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NEWS Leader



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NEWSPAPER

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Legend roller coaster getting multi-year makeover Iowa's Arnolds Park celebrates 125 years

AT: Scott Rutherford
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ARNOLDS PARK, Iowa — Back in the day, a great many American towns were home to one or more amusement parks. Often these magical places sprang forth from simple picnic groves or watering holes, starting first with the simplest forms of recreation and slowly amassing mechanical rides until they developed full-blown midways. Today, the vast majority of these local fun spots have faded into history. Many were allowed to wither and die because the public that supported them sought other entertainment diversions.

Fortunately, a handful of these parks survived. One of the most charming examples exists in northwest Iowa where people can still enjoy a classic wooden roller coaster ride, a stroll along a tree-lined midway or take in a boat ride on a cobalt-blue lake. That place is Arnolds Park Amusement Park, a throwback to the wonderlands of old and one that managed to survive into the new century against almost insurmountable odds.

Situated on Iowa's scenic Lake Okoboji, Arnolds Park Amusement Park (or simply Arnolds Park as its commonly known) is the quintessential traditional amusement park. This charming lakeside gem celebrated 125 years in business in 2015, which allows it to rank as North America's seventh oldest amusement park.

Modest beginnings

Like most parks of its era, Arnolds Park started small. Wesley Arnold acquired the site on Lake Okoboji's south shore that would become Arnolds Park. By 1874, the Mil-

waukee Railroad had expanded north into Iowa. Seeking a rural getaway, tourists came from larger Midwestern cities to the Arnold property to hunt and fish. Arnold realized the potential of the site and set his plan into motion.

In 1882, construction commenced on the Arnolds Park Hotel. Next came a number of lakeside cottages as well as a U.S. Post Office and souvenir shop. These were followed by a bathhouse for guests along with a rowboat rental location. In 1889, Arnold installed a 60-foot toboggan waterslide on the lake. This would become the first attraction at what would soon be known as Arnolds Park Amusement Park.

But it was in 1901 that the property's most impressive attribute to date was built — a large waterside pavilion that could accommodate 1,000 guests for a variety of gatherings as well as dancing with music provided by an orchestra. Just as an ice cream parlor and other concessions appeared, so did the first permanent boat dock — a 150-foot-long structure. Sadly, just as his venture was taking off, Wesley Arnold died. He left the park and his holdings to his three daughters. Two of them, along with their husbands, decided to continue the property's expansion as an amusement park.

It wasn't long before rides were added. Some reports list a side-friction wooden roller coaster opening in 1914 while a year later the park purchased its first carousel, which was provided by Parker Amusement Co. of Kansas. The Majestic Roller Rink (1919) was followed by construction of The Roof Garden (1923). Popularity had increased to the point where

Arnolds Park was hosting as many as 25,000 guests on major national holidays. The park offered a wide variety of attractions and activities including bowling, roller skating, dancing, a shooting gallery and an airplane swing.

Though two wooden roller coasters were part of the early lineups including the aforementioned side-friction ride, a second coaster (Pippin) can be seen in a 1922 photo. In 1930, the park debuted its first high-speed coaster, a new, modern John Miller design (see Legend sidebar). The widespread popularity of this coaster allowed the park to thrive. A succession of staple amusement rides followed over the next several decades.

Progress threatens

Through the years, Arnolds Park Amusement Park's various owners nurtured and guided it until it had become a mainstay in the region's outdoor entertainment options. Rides and attractions came and went as did historic park structures like the first Roof Garden, which was demolished in 1987. This, of course, is natural for an operation that was nearing its centennial. But it almost came crashing down in the final decade of the 20th century when the property was purchased by a South Dakota developer who abruptly announced its impending "modernization." This meant the site would suffer the same fate of so many other traditional amusement parks of the past — being replaced by a ubiquitous residential and retail development.

This news infuriated the park's legion of fans and supporters who instantly sprang into action. The Iowa Great

▶ See ARNOLDS PARK, page 5



Iowa's Arnolds Park Amusement Park celebrated its 125th year in 2015. Highlights of a visit to this charming traditional amusement park on the shores of Lake Okoboji include the 1930-built Legend wooden roller coaster and the Queen II lake cruise (top), a Chance Ferris Wheel offering stunning views of the park and Lake Okoboji (right) and a leisurely voyage aboard the Long Lines Limited Train.

TOP PHOTO COURTESY S. MADONNA HORCHER; OTHERS COURTESY ARNOLD'S PARK





NEWSTALK

Print subscriber notice

Amusement Today would like to remind paid print subscribers that as in the past, AT published two issues for the 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando, Fla. The November I (Pre-IAAPA) issue was mailed on Oct. 21, 2015, while this November II (Convention) issue mailed on Nov. Nov. 11, 2015. Both issues were distributed at the IAAPA Attractions Expo show floor from AT's booth #4215 and from the IAAPA Publication Bin distribution area located near IAAPA Central.

AT also delivered both November issues polybagged together at the Hyatt Regency Orlando Hotel (IAAPA's Headquarter Hotel) and the Hilton Orlando for door-to-door deliver on Tuesday morning, Nov. 17.

AT reminds all Expo attendees to support the following partners by visiting these booths:

- AIMS International...5435
- Give Kids the World...3430
- NAARSO...3619
- National Roller Coaster Museum...4317
- New England Assn. of Amusement Parks & Attractions (NEAAPA)...3232

A complete recap of the 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo will be published in the January 2016 issue of AT.

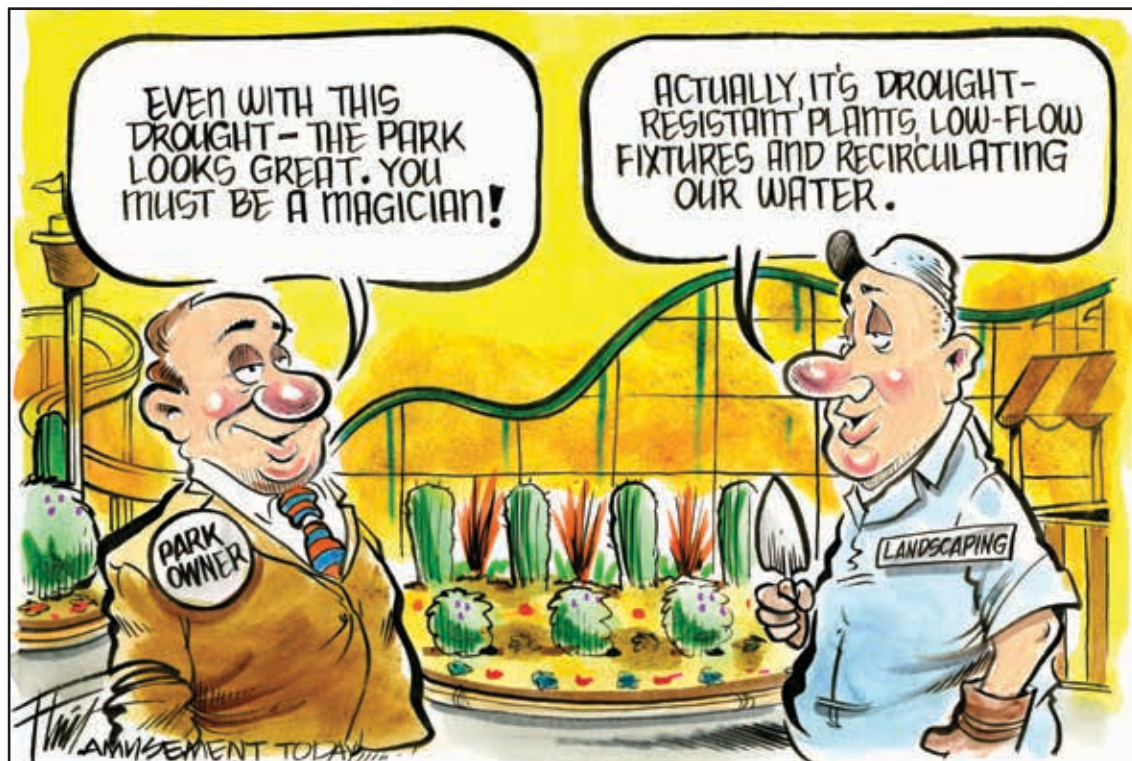
Paid subscribers to Amusement Today's 14 print issues began exclusive access to AT's Digital Editions on Oct. 1, when the year-long trial subscription period ended. Only PAID print subscribers are now able to enjoy the page by page content with matching story links of AT's Digital Edition.

If you are a PAID PRINT subscriber, and have not set up your digital account, please do so at amusementtoday.com, then click on the Digital Edition button.

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Have further questions? Call Sammy Piccola at (817) 460-7220 x1.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Andrew Mellor, amellor@amusementtoday.com

Swedish hospitality at its best

It was again good to attend the Euro Attractions Show (EAS) this year, the event taking place in early October in Gothenburg, Sweden, adjacent to one of the most well-known amusement parks in Europe/Scandinavia, Liseberg.

I have to confess that the last time I visited Liseberg was many, many years ago, although it came as quite a shock to learn just how many when I looked at a book on the history of the park and realized it was for the opening of one of the coasters — back in the 80s!! Scary!

But it was fantastic to be back in Gothenburg and to have the chance to go to the park again which was literally just across the street from the exhibition center and adjoining headquarters hotel, providing an ideal setting and situation for Europe's largest parks industry trade show.

A number of events and seminars were held in locations within the park, one of these being the opening reception on the first evening of the show. And boy what fantastic hospitality we all enjoyed. With numerous attractions open, including Helix, Lisebergbanan, Balder and Kanonen



Mellor

coasters, the Gasten Ghost Hotel, Mechanica and AtmosFear, to name but a few, and a host of restaurants serving sumptuous food and drink, attendees were given a fine taste of Swedish hospitality and the park is to be congratulated for putting on a truly memorable evening.

And it was more of the same the following evening too, with another event, Liseberg Celebrates, at the park and yet more fabulous hospitality, free of charge this time for all registered EAS attendees. Rides, games, shops and restaurants were all open and the occasion included various special events around the park, concluding with an ABBA themed fireworks show.

The attractions and entertainment elements aside, certainly from an F&B perspective both evenings showed how this sort of event should be done, and all those involved, among them various sponsors as well as the park and IAAPA teams, deserve much credit. Great value for money for the first evening and free for EAS registrants on the second. Simply fantastic! Both will take some beating.



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INDUSTRY OPINION: *Richard Munch, NRCMA historian*

Have you made a connection with the NRCMA's progress?

On a Friday evening in September, **Cedar Point** sponsored an event where they, at a nominal fee, invited roller coaster enthusiasts to ride their collection of amazing coasters. Although the event was designed to increase season pass sales, **Cedar Fair** committed \$1 for each ticket sold to the **National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives** (NRCMA). I learned of the event while driving to **Amusement Today's Golden Ticket Awards** in New York and all I could think was someone at Cedar Fair got it. They actually got it.

**Munch**

To be fair though, over the last few decades there have been many who, for lack of a better term, have gotten it. Actually, the museum project has been in the planning stages for three decades and during that time, many have stepped to the plate with amazing donations, both large and small. Beside private donations, the initiative has been supported by fundraising events sponsored by *Amusement Today*, the **American Coaster Enthusiasts** and many parks, including various **Six Flags** parks, **Dollywood**, **Cedar Point** and **Schlitterbahn**. And while that seed money helps, it's not enough to even begin planning a major facility that can house the collection (18,000-square-feet) of stuff sitting in Plainview, Texas and other locations. Meanwhile smaller parks like **Cliff's** in New Mexico and **Knoebels** in Pennsylvania, as well as several anonymous donors, have made substantial dollar donations, helping to construct the present set of buildings in Plainview Texas. The board continues to be indebted to Schlitterbahn, the **Gary and Linda Hays** family and **Dick Knoebel** family for believing in our objectives, but at the same time I wonder why others haven't come to the plate especially since donations are typically tax deductible?

I might consider that not everyone realizes how many hours the museum board has spent in planning and developing the primary site in Plainview over the last eight years. The facility is absolutely amazing, described by some as "pure coaster heaven." Visitors have said they feel like the proverbial kid in the candy store with tall Home Depot type shelving filled with models, signage and ride parts. Then there is the addition of cars from some 30 different coasters, including vehicles from **Disneyland**, **Cedar Point**, **Busch Gardens**, **Belmont**, **Dollywood**, **Hersheypark**, **Morey's Piers**, **Elitch Gardens**, **Six Flags** and more. But it is not just roller coasters. We have begun to collect other rides important to our industry's history as they become available, including parts of carousels, flat rides and Ferris wheels.

