beverage; point of sale systems; security; marketing and communications; human resources; designing entertainment; mobile marketing; ADA; photo operations and legal issues.

More than 20 in-depth learning experiences have been planned. Those include EDUTours of prominent facilities, day long institutes and symposiums, personalized consulting sessions, and educational luncheons.

Scheduled EDUTours include: Fun Spot, Sunday, Nov. 15; Zoo and Aquarium at Brevard Zoo, Monday, 16; Disney's Hollywood Studios, Monday, 16; Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, Tuesday, 17; Legoland Florida, Tuesday, 17; SeaWorld at Sunrise: A Culinary Tour of SeaWorld Orlando, Wednesday, 18; Universal Studios, Thursday, 19; and Disney's Typhoon Lagoon water park.

"Attractions industry professionals have a great opportunity to expand their knowledge at IAAPA Attractions Expo," said Rebecca Turner, IAAPA's vice president of education, professional development, and training services. "These programs will give attendees a competitive edge and a sneak peek at the future of the attractions industry."

IAAPA's new certification program started this

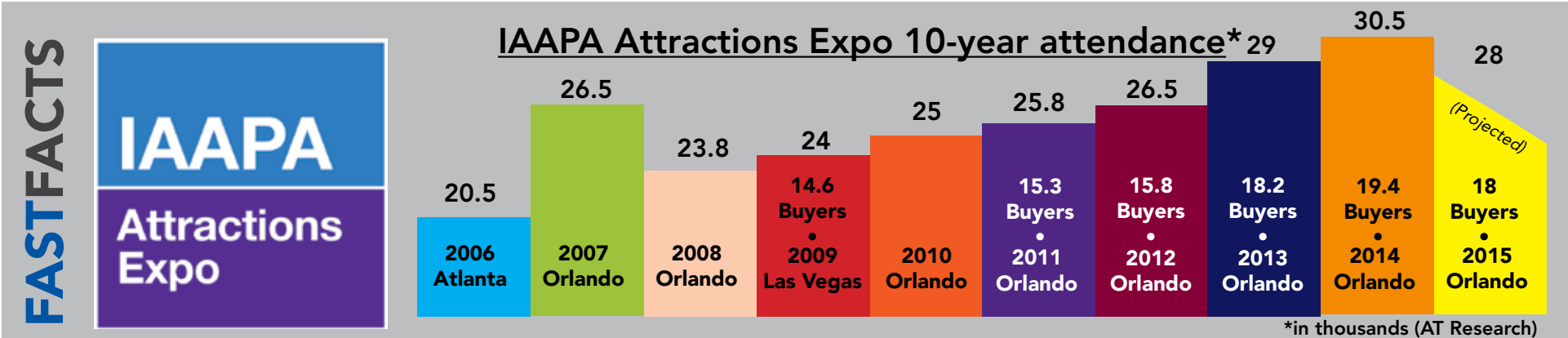
year. Industry professionals have the opportunity to become certified on three different levels: IAAPA Certified Attractions Manager (ICAM); IAAPA Certified Attractions Leader (ICAL); and IAAPA Certified Attractions Executive (ICAE).

The certifications are based on a point system, which includes a certain number of points for education, experience, and credits earned attending qualifying education sessions and in-depth learning opportunities. Information is available through IAAPA.

Several programs include keynote presentations by senior industry leaders. The Lunch and Learn on Monday, Nov. 16, will feature speaker Mark Woodbury, president of the creative division of Universal Parks and Resorts worldwide. On Wednesday, Nov. 18, Parques Reunidos CEO Yann Cailière will speak at the GM and Owners' Breakfast. Also on Wednesday, Nov. 18, John McReynolds, senior vice president, external affairs, for Universal Parks and Resorts and 2016 IAAPA Chairman of the Board, will keynote the Amusement Parks and Attractions Constituency Lunch.

There are no lack of networking opportunities at the 2015 IAAPA Expo. There are formal events, such as the opening reception set for 6 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 17, at the IAAPA Theatre on the trade show floor and the Thursday, evening event set for Orlando's newest attractions complex that showcases the Orlando Eye observation wheel, Madame Tussauds's celebrity wax museum and the SeaLife aquarium.

There also are numerous informal parties, dinners, and receptions.







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## IAAPA 2015 — ORLANDO

## ►MCREYNOLDS

Continued from page 1

firm; a healthcare association, or Universal Parks and Resorts.

Although the opportunity at Universal was not the highest paying, it felt most rewarding as I saw the unlimited potential, and who wouldn't want to work every day in a theme park?

**What is the most important area IAAPA will focus on this year?**

Safety and Education — IAAPA is a member-driven organization, which means our number one priority must always be to serve our members. In this area educational programs and seminars are always key, especially our safety seminars that allow IAAPA to take our most important message to all corners of the globe.

**What do you expect to bring to the association this year?**

Given my background in government and years working in the industry, I will bring an understanding of the political and regulatory complexities the industry faces on a day to day basis. These hurdles can be the difference between a company staying in business or not.

**Personally what are your expectations for the upcoming year?**

I want to make sure I continue the great work led by **Mario Gerardo** (general manager, **Fantasiland**, Santiago, Chile) before me. Also, to personally meet as many members as I can and learn from each encounter because we are a wonderfully diverse industry with such unique capabilities and talents.

—Pam Sherborne

### On the cover



As an annual tradition, *Amusement Today* and cartoonist **Bubba Flint**, once again highlight our Pre-Convention issue cover, the chairman of IAAPA and the vice-chairmen that will follow in the coming years. Featured on the cover are incoming chairman, **John McReynolds** (2016); first vice chairman **Greg Hale** (2017) and second vice chairman **Andreas Andersen** (2018).

# Multiple events raise funds for Give Kids the World

ORLANDO, Fla. — In charitable causes, fundraising is an ongoing necessity to be able to continue to offer the services to families and individuals in need. **Give Kids The World Village**, one of the amusement industry's most respected charities has benefited from numerous events, many of which take place in the parks themselves.

On June 7 and 14, **Cedar Fair** once again organized **Coasting for Kids**. This event takes place at each park in the chain. The coaster enthusiast community comes together and raises money through sponsorships that go directly to Give Kids the World. Awareness of the **Give Kids the World Foundation** is raised through multiple riding sessions which allow coaster fans to interact with the general guests in the queues and indirectly strengthens the coaster community at large.

"We are deeply honored that the coaster enthusiast community once again combined their passion for our mission and their passion for coasters to raise money and awareness for Give Kids The World," said **Pamela Landwirth**, director.

"Coasting for Kids raised \$155,000 this past June," stated **Kaylee Rodriguez**, development manager for The Village. "This is the seventh year for the event. It has raised cumulatively \$668,000 over the years. It's one of our largest fundraisers each year as it spans all across the country and even Canada. In terms of dollars, it is our largest fundraiser."

"Cedar Point has always been proud to be a contributor to Give Kids The World, especially given the impact they have on families across the country," said **Tony Clark**, Cedar Point public relations manager. "We're about family and they're about family. To have so many fans of our roller coasters come together to raise money during an event like Coasting for Kids says a lot about what they do, and how so many want to help."

The month of June also saw an effort organized by **Morey's Piers**. Coaster Con XXXVIII took place in three parks in New Jersey, culminat-



Multiple events are scheduled during the IAAPA Attractions Expo that will help raise funds for Give Kids the World Village. Three of the more popular events are the 13th Annual Charity Golf Tournament (above); the 6th Annual Motorcycle Ride (below) and the 5K Run and 1K Walk (bottom).  
COURTESY FUNWORLD



ing at the seashore at Morey's. "We wanted the attendees to have an opportunity to experience breakfast from a brand new height during their visit. When we discussed offering the **American Coaster Enthusiasts** an exclusive Breakfast in the Sky experience, with all

the proceeds being donated to Give Kids The World Village, ACE jumped right on board," said **Maggie Warner**, public relations manager for Morey's Piers. "After all, we're in the business of creating happiness and lasting memories for our visitors so this was a great

opportunity to support The Village and the fantastic work they already do for families every day. Seeing the amusement industry and its enthusiasts come together to support such a wonderful cause is truly a beautiful thing." The breakfast event that morning raised \$2,700 in a couple of hours.

### Industry related events are still ahead

The 13th Annual IAAPA International Charity Golf Tournament sponsored by **Hawk's Landing Golf Club** on November 15 will raise the largest portion in the Give Kids the World fundraising efforts during the IAAPA Attractions Expo week. Last year, \$134,000 was raised during the trade show gathering, with the golf tournament credited for more than half of that. "It's from every facet of the amusement industry, park owners to ride suppliers and vendors — all spending the day together. It's a laid back great day to get to know your colleagues," says Rodriguez. Registration is available online at the IAAPA website or day of. Participants can register as individuals or in pairs or groups of three or four. The \$200 registration fee includes transportation, green fees, cart, breakfast, lunch and more.

In addition to the golf tournament, two other events are also raising funds. The 6th annual IAAPA Motorcycle Ride takes place on Sunday, November 15. The \$100 registration fee includes a luncheon. The bike ride start at **Harley-Davidson Historic Factory Dealership** that runs to the **Kennedy Space Center** where the luncheon takes place. Also the Space Shuttle Atlantis exhibit is on view, as well as many other attractions. Before returning, riders will stop for a manatee viewing as they travel through the Canaveral National Seashore Preserve. A 5K Run and 1K Walk also take place on Thursday, November 19. The \$35 registration includes a T-shirt, hat, refreshments and breakfast. Registration for these two events can also be found on the IAAPA website.

—Tim Baldwin





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## IAAPA 2015 — ORLANDO

## ►ARTEAGA

Continued from page 1

our members, and to expand the association's financial and organizational strength.

**When asked about your goals, you mentioned several things — to promote the establishment of the North American region; to spread the word about safety and innovation; and reach out to the**

**global FEC community to help unify this diverse group. What was the progress on these goals this past year?**

We now have an office in North America, in Orlando, focused 100 percent on members in North America. Membership in the region has grown and now we have an increased ability to reach out to meet members' needs. We continued to focus on safety by providing

safety education, sharing best practices around the world, and working on harmonizing safety standards globally.

We are getting even closer to the FEC community and we are about to launch two new programs specifically requested by FEC members in North America, a food purchasing co-operative and a telemedicine program. I participated in the IAAPA FEC Conference, held

this past February in Dallas. The event was extremely helpful and informative. I was also able to visit several FEC members in South Texas following the conference to bring the association and new vice president of North American Operations, **Richard Jackson**, closer to them.

**What were some of the highlights for the association over the past year?**

These are in no particular

order, but a few of the highlights include:

- Hosting six IAAPA Safety Institutes around the world.

- Reaching emerging markets to introduce IAAPA.

- The IAAPA Leadership Conference in Dubai was a huge success and the subsequent expansion of our European region to include the Middle East and North Africa is a direct result of our commitment to reach out to all existing and potential members around the world.

- We also held our European Forum in Istanbul to learn more about the growing industry there.

- We are developing the services and products we provide around the world including the IAAPA Institute for Attractions Managers as well as a variety of regional networking events. These have strengthened the association and promoted greater membership participation on a global basis.

- We continue to focus on growing the educational programs we offer. We held several safety institutes in Asia. We expanded the education sessions at Asian Attractions Expo and we rolled out the second phase of our new IAAPA professional Certification program.

- We also spent a great deal of time and energy laying important foundations for other programs that will be introduced in the years ahead. Overall, it's been a great year.

**What is the highlight and/or a goal that you are most proud of?**

I am very proud to have met the goals of the strategic plan because, in a globally diverse and wide-spread organization, focus is the key. Everything we work on is done so with a long-term commitment to the association and the industry. I have helped work on two strategic business plans, overseeing the development of the upcoming plan covering 2016 to 2018.

Also, as chairman, my participation in various events and visits to member-locations was done with the goal of promoting the objectives of the associations' business plan. Spreading that message to our members through the hard work of the board of directors, the committees, and the association staff has led to the current growth and success of our association for the benefit of all involved.

—Pam Sherborne



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IAAPA 2015 — ORLANDO

2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo exhibitor listing

List is current as of Oct. 4, 2015. For last minute changes, booth additions & cancellations, consult the IAAPA show directory.

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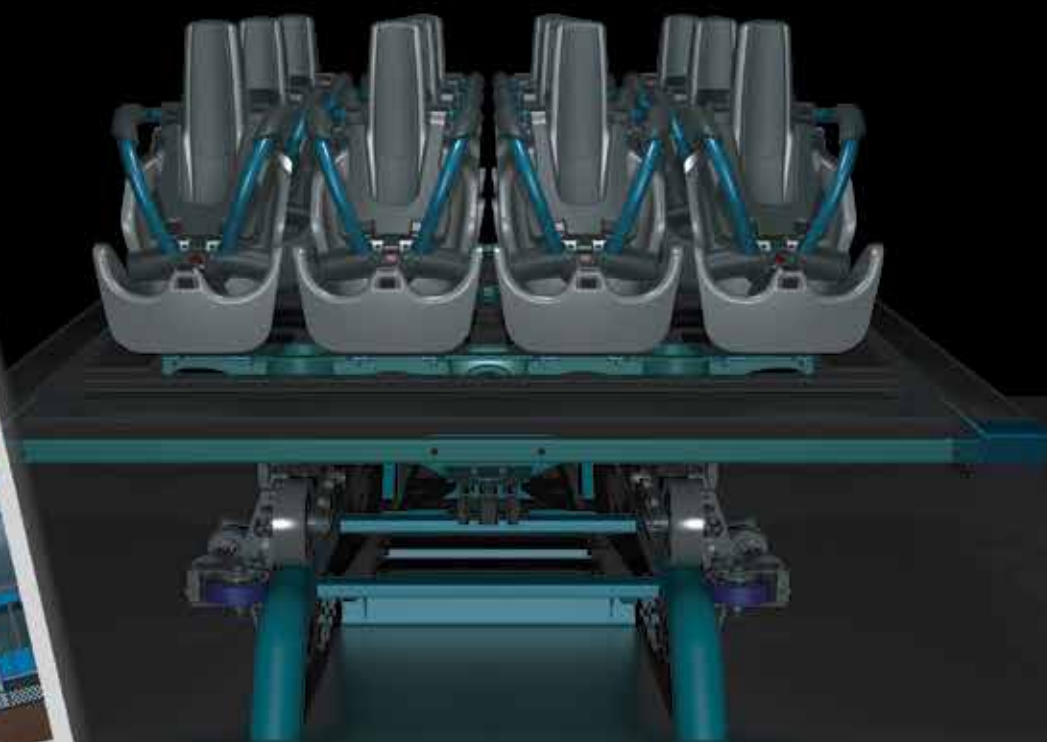
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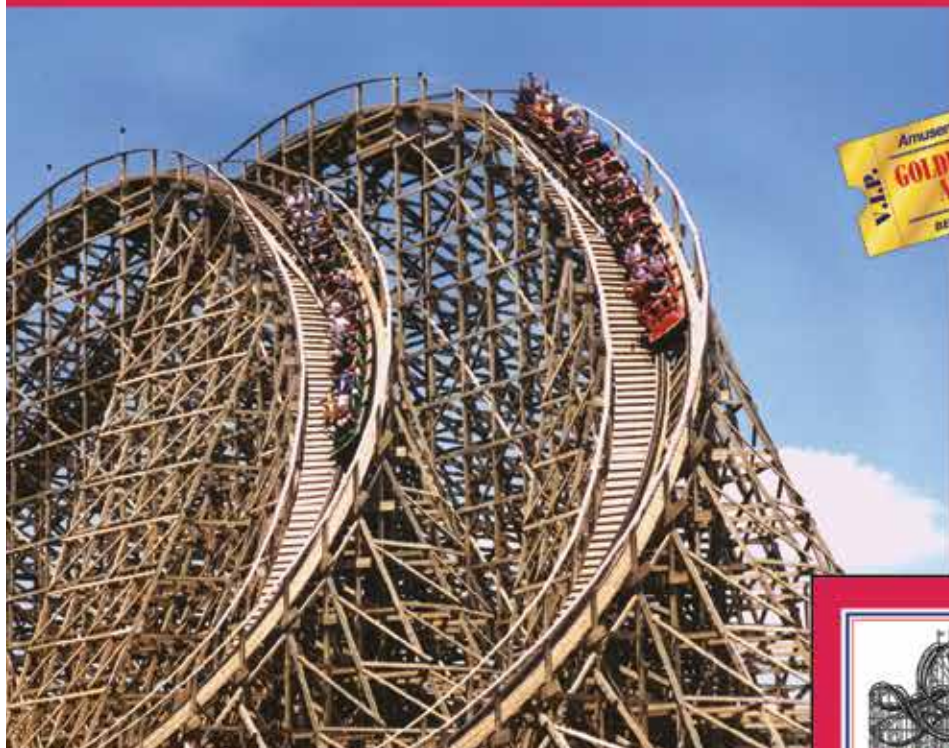
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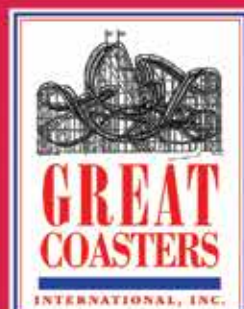
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# INTERNATIONAL

► Hong Kong Disneyland begins 10th anniversary celebrations — Page 22

## Europa-Park coaster takes guests into virtual worlds

AT: Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

RUST, Germany — Visitors to Europa-Park can now soar through digital worlds on a real roller coaster following the introduction of a new virtual reality (VR) system on one of the park's coaster attractions.

Developed through a co-operation between VR Coaster, Mack Rides, MackMedia and Samsung, riders of the Alpenexpress VR-Ride in the Austrian themed area of the park can enjoy a brand new adventure using a virtual reality headset, also known as glasses. The system takes them into futuristic worlds while they simultaneously experience the more familiar rushing air, centrifugal forces and twists and turns of a real-life roller coaster, creating an even more intense ride.

Guests pick up their VR glasses at the entrance area of the Alpenexpress VR-Ride and during the ride are able to see an animated 3D world that perfectly matches the track of the



Left to right, Thomas Wagner, managing director, VR Coaster and Michael Mack, managing director, MackMedia and Jürgen and Roland Mack, managing partners Europa-Park (second row, left to right) get ready for a ride on the new Alpenexpress VR-Ride, now open at Europa-Park. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

coaster. The VR-Ride adventure itself is based on the first 4D film by MackMedia, The Mystery of Castle Balthasar, and visitors are immersed in the world of Ed Euromaus and his friends for a wild, mine cart ride, before riding on a dragon back to the world of Europa-Park.

Up to 2,000 guests can enjoy the VR-Ride each day and

the totally new experience is achieved through the precise synchronization of the VR headset with the coaster. Sensors along the track orient the film to the speed and position of the coaster enabling the actual movements to be experienced in the virtual world.

"The VR glasses create an immersive experience that



would be almost impossible to surpass," explains Steffen Kottkamp, director of MackCreative at Europa-Park. "For the first time, we are able to place an attraction in any themed world and seamlessly increase the intensity of the experience for visitors. The future of the roller coaster lies in a combination of real physical forces and ap-

propriate thematic content. Using VR, we can create a much more elaborate and interactive themed world."

The VR experience was free of charge to visitors during its first month of operation, after which a charge of €4 (\$4.40 USD) was introduced for those wishing to enjoy the experience.



## Legoland Billund to expand with new Ninjago area in 2016

AT: Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

BILLUND, Denmark — With a total spend of DKK85 million (approximately U.S. \$13 million), 2016 is set to be

**Legoland Billund General Manager Christian Woller explains the elements of the new Ninjago area, which will feature both indoor and outdoor attractions for all the family.**

COURTESY  
LEGOLAND BILLUND

the biggest investment year in the history of the original Lego park in Denmark, Legoland Billund, with the focus being on a new Ninjago area spanning more than 5,000 square meters which will include a brand new interactive world feature attraction, Ninjago – The Ride.

The new area will be the setting for a special ninja training camp for the entire family and a number of attractions will allow park guests to test

their ninja skills, such as precision, speed and teamwork. In Ninjago – The Ride, a 4D dark ride experience provided by Triotech, guests will meet the famous heroes of the Ninjago universe and together they must learn to master the four elements of fire, earth, lightning and ice in order to defeat the Ninjago villains. A completely new technology, specially developed for Legoland, will transform the movements

► See BILLUND, page 24

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# Hong Kong Disneyland begins 10th anniversary celebrations

AT: Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

HONG KONG — Hong Kong Disneyland Resort (HKDL) began its 10th anniversary celebrations in style in September with a glittering ceremony in front of Sleeping Beauty Castle, at the same time using the occasion to announce a variety of new experiences which will be coming to the resort, as well as sharing details about developments that will contribute to the appeal of Hong Kong as a world-class tourist destination.

During the event, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts (WDPR) Chairman Bob Chapek announced a year-long "Happily Ever After" celebration starting in mid-November with an array of new entertainment for guests to enjoy. He also shared de-

tails of Fairy Tale Forest, a new Fantasyland attraction based on Disney fairy tales. The ceremony honored the park's decade of collaboration with Hong Kong and marked key partnerships that will be strengthened as the resort evolves.

"For a decade, it's been our honor to create magical experiences for our guests at Hong Kong Disneyland," said Chapek. "We're looking forward to the next 10 years, anticipating a bright future fueled by imagination and filled with continuous growth as we find new, innovative ways to connect our guests with the stories and characters they love most."

The 10th anniversary celebrations will feature Mickey and the Wondrous Book, due to open November 17, an all-

► See HKDL, page 24



Executives from The Walt Disney Company and the Government of Hong Kong gather to celebrate the 10th anniversary, including (from left) Commissioner for Tourism, Cathy Chu; President and Managing Director, Asia, WDPR, Bill Ernest; Chief Executive of Hong Kong, CY Leung; Chairman, WDPR, Bob Chapek; Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Gregory So; and HKDL Managing Director Andrew Kam. COURTESY HKDL

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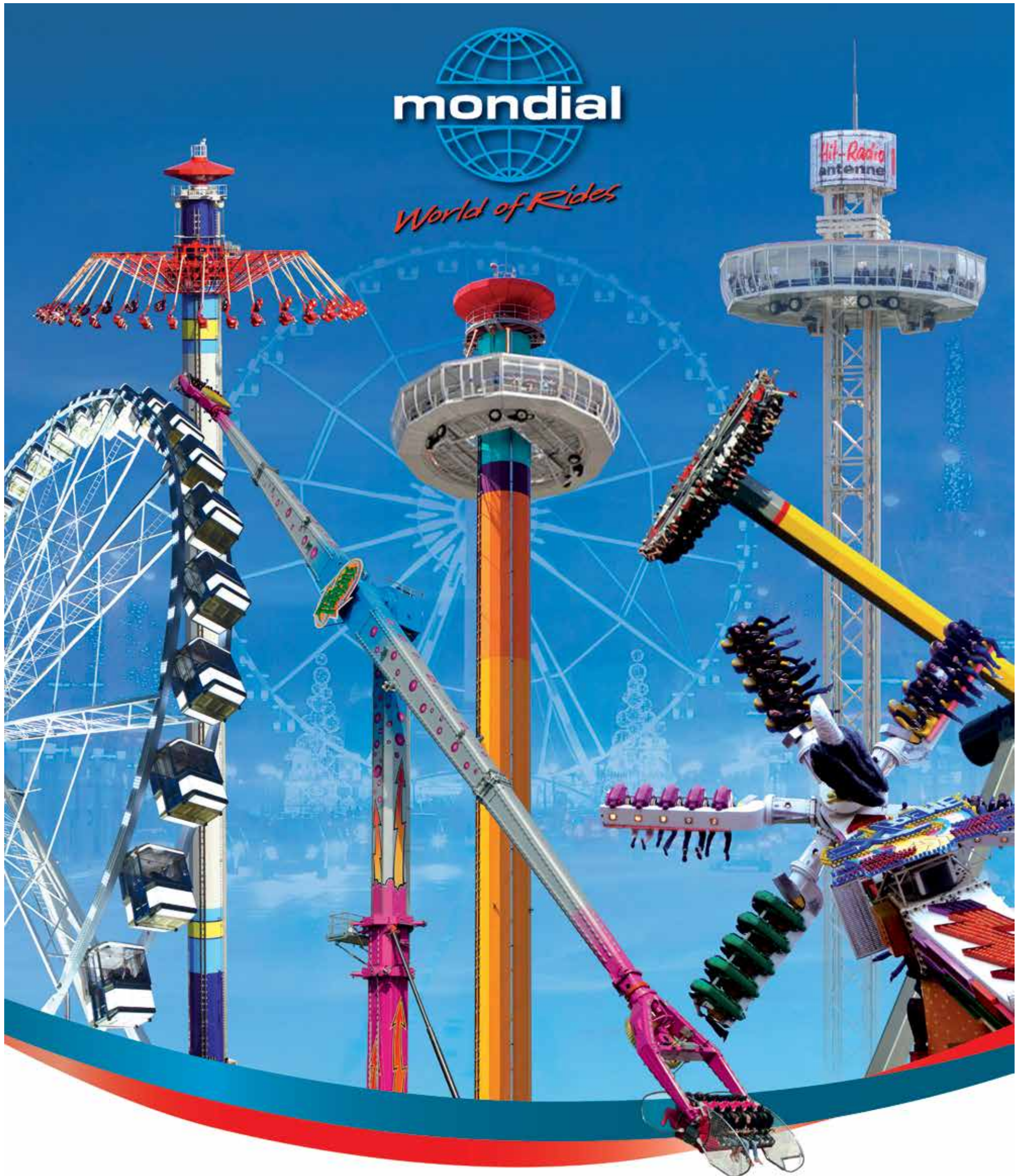


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An all-new stage show, *Mickey and the Wondrous Book*, will open at Disney's Storybook Theater on November 17. The 25-minute, concert-style stage show celebrates some of Disney's most loved characters and stories. COURTESY HKDL

## ►HKDL

Continued from page 22

new stage show in the Disney's Storybook Theater celebrating some of Disney's best loved characters and stories. At night, guests will be dazzled by an enhanced "Disney in the Stars" Fireworks show from November, made even more vibrant by cutting-edge technology, lighting effects and state-of-the-art video projection shown on Sleeping Beauty Castle. And among other notable features

of the celebrations will be the "Happily Ever After" storybook photo spot, special merchandise, food and beverage and other surprises throughout the year.

Also announced was a new attraction coming to Fantasyland in December. Fairy Tale Forest will let guests walk through a winding, living storybook realm based on Disney fairy tales. Using creative landscaping, the attraction will feature miniature scenes

from *Tangled*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella* and *The Little Mermaid*. The forest will also be home to Tinker Bell where she will greet guests in Pixie Hollow.

HKDL will continue to enhance its entertainment and offerings and has several projects in the pipeline. Following its successful topping out in August, the Iron Man Experience is scheduled to open in late 2016 inside a Marvel-themed area in Tomorrowland. This will be the first Marvel-themed attraction in a Disney park, where guests will fight alongside Iron Man in an adventure across Hong Kong. The overall area will also feature a Marvel-themed merchandise store and a character greeting experience where guests can take photos.

Additionally, when it opens in early 2017, the 750-room Disney Explorers Lodge will bring guests into a world of exploration and exotic cultures in four differently themed sections.

## ►BILLUND

Continued from page 21

of guests into ninja powers.

"The movements of the guests is the focus of the entire attraction. Their ninja blows will fly through the air, all while traveling through an overwhelming Ninjago 4D universe that challenges all of their senses," says Christian Woller, general manager of Legoland. "The attraction requires precision and teamwork and has never been seen in an amusement park before. We dare say that we raise the bar for guest involvement in our parks."

Woller added that the Ninjago area is for the entire family and that in particular Ninjago – The Ride is intended to make guests leave the area having had an experience they did not quite expect.

"In Ninjago – The Ride, guests climb aboard a fast-moving car and only a few meters into the ride, they are drawn deeply into the darkest corners of the Ninjago universe. The ride is hair-raising enough to also challenge older children," he noted.

Most of the DKK85m investment will go into the new Ninjago area, but with 24 new Ninjago themed rooms at Hotel Legoland, the spend is spread over the park as well as its accommodation. The new area will open in March 2016.



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# WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► Southern Calif. gets Great Wolf's paw print — Page 26 / Elitch expands with Slidezilla — Page 28

*Park received a needed 'bright'-washing this year*

## New color schemes and theming keep Noah's Ark shipshape

**AT:** Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

**WISCONSIN DELLS,** Wis. — After Palace Entertainment purchased Noah's Ark in 2012, visiting company executives thought it looked as though it hadn't been painted since, well, biblical times.

Virtually every wooden structure in the 70-acre water park, built in 1979 and still billed as America's largest, was coated in a uniformly dull, weathered color of stain. "Everything was brown," said Bill Lentz, vice president of Palace's water park division. "There was a very plain color scheme throughout the park."