What we are most proud of is the brand-new, climate controlled room that will protect paper files, photographs, slides, film and blueprints. The caretakers are employees of **Larson International**, like the youthful **Hunter Novotny** and veteran **Fred Bechtold**, who have done a remarkable job arranging exhibits and storage in the new buildings. In the past, the main leadership has come from the likes of the late **Ray Ueberroth** and **PTC** President **Tom Rebbie**. Now under the present direction of NRCMA Board Chairman **Gary Slade**, the one individual that has made the largest impact has been NRCMA Secretary **Jeff Novotny**. He has donated his time, his staff at Larson, and his own capital to help construct the

three new buildings set on a one-acre lot, fully owned by NRCMA. He is proud of the newly constructed buildings but wants to do more, much more.

Regrettably, for all that the Plainview facility represents, it is not a true museum, but a large storage unit that just happens to house a remarkable collection of the industry's rich past. In fact a Texas Congressman (R), **Randy Neugebauer**, visited the facility in 2010. As related to me, his entourage was met by the Plainview Mayor and some of the museum's board. But the senior member of the U.S. House of Representatives was not overly impressed and within minutes motioned to his staff for an early departure. For the board members present it was disappointing and could have ended in disaster. But then there was this moment — a very special moment — where reality and history collided. Across an aisle one of the young interns found the lead car from the **Big Bad Wolf** suspended from its original track. Once confirmed that it was actually from **Busch Gardens Williamsburg**, he excitedly explained that he had ridden the coaster with his father. Almost immediately another young woman claimed to have ridden the legendary attraction many times while living in Virginia, and could not believe that 'something from Williamsburg was actually sitting right here in Texas.' This piqued the Congressman's interest, who could only remember riding the **Comet** coaster at the **State Fair of Texas**. Within minutes, a forklift took the museum's rare car from its lofty perch and set it on the ground for Neugebauer to admire. "Wow I rode this as a kid," he said. "It's hard to believe it is still around!"

What was important was that a connection was made *because* it was still around. We know we need to create more magical connections with a true museum, representing the remarkable fraternity of people and great parks who have shared the same goals over time — to provide escape and memories for anyone to experience.

So what's next? First, please think about what has been accomplished so far in a very short time and do not forget about all the hard work done by a handful of dedicated volunteers. For the moment, we have been relying on the generosity of individuals, clubs and businesses for support. But we know there are many professionals in the industry that can design unique and successful strategies to help raise funds for the museum, as well as assist with display concepts without hurting the bottom line. **Cedar Point** did it. **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** did it for the opening of the Iron Rattler, while others have done it during riding and racing events. Then imagine if everyone in the industry could make a concerted effort over just a single day or a week, or even a season to help raise funding, then we probably would be celebrating the opening of a major facility in the next few years. We also know that donations just won't benefit the museum but each park with positive and long-lasting publicity. As a marketing tool, such long term recognition would be priceless. And we know it will work, just like it did for a couple of young interns who encountered the infamous Big Bad Wolf in a metal building on the high plains of Texas.

At the **IAAPA Attractions Expo** in Orlando, come visit us at booth **No. 4317**. And maybe more importantly, let us know that you, and/or your park, are ready to connect with NRCMA!

**ON DISPLAY: Matterhorn, Disneyland****ON DISPLAY: Avalanche Run, Cedar Point****ON DISPLAY: Thunderhead, Dollywood and Texas Giant, Six Flags Over Texas****ON DISPLAY: SuperdooperLooper, Hersheypark**

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

COMPILED: Richard Munch



NOVEMBER

•**1887:** A nobleman and his wife visited the **Kensington Park** grounds in London, England, in early November, and were immediately drawn to the site's main attraction, the **L.A. Thompson Switchback Railway**. Convincing her husband to ride, they were separated on the crowded platform and she ended up riding without him. On the return trip, she passed her husband going the opposite direction, with a woman clinging to him. Back at the station, the woman admitted she felt funny and was bound to hang on to something. The countess was not amused. The woman turned out to be their cook.

•**1910:** High water would again cause damage to the amusement features in **Long Beach, California**. The first wave of damage happened on October 19, where the area around the **Figure 8 Coaster** was washed away leaving the ride on an island, surrounded by the ocean. Another storm on November 4 had waves washing ashore, cutting into roadways and causing telephone poles to topple. Owners of beach properties moved quickly to build bulkheads of sandbags, to reduce the water damage, although many expressed dismay that the city wasn't doing more to stop the damage. The Figure 8, only five years old, was undermined and considered a complete loss.

•**1923:** **Elwood Salisbury** and **Edward Strong** announced in late November that they were updating the former **Luna Park** on the Kling Brewery property, in Detroit, Michigan. The new park would be called **Granada Park** and debut in 1924 with a new dance hall and the **King Bee** roller coaster, designed by **John A. Miller**. The park began in 1906 as **Electric Park**, and had been rebranded several times over its history, including **Riverview Park**, **Palace Gardens**, **Luna Park** and finally **Granada**. It would last until 1927 when the city closed the popular amusement area in response to public opposition.

•**1927:** On November 26, the Supreme Court in New York announced awards of over \$550,000 for land and buildings taken during the earlier widening of Surf Avenue, in **Coney Island** (Brooklyn), New York. This was about one-third of the amount claimed by property owners. Most affected was the **L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway**, which received \$46,000 for the land and \$10,000 for damages to the ride. The company requested \$250,000 in damages, claiming its structure was put out of commission by the lopping off of 10 feet from street side, affecting the ride's station. The court decided that the ride could be easily redesigned without any changes to the main structure, and \$10,000 would cover the remodel. In addition, **William F. Mangels** received \$32,000 for an undisclosed attraction that he was required to remove.

•**1973:** At a lavish press conference on November 26, **Hardwicke Companies, Inc.** announced plans to build a new theme park in Prospertown, New Jersey. The new enterprise, **Great Adventure**, would open in phases, and would include an animal safari, Wild West area, and a selection of rides and attractions. The brainchild of **Warner LeRoy**, the project, about halfway between Philadelphia and New York, was already being constructed. Today, **Six Flags Great Adventure** is considered one of the largest theme parks (in area) in the world, with a 160-acre theme park combined with a 350-acre safari park.

2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

Alethea Mikesell Roads, Wonderland Park

Happy 100th birthday on Nov. 7, **Alethea Roads!** Sometimes in life along comes someone who makes a difference, inspires you and is just plain fun. Alethea is that person for everyone in her blessed life. As the co-founder of Wonderland Park in Amarillo, Texas, she has enjoyed 68 amazing years in the amusement industry and has loved every minute of it. Alethea has traveled the world and notes the Great Wall of China, the Terracotta Warriors in the Emperor's Tomb, the German Alps and an Alaskan cruise as some of her favorite trips. She has seen too many inventions to count and used some of the first adding machines. She saw many fashions come and go, but liked the 1940s suits best of all (jackets, skirts and blouses). She adores her family and friends, and they adore her. She is, no doubt, one-of-a-kind. Alethea, here's to you!



Wonderland Park co-founders Alethea Roads, with husband Paul Roads, (far right) pose for this 1999 file photo in front of the newly purchased S&S Frog Hopper. Standing next to Alethea is daughter Paula Borchardt and son-in-law Paul Borchardt. The family-owned park first opened on Aug. 12, 1951 with three kiddie rides. AT FILE

on my first trip overseas in 1972. We hopscotched Europe and visited Russia with the park people. My favorite part of the trip was seeing all the German parks.

So far, my life has been...

On the whole, fun! It's been good.

Fifty years ago, I was...

Running the park.

The secret to looking good at 100 is...

Smile and get your hair done!

Everyone should do this in their lifetime...

Going somewhere/doing something: Travel down the Nile in Egypt on one of their sail boats. Philosophical: do the very best you can, in whatever situation you find yourself.

I could not live without my...

Books and crossword puzzles.

Your family likes margaritas... do you like them on the rocks or frozen?

I like them on the rocks, but not too many of them.

Favorite summertime activity...

Sitting outside, walking the midway, watching the people having a good time at the park and seeing how the park is doing.

The person I would most like to be stuck on an elevator with is...

Eleanor Roosevelt (she was an interesting person) or Laura Bush (she would be interesting to visit with, too.)

My favorite candy bar is...

Heath Bar.

The best thing about living in Texas is...

Breathing fresh air, the wide open spaces and the friendly people.

The first thing I notice about someone is...

Their eyes.

One thing I have always wanted to do, but haven't gotten around to it yet is...

Learning to fly an airplane.

When it comes to TV, I like to watch...

World events and mysteries.

You are simply awesome. How do you feel about that?

I don't know about that. I'm very lucky.



The 1923-built Roof Garden at Arnolds Park was the region's place to be for dancing. This 1950s image captures the venerable dance hall being flanked by an Eyerly Roll-O-Plane and Big Eli Ferris Wheel (left). This Ben Schiff Wild Mouse joined the ride lineup in 1958. The compact roller coaster featured steel track atop wooden supports and small two-seat vehicles capable of extremely tight turns and steep drops. COURTESY ARNOLD'S PARK

►ARNOLDS PARK Continued from page 1

Lakes Maritime Museum (IGLMM), the non-profit entity that managed Arnolds Park, worked alongside community leaders and an army of volunteers who mobilized and created the "Save the Park" campaign. This effort managed to raise \$7.25 million in just six weeks. The park was purchased from the developer but then faced the task of going forward.

The "Save our Park" campaign eventually evolved into the "Sustain our Park" effort, which worked for several years to bring the operation out of debt and into continued profitability. In 2006, the non-profit group (IGLMM) that had overseen the park since 1999 changed its name to Historic Arnolds Park, Inc. (HAPI).

A 21st Century classic

Today, Arnolds Park is a thriving traditional park that exists because its supporters believed in it. It survived because those who loved it refused to allow it to disappear like so many others of its ilk had done.

Along with its Legend wooden coaster, the park is home to an impressive collection of flat rides and other attractions including a Log Flume that was acquired in a most unique fashion. Perfectly illustrating industry solidarity, the Morey family of Wildwood, N.J. retired their 1970-built Arrow Development Log Flume and presented it as a gift to Arnolds Park in 2001. Such generosity from neighbors and friends near and far has allowed Arnolds Park to flourish.

But Arnolds Park offers much more in addition to the "amusement" side of the operation. The property is also

home to the Queen II excursion boat (replica steamboat offering lake cruises); Majestic Pavilion (historic venue for gatherings); Roof Garden (open-air entertainment locale); Preservation Plaza (lakeside location for concerts and other forms of entertainment) and the Maritime Museum (explores the lore of the Iowa Great Lakes).

Di Lorezen, marketing and communications manager for Arnolds Park Amusement Park, spoke with *AT* about the festivities that took place as the park marked 125 years in the business. "We celebrated our 125 anniversary with 125 different activities, which were held in and around the park throughout the 2015 season. We kicked the celebration off with an Uncle Cracker concert. That was a big hit. Other events included big band dancing in the Majestic Pavilion, evening movies and live bands at Preservation Plaza, and an Afternoon Tea with guests donning period attire. There was always something happening that appealed to

a wide range of guests, and that's what we're all about.

"As a non-profit organization, we depend on fund-raisers and contributions to keep the business viable. That's in addition to whatever the park brings in. The cash that the park generates is poured directly back into the operation and the surrounding properties. We have a large number of events with funds coming from many sponsors. Our top sponsors include Clary Lake Service, Maser Family Foundation, Northwest Bank and the Paul Hedberg Family. We depend on these and so many others to help us maintain the level of entertainment that our guests expect.

"We also work to give back to the community as well. One such way is our "Making Waves" event in which we work with a local children's hospital to bring in families with special needs and give them a wonderful outing.

"Our 125th celebration offered an amazing degree of publicity for the park. We had three TV stations that did live shows from the property. As a non-profit, free, added publicity is extremely important, and for that we're very grateful.

"This area's economy is tourist-driven. And while the many lakes around the region draw people, so does this park. For those of us who work here, it's a pure joy. This place was saved by the community and we're working to make sure it's around for many years to come."

For more detailed information on all that is Arnolds park, make sure to check out a recent book that chronicles the park's 125-year history. It can be purchased directly from the Maritime Museum by calling (712) 332-5264.

FAST FACTS

Name/Park

Legend/
Arnolds Park
Amusement Park,
Arnolds Park, Iowa

Type

Wooden roller coaster

Height/Length

63 feet/2,000 feet

Ride Vehicles

Philadelphia Toboggan
Coasters, Inc.
One three-car train,
seating six riders per car

Designer/Opened

John A. Miller/1930

Arnolds Park's Legend gets new life

ARNOLDS PARK, Iowa — True to its name, The Legend is the undisputed king of Arnolds Park Amusement Park's thrill rides. Designed by John Miller and built in 1930, this modified out-and-back design may not be the world's tallest or fastest roller coaster but it has been massively popular with park guests for multiple generations.

From its quirky station, which shares space and structural components with the adjacent Topsy House, to its unique swooping 63-foot first drop, multiple airtime-inducing rabbit hops and lakeside location, this one-of-a-kind ride is a candidate worthy of preservation.

Two years ago, as The Legend was catering its eighth decade of operation, the venerable ride was showing its age. Acknowledging the appeal and historical value of their signature attraction, park officials contracted with one of the most respected wooden coaster entities in the business — Pennsylvania-based Great Coasters International, Inc. (GCII).

AT spoke with GCII Design Engineer Adam House about The Legend's multi-phase rehab project. House details how the company is working to restore this beloved coaster to its former glory.

House said, "Arnolds intention at first was to smooth out the most problematic areas on the ride. We worked extensively with the park to pinpoint these rough areas and re-profile and re-bank those sections as required. This first scope of work ended up running from the first drop through curve three. We worked to preserve some of the existing structure, but found that some sections, especially through the first drop, needed work all the way to the foundation. This included new footers, new bents, and in some cases, new batters.

"After the work we performed, the park and its guests were so pleased with the progress (and in comparison, how rough the end of the ride now felt) that management raised money and had us come back in to re-work the next section on the ride. We picked up right where we left off and ran all the way up to the brake run. This phase was much larger and not only included our re-profiling, but also all new structure throughout. The profile changes included raising some of the pullouts to help remove the previous jackhammering effect as well as general modifications to the banking.

"Between both of these sections, we have probably worked on close to 75-80 percent of the Legend. With this much repair work, the ride was bound to experience an increase in speed. That being said, we are hopeful to be working with the park again this season on the brake run and station to help account for the added speed. Then, this will leave the lift hill as the only area on the coaster that has yet to be touched by GCII.

"Projects involving a ride this old pose many challenges. With the Legend, the most daunting aspect was creating something that is smooth and maintenance friendly, but still holds true to the classic look and feel of what the Legend has been for more than 85 years. We wanted to incorporate typical GCII elements, but still hold true to what the Legend is — a classic Arnold's Park icon. Essentially we wanted to help the Legend be around for another 85 years or more and bring joy and excitement to people for many generations to come."

—Scott Rutherford



Great Coasters International, Inc. has been working on a multi-phase project to return the Legend, a classic wooden roller coaster at Arnolds Park Amusement Park, to its former glory. Originally opened in 1930, the Legend stands 63 feet tall and features a loose figure-eight layout that encompasses a large portion of its home park. The GCII rehab project has rebuilt 75-80 percent of the ride's structure and track. COURTESY GCII



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INTERNATIONAL

► U.A.E. Report — Pages 12 & 14 / United Kingdom parks roundup - Pages 16-19 / EAS recap - Page 20

Norway's TusenFryd to add Hafema Rapid River for 2016 season

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

VINTERBRO, Norway — The Norwegian park TusenFryd has broken ground on a new water ride which will open next spring for the 2016 season.

Representing an investment of NOK 45 million (U.S. \$5.5 million) the 500 meter (1,640 foot) long Rapid River ride is being supplied by German company Hafema and according to the park will be unique in northern Europe. Incorporating a variety of features throughout, such as several waterfalls, a maelstrom, a tunnel and other challenging obstacles, the project has been planned for several years and has involved the removal of 1,200 truckloads of earth from the site. Following this, 2,000 cubic meters of concrete were due to be cast on an area equivalent to 3,500 square meters and when construction of the river is complete, 1.3 milliliters of water will be used to fill it. Two pumps will also be utilized to create the flow of the water, each pushing 2,200 liters of water per second to provide a powerful current.

The attraction will have a capacity of approximately 900 guests per hour who will ride in one of nine, nine-seater rafts, and it will be designed with a Norse theme in keeping with the design of Thor's Hammer, another well-known and very popular attraction in the park.

"We are now exploiting the good topographic characteristics on the plot and building an attraction that brings the park something completely new and spec-



TusenFryd's new Rapid River will offer 500 meters of water-based family fun for guests set in a Norse themed environment. Among the features of TusenFryd's major addition for 2016 will be a maelstrom, waterfalls, a tunnel and a host of other obstacles. COURTESY TUSENFRYD

tacular," said TusenFryd marketing manager Erik Andersen.

"This is a great family attraction. We are proud to offer our audience new, unique, quality attractions and look forward with expectation to be able to wish guests a thrilling ride with this new family attraction in the spring," he added.

TusenFryd is a member of the Parques Reunidos group which owns a wide range of attraction venues throughout Europe and the U.S., including theme parks, water parks, animal-based parks and aquariums.



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Maurer Spinning Coaster thrilling riders at China's Yongtai Mall

HARBIN, China — Germany's Maurer Rides recently placed a Spinning Coaster SC2000 inside China's Eontime World at the Yongtai Mall. Dubbed Dragon Flight, this custom-designed installation is a combination roller coaster and dark ride that features a traditional chain lift, an extended track length of 1,870 feet and top speed of 37 mph.

The amusement park — built on the Yongtai Mall's fourth floor — is the first of a number of planned Eontime World parks designed by Thinkwell Group of Los Angeles. According to the company's Chief Creative Officer Craig Hanna and his team, "Thinkwell has created a brand new intellectual property for Eontime World. It's a magically special one-of-a-kind place based on a unique story with lovable characters."

Maurer's coaster technology and spinning car features blend perfectly into the themed fantasy world. The eight custom-designed four-seat vehicles offer back-to-back seating position for themed spinning coasters so riders look outward from the center of rotation. The ride's action is determined by random spinning depending on the weight distribution.

Germany's Maurer Rides has installed a Spinning Coaster SC2000 inside China's Eontime World at the Yongtai Mall. Called Dragon Flight, the attraction is a combination roller coaster and dark ride that features 1,870 feet of track and eight four-seat spinning cars. Designed by Thinkwell Group, the park is the first of a number of planned Eontime Worlds.

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Willows Activity Farm adding Peter Rabbit section in 2016

ST. ALBANS, U.K. — Willows Activity Farm in London Colney, near St Albans, Hertfordshire, has announced the plans for construction of a major new themed adventure play area, investing over £1 million.

Peter Rabbit Adventure Playground is expected to open on April 2, 2016 at Willows Activity Farm and will feature new play areas centered on the much-loved stars of the animated CBeebies series *Peter Rabbit*.

In partnership with Silvergate Media, the co-producers and global licensing agent of the CGI animated TV series

Peter Rabbit and Lappset Creative, a leading manufacturer of themed activity attractions and play equipment, the new area will include The Peter Rabbit Secret Treehouse, Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle Kitchen and Lily Bobtail Nature Discovery and is the first Peter Rabbit themed adventure play area of its kind.

Andrew Wolfe, chief executive of Willows Activity Farm said, "We are delighted to announce Peter Rabbit's arrival at Willows in April next year. We'll be building a whole new adventure play area with 10 Peter Rabbit themed activities, as well as welcoming Peter Rabbit, Benjamin Bunny and Lily Bobtail to our home."

"Willows has always been committed to offering families fun days out, and we've worked tirelessly with our partners Silvergate Media and Lappset Creative to ensure the new Peter Rabbit area will be a carefree place for younger children to learn through imaginative play and also bring a smile to the faces of the adults who will have memo-



Beatrix Potter is one of the world's best-loved children's authors, with her most famous creation *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* having sold in excess of 45 million copies globally since its initial publication in 1902. She personally oversaw the launch of subsequent products, making Peter Rabbit the oldest licensed character in history. Today more than 2 million of her books are sold globally every year, and Peter Rabbit has appeared in books and products in more than 110 countries throughout the world. In 2016 Willows Activity Farm bring the character to life in all-new themed section.

COURTESY WILLOWS ACTIVITY FARM

ries of Peter Rabbit from their own childhood."

Thomas Merrington, VP Brand & Creative, Silvergate Media said, "We wanted to bring Peter Rabbit to life for

children who love watching the animated series. The new Peter Rabbit is a playful re-imagining of Beatrix Potter's timeless children's classic and has been a hit with par-

ents and children alike. The beautiful countryside setting, coupled with their focus on wholesome, active play makes Willows the perfect place to do this. 2016 marks 150 years of Beatrix Potter and this is a fabulous way to ensure her most famous creation, Peter Rabbit will be enjoyed for generations to come."

Peter Rabbit is the creation of Beatrix Potter, one of the world's best-loved children's book authors.

Willows will also be re-theming existing adventure play activities and facilities in line with Peter Rabbit, alongside a new restaurant, daily Peter Rabbit meet & greet appearances and shows featuring Peter Rabbit and Lily Bobtail.

Johan Granholm, director of Lappset Creative said: "It's been really exciting working with Silvergate Media and Willows to design a bespoke Peter Rabbit adventure play area. We'll be releasing the plans soon so watch this space!"

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Andreas Andersen, CEO Liseberg



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INTERNATIONAL

Multiple facets of fun to adorn 'Jewel of the Desert'

Rising and proposed amusement developments dazzle Dubai

AT: Dean Lamanna

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U.A.E. REPORT

DUBAI, U.A.E. — Renowned for its daring architecture and status as the business hub of the Middle East, this glittering global city on the southeast coast of the Persian Gulf — nicknamed "Jewel of the Desert" — also has become a powerful theme park magnet.

Once merely famous for fanciful manmade islands, world-class shopping, indoor ski runs and Earth's tallest building, Dubai's near-Disneyesque master planning, limitless imagination and embrace of tourism have fueled the oil-rich region's leisure boom. Close to two dozen parks are being built or have been proposed in the U.A.E.

The surge in themed entertainment is not a new phenomenon here. Many major new parks planned for Dubai and neighboring cities during the 2000s fizzled with the economic downturn. (Abu Dhabi's spectacular, mostly indoor **Ferrari World**, which is currently adding more rides, was an exception.) Water parks and family entertainment centers materialized to fill the gap.

Today, Dubai is thinking extra big. The city wants to double its number of annual visitors to 20 million by 2020 — when a six-month trade fair called Expo 2020 is projected to draw 25 million. And it has been rolling out the red carpet to amusement companies and investors worldwide.

The industry has responded in kind.

This past spring's 21st edition of the **Dubai Entertain-**

ment, Amusement & Leisure Show (DEAL) at the Dubai World Trade Centre, promoted as the top trade show of its type for the Middle East, drew more than 300 exhibitors from 33 countries and attracted nearly 7,200 visitors over three days — resulting in over \$330 million in contracts. DEAL expects to exceed these numbers with its 22nd edition next April.

Preparations for the massive influx of fun are well underway. Last month, the Dubai Roads and Transport Authority awarded a \$68 million contract for new roads and bridges providing direct access to several parks under construction.

Another recent development has made Dubai's amusement aspirations clear: **Emirates**, a locally-based airline, has begun offering daily, 16-hour direct flights to and from Orlando, Fla. — the theme park capital of the world, with 63 million visitors in 2014. (Dubai had 13.2 million visitors the same year, up more than eight percent from 2013, according to the Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing). The air service intends to create mutual business and cultural exchange opportunities.

While Orlando won't be giving up its amusement throne anytime soon, Dubai is in the best position to challenge it. The business research consultancy Euromonitor International foresees the U.A.E.'s annual theme park revenues of \$470 million increasing 78 percent to \$837



Now going up at a cost of \$270 million, the 210-meter-tall Dubai Eye observation wheel anchors manmade Bluewaters Island, near Dubai Marina. It will be taller than both the High Roller in Las Vegas, Nev. (167.6 meters), and the forthcoming New York Wheel in Staten Island, N.Y. (190.5 meters). COURTESY MERAAS HOLDING

million in 2019 as the country continues to build itself into a global leisure destination.