Plans were set in motion to improve the property's appearance. "We felt that by adding color and theming, we could significantly improve our guest experience," Lentz said.

Before the end of the 2014 season, Palace determined that applying Polynesian, tropical jungle and California surfing beach themes to different areas of Noah's Ark was the way to go. To help realize this vision and goal for the following season, the company brought in a frequent collaborator: R&R Creative Amusement Designs, Inc., of Anaheim, Calif.

Rick Bastrup, R&R's president, spent several days evaluating and photographing the park's aesthetics that August — concentrating on where improvements could be made in building entrances and signage, as well as on various surfaces.

Creating "a hue to a

thrill," above all, was key.

"Palace wanted to do a total change in look for the park, so I went to completely different color palettes," Bastrup said. "Colors are really important and have a lot to do with the theme. For the California beach theme, I used a lot of bright blue, bright orange and bright yellow. In the jungle area, I used more greens and yellows. And in the Polynesian area, I've got browns and tans, but there are also greens and violets and purples."

"My inspiration is really based on the theme, and what sells it. There's a borderline of reality and fantasy that I kind of walk: If you stick to reality-based colors, it can get pretty drab. But if you get too garish, that doesn't look good, either."

About 90 percent of R&R's work at Noah's Ark involved upgrading and embellishing existing structures and, to save additional costs, working with furnishings that Palace had already begun to replace. "I saw a theming opportunity in every shack, every railing, every planter," Bastrup said.

In all, R&R designed enhancements for about 40 locations throughout Noah's Ark.

Palace's Bill Lentz praised R&R for its efficiency. "We'll give them a little bit of a direction on what we're thinking, what we'd like to do. And they've always delivered," he said.

Lentz noted that Palace undertook additional upgrades in and around Noah's Ark this year — replacing



Noah's Ark Water Park recently received the most extensive cosmetic and thematic upgrade in its 36-year history from Palace Entertainment, the property's owner since 2012. Exotic color schemes, new signage, new furnishings, planters, and asphalt-replacing concrete and pavers are all part of the makeover. COURTESY PALACE ENTERTAINMENT



large areas of asphalt with concrete, pavers and planters to soften the park's look and decrease the heat underfoot. Additionally, the Flamingo Motel, which is located at the front of the park, was entirely

repainted, "giving it a much fresher look from the street."

The overall Noah's Ark makeover has pleased more than Palace.

"It's a dramatic change," Lentz said. "A lot of our

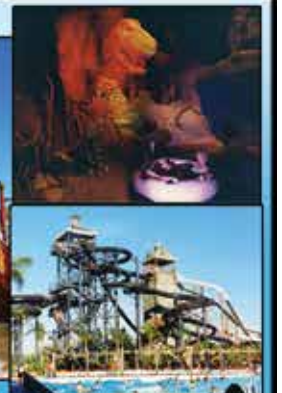
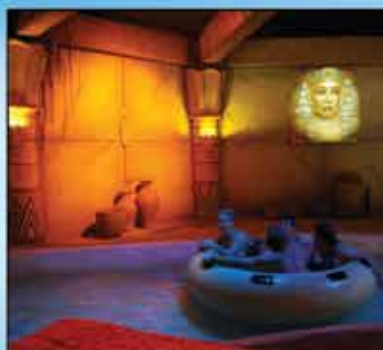
guests come to the park year after year, and we've had an excellent response from them to the improvements. Many have commented that it looks like a new park."

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## Water park resort readies for early 2016 debut

# Southern California gets Great Wolf's paw print

AT: Dean Lamanna  
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GARDEN GROVE, Calif. — With a phalanx of executives and a collective raising of its trademark howl, Great Wolf Resorts, Inc., welcomed the media to its newest, nearly completed property for a hard hat tour on Sept. 23.

The 12-acre Great Wolf Lodge Southern California (GWL), the 13th and largest in the family-branded chain of indoor water park resorts, will open in February 2016. It is Great Wolf's first foray into the Golden State and is a joint venture with McWhinney, a Colorado-based real estate development, investment and management company.

Located on Harbor Boulevard just two miles from the Disneyland Resort and the Anaheim Convention Center, and about nine miles from Knott's Berry Farm, GWL is positioned for success. The \$250 million property will feature 603 guest suites, a three-acre indoor water park, over 20,000 square feet of conference space and 18,000 square feet of premier retail and dining. As with all of the company's properties, GWL will offer an array of interactive attractions and activities with the entire family in mind.

Executives of Madison, Wis.-based Great Wolf and McWhinney, as well as several local dignitaries, were introduced prior to the tour. A highlight was a warm embrace shared on the dais by outgoing Great Wolf CEO Kimberly Schaefer and new chief executive Ruben A. Rodriguez, who assumed the role just the day before. The two expressed admiration for each other, and for Great Wolf, in remarks issued by the company earlier.

"Great Wolf Resorts has been such an important part of my life for 18 years," said Schaefer, who is serving as chief brand officer through the end of this year and will transition to the company's board in early 2016. "I have watched the business grow... and feel so much pride in all the opportunities I have had to contribute to what it is today. I am excited that Ruben will join us as the CEO and bring a unique perspective to our leading family entertainment brand. I look forward to being



Fort Mackenzie (above), a multi-level tree house water fort, will be the centerpiece of Great Wolf Lodge Southern California's 105,000-square-foot indoor water park. General Manager Phil Cunningham, with mascot Wiley the Wolf (left), recently led the media on a hard hat tour of the property, which is fronted by a landmark statue of its namesake.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA (TOP);  
COURTESY GREAT WOLF RESORTS



involved in the next phase of Great Wolf's growth."

"I am impressed by the great brand and compelling business model Great Wolf has built under Kim's leadership," said Rodriguez, formerly executive vice president of ship operations for Carnival Cruise Line. "As the leader in indoor water park resorts, Great Wolf has excelled in creating special and memorable experiences at each lodge. I am eager to work with the management team to continue building and growing the Great Wolf brand and

to delight thousands of guests each year."

GWL Southern California is now accepting reservations for March through December 2016. Call (888) 960-WOLF (9653).

Continuing an expansion phase that has gathered momentum since its acquisition last May by New York City-based private investment firm Centerbridge Partners, L.P., Great Wolf Resorts is slated to open another property in Colorado Springs, Colo., in late 2016.

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



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# Elitch Gardens expands water park with SlideZilla

*ProSlide delivers six-story waterslide to Denver themer*

**AT:** Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

DENVER, Colo. — Elitch Gardens prides itself as being a theme park and water park in the heart of a big city downtown. With this rare distinction also comes the limited footprint of the urban location. “We like to make the most of our space by building up, rather than out, which is why a six-story slide like SlideZilla was a perfect addition to our Island Kingdom Water Park,” said Jessie Falk, public relations manager for Elitch Gardens. “We created extra space in the water park to accommodate our new beast of a slide by expanding into an area previously used for one of our many picnic pavilions.”

The original Elitch Gar-



“We wanted a new attraction that would make a splash,” joked General Manager David Dorman. “Coming off a very successful introduction of Brain Drain, a new thrill ride in the theme park, last year, we wanted to introduce something just as exciting in the water park in 2015. In exploring all our options, we quickly zeroed in on ProSlide’s hybrid slide featuring its Behemoth Bowl 40 and Tornado Wave which offered riders multiple elements in one massive waterslide. Knowing it had just garnered a Best New Ride Award at last November’s IAAPA convention only confirmed we had a winner.”

The aforementioned ride was an installation at Six Flags Over Georgia, a combination

***"In exploring all our options, we quickly zeroed in on ProSlide's hybrid slide featuring its Behemoth Bowl 40 and Tornado Wave which offered riders multiple elements in one massive waterslide."***

—David Dorman  
Elitch Gardens, GM

dens opened its gates 125 years ago in 1890. As neighborhoods grew and pushback from new residents created conflict, one solution was to move the park to a new location in the heart of downtown Denver on a former railroad yard. Once this transition was completed at the close of the 1994 season, the newer incarnation of the park has served the Denver community for more than 20 years in its new location since relaunching in 1995. With this new locale comes some challenges, but also new horizons. One such advantage was to include a water park on the property.

“Elitch Gardens has been a part of Denver history since 1890,” Falk told *Amusement Today*. “We feel there is no better way to mark this milestone than by offering our guests ‘more’ — more free concerts, more Dive-In movies and more thrills in the water park with our addition of SlideZilla.”

ride that opened in May of 2014 called Tsunami Surge. The four-person rafts can deliver a theoretical capacity of 720 riders per hour. ProSlide credits the technology and engineering placed into the ride’s design that lets riders in various parties of two, three or four to still safely follow the transitions between elements on the ride.

“We have done dozens of projects with ProSlide over the years and have never been let down,” said Hue Eichelberger of Premier Parks. “Our experience with ProSlide this year was again smooth and professional and their outstanding waterslide products speak for themselves. They are responsive, on time and on budget.”

The installation did, however, have some specific snafus at the hands of Mother Nature. SlideZilla was anticipated to open with the rest of the water park on Memorial Day weekend. As many park



Elitch Garden's Island Kingdom water park added this six-story waterslide, called SlideZilla, from ProSlide.  
COURTESY ELITCH GARDENS

owners have experienced, an unseasonably rainy spring this year, with Colorado seeing wet weather virtually every day for two months, made things tricky. “This unfortunately caused a few delays in our construction schedule,” said Falk. “We were able to open the attraction just a few weeks later in mid-June. Guests were able to see the construction progress since the park opened for the season.” Falk added, “By the time they were able to take their first spin on our hydro-beast, the excitement was huge. Slidezilla opened to much anticipation and great fanfare.” The ride officially opened on June 14.

With the slide’s two-rides-in-one experience, SlideZilla’s passengers are swept down an enclosed tube and sent spiraling into a 24-foot bowl. After circling the rim, they eventually are drawn into the center vortex where riders plunge

downward 57 feet and crest on a steeply inclined water wall called a Tornado Wave by ProSlide. After experiencing weightlessness, the thrill-seekers drop into a channel that carries them into an exhilarating splashdown finale. This hybrid experience is the only such slide in Colorado, so the park feels it adds a diversity to the water park’s lineup of attractions.

AT asked about the naming of the ride. Tracy Durham, director of marketing for Elitch Gardens, said, “In developing a name for the ride, we knew we wanted to convey its massive size and thrilling journey, while also communicating that it’s a ‘beast’ of a slide. In a way, it challenges folks to take it on.” Durham added, “The name SlideZilla, with its menacing connotation, was coined by Doug Mattice, whom we work with at our creative advertising agency Another Off the Wall Production.” That

agency resides in Houston, Texas.

“The best — and most entertaining — way we’ve learned about our guests’ impressions of SlideZilla this year has been by watching their reactions to the slide,” said Falk. “As they sit in the tube waiting to go down, they seem to embody a mix of trepidation, excitement and nerves. Their faces contort into screams as their tube launches up the side of the four-story Tornado Wave wall.” She smiled, “When riders — from kids to adults — splash into the pool at the end exclaiming, ‘Let’s do it again,’ we can’t help but feel excited ourselves by how much fun everyone is having.”

In addition to the new waterslide, movies and concerts, Elitch Gardens also expanded a lounge area by the water park’s lazy river and offered new shows in the theme park.



# WhiteWater donates AquaSpray toys to Las Vegas park

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Every year the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) chooses a deserving park located in the host city of the NRPA Annual Conference to rebuild as part of their Parks Build Community program. With the support of park equipment manufacturers and local community organizations, NRPA performs a complete makeover at a chosen park to ensure nearby families have a beautiful place to play together. As the 2015 NRPA Annual Conference was hosted in Las Vegas, Joe Kneip Park of North Las Vegas was selected for this year's project.

"Joe Kneip Park is an important community space for the many nearby families who have few options to get outside, recreate and spend time with friends and neighbors. However, the park was in need of major renovation and restoration," says Jimmy O'Connor, director of conservation with NRPA. "NRPA is thrilled to partner



with WhiteWater to bring a brand new splash pad to Joe Kneip — a first for this park and a real gift to this community — as part of the 2015 NRPA Annual Conference."

Eleven sponsors contributed to the 2015 Parks Build Community project graciously donating products and services to renovate Joe Kneip Park. WhiteWater is proud to be a contributing sponsor to the revitalization of the park with the donation of vari-

ous AquaSpray toys to add some well needed splash. The kids of sunny Las Vegas needed a place to cool off and Joe Kneip Park will now be the perfect destination.

The park was revealed on the last day of the NRPA Annual Conference. The community of North Las Vegas along with the park sponsors and industry colleagues joined together on September 17th for the dedication of the completed project.



Children enjoy the new AquaSpray water features at Joe Kneip Park.  
COURTESY WHITEWATER



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## Aqua'Ardèche continues to grow with Polin water slides

VILLENEUVE-DE-BERG, France — France's biggest water park, Aqua'Ardèche at Le Pommier Camping Park has a slogan: Every Year Better at Le Pommier — and one of the primary reasons is its continued offering of unique experiences and water slides for the water park guests.

Over the last three years, Polin has installed five of its highly engineered signature slides at Aqua'Ardèche including a Tsunami & Rafting Slide Combo, Space Boat + Aquatube Combo, Family Rafting Slide and Looping Rocket.

Campgrounds are growing in popularity in France. Nearly 10,000 registered campsites can be found there — almost half the total number in all of Europe. But with so many options, owners must make sure they provide ongoing reasons for campers to return each holiday season. As a result, Le Pommier, located about a half kilometer (1/3 mile) from Villeneuve-de-Berg, first worked with Polin three years ago to add two of the slide expert's signature rides to the resort: a Tsunami and a Space Boat.

Based on the success of those attractions, the luxury camping facility decided to expand again. Then, it added Polin's Family Rafting Slide and a Looping Rocket.

Aurore Court, Le Pommier's communications officer, says the unique and attractive designs of the water slides set the firm apart from others. "We want our guests to have fun whether they are riding the water slides or just enjoying the view as they relax within our park," she says. "Our water slides are incredibly beautiful, streamlined design and offer unique rider experience."

Polin was just as happy to be able to work with Le Pommier again. "Aqua'Ardèche is one of the most beautiful water park complexes in Europe, says Kubilay Alpdogan, Director of Sales and Design at Polin. "It was truly an honor to be able to work with the facility again. We take great pride in the fact that the park chose us as their partner during each of their recent expansions."