The foremost investor in the region's fantasy land-filled future is **Dubai Parks and Resorts (DPR)**. The company is constructing the Middle East's largest entertainment complex, consisting mainly of three major theme parks — **Motiongate Dubai, Legoland Dubai** and **Bollywood Parks Dubai** — in Jebel Ali, located between Dubai and Abu Dhabi, for an expected fall 2016 opening. The combined destination, which includes a connecting retail-and-dining entrance plaza called **Riverland** and a Polynesian-style family resort, will have more than 100 rides and attractions.

Inspired by Hollywood, Motiongate Dubai is a creative partnership with Dream-

Works Animation, Lionsgate and Sony Pictures, each of which will have its own immersive amusement zone. A river rapids ride from **White-Water Attractions** is one of several indoor and outdoor rides the park will feature; other attractions will be based on films such as *Ghostbusters*, *The Green Hornet*, *Hotel Transylvania*, and the *Hunger Games* and *Step Up* film series.

Legoland Dubai, the brand's first foray into the Middle East, will include rides familiar to other Legoland locations centered around a large roller coaster and castle, plus an adjoining water park with a wave pool and a lazy river. Among the attractions are some 40 interactive rides and shows set in six themed lands, with Miniland showcasing Persian Gulf land-

marks. More than 60 million Lego toy bricks will be used in displays throughout the park. Future expansion plans include a Legoland Hotel in 2018.

A first-of-its-kind theme park, **Bollywood Parks Dubai** will reflect the authentic filmmaking tradition of India. One of its major attractions, created in partnership with Mumbai, India-based **Wizcraft International**, will be a 60,000-square-foot performance stage hosting a Broadway-style Bollywood show.

Among the many other manufacturers who have, or soon will be, delivering rides to the three DPR parks are **Dynamic Attractions**, **Gerstlauer**, **Mack Rides**, **S&S - Sansei Technologies**, **Triotech**, **Zamperla** and **Zierer**. Madrid, Spain-based leisure park operator **Parques Reunidos** has been contracted to manage the Motiongate and Bollywood parks.

DPR, currently more than \$1 billion into the project's nearly \$3 billion budget, is estimating a total attendance of 6.7 million in 2017 — the first full year of the properties' operation. A fourth proposed major gate by U.S. theme park company **Six Flags**, if it moves forward, could open on the sprawling site the same year.

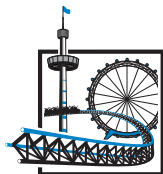
Meanwhile, **IMG Worlds of Adventure** — named for local developer Ilyas & Mus-



Motiongate Dubai is one of three adjacent theme parks being built by Dubai Parks and Resorts in Jebel Ali at a projected total cost of \$3 billion. Inspired by Hollywood, it will feature rides and shows based on the film properties of DreamWorks Animation, Lionsgate and Sony Pictures. COURTESY DUBAI PARKS AND RESORTS

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► DUBAI

Continued from page 12

tafa Galadari Group — was nearing completion as *Amusement Today* went to press. The 1.5 million-square-foot indoor theme park, billed as the world's largest and part of the mixed-use City of Arabia project, will have four zones, with two based on characters from **Marvel Comics** and the **Cartoon Network**.

One of IMG's Marvel-inspired rides, *Avengers: Battle of Ultron*, will combine a highly detailed set with special effects and cutting-edge 3D technology to create an intensely immersive experience. And dozens of three-dimensional mechanical dinosaurs (including a few surrounding a launch coaster called *The Velociraptor*) will be the star attractions of the park's **Lost Valley** — Dinosaur Adventure zone.

Orlando-based themed attraction design / production company **Falcon's Treehouse** was the primary creative collaborator on the park, which will have a daily visitor capacity of 20,000 and is expected to open early next year.

Just off the coastline, **Meraas Holding** is building an entertainment and retail project called **Bluewaters Island**, which will have as its centerpiece the **Dubai Eye** — at 210 meters tall, the largest observation wheel on the planet. The ride, sporting a massive LED light package, will have 48 climate-controlled capsules collectively capable of carrying 1,400 passengers.

The long-planned **Dubai Safari**, a state-of-the-art animal habitat and experience that will replace the **Dubai Zoo**, has moved into its second phase of construction. Green technology will play a large role in the operation of the facility, which has been designed to bring visitors close to the animals via enclosed tour jeeps.

Among other upcoming amusement projects are **Sharjah's Water Park**, with 40 attractions (including a roller coaster and a wave pool), designed by U.S.-based **Jack Rouse Associates**; and a **Warner Bros.** theme park on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, with 19 rides and the possible addition of media production facilities.

Taking an early leadership role among these and

other themed entertainment developers, DPR, anticipating its vast employment needs, has signed an agreement with the **Rosen College of Hospitality Management** at the **University of Central Florida** in Orlando for the theme park-related professional education of newly graduated U.A.E. Nationals. The pact's payoff should become evident a year or so from now — when the company's parks open their gates and welcome the world.

U.A.E. REPORT

A fantastical **Taj Mahal** makes a striking landmark for Dubai Parks and Resorts' **Bollywood Parks Dubai**, a first-of-its-kind theme park reflecting India's filmmaking tradition. A 60,000-square-foot stage hosting a Broadway-style Bollywood show will be among its attractions.
COURTESY DUBAI PARKS AND RESORTS



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United Kingdom parks enjoy successful 2015 season

AT: Tim Baldwin
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INTERNATIONAL PARK ROUNDUP

Parks across the U.K. vary from being quite historic — celebrating success for more than a hundred years — to the newer, modern theme park. *Amusement Today* was privileged to tour what was on offer in England this past season over a 10-day period. Here is an overview of what we found.

Dreamland, Margate

The reopening of Dreamland is undeniably the success story of the summer. While the restoration of the landmark Scenic Railway was not completed until the fall — it is scheduled to reopen on October 23 as this issue goes to press — the new, fresh wood from the ground up was a glorious site. Cleverly, the previous structure was repurposed in ingenious ways including fencing, picnic tables and signage.

The history of Dreamland dates back to 1880 when it was first used for amusement rides. The name Dreamland was adopted in 1920. The new millennium was not kind and the declining attendance caused the owner to close up shop in 2003. Public support kept hope alive and residents launched a campaign to save the park. Against all odds and the numerous nay-sayers, the site took gradual steps toward revival thanks to Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company, which took ownership in 2005. Despite some arson attacks, the efforts remained and slow steps eventually brought the facility to a renewed life. Dreamland re-opened on June 19, 2015.

Some of the parks rides were donated from other owners, some of which are in storage awaiting restoration. Private funding allowed for the acquisition of 17 additional rides other than the Scenic Railway. These included a giant wheel, two carnival-style coasters, a Rotor and other flat rides, children's rides and a Helter Skelter slide. An entertainment team also provides street atmosphere for those arriving to and enjoying the park. A diner and pinball arcade are also part of the property.

Paultons Park, Hampshire

One would be hard pressed to find a facility more impressive than Paultons Park. More or less a children's park, this property has an enormous variety of things to enthrall guests, including a Peppa Pig World themed around the British animated television series aimed at preschoolers. Appropriately, the adorable village is aimed at the very young with whimsical structures and suitable rides. Around the park, there are more than just rides. There are birds and animals, a spectacular collection of topiaries (worthy of a story all their own) and gorgeous flower arrangements that rival the best of any park in the world.

The rides at Paultons Park excel on two different levels. Not only is there a nice variety for kids of all elementary school ages, but they are also themed with a fantastic sense of creative humor and colorful allure. Younger children will find a lot to ride with their parents, while those feeling a little braver have a handful of rides to test their courage without entering the level of extreme teenage thrillers.

Visitors at Paultons Park could see lots of construction as well as signage that touts the arrival of The Lost Kingdom in 2016. Two new roller coasters, both of which are aimed at younger rides, will bring the park's count to five. If the new dinosaur theme is carried through as much as the other areas of the park such as the new-for-2015 Critter Creek, the U.K.'s only Peppa Pig World and Show Street, the attention to details should be equally as impressive.

"2015 has been another good season for Paultons Park despite the typically British weather in August," said Rob Griffiths, head of marketing and communications. "Peppa Pig World, now in its 5th year, continues to be extremely popular with guests not only coming from all over the U.K., but worldwide — 46 different countries to be precise! I am hugely looking forward to next season already as the opening of our new Lost Kingdom attraction with two new coasters undoubtedly marks



Dreamland in Margate has made a tremendous return to operation after several years of closure. ALL PHOTOS AT/TIM BALDWIN

another big milestone in the park's development."

Legoland Windsor Windsor

Additions to the Legoland Windsor Resort were minor for 2015, but the facility still brings in strong crowds. According to reports, Legoland Windsor is the second highest attended theme park in the U.K. (behind Alton Towers). Enhancements for this past season included a newly improved Lego City area. New cars and boats were added to the Driving School and Boating School.

The Legoland Windsor Resort also saw improvements that included ten new premium themed rooms and a totally new Lego Friends area at the resort.

Alton Towers, Staffordshire

Known for large high-thrill coasters, Alton Towers aimed additions toward the family set for 2015. In the park, Octonauts Rollercoaster Adventure joined the attractions in CBeebies Land, a children's area dedicated to the U.K.-produced programming encouraging "learning through play" and is geared toward those aged six and under. Built by Zamperla, the family coaster features themed trains, whimsical props, squirting water and sound. In the queue, younger riders are photographed for their Octonaut licenses, which can be purchased once the child has



Above, the whimsical Critter Creek makeover at Paultons Park is one of the many creative details to this fantastic children's park. Below, Coastguard HQ added additional boats to the Boating School at Legoland Windsor.



conquered the coaster.

Enchanted Village Treehouses are a new addition to the Enchanted Village accommodations to the resort. These five luxury treehouses sleep up to eight people and include stocked kitchens, two double bedrooms and two twin bedrooms, plus a lounge area

with a 50-inch plasma screen TV. The Treehouses feature a sheltered outdoor seating area that includes a private hot tub on the decking.

An overview on Alton Towers wouldn't be complete without noting the grim in-

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INTERNATIONAL PARK ROUNDUP

► UK PARKS

Continued from page 16

cident on The Smiler roller coaster that took place in late spring. The ride features a record 14 inversions. Media reports have pointed out the financial impact upon Merlin Entertainments and Alton Towers, as well as a decrease in attendance. Industry experts feel the effects will be short lived, as such instances typically are. Despite the PR challenges, news of the ride testing again indicates progress.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach Blackpool

The Pleasure Beach featured an eye-catching new attraction this season with Red



Octonauts Rollercoaster Adventure at Alton Towers was supplied by Zamperla.

Arrows Skyforce. One of the few Gerstlauer Sky Fly thrill rides in operation, and the only one in the U.K., Skyforce allows each rider to determine the thrill level of their ride. Whether it is more scenic as it climbs to a height of 72 feet or one that is more dramatic with aerobatic rollovers, the pilot is in control. Each ride cycle has

12 passengers seated individually.

"Visitors to Blackpool Pleasure Beach have really enjoyed the interactive element of the ride and have had fun challenging their friends to see who can do the most spins," said Stephen Burton, public relations executive for Blackpool Pleasure Beach. "Our late



Blackpool Pleasure Beach installed England's first Sky Fly by Gerstlauer.

night riding events have also been a big hit with guests, who have enjoyed the combination of live entertainment and experiencing our rides late into the evening."

The vacation destination

continues its partnership with Nickelodeon as well. "Nickelodeon Land has continued to be a favorite with visiting families. We have worked with Nickelodeon to develop

► See UK PARKS, page 18

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an exciting monthly program of events featuring family favorites such as the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Dora The Explorer and SpongeBob SquarePants,” added Burton. “For the first time this year we have been able to offer visitors the ultimate Nickelodeon honor – to be slimed in our very own Slimulator!”

Along with the continued success of the Big Blue Hotel and its long-running tradition of spectacular shows such as Hot Ice: Desire and award-winning illusionist Christian Farla, the park climbed in notoriety with its run in the 2015 Golden Ticket Awards, presented by *Amusement today*. Valhalla reclaimed the No. 1 spot for Best Water Ride and Blackpool Pleasure Beach itself made a strong charge with a photo finish of three top finalists battling neck-and-neck for Best Seaside Park.