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COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert  
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

A new planned community coming to Ripley Valley in Queensland, Australia, will include a number of sporting and recreational facilities. Included within the AU\$6.6 million Providence District Park is a AU\$3.4 (US\$ 2.38) million **Splash 'n' Play Water Park** currently under construction. Providence Director **Michael Khan** said the Splash 'n' Play would be open in December for summer and the new District Park would open in March. The new splashpark will offer a maze of aqua arches, misty mountains climbing area, and giant gushers that unexpectedly spurt water from the ground.

A dedicated toddler area with misters, and "wiggly" sprayers will provide gentler water play activities.

The master-planned community will eventually be home to 20,000 residents and will include a Town Center with dining, retail, supermarkets, a civic town park as well as multiple educational facilities including an Early Learning Center, two primary schools and two secondary schools.

As cruise ships get bigger so do their water parks. When **Royal Caribbean's Harmony of the Seas** enters service in June 2016 it will be the first ship in the Royal Caribbean fleet to feature a **Splashaway Bay** water park. Included in the water park will be a slide dubbed The Ultimate Abyss, standing 100 feet tall. The ship will also have three water slides called Supercell, Typhoon and Cyclone. Those slides stand five stories tall and will offer passengers unique views on top of the cruise ship.

Also included is a water play area designed especially for young children that will include sea creature water cannons, small slides, a tipping bucket and a multi-platform jungle gym.

Harmony of the Seas floated out from dry dock on June 19, and is now the largest cruise ship ever built, surpassing sister ship Allure of the Seas which held that record since November 2009. Outfitting will continue for several months before sea trials begin. Harmony will be home ported in Barcelona, Spain, for the 2016 summer season and is scheduled to make a transatlantic crossing in October to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale to begin service to the Caribbean.

**Gerry Buchheit**, a developer in Buffalo, New York, has proposed a \$250 million 120-room hotel resort with an indoor water park. The project, which the developer claims is currently a work in progress, would utilize waterfront property that was once used by **Henry Ford** to build Model T automobiles. Buchheit is already in the process of developing Buffalo's Outer Harbor by renovating the old Freezer Queen plant into apartments and retail space. Buchheit hopes the new development will become a local hot spot and serve as an example of how cities can re-imagine their waterfronts.

**NFNY Hotel Management LLC**, owner of the **Sheraton at the Falls Hotel** in Niagara Falls, New York, is proposing a water park addition for the hotel. To do so, the city would need to approve the sale of a 0.57-acre piece of property adjacent to the hotel. Details of the water park were not provided, but given

the location it is likely to be an indoor water park. Recent development at the current hotel has included the addition of a **Starbucks** coffee shop, **T.G.I. Friday's** restaurant, games arcade and shops. Across the border on the Canadian side, sister property, Sheraton on the Falls, added a 90,000 square-foot indoor water park in 2006.

Among the new attractions at **Plopsaqua**, the new water park at **Plopsa de Panne** in Belgium, is the storm pool. Every 10 minutes the moderate-sized, innocent-looking, indoor wave pool erupts into a storm complete with a rain shower, wind, waves, lighting and thunderous sound effects. The audio-visual experience features a 16-channel surround speaker system along with overhead and submersed LED lights to produce lighting effects.

The audio system was supplied by **Powersoft Electronics** of Firenze, Italy, through its Belgian distributor, **FACE**. When not providing storm effects, the audio system is used for background music, announcements and can also provide emergency evacuation notification in the event of a genuine emergency.

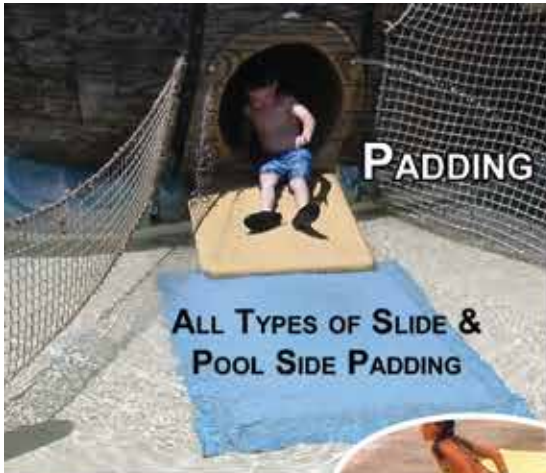
When the city council of **Cardiff Wales** opted to give its water park a face lift, they decided to get opinions from the people that matter most — those who will use the park. The council visited local schools in the area and asked students to become involved in the planning process. "As children are at the heart of this project, it's only right that they're involved in the planning process. We therefore intend to visit schools in the area to gauge their opinion throughout the project," said the councillors in a joint statement. "By consulting children directly, the people who actually use the paddling pool in Victoria Park will make the decisions about its upgrade."

The city Council decided to invest £485,00 (\$737,000) to upgrade the water play zone at the paddling pool at **Victoria Park**. Among the suggestions was to give the play park an animal theme. Work is scheduled to begin in January with the park scheduled for completion by May in time for the summer season.

After 31 years, **Big Splash Water Park** in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is retiring its speed slide. The Silver Bullet attraction is actually a pair of speed slides — one red, one blue, that feature a 72-foot straight chute. A number of park visitors came to ride it one last time on September 13 and say goodbye to the iconic slides. The park is shutting down the ride due to maintenance issues. "Over time the fiberglass has worn down and we've been making repairs constantly. And after looking at it, you know, putting so much money into repairs you get something new," said park manager, **Amber Woessner**. The ride was last re-coated in 2014 but the fiberglass does eventually deteriorate to the point that it is no longer feasible to continue making repairs.

With the park closed for the season, dismantling of the attraction has begun. A new ride will take its place in 2016 but Woessner is keeping details of the replacement a secret.





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# PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Six Flags details 2016 plans — Pages 42-43 / North American State Fair roundup — Pages 45-46

## Rides-4U delivers Spinning Coaster to Trimper's

AT: B. Derek Shaw  
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

OCEAN CITY, Md. — Guests to Trimper's Rides and Amusements seaside park this year were treated to a new roller coaster via Rides-4U, Inc., Sommerville, N.J. The compact Spinning Coaster from SBF/Visa seats 16 and has been an instant hit at the park. This family roller coaster with a figure eight track design has a small footprint, measuring only 72 feet by 35 feet. The ride started operation for Memorial Day 2015 after a two day construction and installation process.

*Amusement Today* caught up with Brooks Trimper, president and manager of Trimper's Rides to gain insight into the

history of this new ride. AT asked how the idea came about. "We decided to purchase the Spinning Coaster in the fall of 2014. We had seen it at the IAAPA and Gibtown shows earlier in the year," said Brooks. "After riding it we knew it would be a hit with our customers for years to come. It has the attributes of a family coaster and a Tilt-A-Whirl all in one. We were looking for a thrill ride that still allowed families to ride together. The spinning coaster offered us this opportunity."

The compact Spinning Coaster accommodates guests 48 inches and above. However, guests that are 36 inches and over must ride with an adult. The ride cycle used at Trimper's is two minutes in duration,



Trimper's Rides and Amusements in Ocean City, Md. opened this new Spinning Coaster from SBF/Visa Group and Rides-4U. Guests to this seaside amusement area love the new coaster. COURTESY TRIMPERS

although it can be changed.

How has public reaction been? "The crowd enjoys rid-

ing the Spinning Coaster. We get many compliments from families and teenagers alike.

There is quite a bit of action in this tight footprint of a coaster," said Brooks. He continued, "We are not quite finished with this project, as there are still plans in the works to add additional lighting and perhaps even a tunnel."

When asked about Trimper's association with Rides-4U, Brooks replied, "We've worked with Rides-4U for many years. They always do their best to help with any situation that arises. This case was no different."

This is the sixth SBF/VisaGroup Spinning Coaster amusement park installation in the world and the fourth one in the United States. The ride is available as a park or portable model.

## Legoland California plans new Ninjago land, Triotech dark ride in 2016

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Legoland California Resort has announced the addition of a new Ninjago land in 2016. The new area will also feature a major new attraction, Ninjago-The Ride.

Lego Ninjago tells the story of four young ninja heroes (Kai, Jay, Cole and Zane) who train under the watchful eye of Master Wu to master an ancient martial art, Spinjitzu. Guests will enter the new Ninjago land through a giant archway, behind Imagination Zone, which will lead them into a courtyard where they begin their ninja training. The new land features Lego building stations, a game to test reflexes, spinners to test balance, Asian cuisine and a new shopping venue. Interactive experiences will test guests' physical skills, balance and agility

► See LEGOLAND, page 36



Legoland California Resort will introduce a new Ninjago land in 2016. Based on the popular property Lego Ninjago, which is brought to life by The Lego Group through a line of construction toys and a TV series on Cartoon Network, the area will be highlighted by Ninjago-The Ride. This new interactive dark attraction is manufactured by Triotech and will feature innovative technology that enables guests to control the outcome of their adventure through the power of hand gestures and 3D imagery. COURTESY LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA



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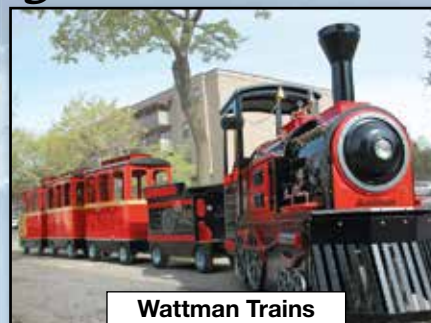
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# Ice Age: No Time for Nuts 4D feature arrives at Kennywood




In late July, Kennywood opened their mid-season attraction, a 4,100-square-foot, 88 person 4D theater. The first offering is 20th Century Fox's, *Ice Age: No Time for Nuts*. The 4D feature film will change seasonally. During Phantom Fright Nights, Halloween-themed features were shown. When Holiday Lights takes place, the feature will change again. The theater was originally home to the Playdium Arcade and more recently, Laser Maze. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

## LEGOLAND Continued from page 35

before they can prep for their ultimate training session: Ninjago-The Ride. According to Legoland California General Manager Peter Ronchetti, the new ride will feature technology guests have never experienced at any other theme park in the world. "Ninjago - The Ride is being manufactured by Triotech, a leader in media-based interactive attractions. It will feature cutting-edge technology that enables guests to control the outcome of their adventure through the power of their hand gestures. Through 3D imagery, high-tech sensors and the use of hand movements in a striking motion, up to four riders per car, representing the four main Ninjago characters, can blast animated fireballs, lightning,

shockwaves and ice as they travel through dojos to master their skills before heading into battle. Riders collect points for their training and battle efforts throughout the ride and scores are displayed when their quest is completed. 4D effects such as heat, smoke and wind are also incorporated throughout the adventure, giving guests the ultimate interactive experience. "I am proud and thrilled to say that this is our 11th straight year of continuous attendance growth," added Ronchetti. "We attribute much of this to our winning formula of providing our guests a family environment filled with fun, interactive experiences that create lasting memories. Ninjago-The Ride will be the ultimate experience providing interactive fun for all." Based on the popular

property Lego Ninjago, which is brought to life by The Lego Group through a line of construction toys and a TV series on Cartoon Network, guests will enjoy interactive elements and this new ride featuring key characters. For the first time, immersed into the Ninjago universe, guests can train like a Spinjitzu Master, learn to harness the power of the four elements and use teamwork to battle the Great Devourer. Lego Ninjago is one of the most successful Lego properties. This year, brand new episodes of the popular series, *Ninjago: Masters of Spinjitzu*, aired on Cartoon Network and 22 new building sets loaded with features and functions were released. Ninjago-The Ride is being unveiled at both Legoland California Resort and Legoland Billund Resort in 2016.









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## Busch Gardens announces new show, restaurant and craft beer room

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Busch Gardens recently announced new guest experiences for the 2016 season including a new restaurant, craft beer room and show, in a special preview to pass members.

**New restaurant:** The current Italian restaurant (Ristorante della Piazza) in the park's San Marco village is transforming into an international market-style restaurant next spring that will eliminate buffet lines for a more relaxing dining experience. The theme of the yet-to-be-named restaurant is based on the travels of Marco Polo and will feature classic Italian, Mediterranean and Asian entrée, salad and dessert stations. It also will include a new stone hearth oven for artisan flat breads. Work on the new restaurant begins in early November.

"We're bringing the flavors of the world to the world's most beautiful theme park," said Busch Gardens Culinary Vice President Franz Kitenko. "And, we are excited to introduce a new open design that will enhance the dining experience for our guests with less wait and more options."

**New craft beer room:** Beer aficionados will delight in a new craft beer room inside Das Festhaus opening in the spring and will serve 30 local and regional craft beers along with a variety of snacks.

**New show:** The park also teased a new evening show to debut next summer that will light up the night sky at the open-air Busch Gardens' Royal Palace Theatre. The show is a contemporary spin on the classic French tale of the three musketeers, as audiences join the trio on a quest to save king and country. This live performance embraces new technology and takes advantage of the night sky to bring guests into the story.

"An evening performance opens up a world of possibilities for an open-air venue like the Royal Palace Theatre," said the park's Entertainment Director Peter Dunklee. "Playing with light and shadow in the night air lets us immerse the audience into the storyline like never before. It's definitely something worth staying late for."

## Great America California announces new 4D holographic experience in 2016

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — California's Great America and Electronic Arts (EA), a global leader in interactive entertainment, are teaming up to create a first-of-its-kind guest experience at Great America. The dynamic new attraction will feature settings and characters from EA's critically acclaimed Mass Effect videogame series developed by BioWare and will open next season in a newly renovated Action Theater.

Riders will climb aboard motion-based seating and wear 3D glasses as they are taken on a thrilling adventure. A live performer will curate the journey and appear to interact seamlessly with the next generation 3D visuals. These elements will be integrated with motion seating, high tech sound and other 4D effects to create a truly compelling and immersive attraction. Guests will travel through space to a distant planet, face off against bigger than life adversaries and ultimately help save the day.

"Partnering with a world-wide gaming leader like EA will enable us to build an incredible user experience for our guests," said California's Great America Vice President and General Manager Raul Rehnborg. "This combination of technology and creative videogame content is sure to usher in a new wave of entertainment innovation in amusement parks."

"EA and BioWare are thrilled to partner with Great America and see one of our most iconic games turned into an exciting high-tech attraction," said Patrick O'Brien, vice president of Entertainment and Licensing at EA. "Having a partner who shares our commitment to thrilling our fans is extremely important to us and we look forward to building an attraction that will appeal to the Mass Effect fan-base and introduce it to many more."