“Looking forward to the 2016 season, everyone at Blackpool Pleasure Beach is excited to be celebrating the 80th anniversary of Hot Ice, our world-renowned ice-skating spectacular. As well as this, we have some exciting plans to mark Red Arrows Skyforce’s first birthday,” said Burton.

Drayton Manor, Tamworth

Opening in 1950, Drayton Manor celebrated a 65th anniversary this past season. Throughout its history, it has been owned and operated by the Bryan family. As it has always been, the family is the focus for the rides and attractions placed into the park. A wide range allows thrill-seeking teens to enjoy roller coasters such as G-Force and Shock Wave, while younger riders can enjoy Ben 10 — Ultimate Mission and the Buffalo Mountain Coaster. Still yet, Thomas the Tank Engine and Thomas Land reaches an even younger audience.

The park enhanced the Thomas Land area this past season and also added Thomas Land VIP Suites, which are located in the middle of the area in the new Sodor Airport structure. This unique approach captures the success of cabana rentals in water parks by offering VIP suites that are offered in two sizes and price ranges — either up to 10 guests or larger ones for 20. The reservations include free

INTERNATIONAL PARK ROUNDUP

car parking, cookies and beverages, gifts for children aged 4-11 and access to the air conditioned suite from 9:30 a.m. to one half hour after rides close. The suite also has complimentary wifi and features balconies that overlook Thomas Land. Other optional extras such as lunches, discounted tickets, birthday cakes, meet-and-greet possibilities with characters are also available to make the occasion a complete unforgettable VIP experience tailor-made for each family.

The resort also includes a zoo and the Drayton Manor Hotel.

Thorpe Park, Chertsey

On the opposite end of the spectrum, Thorpe Park undeniably caters to the teen/thrill-seeker market. Known for its intimidating coasters and high profile rides, the park strategy seems focused on screams rather than toddlers, as no small children’s rides are really on offer. Merlin Entertainment owns both Thorpe Park and Legoland Windsor, as well as Chessington World of Adventures, all three of which are in close proximity to each other.

After launching an area themed around the Angry Birds video game last season, for 2015 Thorpe Park added admittedly one of its lower-profile attractions — I’m a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here! This combination obstacle course/maze is a partnership with the television reality show from ITV Studios. Participants team up and accept challenges to complete in a “survival” type interactive game.

This was also the second season for the resort to operate their Shark Hotel. The accommodations have compact rooms on a lakeside setting with a fanciful entrance into a shark’s mouth.

Although official announcements are not forthcoming at press time, visitors have been interested in a major clearing within the park as construction looks to be working on a large indoor attraction for 2016.

Chessington World of Adventures Chessington

For 2015, Chessington World of Adventures — a re-



Penguins of Madagascar Live! was a new production at Chessington World of Adventures.

sort with rides, zoo animals and resort hotels — presented a stage show called Penguins of Madagascar Live! with a show theme of Operation: Cheezy Dibbles. The Year of the Penguins spilled over into the Chessington Safari Hotel with two exclusive newly themed guest rooms. Young riders enjoyed a new bouncing children’s ride and all guests could encounter real Humboldt penguins in a brand new enclosure and walk-through experience.

Announced already for 2016 is the Explorer Glamping village. Not familiar with the term? Glamping is glamorous camping that merges the intimacy of camping, ideal sites and luxurious amenities. Situated to the Wild Asia area, there will be 31 standard tents that contain a double bed and two singles, and four premium tents that feature a little extra taste of luxury. The village will also offer a themed family restaurant.

Pleasurewood Hills, Lowestoft

From simple beginnings in 1983, Pleasurewood Hills has grown into a much larger property over the last three decades which now offers an assortment of rides geared to all age groups. Various owners and changing management have not slowed attractions arriving to the park, even if they are of modest size. In 2013, a frightening and unique combination walk-through/dark ride experience went for the scares. Last year, a relocated Mauer Wild Mouse coaster was brought in, adding a fourth roller coaster and good thrills. For 2015, the direction was family oriented as Pleasurewood Hills debuted Hyper Drive. This attraction is a Dodgems style ride with vehicles themed as futuristic taxi cars.

Flamingo Land, Malton

Although Flamingo Land has operated for more than half a century, the past decade

has seen a radical change up in the park’s roller coaster lineup. The park’s tagline is Wild Animals, Wilder Rides. Recent investment has taken place in the Run-Gym-Swim Leisure Complex and the opening of Riverside Cottages. Celebrations this past summer included concerts and the birth of two giraffes, a zebra, lemurs and a baby panda in the zoo. In September, a new Selous Black Rhino Preserve opened.

Capital acquisitions were slight for the season, but the park received the Yorkshire’s Magnificent Attraction for 2015, the second year in a row for Flamingo Land to take the award. A competition between 19 Yorkshire attractions, the honored distinction is determined by the public. “There has been a record number of overall votes in this competition,” said Sarah Mills, director of marketing. “We are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded this for the second year running.”

Lightwater Valley, Ripon

The summer season saw an increase in attendance over the spring months. A Vintage Car Rally ride and a new Jurassic Adventure Golf attraction opened in June.

Adventure Island, Southend on Sea

Adventure Inside is a new indoor complex that features games and smaller rides, plus a massive soft play center. Now open in the heart of Adventure Island, Feelgoods Restaurant, a prize arcade and a milkshake bar are also included in Adventure Inside.

► See UK PARKS, page 19



I’m a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here! Is an interactive competition introduced at Thorpe Park.

►UK PARKS**Continued from page 18**

On days through autumn that the entire outdoor park is not open, the indoor area is open daily and offers “weatherproof fun,” as the park terms it.

“2015 is proving to be another really good year for us here at Adventure Island so far,” reported Andrew Renton, operations director, this past October. “We had a longer than usual warm summer that helped with lots of people looking for a great day out, and, of course, the fact we

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are a free entry fun park always gives us a big advantage over many other destinations. We’ve also been lucky enough to gain some more recognition for our great customer service from places such as Trip Advisor and the Golden Ticket Awards, which is really good, as it again shows that we are a great day out and helps people pick us when they are thinking where to take the family. We’ve still got Halloween to come —

the pumpkins are going up as we speak — and that is always a popular and busy time for us, so it very much looks like we are on track for another 2 million very happy visitors for 2015.”

**Great Yarmouth
Pleasure Beach,
Great Yarmouth**

New roller coasters were a rarity for England this past season, but Great Yarmouth Pleasure Beach introduced the compact SBF/Visa spinning coaster. Industry folks have seen this model in operation at the 2013 and 2014 IAAPA trade shows at the Rides 4-U booth. Color, space and thrill quota seem to be the right fit for the seaside operation. Called Whirlwind, the 16-passenger, four-car trains navigate a figure eight layout where the operator gives multiple circuits for a longer ride. The roller coaster opened in late May of this year.

The facility also boasts one of the few remaining scenic railways in existence around the world. In 2016, the simply titled Roller Coaster will enter its 85th season of operation.



Great Yarmouth Pleasure Beach introduced a spinning coaster by SBF/Visa.



Adventure Island looks to have another successful year of more than two million visitors in 2015.

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Spiral

Gothenburg, Sweden hosts 2016 Euro Attractions Show

AT: Andrew Mellor
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GOTHENBURG, Sweden — The 2015 Euro Attractions Show (EAS) took place in Gothenburg, Sweden, from October 6-8, continuing the tradition of moving the event around major European/Scandinavian cities each year, the Swedish Exhibition and Congress Center playing host to the largest annual trade show for the parks industry in Europe.

It was the first time the show had been held in Scandinavia and although the venue itself was ideal — with the headquarters hotel adjoining the exhibition center and Liseberg park being right across the road — visitor numbers were down on the previous year's event. In 2014, IAAPA recorded approximately 10,750 attendees (including both exhibitors and visitors) while this year the initial figure was approximately 7,000, clearly a significant drop.

Attendees came to the show from 96 different countries, with 30 percent from Scandinavia and a significant number from Eastern Europe. A wide range of venue types were also represented, with the expected visitors from the theme and amusement park sector being joined by those from water parks, shopping centers, FECs, campsites and other types of attraction.

"Going north was a good idea," said Karen Staley, senior vice-president for IAAPA EMEA (previously IAAPA Europe but now encompassing the Middle East and Africa). "EAS 2015 performed above expectations. The location of Liseberg right next to the Swedish Exhibition and Congress Center provided attendees with a fully integrated park and expo experience. This made the entire event inspiring, hands-on and very enjoyable for all attendees."

Indeed, having one of Europe's best known amusement parks right across the street from the exhibition made a big impact on the event as a whole, with several key events and seminars being held within the park which also hosted major social events on the evenings of the first and second days of the show, including the opening reception and Liseberg Celebrates event respectively. And the park was certainly the perfect host with superb hospitality on



Over 400 companies participated in EAS 2015 (above) offering a huge range of products and services to visitors. Right, Clair Hain, Great Coasters International was happy to catch up with his international customers.

ALL PHOTOS
AT/ANDREW MELLOR



each occasion and the chance to sample some of its key attractions, restaurants and events.

The trade show this year played host to 408 exhibiting companies (441 in 2014) which offered the familiar wide range of products and services on a show floor of 10,500 square meters, making it the second largest show in the history of EAS. There was a noticeable trend towards more interactivity and attractions combining several technologies and experiences.

"The Euro Attractions Show 2015 was a great success for Great Coasters," said the company's Clair Hain, Jr. "It was a great opportunity to not only talk to clients we already have rides with, but to also strike up conversations regarding new layouts for the future. The horizon looks great for GCII and we are very excited about our current project for Plopsaland De Panne in Belgium."

Sally Corporation, Chairman and CEO John Wood commented: "I thought the location was incredible! I truly enjoyed the hotel, convention center and Liseberg park all being within a few hundred feet of each other. It was probably the best combination of elements we've ever had! With that said, however, we found the show to be much slower than previous EAS shows in Paris and Amsterdam. I personally believe the show was simply too close to our big show IAAPA Attractions Expo."

"The physical location of

the show was something we truly enjoyed. Liseberg is a world class organization and an incredible operation. To leave them and go to two other great city parks on the post show tour (Gröna Lund and Tivoli) was an extraordinary opportunity that was very worthwhile."

Games specialist Bob's Space Racers enjoyed a successful EAS, BSR Group President Jack Mendes stating: "Bob's Space Racers has been very strong in the Scandinavian countries for many years so Gothenburg was ideal for BSR. Although the EAS show traffic was lighter than expected BSR had a good show and saw the people we needed to see."

At Germany's Mack Rides, Christian von Elverfeldt commented: "Gothenburg as host for the EAS 2015 was a great choice. The proximity to Liseberg extended the show floor and formed a great venue for the IAAPA events. We were honored with great interest for our products during the show."

Running alongside the trade show was an extensive educational program with more than 30 hours of seminars taking place. Within these leaders from the industry shared their visions on subjects ranging from attractions management, revenue operations and profit generation and customer satisfaction to marketing and leadership and developments in emerging markets. A three-day IAAPA Institute for Attractions Managers was also held, as was



At the Premier Rides booth were Joanna Guy, Sara Ingram and Jim Seay.



Greg Eccles and John Wood from Sally Corporation took in the EAS offerings.



Above, David Sandstrom and Jack Mendes were on the Bob's Space Racers booth. Right, the father and daughter team of Tom and Janine Rebbie, Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters promoted their product to EAS attendees.



an IAAPA Safety Institute, a backstage tour of Liseberg, an Innovative Technology Showcase, a Water Park Forum and an FEC/Small Park/Indoor Playgrounds day.

Also among the special events was the EAS Leadership Breakfast with a keynote presentation by Björn Ulvaeus from the world famous Swedish pop group ABBA, who spoke on intellectual property,

while following the end of the show, an EAS Post Tour provided the opportunity to visit three of the Nordic region's parks, namely Gröna Lund, also in Sweden, and Den Blå Planet and Tivoli Gardens in Denmark.

Next year, EAS moves to Barcelona in Spain and the Fira Barcelona Gran Via Convention Center, set for September 20-22, 2016.

Holovis launches Pocket RideView at EAS, Sweden

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LUTTERWORTH, England — Sensory experience design specialist Holovis has launched the Pocket RideView system which combines the company's eticket attraction design prowess and content creation expertise, fronted by its growing Holovis Media division.

Revealed for the first time at the recent EAS trade show in Gothenburg, Sweden, the system brings the features of the established RideView design VR suite, which allows creative and technical teams to explore their designs in 1:1 scale and real time traditionally in a CAVE environment, onto any mobile device deploying the latest AR (Augmented Reality) capabilities.

As Holovis CEO Stuart Hetherington explained: "This solution takes the dark ride and attraction development review process to a whole new level of functionality, allowing teams to be immersed in their creations



Above, Holovis launched the Pocket RideView system at the EAS show in Gothenburg, Sweden. Right, Holovis will show a world first, real time, dark ride, interactive game solution running in a 3D dome at the 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando. COURTESY HOLOVIS

from anywhere in the world. By bringing projects to life in this highly accurate augmented reality, it allows groups to analyze their work at a much more detailed level, with the digital assets brought to life creating an immersive intensity that connects them to the ride experience, speeding up the design process, improving accuracy and reducing costs. It's also a great tool for keeping senior execs and stakeholder communities informed and engaged."

The complete integration of media and content creation with the ride design, motion vehicles, control systems and the most demanding AV requirements delivers an optimized guest experience, helping to eliminate the compromises and technical trade-offs often needed at the later stages of the project.

It is another essential Holovis development tool that helps clients and ride designers come together around the creation of memorable,



guest-centric experiences. And Hetherington continued: "Dark ride content and media for this attraction segment is about much more than high quality film. To create a truly sensational media and motion based attraction you need to be able to immerse riders entirely into a new reality with real time configurability, sharp interactivity and rich personalization. The storyline

also needs to combine a compelling narrative with original gaming elements."

All these aspects will come together at this year's IAAPA Attractions Expo when Holovis will show a world first, real time, dark ride, interactive game solution running in a 3D dome, demonstrating what the next generation dark ride style experience will look like.



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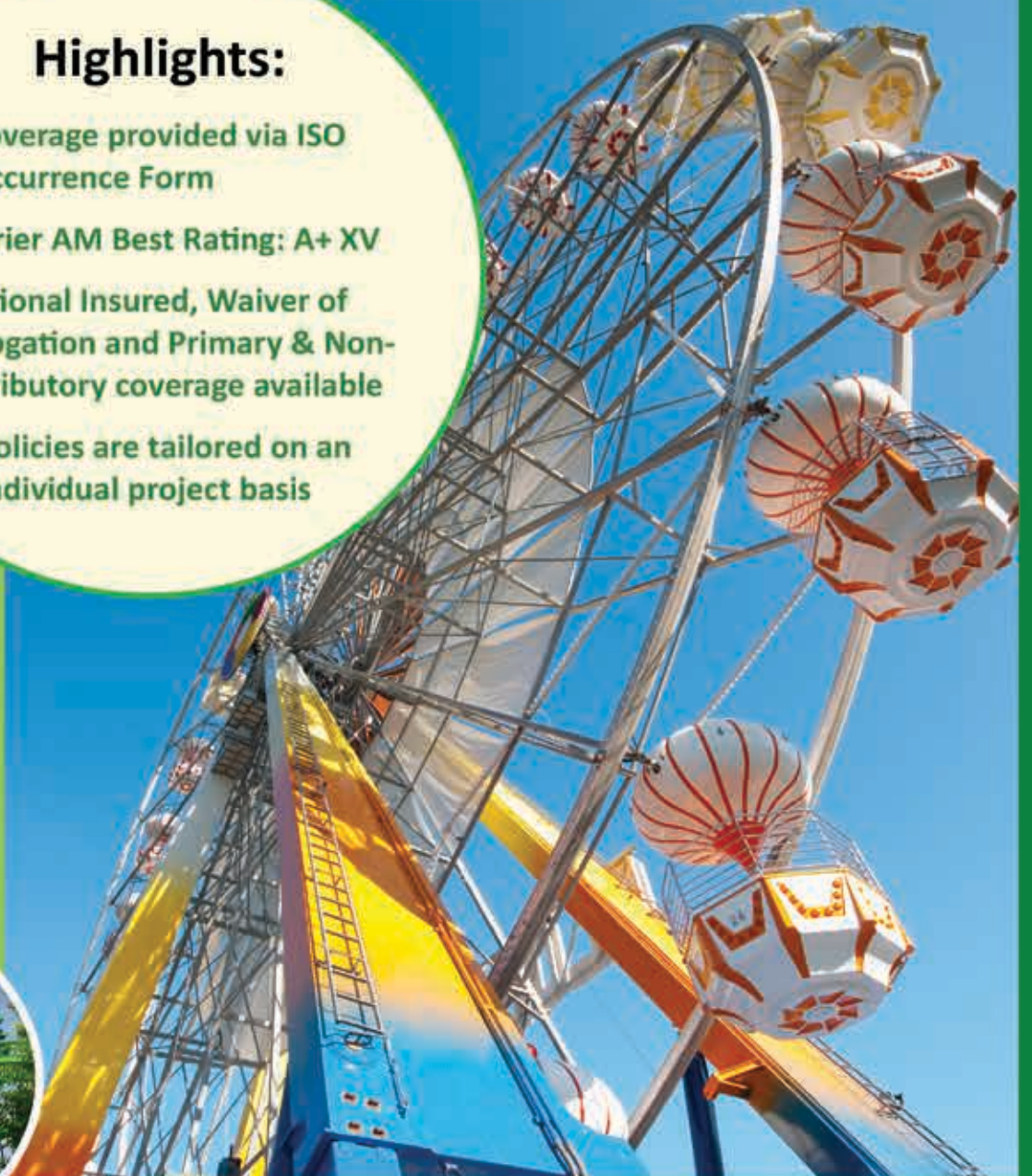
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WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► **WhiteWater debuts kids' slides — Page 24** / **New slides added to Fårup Sommerland — Page 27**

Argentina's Parque de la Costa adds Aquafan Waterpark

Key suppliers include: Polin, waterslides, waterplay; Atlantis Pool, generators, pumps and filtration; Zebec, tubes, rafts and mats

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert
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TIGRE, Argentina — Parque de la Costa in Tigre, a northern suburb of Buenos Aires, has seen a successful first season with its recently added water park. The theme park opened Aquafan Waterpark in May in an effort to expand the facility's offerings of leisure entertainment entities.

Parque de la Costa installed the new attractions at a cost of AR\$60 million (U.S. \$6.76 million). Along with the obligatory wave pool water slides and children's water play structure, the nearly 3.5-acre water park includes a variety of attractions: a VIP area, a video game center and six concession areas.

Parque de La Costa, which opened in 1997, was built by Santiago Soldati, a prominent Argentine businessman. The park, along with other "de la costa" properties, followed his reopening of Tren de La Costa (Train of the Coast), a nearly 10-mile, scenic, light rail tourist train that made it possible for passengers to travel from downtown Buenos Aires to Tigre in 30 minutes. Parque de La Costa, along with shopping malls and a casino, were built at the Delta terminus.

Tigre has long been a tourist town, but the reopening of the train resulted in a city-wide renaissance following a long steady decline. Although day travel is still popular, the municipality has spearheaded renovations and redevelopment to encourage travelers to extend their stay. The water park expansion at Parque de La Costa is in response to the continued rise in tourism.

Polin Waterparks of Istanbul, Turkey served as consultants on the project and provided devel-

opment/design as well as all of the water slides and water play equipment. Atlantis Pool, also of Istanbul, provided the wave pool generator, pumps and filtration equipment. Ohio-based Zebec of North America provided the tubes, rafts and water slide mats.

Aquafan was Polin's first installation in Argentina. As with all Polin products, the exclusive resin transfer molding (RTM) composites technology provides colorful translucent slides with superior color-retention properties.

The attractions provided by Polin include:

- **Freefall:** a straight shot speed slide that offers an exhilarating drop for guests who want to experience the thrill of a freefall without the danger.

- **Compact Slide:** a smaller slide utilizing a smaller footprint that condenses the features of a full-sized slide into a smaller unit.

- **Multislide:** a multi-lane racing slide that has guests competing side-by-side as they slide downhill before exiting into a run-out.

- **Black Hole:** one of Polin's most popular rides. Thrillseekers entering this enclosed tube slide feel like they are slipping into a swirling adventure of fast-changing colors and designs amid high-speed travel through multiple turns and inclines. Dispatch can occur as quickly as every 20 seconds to ensure a high-capacity queue. Black Hole at Aquafun features Natural Light Effects Technology.

- **Turbolance:** another popular slide that is offered by Polin. On this attraction riders encounter a steep drop before being pro-

► **See AQUAFAN, page 27**



The colorful Turbolance (above) has riders climbing the walls before dropping backward over a speed bump and into the exit pool. Below, the children's octopus slide cleverly conceals stairs and slides in the octopus' arms. COURTESY POLIN



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FlowRider introduces new WaveOz



New from FlowRider, WaveOz will be the competition wave of the future. The larger ride surface area gives the pros more room to work with, or it can allow for more simultaneous riders. The more ride surface, the more riders; the more riders, the more spectators; the more spectators, the more food, beverage, retail and alternative revenue streams that can be garnered. WaveOz can help venues increase their customer's ancillary spending. COURTESY FLOW RIDER

WhiteWater debuts new kids' slides

GRAND WISATA BEKASI, Indonesia — Go! Wet, a new water park in Indonesia, is home to the world's first Kids' AquaSphere and Kids' Boomerango. Supplied exclusively by WhiteWater West, the two rides are set in a dedicated kids' play area. WhiteWater's Kids' Slides are designed specifically with gentle speeds and slopes into shallower pools to ensure a safe and fun experience. Kids' sized iconic waterslides provide little ones with an equivalent experience to that of the "big kid" waterslides. The

water park is also outfitted with an assortment of iconic water slides, two AquaPlay

structures, the largest wave pool in Indonesia and a wave river.



WhiteWater's new kids' slides, the Kids' AquaSphere (above) and the Kids' Boomerango (below) are seen here at the Indonesia's Go! Wet water park. COURTESY WHITEWATER



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NEWSPLASH

COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert
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The citizens of **Geneva, Nebraska**, will take to the polls to decide if a new \$4.575 million aquatic center is in their future. The proposed facility would replace an existing pool that is beyond repair. Plans include a flume slide, family slide, splash pad, climbing wall, zero-depth entry pool, new bathhouse, concessions and shaded areas.

Voters will have to approve two separate propositions in order for the center to become a reality. The first will approve the issuance of bonds to cover the cost of construction and the purchase of equipment. The second is a half-percent sales tax increase to pay off the bonds over a period of 25 years.

The majority of cities across the U.S. have found that funding a water park/aquatic center provides enough benefits and improve the quality of life for its youth that an increase in tax is justified.

Universal Studios has filed a lawsuit against Orange County, Florida, and the Enclave at Orlando condominium association. The lawsuit alleges that both the county and the association have allowed private developers to let stormwater flow into an easement that flow into Sandy Lake. The lake is a man made body of water adjacent to **Wet 'n' Wild** water park which is owned by Universal. For many years, one of the water park's attractions, the Wake Zone, offered knee boarding and water skiing on the lake. The suit alleges that stormwater introduced into the lake has added pollutants that can pose a threat to human health as well as cause environmental hazards.

Universal intends to close Wet 'n' Wild and has not disclosed plans for the property but is concerned that a polluted lake could inhibit future use or require extensive clean up of the lake.

The aquatics center at **Summit on the Park** in Canton, Michigan, re-opened on October 11 following a \$695,000 renovation. The aquatics center was given a facelift that included a refurbished slide, new paint, and new lockers. The renovation also included a new, smaller, energy-efficient water filtration system replacing the previous sand filter tanks. In addition to the waterslide, the aquatics center also includes a lap pool, lazy river and zero-depth leisure pool with aquatic play features.

The **Aldeia das Aguas Park Resort**, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has added AR\$3 million (U.S.\$320,000) in renovations and new capital to its water park. New elements at the park include restaurants, snack bars and two new rides. The first of the park additions, a Papa Capim thematic area, based on a popular cartoon, opened to the public in October. The new area features a children's pool and character meet and greets. Two additional attractions, "for those who like extreme challenges," according to the park, will open in December. The park planned to release details of the slides during October's Expo Village Business, hosted at the convention center within the park.