## FASTTRACK

COMPILED: Scott Rutherford  
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

**Pirates of the Caribbean** at **Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom** has opened to guests after a comprehensive summer rehab. The Disney Parks Blog confirms that in addition to the restoration work and new paint inside the attraction, enhanced special effects were added, including new cannons with water-based smoke and strobes for weather effects. There are also a handful of new scents to experience at different areas of the attraction. Imagineers also took the opportunity to enhance the Audio Animatronic figures in this fan-favorite. Each character was rebuilt and fitted with new costumes and now appear even more realistic and authentic, including Captain Jack Sparrow and Captain Barbosa.

The nonprofit **Space Center Houston** has earned a prestigious U.S. Department of State grant that will unite it with two other science centers in France and Singapore in a collaborative global education project. The Museums Connect grant funds a future-looking six month initiative focused on teaching youth about space science, technology and global citizenship. The collaborative effort will draw teens from the three countries to work together to solve real-world problems in a fun cultural exchange. Space Center Houston, the **Science Centre Singapore** and **Cité de l'espace** in France will engage students and teachers to explore new learning and teaching practices focused on building a sustainable Mars community. Selected participants will attend online courses and then travel to each center for hands-on training.

Officials at **Universal Studios' Islands of Adventure** confirmed earlier this season that **The Incredible Hulk** steel looping coaster would be undergoing an extensive restoration. The ride made its last run on Sept. 8, 2015. As of press time, a large number of track sections as well as all train vehicles were spotted at **Trademark Metal Recycling** in Orlando. The only firm detail Universal has released about the ride's future is that it will return with the same "Incredible" personality when it reopens next summer.

**Walt Disney World Resort** has officially changed the name of **Downtown Disney** to **Disney Springs**, an important milestone in the ongoing transformation of the shopping, dining and entertainment district. Drawing inspiration from Florida's waterfront towns and natural beauty, Disney Springs treats guests to a one-of-a-kind Disney experience amid beautiful open-air promenades, flowing springs and waterfront charm. Disney Springs will include four interconnected neighborhoods: The Landing, Marketplace, West Side and Town Center. When Disney Springs is fully completed in 2016, it will double the number of current shopping, dining and entertainment venues.

The Tampa Bay area's biggest Christmas celebration returns to **Busch Gardens Tampa** this holiday season. **Christmas Town** will take place 20 select dates between Nov. 27 through Dec. 31. New this year, the cheer

keeps going until 10 p.m. every event night. Christmas Town creates beautiful family traditions for guests as Busch Gardens is transformed into a holiday wonderland with more than a million lights, Christmas entertainment, live music, festive treats and holiday shopping.

An inside look at some of the sea's most magnificent inhabitants awaits guests with the Las Vegas premiere of **Sea Monsters Revealed** at **Shark Reef Aquarium** inside **Mandalay Bay**. The world's largest exhibition of uniquely preserved sea animals features an 18-foot, 3,000-pound whale shark along with a 15-foot-long mako shark and giant sunfish among its more than 18 full-body sea creatures. Additional displays include 150 individual organs and smaller specimens such as tropical fish, crustaceans and octopuses. Located adjacent to Shark Reef Aquarium, Sea Monsters Revealed provides locals and visitors alike with a greater understanding of the world's oceans and how mankind's interactions and conservation efforts are vital to the health and preservation of these animals. The exhibit was developed through a partnership between **Base Entertainment** and **Dalian Hoffen Bio-Technique Co.**

The dormant Dania Beach **Hurricane**, a 100-foot-tall wooden roller coaster that operated at **Boomers** in Dania, Florida (2000-11), has finally received its execution date. South Florida's only wooden coaster, which flanks Interstate 95 near Fort Lauderdale, will be demolished in the first quarter of 2016 to make way for a mixed-use development called **Dania Pointe. Master Development of Aventura** and **Salzman Real Estate Advisors** of Dania Beach assembled the 102 acres and entered a joint venture to develop Dania Pointe with **Kimco Realty**.

The new **Legoland Discovery Center Michigan** has broken ground at **Great Lakes Crossing Outlets** in Auburn Hills. The 32,000-square-foot indoor attraction will feature more than one million Lego bricks and themed exhibits including a 4D cinema and two interactive rides. Legoland Discovery Center Michigan will open in spring 2016.

The **Chase Lounge** at the **Epcot International Food & Wine Festival** has returned for the fourth year with new features. The festival, running through November 16, 2015, welcomes celebrity chefs, debuts new marketplaces and tastes from around the world and celebrates guests' favorite dining traditions. As the sponsor of the festival, Chase aims to create a unique experience for all its credit and debit cardmembers to enjoy. The Chase Lounge, which is open exclusively to Chase debit and credit cardmembers, is an inviting place to relax, refresh, and be entertained. It is located on the third floor of the **American Adventure Pavilion** within **World Showcase**.

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INSIDE:  
Dollywood building  
first launched  
wooden coaster  
Page 5

**Golden Ticket Awards**  
registrations due,  
hotel deadline passes

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. — Amusement industry professionals planning to attend the 2015 Golden Ticket Awards in New York City, Sept. 11 and 12, are reminded to get their registration and hotel reservations in immediately.

The cutoff date to receive the 2015 Golden Ticket Awards discounted room rate at the Park Lane Hotel at Central Park is August 21, 2015. Event online registration will continue through Sept. 2, 2015.

For hotel booking information or for event registration please go to: [www.GoldenTicketAwards.com](http://www.GoldenTicketAwards.com). For more information on the schedule of events, see pages 26-27.

This is the 18th year for the Golden Ticket Awards, which are presented to the "Best of the Best" in the amusement industry and are calculated from an international poll conducted by Amusement Today. Complete results of the 2015 survey will be posted at [www.amusementtoday.com](http://www.amusementtoday.com) following the conclusion of the Saturday, Sept. 12, awards ceremony.

Unique Utah diving coaster debuts

Cannibal emerges from Lagoon, hunts thrill-seekers

AT: Dean Lamanna  
[deanlamanna@amusementtoday.com](mailto:deanlamanna@amusementtoday.com)

FARMINGTON, Utah — The beast may have missed half the summer, but after seven years of development encompassing three years of construction, Lagoon, the historic amusement park in northern Utah, finally uncaged its wildly anticipated diving coaster, Cannibal, in early July.

The park's 10th roller coaster, Cannibal boasts a vertical lift inside a 200-foot-tall tower with a nearly inverted 116-degree major first drop, an underground tunnel and three inversions — including an Immortium-style loop (capping out at 140

feet) and a diving loop — along 2,735 feet of track. The ride, lasting two and a half minutes, achieves a top speed of 70 mph and pulls as much as 4.2 Gs.

Cannibal is Lagoon's latest in-house coaster design effort since the installation of Bombora, a surfing-themed steel family ride, in 2011. It also represents the park's second collaboration with ART Engineering GmbH of Oberried, Germany.

Following an extended period of tweaking and sandbag testing that carried well past the park's 2015 season opening in late March — a delay that fueled all manner of parkgoer and local media speculation —

See LAGOON, page 4



After plunging down its way-beyond-vertical, 116-degree first drop (lower right, counter-clockwise), Cannibal steals riders' collective breath with several soaring loops and eventually "kabbles" with a heartline roll. The coaster  
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May 2015 | Vol. 19 | Issue 2

Europa-Park celebrates four decades of success with new attractions

AT: Tim Bialos

ROSENHEIM, Germany — Call it a celebration and call it a milestone. Europa-Park, the 160-acre amusement park in southern Germany, has celebrated its 40th birthday. The park, which opened in 1975, has grown from a small family-owned business to a major attraction in the European amusement industry.

On May 18, the park celebrated its 40th birthday with a series of events, including a parade, a concert, and a fireworks display. The park's 40th birthday is a significant milestone for the company, which has grown from a small family-owned business to a major attraction in the European amusement industry.

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# Six Flags details 2016 season improvements, additions

**AT:** Scott Rutherford  
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

**NORTH AMERICA** — Six Flags Entertainment Corporation announced a lineup of new and innovative rides and attractions coming to its theme parks

in 2016. This expansive list will include new roller coasters, interactive rides, expanded family offerings as well as new twists on a number of iconic favorites.

Highlights of Six Flags' 2016 season will include:

•**Six Flags Magic Moun-**

**tain** will commemorate the 40th anniversary of Revolution, the world's first modern 360-degree looping coaster, with a makeover that will see the removal of its much-maligned over-the-shoulder restraints, which were added in 1992. The New Revolution

will feature special effects, a new look, and inhouse-designed train bodies that will deliver a smoother, sleeker ride experience with individual lap bars.

•**Six Flags Great America** and **Six Flags Mexico**, in partnership with Warner Bros. Consumer Products and DC Entertainment, will bring the next generation of interactive thrills to their parks with the debut of Justice League: Battle for Metropolis. Supplied by Sally Corp. and Oceaneering International, these immersive, 4D virtual dark rides will allow guests in six-passenger vehicles to become members of the Justice League Reserve Team and engage in a full-sensory journey as they battle alongside Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman and Green Lantern against Lex Luthor, The Joker and his henchmen.

•**Six Flags Discovery Kingdom** will introduce The Joker, a re-imagining of the park's popular Roar wooden roller coaster. The makeover, executed by Rocky Mountain Construction, will see Roar's laminated wooden track replaced with RMC's steel rails. The hybrid coaster's 3,200 feet of dual-colored track will include a number of chaotic elements such as a barrel roll plus 15 extreme airtime moments at speeds of 53 mph.

•**Six Flags Great Adventure's** Total Mayhem will be a 4-D Free Spin Coaster manufactured by S&S Worldwide. After being lifted straight up a 12-story, 90-degree hill, riders will flip head-over-heels at least six times in wing seats with their

legs dangling.

•**Six Flags Over Texas** has plans for an impressive expansion to the park's Gotham City section that will include three new rides in 2016: The Riddler Revenge (Zamperla Giant Discovery) Catwoman Whip (Zamperla Endeavor) and Harley Quinn Spinsanity (re-themed Huss Troika).

•**Six Flags White Water** will open next season with the 60-foot-tall Wahoo Racer, a multi-lane mat racing slide complex (WhiteWater West).

•**Six Flags Fiesta Texas** is bringing three new thrill rides to the park along with a renovated boardwalk area: Fireball (Larson Giant Loop), Hurricane Force 5 (Zamperla Mega Disk'O), and Spinsanity (Larson Tilt-A-Whirl).

•**Six Flags New England** and **Six Flags St. Louis** will both introduce Fireball (Larson Giant Loops) in 2016. In addition, Six Flags New England's iconic steel coaster Bizarro (Intamin) will revert to its former name and theme, Superman the Ride.

•**La Ronde** in Montreal is set to bring guests new adventures as it flips the trains backwards on its Vampire (B&M Inverted Coaster). The park will also add two rides in an all-new section dubbed Avenue Adventure: Phoenix (Larson Flying Scooter) and Gravitor (Zamperla Air Race).

•**Six Flags America** is adding Splashwater Falls, an interactive water playground from WhiteWater West that will feature dozens of slides, nets, sprays, geysers and thrills. Par-

► **See SIX FLAGS, page 43**



**ROLLER COASTERS**  
Rocky Mountain Construction will transform Discovery Kingdom's Roar (above) wooden coaster into The Joker. Left, Magic Mountain marks Revolution's 40th anniversary with new train bodies without over-the-shoulder restraints. Below, Great Adventure plans to unleash Total Mayhem, a 4-D Free Spin Coaster from S&S Worldwide.  
ALL COURTESY SIX FLAGS



## DARK RIDES

Six Flags Great America and Six Flags Mexico, will debut Justice League: Battle for Metropolis interactive dark rides supplied by Sally Corp. and Oceaneering.



## ►SIX FLAGS

Continued from page 42

ents can relax on the deck area complete with new lounge chairs and umbrellas.

•**Six Flags Over Georgia** introduces the world's first DC Super Friends themed area and the all-new Bugs Bunny Boomtown. Along with a number of re-themed attractions, the two children's areas will feature a number of new rides including: Superman Tower of Power (Zamperla Sky Tower); Wonder Woman Flight School (Larson Flying Scooter); Harley Quinn Mirror Maze (Oak Island Productions); The Batcopters (I.E.Park); Daffy Duck's Bucket Blasters (Zamperla Water Mania); Yosemite Sam's Wacky Wagons (Zamperla) and Speedy Gonzales Speed Boats (Zamperla Jump Around).

•**Six Flags Great Escape** will install Greezed Lightnin' (Larson Giant Loop) for the 2016 season. The new attraction will be located across from Thunder



**Six Flags America** is adding **Splashwater Falls**, an interactive water playground while **Six Flags White Water** will open **Wahoo Racer**, a multi-lane mat racing slide. Both are supplied by **WhiteWater West**.

Alley and will feature an impressive LED light package and flame paint scheme that will transport guests back in time with its 1950s theme and hot rod inspiration.

"Our rides and attractions are consistently ranked as the most thrilling and innovative

in the regional theme park industry and our 2016 lineup will build on that success," said Jim Reid-Anderson, chairman, president and CEO. "For five years we have maintained our

strategy of introducing something new at every park, every year, delighting our guests with differentiated new attractions and experiences. It is clear our strategy is working — guests

are thrilled by the continuous stream of exciting new attractions and park upgrades and we look forward to wow'ing them again next spring with our 2016 offerings."



### FLAT RIDES

**Six Flags Over Georgia**, **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** and **Six Flags Over Texas** will each introduce a varied collection of family-friendly flat rides.



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# Visitors pouring in to 2015 North America's top fairs

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

## FAIR ROUNDUP

Reports from North America's top fairs continue to show positive results for the 2015 season.

This is a continuation from last month's fair roundup report. Expect to see more in our next issue.

### Minnesota State Fair, Minneapolis, Minn.

Aug. 27-Sept. 5

Final attendance for the 2015 Great Minnesota Get-Together was 1,779,738, bringing final numbers within 2.5 percent of last year's all-time record total. Labor Day attendance set an attendance record with 178,867 showing up that day.

There were a total of 25 different amusement ride and attractions operators that brought in 61 rides and attractions, 31 on the midway and 30 on the kidway. There were 47 games of skills brought in by 12 different operators.

Winners of the State Fair 2015 Best Awards, awards that recognize outstanding vendors, attractions and commercial exhibits were: Best Product or Service: JM Cremp's Boys Adventure Store; Best Food or Beverage: San Felipe Tacos; Best Attraction: Bonanza Shooting Gallery by American Family Concessions; Best Value: Midway Men's Club; Best Customer Service: Corn Roast (food concessions by Brad Ribar); Best Midway Ride: Rock-It (brought in by Mike Demas, State Fair Services); Best Midway Game: Drag-A-Fish (brought in by Candice Anderson); and Best Kidway Ride: Monkey Maze, brought in by Alamo Amusements (Patrick Sheridan).

The top five rides at the fair were: 1. Crazy Mouse Spinning Coaster, brought in by S.J. Entertainment and manufactured by Reverchon; 2. Sky Flyer, Reithoffer Equipment Co. Inc., Zamperla; 3. Super Nova Roller Coaster, KB Concessions LLC; 4. Hurricane, Showtime Rides Inc., KMG and 5. Gondola Wheel, Playworld Unlimited, Muligan.

The top five games were: Bottle Up, brought in by Candice Anderson; Whopper Water Race, Cassata Conces-

sions; Goblets, Candy Anderson; Long Range Basketball, Oren Concessions LLC; and Goblets, Candice Anderson.

New additions and highlights for 2015 included: the centennial celebration of Ye Old Mill (the oldest attraction on the fairgrounds) and the 50-year anniversary of crop art at the fair; free sunscreen available at each information booth; two new rides at Mighty Midway — New York New York Fun House (brought in by Myers International Midways and manufactured by Owen Trailers); and the Super Nova; and a brand-new show about Minnesota history called History On-A-Schtick.

Also new was Math On-A-Stick, a new learning experience for the whole family; and Figure Skating Day at Carousel Park on Aug. 31 with Olympic Gold Medalist and World Figure Skating Champion Kristi Yamaguchi to celebrate Saint Paul's hosting of the 2016 U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

The 2015 fair featured 40 new foods and 11 new frozen treats. New foods included Buffalo'd Bones, Burger Dog, Butter Chicken Samosas, Chilled Bread Pudding, Cowboy Bites, Cowboy Dave's Cluck & Moo, Deep Fried Ribs, Grilled Venetian-Style Pizza, Island Slaw, Italian Dessert Nachos, Kimchi 'n' Curry Poutine, Limerick Stix, Mac & Cheese Cupcake, BEE-NICE Gluten-Free Muffin, and Wine Fried Kalettes.

New frozen treats included BBQ Pickle Ice Cream, Butter Queen Coffee Ice Cream, Caramel Chocolate-Dipped Bacon Ice Cream Bar, Chocolate-Dipped Cherry On-a-Spoon JonnyPop, and Choco-



Exact attendance numbers weren't available at press time but, by all indications, Canadian National Exhibition attendance for this year was up by about 10 percent over the 1.43 million reported in 2014. North American Midway Entertainment provided the midway. COURTESY CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION

late Jalapeño Ice Cream.

In total, vendors served up nearly 500 different types of food.

The Minnesota State Fair's agricultural and creative competitions drew more than 30,000 entries this year, with competitors vying for a share of ribbons, trophies and more than \$1.3 million in prize money.

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

The 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction on Sat., Aug. 29, brought in a record-breaking \$590,000 to benefit 4-H programs.

The 2016 Minnesota State Fair will run Aug. 25 through Labor Day, Sept. 5.

**LA County Fair,**  
Pomona, Calif., Sept. 4-27  
Milder summer tempera-

tures and new promotions were reportedly the things that helped boost attendance at this summer's Los Angeles County Fair by six percent,

even though it lasted four days less than year.

The fair drew 1,276,817 guests during its 19-day run

► See FAIRS, page 46



The Los Angeles County Fair, Pomona, Calif., drew a total attendance of 1,276,817 guests during its run this year. That is up over 2014's total of 1,204,911 attendees. Ray Cammack Shows celebrated its 30th anniversary at the event this year. The carnival provided about 40 rides including this Mach 1, manufactured by KMG. COURTESY LA COUNTY FAIR

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## ►FAIRS

### Continued from page 45

at the Fairplex. The fair ran for 23 days last year and drew 1,204,911 guests.

A total of 110,728 people attended the event on Saturday, Sept. 26, the highest single-day attendance since 2007, according to fair officials.

"While thousands of guests enjoyed our grandstand concerts, others poured into the carnival and exhibitions and indulged in delicious fair food," Jim Henwood, fair CEO and presi-

dent, told reporters at the end of the fair.

Ray Cammack Shows celebrated its 30th year with the running of the 2015 fair. The carnival brought 40 rides for the midway area.

In recent years, Charles Boghosian, who's also known as Chicken Charlie, has been among the most popular of the more than 600 vendors at the fair. This year, it was reported that he introduced deep-fried guacamole, selling 20,000 orders of the fried avocado-based dip, plus 20,000 bacon-wrapped pick-

## FAIR ROUNDUP

les, 10,000 bacon-wrapped chicken legs and 7,000 Krispy Kreme triple-decker burgers.

Vendors also reported selling 40,000 pounds of turkey legs and 10,000 pounds of potatoes.

Fair officials said attendees donated 174,909 cans of non-perishable food in exchange for free admission, the largest number since the promotion began in 2011. The food was donated to local and regional United Way offices.

Total concert attendance also set a record this year even though there fewer concert days, 15 compared to the 19 last year.

The 2016 fair is scheduled for Sept. 2-25.

### Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, Ont., Aug. 21-Sept. 7

Preliminary estimates indicate attendance at this year's CNE was up by close to 10 percent over last year's 1.43 million visitors. Exact figures weren't available at presstime.

Organizers reported this year's event was one of the most successful in the past decade, with early indicators estimating a 10 per cent increase in attendance over last year.

North American Midway Entertainment provided the midway for the fair.

New foods introduced this year included the S&M (spaghetti and meatball) burger, deep-fried red velvet Oreos, a coffee and doughnut milkshake, Frosted Flakes battered chicken and chicken and waffle on a stick.

### New Mexico State Fair, Albuquerque, N.M., Sept. 10-20

Although it was the shortest fair in more than a decade, attendance at the 2015 New Mexico State Fair increased a half-percent over the previous year's fair, officials announced Tuesday.

Total attendance for the 11-day fair, which ran Sept. 10-20, was 460,468. Attendance at the 2014 fair, which ran for 12 days, was 458,379, said State Fair spokeswoman Erin Thompson.

Paid attendance was 414,932 — a 1.4 percent decline from the 2014 fair. Revenues from admission ticket sales weren't available at presstime.

Unpaid attendance, which includes passes for vendors, sponsors and special guests and free-entry days for police, firefighters, teachers, veterans and active-duty military, jumped from 37,755 in 2014 to 45,536 this year.

"By all standards, the 2015 New Mexico State Fair was hugely successful," State Fair general manager Dan Mourning said in a news release. "As we expected, our promotional efforts, our reputation for being a safe and family friendly fair, and our partnership with Reithoffer Shows, who delivered on their promise to bring a great carnival, further solidified our status as one of the top fairs in the country."

Murphy Brothers had played that fair for 40 years, but Reithoffer Shows took over for the 2015 event. A spokesperson said Murphy Brothers hadn't bid for a new contract.

Reithoffer Shows provided about 40 rides.

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# BUSINESS, SAFETY & CLASSIFIED

▶ MarketWatch — Page 50 / Safety — Pages 51-55 / GTA roundup — Pages 57-62 / CLASSIFIEDS — Page 63

## China's Romon U-Park enjoying recycled energy on coaster

*Maurer Rides Flying Launch Coaster recovers energy during braking, uses stored energy during next launch*

**AT:** Scott Rutherford  
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

NINGBO, China — German ride manufacturer Maurer Rides recently gave wings to Dragon Legend, one of its new Flying Launch Coasters, which took to the skies this spring at China's Romon U-Park.

Dragon Legend utilizes a Linear Synchronous Motor (LSM) propulsion system that launches the five-car X-Trains from 0 to 52 mph in under three seconds. The 1,935-foot-long compact layout includes three inversions – a top hat (inside loop), vertical loop and heartline roll.

Furthermore, the new Dragon Legend is distinctive in the fact that it is equipped with an innovative energy conservation system that recovers power during the braking maneuver. This recycled power is then stored and used to launch the next train.

AT spoke with Maurer's Vesna Osterloh about this "green" aspect of Dragon Legend and how this groundbreaking technology is being applied in the amusement industry. "Compared to coasters with a chain lift, launch coasters require a very high power input," explained Osterloh. "Under certain circumstances, this may result in increased electricity costs for the operator if the charges for excessive pow-

er input values are high. When accelerating a train weighing 12.1 tons from 0 to 52 mph approximately 2.7 seconds, power peaks are created in the supply grid, which can also lead to high costs.

"Here the installation of an energy storage system serves as a remedy: The system equalizes the power requirement from the grid, and also drastically reduces the connected wattage. For the Romon U-Park coaster, the constant power input is approx. 300 kw. Without this system, the power input during the acceleration phase would reach peak values of around 1.35 mw.

"What is also unique about Dragon Legend is that the LSM launch stators are not only used for the catapult but also for braking, added Osterloh. "After an exciting ride, the X-Train passes through the station at speeds of around 43 mph. After being brought to a halt by the LSM stators, the train is then returned to the station in reverse. During this process, the braking energy is recovered and transferred to an energy reservoir, where it is then available for the next launch."

Maurer also utilized this recoverable energy system on its Freischütz Flying Launch Coaster at Germany's Bayern Park in 2011.



Germany's Maurer Rides recently opened one of its Flying Launch Coasters at China's Romon U-Park. Utilizing Linear Synchronous Motor (LSM) propulsion, the 20-seat X-Train is catapulted from 0 to 52 mph in just under three seconds. Riders are then treated to 1,935 feet of track that includes three inversions. Instead of a typical braking system, the coaster is equipped with an energy conservation system that finds the LSMs being used to brake the train and then having the energy generated during that process stored and used for the next launch.

COURTESY MAURER RIDES



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MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 10/01/15	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	31.43	43.58	26.03
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	376.60	473.30	329.004
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	52.30	60.64	42.75
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	57.41	64.99	49.33
	CMCSK	NASDAQ	57.72	64.69	49.26
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	102.67	122.08	78.54
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1169.00	1318.00	975.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	2255HK	SEHK	1.51	2.13	1.07
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	9.73	12.90	8.22
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	18.67	23.70	16.84
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	17.90	22.68	15.11
Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town Co., Ltd. (OCT)	000069	SZSE	7.11	14.78	5.12
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	46.33	51.09	31.77
Skyocean International	00593HK	SEHK	11.70	12.46	3.96
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	3671.00	4000.00	2941.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	6.95	7.47	5.08

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

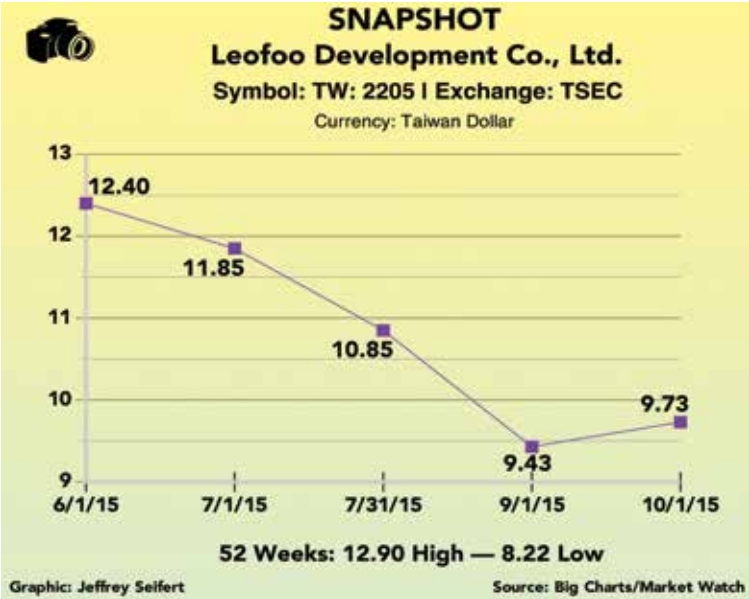
DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 09/28/15	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.534	- \$1.244
Midwest	\$2.434	- \$1.260
Gulf Coast	\$2.323	- \$1.362
Mountain	\$2.486	- \$1.320
West Coast	\$2.541	- \$1.335
California	\$2.815	- \$1.192

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0.8914	EURO
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0.9732	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.4254	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3400	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

Comcast to buy Universal Studios Japan

OSAKA, Japan — Comcast reports that it has reached an agreement to buy 51 percent of Universal Studios Japan for 183 billion yen. The current owners, which include Goldman Sachs, the chief executive Glenn Gumpel, the private equity firm MBK Partners and the hedge fund Owl Creek Asset Management, will retain minority stakes in the theme park in the \$1.5 billion deal. The deal values USJ at \$6.2 billion. The NBCUniversal unit of Comcast said it planned to use the acquisition to build its presence in Japan and to extend its theme park interests.

In January, USJ said the theme park had drawn its 10 millionth visitor since the beginning of the fiscal year in April 2014. It attributed its success in boosting visitor numbers to its Harry Potter attractions, which opened in July.

USJ opened in 2001 and made its debut in 2007 on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. It was delisted in 2009 when goldman injected capital into the company. —Business Wire

Conneaut park, hotel operator files Chapter 11

ERIE, Pa. — Park Restoration LLC, the operator of the Hotel Conneaut at Conneaut Lake Park amusement park, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection with U.S. District Court.

Under federal bankruptcy law, any bankruptcy filing automatically stops any creditors from continuing any action against the firm, but the company is subject to oversight of the bankruptcy judge. Any bankruptcy reorganization plan will have to be approved by the bankruptcy court, and creditors also will have input on the plan.

Park Restoration LLC has operated the hotel since November 2008 under a 30-year lease with Trustees of Conneaut Lake Park, the nonprofit corporation that oversees operations at Conneaut Lake Park. Trustees itself filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in December 2014.

In short:

•ORLANDO, Fla. — acceso Technology Group plc announced it has signed three new contracts within its acceso Siriusware division, totaling 11 acceso Siriusware contract wins this year. Agreements recently have been signed with Taos Ski Valley, a thrilling 1,300-acre ski resort, and two cultural attractions — the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, a natural history museum located in Philadelphia.

The three attractions join eight other North American venues that adopted the acceso Siriusware ticketing suite earlier in the year including Brooklyn Museum of Art, The Skydeck, McWane Center Adventures in Science, Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, The Asian Art Museum, The Trustees of Reservations, Oakland Museum of California and Black Ball Ferry Line.

•GILBERTSVILLE, Pa. — Gateway Ticketing Systems announced its selection by the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center (the Fleet) as the venue's new full-service partner to help enhance the guest experience. Located in San Diego, the Fleet is home to Southern California's only Giant Dome Theater and 100-plus hands-on science exhibits for all ages.