Developer **David Cascioli** is hoping to build a water park in Rhode Island, or just over the border in Massachusetts. Cascioli, of **Cascade Waterpark LLC** is a native Rhode Islander, former manager of **Rocky Point Amusement Park** and has helped build and manage water parks in India, Jamaica and Michigan. He has been looking for suitable property and at last three cities have expressed an interest in working with him to bring a water park to their community. In

2014, Cascioli had hoped to open a park in Johnston, Rhode Island, but the mayor of that city did not want a seasonal attraction in his town. The mayor said the city needed companies that will bring good paying jobs that provide work 12 months a year.

Green Bay, Wisconsin, is having pool problems of Olympic proportions. Two proposals, one a city-owned park, another an existing private developer water park owner, have both submitted plans to build an Olympic-sized pool with the intent of attracting swimming competitions to the city. Both parties agree that having two Olympic regulation pools competing with each other over six to eight swim meets per year would not be good for either entity.

The aging pool at **Colburn Park** has been on track for replacement and has raised \$700,000 toward the project under the leadership of **Alderman Chris Wery**. Last month, the **Tundra Lodge Resort, Waterpark & Conference Center** announced its plans to build a regulation pool to attract swim meets to help fill the hotel during the slower summer months.

Alderman agrees that if the Tundra Lodge is serious, then changes will be made to the Colburn Park pool. The pool needs to be replaced, the question remains, however, whether it will be a smaller recreation pool, or Olympic-size competition pool.

While many cities and leaders scramble to attract water park developers to their location, a group of citizens in Penticton, British Columbia, are trying to stop one. The 21-acre **Skaha Lake Park** is already home to a beach, sports facilities and a marina. But the proposed addition of a water park has resulted in a citizens' group led by former **Mayor Jake Kimberly** filing a civil claim against the city.

Save Skaha Park alleges the agreement between the city and **Trio Marine Group** the company that would operate the park, was signed without adequate public consultation or a referendum. **Lisa Martin**, spokeswoman for the group says turning the park into a for-profit amusement park changes the nature of the park. The citizens' group alleges the water park would "destroy [Skaha Park's] serene and healing ambience so valued by Penticton residents."

The city's current mayor defends the project stating the water park will be a major enhancement to the city and could lead to increased tourism, and profits from the water park could be used to fund more city projects. He also denied that public consultation was insufficient stating that "Penticton is sometimes a community that is slow to change and everyone gets very excited," he said. "We go into these public meetings with open minds...but that doesn't mean who shows up at the public meeting dictates what direction council should go."

Polin Waterparks of Istanbul, Turkey has partnered with **Wow Company** of Belgium, makers of the unique Wave Ball wave generator for pools. The partnership will allow Polin to exclusively distribute Wow's unique Wave Ball low-energy wave-generating machines in 39 countries and work as Wow's global sales partner.

Most wave generators require pistons, water tanks or fans and consume a lot of energy. Moreover, they create waves that are "lost" afterward. Wow generators work the opposite way. The Wave Ball looks like a polyester ball floating on the water, but it actually generates, in a safe and controlled way, ar-

tificial waves using the resonance principle. Several programs are available from the slowest mode, for relaxation, to the most agitated mode for extreme waves. Guests do not have to kept away from the wave generating equipment and can actually have fun by climbing on the wave balls.

Paolo Danubio, sales manager for Wow, described the venture as a way for both companies to drive new growth opportunities. "Our aim is to match the power of both our innovative companies so that we can serve our clients even better and bring more value-added products to them," he said. "The distribution agreement is a natural fit that will allow us to serve the growing demand for these types of products in the aquatics industry."

The **Crystal Lagoon** water theme park in Sharjah Waterfront City, Dubai, UAE, promises to have 40 rides incorporating the latest technologies. Renderings of the project show an imaginative water playground designed for families, teenagers and people of all ages. U.S.-based **Jack Rouse Associates** is providing the master planning and conceptual design services.

The Crystal Lagoon water park is just one part of a massive Dh20-billion (U.S. \$5.4 billion) water front development that will spread 36 kilometers along the coastline and consist of 10 islands interconnected by canals. The development will feature over 200 high-rise buildings that include villas, apartments, offices, and along with marine clubs, an amusement park and the aforementioned water park.

The first Dh9.35 billion phase is expected to be ready in 2018.

The official opening of the New South Wales most anticipated development — the **Big Banana Waterpark** was set for October 24–25. The brand new Australian water park has been scheduled for October 24 and 25 and the AUS \$1.8-million upgrade to the existing fun park opened to the public with four water slides and an aqua play area for the kids on offer.

General manager **Michael Lockman** said he's confident the park will not only increase tourism to the iconic Big Banana, but also to the Coffs Coast.

"This project has been in the pipeline for many years and there is nothing like this anywhere between Sydney and the Gold Coast," he said.

"We've had a huge amount of interest in it, and if it's well supported, additional stages are practically guaranteed."

Construction had been undertaken by **Swimplex Aquatics** with more than 20 local contractors employed on the project.

The new \$55 million **Grandview Aquatics Centre** in South Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, is on track for a January 2016 opening. Construction of the facility is nearing completion. Once construction is finished, the pools will need to be filled and the pumps and filtration system tested. The waterslides will be checked for proper and safe operation which includes having a waterslide engineer take multiple trips down the slide. The new aquatic facility includes a 10-lane Olympic-sized pool, a 50-meter competitive main pool, a family and leisure pool, waterslides and diving towers. The developer indicated the project may finish slightly under budget.

New slides added to Fårup Sommerland



Continuing its transition from children's park to family destination park, two new water slides were introduced to Fårup's Aqua Park in 2015. Water Cannon premiered as a free fall slide featuring two loops. Thrill seekers start at the top in a small capsule. With a sudden floor drop, riders free fall down a closed pipe at high speed through two loops, one to the right then one to the left, before a splashdown into the trough runout landing area. Waterfall was a 35-meter long speed chute that propels riders straight down. The quick freefall traverses a short tunnel before ending with a big splash. Both attractions were supplied by Aquarena GmbH of Germany and Austria. COURTESY FARUP SOMMERLAND



►AQUAFAN

Continued from page 23

pelled uphill on a vertical slope. Upon reaching the top, guests experience an thrilling ride backward, sliding on a reverse path over a bump and into a splash pool.

•**Rafting Slide:** This ride allows guests of all ages to ride together raft. A conveyor system delivers the four-person boats to the start platform. With four guests every raft, the ride can accommodate up to 720 guests per hour.

Children headed to Aquafan will experience their own little piece of heaven on earth at the water park's paradise-themed waterplay structure. The specially designed attraction includes tipping buckets, spray guns and junior water slides.

In addition, an octopus water slide offers a colorful play area with the creature's six arms comprised of three slides and three stairs. A mushroom rises above the middle to act as a head from which water cascades, and the holes and spaces below the arms create fun places to take refuge from sunny skies.

Additional attractions in the pool area include a frog slide



Guests looking for high-speed thrills will be drawn to the Freefall slide. COURTESY POLIN

that gives children a ride down his slippery tongue, a dolphin fountain that seems to be jumping right out of the pool to spray cooling jets over giggling faces and a mushroom under which kids of all ages can enjoy cascades of water.

Luciano Savasta, director of development and technology from Parque de la Costa, says the addition of the water park to Parque de la Costa expands the park's appeal no matter what the weather. "In cooler temperatures, the theme park will be the main attraction, while hot weather will send people flocking to the water park," he explained. "Either way, we've ensured that our customers have plenty of entertaining offerings to keep them having fun all season long."

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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► **Fiesta Texas debuts zipline — Pages 32 / NYC's SeaGlass Carousel — Page 48-49 / Fairs — Pages 53-63**

C.J. Barrymore's Entertainment takes a looping leap Michigan FEC moving a Pinfari looping coaster

AT: B. Derek Shaw
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CLINTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Rick Iceberg is the owner of C.J. Barrymore's Entertainment, an FEC just 25 miles north of Detroit. Make that a determined and enthusiastic FEC owner. Iceberg wants to ratchet his property up to the next level, bringing in major attractions. "It's a good park that has been there a long time," Iceberg noted. "The past five to six years, we are starting to explode. We want to go in a different direction, a new dimension."



That new dimension arrives next spring when the 25-acre property with 16 attractions currently, will raise its own bar with the installation of three new attractions: Soaring Eagle, a 110-foot zipline chair; a 70-foot drop tower (that was initially approved in 2009) and a re-located steel roller coaster via Rides 4-U. The Python, a Pinfari Zyklon ZL42 was dismantled shortly after Labor Day and transported to the Wolverine State, to Iceberg's FEC. It will be on the site of a former go-kart track. The nearly 2,000-foot long coaster with a mid-course loop standing 32 feet, has been in operation since 1996 at Playland's Castaway Cove, Ocean City, New Jersey. That park

had to make space for their new coaster, GaleForce, an S&S Worldwide LSM launch.

The process actually started two years ago with Len Soled with Rides 4-U who suggested he visit the Aries, at Fun Spot America, Orlando, Florida. "The new addition really beefed up their property," (referring to the three coasters they added in one season: GCI wood roller coaster, White Lightning; Vekoma family suspended steel coaster, Freedom Flyer and E&F Miler Industries family coaster, Sea Serpent). "We looked at a spinning mouse," said Iceberg, however it was the Pinfari looper in Ocean City, N.J. that became the chosen one. "This gives us a test," exclaimed an enthusiastic Iceberg.

Iceberg is quick to point out credit where credit is due, with help from Bill Gelhouse, Keansburg, N.J.; Scott Simpson of Castaway Cove, N.J. and Jim Kaste, his consultant. "Everyone was willing to help with information and time about books, rules and regulations and more. They've been fantastic!" said exuberant Iceberg.

The name for the Pinfari Looper has not been chosen yet as Iceberg wants the public to weigh in on it by way of a naming contest this winter on Facebook. The unnamed coaster is expected to open in May.

C.J. Barrymore's has been marketing in a 25 mile area previously. It is hoped the three new attractions for



C.J. Barrymore's Entertainment in Clinton Township, Michigan is located on 25-acres and currently features 16 attractions shown here in this aerial view. New for 2016 will be this Pinfari looping coaster, seen at N.J.'s Playland's Castaway Cove, before being relocated.

COURTESY C.J. BARRYMORE'S;
COASTER COURTESY
MARTIN VALT



2016 will allow them to expand to a 50 mile marketing radius.

News of the changes for next season have been met with positive response from the staff and nearby community. In fact Iceberg said, "They are enthusiastic about the project."

A determined Iceberg, is not content with the way the industry is headed, along with two veteran FEC operators staged F2FEC (Face to Face Entertainment Confer-

ence) in Phoenix, Arizona this past February. The purpose of the three day conference, loaded with nearly a dozen speakers including John Arie Jr. (Fun Spot America), was to foster camaraderie and idea-sharing among high-level FEC professionals in order to drive business growth and needed industry change. The 2016 edition occurs February 23-25, 2016, Kona Kai Resort, San Diego, Calif. Over 100 top

FEC's in the country will be in attendance.

Iceberg points out in the last six years more than 200 FEC's have ceased to exist. "Guys, if we don't fix our industry, no one is gonna do it for us." He continued, "I have a message to the FEC community. They need to step up to the plate. They gotta grow. That's what we are doing by expanding. We are always reinvesting at C.J. Barrymore's."



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Screamin' Eagle zipline soars from cliffs at Six Flags Fiesta Texas

AT: Tim Baldwin
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SAN ANTONIO, Texas — "Screamin' Eagle Zipline is pretty much everything you could ask for in a zipline," said Sean Lynch, electrical lead for Six Flags Fiesta Texas. "Soaring Eagle has done for ziplines what Henry Ford did for the automobile. They are now readily accessible to the masses."

The Screamin' Eagle made its debut just as the summer season was beginning and has performed wonderfully for Six Flags Fiesta Texas. Lynch appreciates many of the features built into the ride, such as an active rider restraint locking system that is fully integrated into the control system. "You can't start the ride without having the seat belts locked," he said. He also likes how guests don't have to climb any towers or steps and that the throughput is higher than many traditional ziplines. "The visuals on the ride with the highest part of the ride going over the cliff and the juxtaposition of the ride next to and over Superman Krypton Coaster are nothing short of spectacular," added Lynch.