The Fleet is located within San Diego's Balboa Park, the nation's largest urban cultural park. Two other locations within the park use Gateway for their ticketing and access control: San Diego Zoo, San Diego Air & Space Museum and the nearby U.S.S. Midway.

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## Summer-long project spearheaded by Recreation Engineering

# New ASTM standard for measuring waterslide g-forces proposed

**AT:** Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

### SAFETY

PRESCOTT, Ariz. — When the waterslide industry developed an ASTM standard for slide design and operation nearly a decade ago, it required that designers limit the forces on riders to 2g or 3g — depending upon rider position.

Unfortunately, ASTM International did not yet have a standardized test method for the slippery task of measuring waterslide accelerations.

Splash forward to May 2015, when Recreation Engineering, Inc. — a provider of mechanical safety and testing research to the amusement industry — stepped up to address the missing waterslide g-force testing standard. The goal of company president Brian King, P.E., was to create just that.

"You have a diverse population riding waterslides," explained King, a former ASTM committee

chairman, to *Amusement Today*. "Any individual within that population can have different experiences on the same slide — depending on body position, posture and any movement they make as they go down the slide."

To have a successful testing process that produced viable (and valuable) data, King recognized that he would have to remove the human element and its associated variability, and replace it with a surrogate.

"You have to yield data that is repeatable — meaning that, if you send a surrogate down one time, two times, five times and you plot all of that g-force data on top of itself, it should match," he said.

To proceed with the project, which he titled W.A.S.H.E.R. (short for "waterslide accelerometry system hardware with extreme repeatability"), King hired



W.A.S.H.E.R. project interns Julia King, Bradley King and Joskua Carillo attach an accelerometer to the tube slide surrogate at Golfand-Sunsplash in Mesa, Ariz.  
COURTESY RECREATION ENGINEERING

four engineering interns from Arizona State University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the Uni-

versity of Arizona to develop a standardized acceleration test method. "Intellectual assistance" was provided by

ProSlide, WhiteWater West and Universal Creative in Orlando, Fla.

► See **TESTING**, page 52



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## SAFETY

Recreation Engineering's Brian King, P.E. (far right) poses with the first waterslide testing surrogate design along with engineering students (from left) Joskua Carillo, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; Bradley King, University of Arizona; Stephen Woodard, also attending Embry-Riddle; and Julia King, Arizona State University.

COURTESY  
RECREATION ENGINEERING

## ► TESTING

Continued from page 51

Over a 12-week period beginning in mid-May, King and his interns collected data weekly at Golfland-Sunsplash in Mesa, Ariz. "Tony Hacker, the general manager, provided us invaluable early-morning access to the park's waterslides," King said.

The testing surrogate, which, King noted, "had to be able to be made with parts and hardware that were pretty readily available," was basically a lightweight sled to which was fastened a waterproof equipment case. The waterslide's own water supply provided a source for the sled's ballast at the top of the run, and an accelerometer was mounted to the top of the case.

The accelerometer measured three axes of movement: fore and aft, left and right, and up and down.

At the end of each data-collecting session, the interns instrumented themselves and headed down the slide "because we needed the human data, as well," King said.

As *AT* went to press in mid-October, King and his interns were scheduled to submit their W.A.S.H.E.R. project report to the ASTM G-Force Task Group for review at ASTM's semi-annual F24 Amusement Rides and Devices meeting in San Diego, Calif. The report contained plans for a surrogate and test methods for obtaining data with the surrogate, and also for collecting acceleration data for humans.

"We've achieved incredible repeatability on body slides," King said, previewing some of his project's findings. "We got to within 20 percent of what humans experience [in terms of g-forces], and we're pretty happy with that."

Although the private investment of his company in W.A.S.H.E.R. exceeded \$40,000, King was glad to make the contribution.

"ASTM is an awesome group, and we all have the same goal — to make the industry as safe as possible. We wanted to get this done and make it easier for slide manufacturers and operators to measure these things. It's for the good of the industry."



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# Premier Rides' Jim Seay honored with 2015 ASTM Intl. Cavanaugh Award

## SAFETY

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa., — James Seay, president of Premier Rides Inc., an amusement ride manufacturer in Baltimore, Maryland, has received the prestigious ASTM International 2015 William T. Cavanaugh Memorial Award. ASTM President James Thomas presented the award to Seay at the board of directors meeting of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) on Sept. 16 in Alexandria, Virginia.

The Cavanaugh Memorial Award commemorates W. T. Cavanaugh, chief executive officer of ASTM from 1970 to 1985, who firmly established ASTM International as the world leader in the development and dissemination of voluntary consensus standards. Seay was honored for his extraordinary contributions to the field of international voluntary standards for the amusement industry.

A member and past chairman of ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices, Seay has promoted the use, application, harmonization and adoption of ASTM amusement standards around the world. The committee maintains a strong international membership because of his efforts, which have contributed to the voluntary global use of ASTM standards for safer amusement attractions in countries all over the world. His contributions have also helped promote F24's responsive development of standards for newer attractions such as ziplines and trampoline parks in recent years. Seay has been an ASTM member since 1989.

A graduate of Cornell University, where he received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Seay also completed graduate studies at California State University in Long Beach. He was an aerospace engineer at Hughes Aircraft and an engineering and maintenance executive at Six Flags Theme Parks Inc., before joining Premier Rides in 1995 as executive vice



ASTM International recently honored Jim Seay, president of Premier Rides, with the prestigious William T. Cavanaugh Award for his dedication to safety and for his extraordinary contributions to the field of international voluntary standards for the amusement industry. Shown here left to right are: Greg Hale, vice president and chief safety officer, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts; Jim Seay, president, Premier Rides, Inc. and Jim Pattison, Jr., president, Ripley Entertainment. COURTESY ASTM

president of engineering. He was named president the following year. A designer and manufacturer of roller coasters and other amusement rides and attractions, Premier Rides has worked with some of the largest theme park companies, including Six Flags, Universal Studios and Disney. Seay leads a global team of ride design, operation and maintenance professionals who have helped create and introduce magnetically launched roller coasters and the world's tallest loop, among many other accomplishments.

Seay has testified before the U.S. Congress during a review of the effectiveness of the U.S. standards system, and he is a frequent speaker at amusement industry events all over the world. A member of IAAPA, he

serves on the IAAPA Foundation board of directors as well as its government relations and safety committees. He received the prestigious IAAPA Lifetime Service Award in 2013 for his long-term industry achievements and dedication.

In addition to ASTM, Seay is also a member of the AIMS International board, which provides the largest industry safety seminar in the world, as well as the Themed Entertainment Association, National Safety Council, New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions and New Jersey Amusement Association. He also serves on a number of philanthropic boards, such as the Living Classrooms Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland.



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### SAFETY

NAARSO's 29th Annual Safety Forum will be held at The Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, January 24-29, 2016 with hands-on-training be conducted at nearby Hersheypark, shown above.  
COURTESY HERSHEY PARK

## NAARSO Annual Safety Forum set for Hershey Pa., Jan. 24-29, 2016

HERSHEY, Pa. — The 29th Annual NAARSO Safety Forum will take place in Hershey, Pennsylvania January 24-29, 2016. The Hershey Lodge & Convention Center located at 325 University Drive, Hershey, Pa., will be the primary location for the seminar. Hands-on activities will be at Hersheypark on January 27.

NAARSO now has four levels of inspection certification and two levels of operations certification. One of the inspection certification levels include Limited Specialty, addresses the rental side of the industry such as inflatable devices, rock walls, trackless trains, bungee jumps, and other rental devices.

Certification exams will take place at 6 p.m. on Jan. 28 for operations certifications and 1 p.m. on Jan. 29 for inspection certifications. The NAARSO board of directors is especially proud and excited about this year's seminar as more than 300 participants are projected to attend: "Safety Through Communication."

The NAARSO certification program is recognized and/or used by approximately 18 states or provinces as an identifier of individuals authorized to provide jurisdictional or third party inspections. Membership has grown to over 1,100.

The National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO) organization began in 1986, with a meeting of ride safety officials from Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky. These officials were responsible for regulating amusement rides and devices in their respective states and wanted to enhance their knowledge regarding the inspection of amusement rides and devices.

In January, 1994, NAARSO launched its inspection certification program to train and certify those individuals with knowledge of the inspection safety aspects of amusement rides and devices.

In 2002, NAARSO began its outreach programs providing training to various locations throughout the United States reaching smaller groups of students.

In January of 2013, NAARSO launched its operations certification program to train and certify those individuals with knowledge of amusement ride and device operation.

For more information on this Safety Forum or on NAARSO visit: [naarso.com](http://naarso.com).





## NEWS & NOTES

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### AIMS Safety Seminar registration open, class selection underway, silent auction items wanted

ORLANDO, Fla. — The annual **AIMS Safety Seminar**, to be held January 10-15, 2016, is an absolute must for industry professionals responsible for the care and safety of the world's amusement industry guests. Offering the widest selection of classes of any safety seminar worldwide, AIMS students design their curriculum to get the maximum benefit for themselves and their employers. In addition to onsite learning, students return to work with valuable safety information to share with colleagues and co-workers. Attendees also build long-lasting relationships with instructors and their peers who will become valuable resources for years to come.

AIMS Certification testing in maintenance, operations, ride inspection and aquatics is offered at the end of the seminar week. For a complete list of classes, registration and hotel information, and AIMS Certification, visit: [www.aimsintl.org](http://www.aimsintl.org).

#### Silent Auction

The **AIMS Silent Auction** is always a highlight of the week during the Safety Seminar.

It gives everyone a chance to bid on all kinds of fun items and helps support AIMS continuing effort to upgrade the seminar experience with state of the art A/V equipment for classes. Items from previous auctions have included

### AIMS board of directors meet in NYC



The AIMS International board of directors held its annual meeting on September 10, 2015 at the Six Flags corporate office in New York City prior to *Amusement Today's* presentation of the annual Golden Ticket Awards held at Victorian Gardens and Luna Park. Shown here are, l to r: Jim Seay; Tim Viox; Tom Sheehan; Karen Oertley; Linda Freeman; Timo Klaus; Patty Sullivan; Roger Berry; George Tso. Not pictured: Franceen Gonzales; Mike Withers; Tony Claassen; Mike Gutknecht and Mark Moore. COURTESY AIMS

amusement industry merchandise such as shirts, bags, hats, etc., as well as weekend stays at resorts, event tickets, and other amusement

industry memorabilia. You can be as creative as you like! Please contact **Holly Coston** at [h.coston@aimsintl.org](mailto:h.coston@aimsintl.org) for information on where to send

your items. You can also bring items to the **AIMS booth No. 5435** during the **IAAPA Attractions Expo** in Orlando.

—Karen Oertley, AIMS

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**2015 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS — NEW YORK CITY****2015 Golden Ticket Awards weekend: all about networking!**

*More than 400 GTA attendees turn out in record numbers*

**STORY:** Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

NEW YORK, N.Y. — A touch of Broadway, a stroll in Central Park, double-decker bus tours and the birthplace of the American amusement park — New York was front and center at the **2015 Golden Ticket Awards**. Over the years, not only has the ceremony grown, it has evolved from acknowledging “The Best of the Best” into The Networking Event of the Year. **Amusement Today** and event host **Zamperla** were thrilled at the record attendance topping just more than 400 attendees from around the globe.

Registration took place at the **Park Lane Hotel** just across the street from the famed **Central Park**. From the beginning, attendees were draped in all things New York as gift bags full of souvenirs of The Big Apple were given out and the Friday evening social had a throwback to a bygone era. Several attendees picked up on the theme and arrived for the event garbed in Roaring '20s apparel. Almost celebrities for the evening, those costumed in the night's motif had numerous photos snapped from many attendees.

“Zamperla really knows how to throw a party!” says Golden Ticket Awards Event Coordinator **Janice Withrow** in praise of the weekend's host. “I think the favorite part of the event was our Friday evening reception at **Victorian Gardens**. Seeing everyone have such fun in Central Park with the

► See GTA, page 58



Above, winners in 29 categories took home the coveted 2015 Golden Tickets after the results were announced live from Gargiulo's at Coney Island on Sept. 12. Central Park's Victorian Gardens, Coney Island's Luna Park and Zamperla all played host to the record-setting 400-plus attendees. Below, *Amusement Today*, graciously thanks the many presenters who gave their time to make the ceremony a huge success and the best event yet. AT/DAN FEICHT



**THANK YOU!**  
Team Zamperla for a  
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2015 Golden Ticket Awards event!





## 2015 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS — NEW YORK CITY

## ►GTA

Continued from page 57

Manhattan skyscrapers as the backdrop was magical and the perfect way to kick off the festivities."

**Kristin Siebeneicher** from **Six Flags Great Adventure** agree. "This was our first visit to the Golden Ticket Awards. We really enjoyed the opportunity to network with other park operators and vendors, share ideas and brainstorm ways to improve our business in a fun and relaxed setting." She added, "We're definitely looking forward to next year."

After several hours, the evening came to a close. Most attendees would be surprised to know the special event was possible only that weekend, as the Victorian Gardens midway was packed and loaded following that final weekend of operation, so that the **Wollman Rink** area could transition into its fall events and eventually the ice rink that takes over as winter arrives.

Saturday morning was a time to relax and many attendees took the opportunity to enjoy the arranged double-decker buses that gave private tours of New York for those at the event. Sightseeing, mingling and laughing was the mode of the morning before people prepared for the meat of the weekend's activities at **Luna Park** and **Coney Island**.

Once attendees were shuttled to the famed Brooklyn site, the icons of Coney Island — the Wonder Wheel, the old Parachute Jump and the legendary Cyclone —



immediately made a visual impression. Nothing can be more fun than a group of industry professionals letting their hair down on a classic wooden coaster. Running better than ever, the Cyclone saw numerous park personnel taking more than just one go round. Several spins were in order.

Although running in spectacular fashion, Cyclone was clearly in need of a face lift. The banner on the streetside curve from **Baynum Painting** indicated the woodie was getting just that in the weeks ahead. "There is a history with me and that project," said **Chris Baynum**. "I called upon the Albert family back in 1993, and I knew that was the granddaddy of roller coasters. I thought 'Wouldn't it be awesome to paint the most iconic coaster in the world.' I submitted a price and followed up, but didn't hear back. Now that **Valerio Ferrari** and his team are with Luna Park, I reached out to them and we have worked toward finding the right opportunity to do it. To say we're excited about this project is an understatement. We just recently surpassed painting 200 coasters and major rides." Baynum laughed, "I keep humorously telling my staff I'll need to retire. It just doesn't get any bigger than this. Nothing compares to painting the Cyclone. It's



Above, performers from Broadway shows kicked off the GTA ceremony with current Broadway show musical numbers arranged by RWS & Associates. Below, GTA event hosts **Alberto Zamperla** (left) and **Valerio Ferrari** are surprised at being selected as Person(s) of the Year. AT/DAN FEICHT



just that special."

In addition to enjoying all the rides along the Boardwalk, attendees saw some brand new rides by Zamperla making their debut at Coney that weekend. After a couple of hours of riding, everyone gathered at **Place to Beach** for a private pre-dinner cocktail hour social. Snacks, drinks and high energy music got the crowd in the mood for a fun evening.

A one block walk to **Gargiulo's**, a famous Italian restaurant at Coney Island, set the stage for the evening. With wine and dinner underway, the awards ceremony was kicked off by a program wonderfully prepared by previous Golden Ticket winner **RWS & Associates**. Cleverly utilizing four performers who got their start in theme parks, the show introduction spotlighted their journey from the amusement industry to the stages of Broadway (and this was after performing a matinee that afternoon). Emcee **George Shea**, known for his years announcing the annual

**Nathan's** hot dog eating contest, soon introduced the Zamperla host of the evening, **Alberto Zamperla**, who welcomed guests that traveled from around the world.

Categories were introduced by industry presenters, occasionally involving costumes, but always given with light hearted humor and deep respect. A couple of surprises came in the evening, particularly when **Caleb Brick**, 12-year-old son of **Lake Compounce** General Manager **Jerry Brick**, walked up on stage to accept the award for Best Wooden Coaster. When AT asked Jerry Brick how that moment all came about, he said, "I asked if he wanted to come, and he said yes. I asked him, 'How about you do the acceptance speech?' and he said, 'Yeah, I'll do it.' I told him there's a couple of people I want you to thank — our park maintenance and **Great Coasters** — but you write it. So, that was his speech, he wrote it. I was very proud of him." The feedback Brick says he

heard from colleagues also thought his son did a great job. Reflecting on the evening, Brick added, "You get almost starstruck seeing all these people win these awards; you get caught up in the moment."

"What a wonderful event," said **Maggie Warner**, public relations manager for Morey's Piers. "We have been waiting so long for this award that now we want to scream and shout about it."

Another surprise, at least to the two recipients, was the Publisher's Pick given to Person(s) of the Year. **Alberto Zamperla** and **Valerio Ferrari** were taken aback with the standing ovation from the crowd acknowledging their work in bringing back Coney Island from the brink of extinction. Asked how he felt about the acknowledgement, Ferrari humbly said, "It felt great, especially because getting it together with Alberto it felt more like an award for the entire team that worked on the rehabilitation of Coney Island."

First time presenters share with *Amusement Today* of their experience. **Chris Baynum** said, "I thought it would be a privilege to be invited as a presenter and it was everything I had hoped. It was fun to do a skit with **Walt (Bowers)**. We've been friends for a long time and it was fun to play on the height difference." **Jonathan Wocher** of **The Gravity Group** added, "Being a first time presenter, it was fantastic to be able to see all of the hard work that goes on behind the scenes in order to make the Golden Ticket Awards great. It's very important to The Gravity Group, and to me, to give back to this industry that we love so much. I can't think of a better way to give back than by recognizing not just the accomplishments of the finalists, but also the passion and dedication from all of the parks, manufacturers and enthusiasts. I am grateful to have been a part of such a splendid showcasing of talent, and I will certainly be back for the festivities next year in Sandusky." He also added, "As someone

► See GTA, page 59



GTA attendees had private double-decker tour buses to showcase downtown New York on Saturday morning. AT/TIM BALDWIN



**2015 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS — NEW YORK CITY**

# Ms. and Mr. Golden Tickets honored at Golden Ticket Awards

*Future industry leaders take center stage during awards ceremony*

**STORY:** Janice Witherow  
jwitherow@amusementtoday.com



BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Some of the applause at the **2015 Golden Ticket Awards** was for a trio of outstanding students from the New York City area who plan to pursue a career in the amusement industry. For the 11th consecutive year, *Amusement Today* honored a group of high school and college employees who work at the event's host park of **Luna Park** in **Coney Island** and the nearby attractions of **Victorian Gardens** and the **Coney Island Cyclone** as Ms. and Mr. Golden Tickets.

These three individuals exemplify the spirit and integrity of the amusement

park industry by promoting the cornerstones of safety, service, courtesy and cleanliness at the highest level, while consistently exceeding job expectations. This is an annual designation by *Amusement Today* to promote education in the field of hospitality and amusement, as well as to recognize future leaders in the amusement industry.

The 2015 class of Ms. and Mr. Golden Tickets assisted with the ceremony by presenting awards to the winning parks; plus each received a complimentary one-year subscription to *Amusement Today* and a VISA gift card. *Amusement*

Today recognizes the following students:

•**Desmond Hill** of the Coney Island Cyclone, who has worked at the attraction for five years and is currently the supervisor of ride operations. Desmond is studying business management at LaGuardia Community College in New York.

•**Benny Cyrus** of Luna Park in Coney Island. Benny has worked at the park for three seasons and is a logistics associate with **CIA Foods**. He attends a high school in the Brooklyn area.

•**Arischella Almonte** of Victorian Gardens. Arischella has worked at the Central Park attraction for three years and is in the Financial Department. She has a bachelor's degree from City College of New York in Biology.



During its annual awards ceremony, *Amusement Today* presented the 2015 class of Ms. and Mr. Golden Tickets. They are, from left to right: Desmond Hill, Coney Island Cyclone; Benny Cyrus, Luna Park at Coney Island; Arischella Almonte, Victorian Gardens at Central Park and *Amusement Today* Publisher Gary Slade. AT/DAN FEICHT

## ►GTA Continued from page 58

who is relatively new to this industry, the weekend was the perfect opportunity for me to put faces with names and celebrate another year of accomplishing great things together. Because of the AT team and Zamperla, I thought that it really turned out to be a unique and memorable industry event."

As the show wrapped up, **Jason McClure**, vice president and general manager of **Cedar Point** invited the industry to Sandusky, Ohio for the Golden Ticket Awards, September 9 – 11, 2016. "Just as the highlight of this year's event was being in New York, the highlight of next year's will be — no New York traffic in Sandusky!" he laughed. "Quite a change in scenery, but I look forward to the time saved from a much shorter commute at Cedar Point to meet with colleagues on the relaxing beach of Lake Erie, or on the most exciting collection of roller coasters in the world."

After the ceremony, McClure told AT, "The highlight of any event in New York is always New York. I



The allure of Nathan's Famous hot dogs enticed Lilia and Rick Bastrup, Walt Bowser and Bob Dean. AT/DAN FEICHT

appreciated having the opportunity to visit Coney Island, and experience Luna Park first hand; a classic piece of Americana and a special place in amusement park history. A bonus is the opportunity to experience this with colleagues in the industry."

Following the energy of the ceremony, attendees went outside to the Boardwalk to see fireworks along the shoreline to conclude

the night. The display was arranged specifically for the Golden Ticket event.

Whether the industry had to head back to their home parks and offices the next day or lingered to see much more of what New York City had to offer, it was agreed that the weekend event was time well spent and deserving of the tagline "The Networking Event of the Year." Zamperla's **Ramon Rosario** said that was one of the goals. "Everyone was relaxed. It was good to see them just having a good time together. The Victorian Gardens event was continually mentioned in all the feedback we've received. I enjoyed all the interaction between the industry folk throughout the whole weekend. It was a great event."

"The Golden Ticket Award Event and its timing right after Labor Day offers the attendees the chance to hear from their peers how the main summer season went and what worked and what didn't," said **Chip Clearly**, former IAAPA president and currently consultant for **Europa-Park**. "Thanks for the wonderful event; it is always fun to attend and, boy, did we luck



Chris Baynum, front seat, enjoys a ride before gearing up to repaint Cyclone following the weekend.

AT/RICHARD MUNCH

out with the weather!"

**Rick Root** of **WWA** appreciated the chance to be a part, not only as a presenter at the Golden Ticket Awards, but for the networking opportunities. "It is always great to catch up with colleagues and it was terrific to see such a strong turnout at the 2015 Golden Ticket event. For us, one of the biggest highlights is having the opportunity to really experience the host venue." Root

offered praise, "Amusement Today and Zamperla did an outstanding job of making all the Golden Ticket Awards attendees feel like winners in the city that never sleeps."

For the 2015 event, countries represented among industry professionals climbed to the double digits. "The Golden Ticket Awards were once again a great reunion of all these wonderful colleagues, which make this industry so special," said **Jakob Wahl** of Europa-Park, winner of the top category of Best Park. "It was an amazing opportunity to experience the impressive new look of Coney Island while celebrating at the same time a great award show and meeting many familiar faces. We can't wait for next year's event at Cedar Point!"

**Fun Spot's John Arie** agreed. "We really enjoyed the Golden Ticket Awards in New York City and Luna Park. The best networking opportunities for me were at the Friday night gig in Wollman Rink. It was very casual and interactive with all the members attending the event. Bravo for the superb networking opportunity."



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**2015 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS — NEW YORK CITY****THE ROARING 20's**

LEFT: Sara Ingram and Jim Seay, Premier Rides, were taking in the opening night party. ABOVE: The Victorian Gardens staff were in full 1920s attire. ABOVE RIGHT: Alberto Zamperla hangs out with the Allied crew. RIGHT: The band entertained the GTA attendees with 1920s music.

AT/DAN FEICHT; ZAMPERLA COURTESY JIM McDONNELL

**PLACE TO BEACH**

Place to Beach, on the boardwalk at Coney Island provided a place for GTA attendees to relax, sample the local food and spend some quality networking time.

AT/TIM BALDWIN;  
COURTESY JIM McDONNELL

**THE WINNERS**

LEFT: Dick Knoebel (center) goofs it up as Knoebels takes back the Best Food award, as presented by Skyline Attraction's Chris Gary and REG's Mark Rosenzweig. ABOVE: Audiences were astonished when 12-year-old Caleb Brick gave the perfect acceptance speech for Best Wooden Coaster.

AT/DAN FEICHT



New winner Jack Morey (center) accepts Best Seaside Park from Give Kids the World's Pamela Landwirth and Zamperla's Ramon Rosario. AT/DAN FEICHT



ABOVE: Eric Anderson gives more park insight after having accepted the Publisher's Pick Turnstile award. RIGHT: Terry Capener and Julie Freed from Lagoon accept the Publisher's Pick Park of the Year award from AT's Gary Slade.

AT/DAN FEICHT

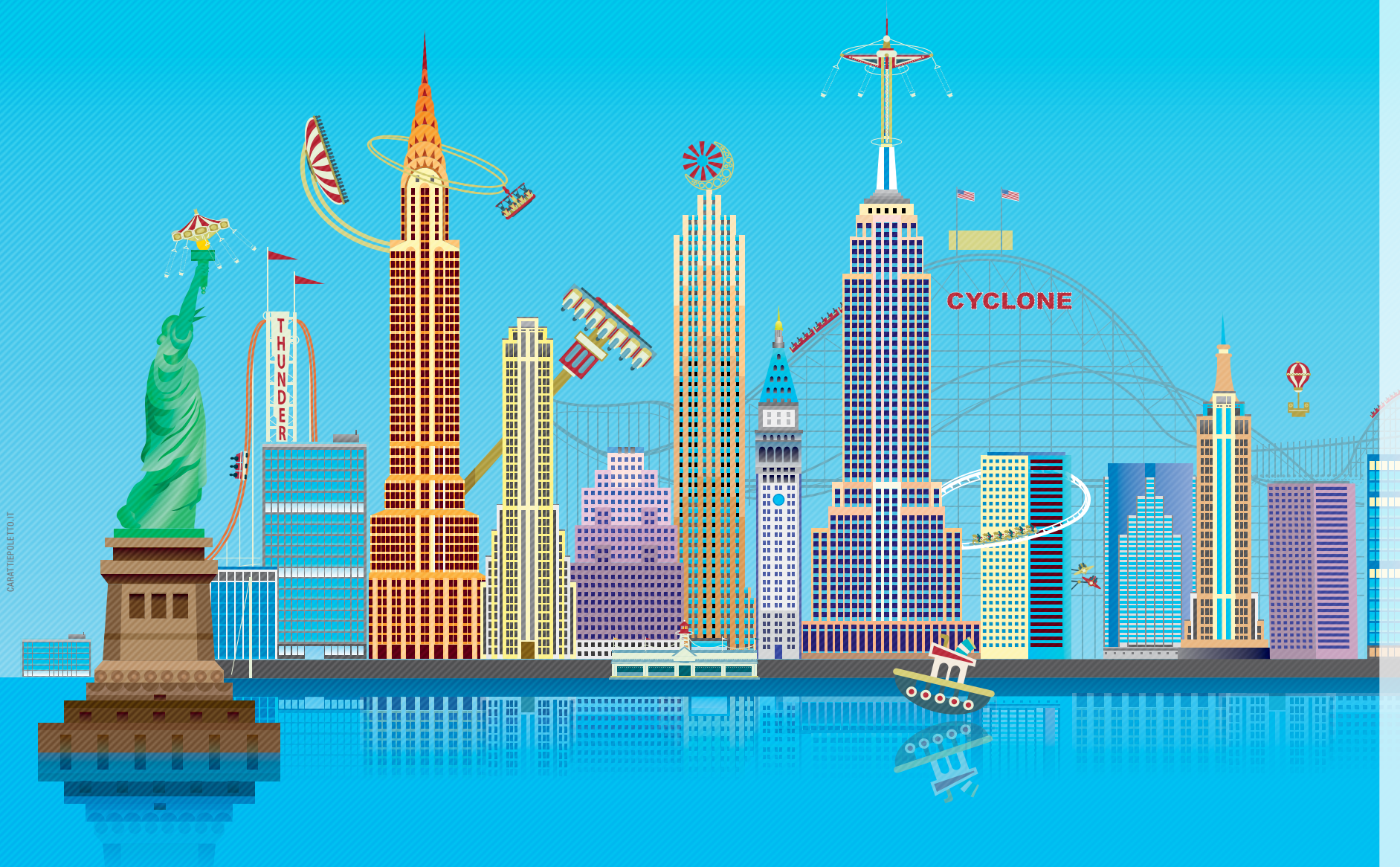






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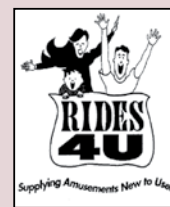
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