Soaring Eagle Zipline Inc. is the product of thrill ride mastermind Stan Checketts. The founder of S&S Worldwide, Checketts produced a long run of drop tower rides, coasters and other attractions. In 2010 he started his next venture with Soaring Eagle. "Anything that can thrill people safely is very interesting to me," said Checketts. Ironically, Checketts states he built his first zipline to enjoy with his family. However, his innovative changes to the zipline's design attracted the attention of the amusement industry. Streamlined operation, a reduction in needed staff and the comfort and smoothness of the ride were aspects that many parks and operators were seeking out.

Cody Davis, Soaring Eagle vice president, stated that the location of the ride in San Antonio had some unique challenges. While some industry figures might think having cliff walls surrounding your park might be an advantage, Davis explained the location is unique working with the



Screamin' Eagle Zipline at Fiesta Texas soars over the park's B&M Superman Krypton Coaster. The ride, from Utah-based Soaring Eagle Zipline Inc., features a height of 155 feet and a length of 755 feet. COURTESY SIX FLAGS FIESTA TEXAS

cliff walls themselves coupled with the clearance variances as it flies over one of the park's existing coasters, making this installation a bit more complex. "Once site work was complete, we were onsite and up and running in a week," said Davis.

Fiesta Texas' Screaming Eagle Zipline has a maximum height of 155 feet with a distance of 755 feet each way, making for a combined flight distance of 1,510 feet total. The ride allows passengers to fly over Superman Krypton Coaster six times during the ride experience. The vehicle seats two people and the up-charge attraction collects \$15 from each rider. Only one ride attendant is required to operate the ride.

This is the second installation of a Soaring Eagle Zipline by Six Flags. In 2013, Six Flags Great Adventure & Safari added a zipline to their revamped off road safari experience. The Soaring Eagle in New Jersey was part of the Camp Aventura complex, where passengers can disembark mid-journey for some up close animal encounters. In that location, passengers see all kinds of animals in the African Plains section of the safari. Great Adventure's installation is 90 feet tall. "It's a kind of fun that dads and daughters can do together," said Kaitlyn Turi of Six Flags Great Adventure's public relations team. "You fly above the trees and really see a lot of animals from up there." She pointed out that families with kids who aren't into the coasters as much can enjoy the thrill of this type of experi-

ence.

Ride Entertainment Group was called upon for the installation of the Texas ride.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas Park President Neal Thurman said the installation went very smoothly. From the beginning of the ground preparation to the opening of the ride was just mere weeks, the entire process taking place in May.

"We knew we wanted to do a zipline for some time," said Thurman, "and having the ability to take people up to the top of the quarry wall and get a view of the park and a view above the wall, we knew it was a perfect fit for Fiesta Texas and that's why we went after it."

AT asked Thurman about his first impression. "It's a pretty remarkable experience," he said. "When you get in the seat and are buckled in, the seats are designed to really give you a thrill. What's surprising is how quickly you are pulled up. That in itself is a ride. There's a little bit of a surprise at the top — and I don't want to give it away — and you have a moment to take in the view, and then you truly feel like you're just soaring." Thurman then chuckled about the finale, "And then you get close to the station and realize...I'm going awfully fast." You see this pole at the end of the station and you see it right in front of you as you are coming in at a pretty good clip. Of course, it is a very smooth stop. It's a really smooth ride coming down and then it just ramps up at the end. It's just one of those things you didn't plan on."

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Busch Gardens Williamsburg showcases 40th anniversary signs

AT: B. Derek Shaw
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WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Busch Gardens Williamsburg celebrated its 40th anniversary this season with historical signage. In addition to the usual anniversary logo'd merchandise, the park provided another way to remember past rides, attractions and events by way of 40 historical markers throughout the property. They were up through late summer.

The markers became a great way to travel down memory lane while in the park. Did you know that The Globe Theatre was the park's largest structure when it opened in 1975? Do you remember Hastings or The Enchanted Laboratory? Those are just a few of the markers guests were able to see.



Amusement Today spoke with Lance Mier, entertainment manager – events & administration, Busch Gardens Williamsburg & Water Country USA about the commemorative project:

Who came up with the idea?

"The idea came from our entertainment team that leads park events."

Were they created in-house?



This summer, Busch Gardens Williamsburg celebrated its 40th anniversary with 40 historical signs throughout the park, like this one remembering the Glissade roller coaster.
AT/B. DEREK SHAW

"The 40 Years of Fun Facts signs were created in-house. We started research in late 2014, perusing all sorts of ar-

chives – internal files, local media, past park photographers, and the Internet. Copy was developed and finalized and then paired with historic images and in some cases, old park maps. The layouts were designed by our theming team, and the actual signs were constructed and installed by our teams as well."

Did you have a location map for all of them?

"We did not have a location map for the fact signs. Part of the fun is "discovering" the history as guests enjoyed the park!"

Anything else to add about the markers?

"It was a lot of fun researching the park's history and viewing construction photos. Two particular moments stick out. Most memorable was a picture of the Rhine River (which is a man-made lake) before it was filled with water. The other was this documented story: 'During construction, a workman discovered a 200-year old brass and steel saber that was probably owned by a French army engineer officer of the Revolutionary War period. Only the hilt protruded from the ground at the base of an oak tree where the well-preserved sword was found.' We even had a chance to peruse documents that discussed the park's features before naming

FAST FACTS

List of the 40 Years of Fun Facts signs that were on display this summer season at Busch Gardens Williamsburg:

1. Globe Theatre
2. Double-Decker Bus Stop
3. Budweiser Clydesdales
4. Busch Gardens Railway
5. Loch Ness Monster
6. Hastings
7. Magic Lantern Puppet Theatre
8. Questor
9. The Enchanted Laboratory
10. Threadneedle Faire
11. Gypsy Wagon
12. La Jolie Plume
13. Le Mans Raceway
14. Three Musketeers Theater
15. Trappers Smokehouse
16. Le Scoot Log Flume
17. Le Catapult
18. Canadian Folk Palladium
19. Eagle's Nest
20. Grimm's Hollow
21. Rhinefeld
22. Herschell Carousel
23. Oktoberfest
24. Drachen Fire
25. Big Bad Wolf
26. Die Wildkatze
27. Das Kätzchen
28. Glissade
29. Wild Izzy
30. Rhine River Cruise
31. Italy
32. Festa Italia
33. Sea Dragon
34. Royal Preserve Petting Zoo
35. Skyride
36. Hospitality Center
37. Gladiator's Gauntlet
38. Busch Gardens - The Old Country
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was finalized (for example, it listed Welcome Haus rather than Willkommenhaus) with a handwritten note that says 'name may change.' It's inspiring to discover that the park has its own stories to tell outside of what we work so hard to provide for our guests."

The park has a specially-commissioned documentary retracing Busch Gardens Williamsburg's past from inception as a hospitality showcase for Anheuser-Busch to become one of the world's most beloved theme parks. *40 Years of Fun: The Story of Busch Gardens Williamsburg* brings together past and current park executives and some of the park's most enthusiastic fans to talk about their experiences over the years. The DVD was available all season for purchase at various locations throughout the park.



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Castle Park treats guests royally with family driven ride

Larson Star Dancer tower installation highlights 2015

AT: Dean Lamanna
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RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Castle Park doesn't need to try too hard to court patron loyalty.

The 25-acre amusement center along the 91 Freeway draws dedicated customers from its home city and Southern California's Inland Empire with some of the same diversions offered by the larger theme parks not much

farther west in Orange County — only with a budget-friendly admission and an unhurried pace. All this, plus a medieval castle-shaped games arcade and a miniature golf course designed by Wendell "Bud" Hurlburt, who opened the location in 1976 after having designed several classic attractions for Knott's Berry Farm down the road.

Now owned by Newport Beach-based Palace Entertainment, Castle Park has 35 rides and attractions, including a log flume, a spinning wild mouse coaster and a 1905 Denzel carousel. Maintaining the grounds



The 80-foot-tall Sky Rider, Castle Park's newest landmark, was relocated from Florida and refurbished by its manufacturer, Larson International. Park general manager Justin White (above) lauded Larson as "a great partner" on the project.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA

New paint and a new LED lighting package were among the cosmetic improvements; the ride's eight gondolas, each comfortably seating up to five passengers, also were outfitted with sill-to-ceiling safety bars for enhanced rider security.

White, whose industry background has included stints with Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Illinois, and the Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles, noted that Castle Park had to obtain a variance from the City of Riverside's 75-foot structural height limit to install Sky Rider. He also introduced AT to the park's new maintenance director, Richard Norton, who was taking advantage of the park's off-season, weekends-only operating schedule to evaluate and undertake the upgrading of its rides.

"It's a really fun park," said Norton, who previously worked for Chance Rides in Wichita, Kansas, and whose uncle, Gary Norton, owns Silverwood Theme Park in Athol, Idaho. "There was a lot of heart and thought put into it when it was originally built. To keep bringing that to life, and to keep people remembering their childhood, drives my work here."

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and a consistent quality of family fun are the primary aims here; new rides, appearing every year or so, usually arrive with modest fanfare.

This year's addition is Sky Rider — a Star Dancer rotating scenic tower manufactured by Larson International, Inc., of Plainview, Texas. Reaching 80 feet at its full, hydraulically boosted height, it is the property's tallest structure when in operation.

"Sky Rider enables our guests to see the entire park,"

said Justin White, general manager, while taking a spin on the ride recently with *Amusement Today*. "All of our other tall rides are thrill rides, which can exclude some of our younger patrons. This one is for the whole family."

Relocated from Palace Entertainment's former Silver Springs and Wild Waters park in Florida, where it operated from 2004 to 2013 and was known as The Lighthouse, Sky Rider underwent a complete refurbishing by Larson en route to Castle Park.

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In preparation of Ghost Town's 75th anniversary next season

Knott's GhostRider getting reboot from Great Coasters Intl.

AT: Scott Rutherford
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BUENA PARK, Calif.—Knott's Berry Farm is planning a major celebration next spring to mark the 75th anniversary of the park's beloved Ghost Town area. A major component of this milestone will be a re-introduction of GhostRider, the park's wooden roller coaster, which went dark on Sep. 8 to allow for a comprehensive makeover.

Built in 1998 by the now-closed Custom Coasters International, GhostRider's L-shaped, all-wood design is characterized by several large drops, swoop turns, numerous crossovers and a helix near the end of the course. Standing 118 feet tall, the coaster features 4,533 feet of track and reaches a top speed of 56 mph.

While coaster fans have speculated that GhostRider will be yet another wooden coaster to undergo the hybrid transformation into a steel model, park officials assured AT that those rumors were absolutely without merit. Instead, Knott's and its parent company Cedar Fair opted to preserve the traditional wooden coaster experience by selecting Pennsylvania-based Great Coasters International, Inc. (GCII) to oversee the ride's renovations. GCII's expertise will be crucial in a concentrated effort to smooth out some of the pronounced bumps and jolts the ride has developed over the years. Of course, this deterioration is not completely unexpected since unlike most seasonal parks, GhostRider operates virtually year-round.

Reviving a Wooden Giant

As of press time, all of the coaster's laminated wooden track had been removed in preparation for the rebuild. AT posed a number of questions to Knott's Berry Farm's Raffi Kaprelyan (vice president and general manager) and Jeff Gahagann (vice president of maintenance and construction) about the ride's rehab currently underway.

Explain the extent of and reasoning behind the GhostRider makeover.

Raffi Kaprelyan: "We wanted to bring back the quality of the original attraction. Back in 1998 when GhostRider opened, it was one of the nation's top-rated wooden coasters. We wanted to preserve that, especially when so many other operators are transforming their wooden coasters into steel hybrids."

Jeff Gahagann: "Speaking to that, we work very hard to keep everything as real as possible here in the Ghost Town area. You won't see any asphalt shingles on our roofs, and you definitely won't see any heavy steel track on a typical classic wooden coaster structure. That's the heritage we're trying to maintain here at Knott's, and especially in the Ghost Town area. We're keeping it real."

Why was Great Coasters International, Inc. selected to rebuild GhostRider?

R.K.: "We worked with GCII last year on Gold Striker up at our sister park California's Great America, and we had very good results with them on that project. It's just great a company. We're comfortable with their product and we wanted to make sure we were dealing with a quality partner."

J.G.: "We did talk to other companies but they didn't offer what we were looking for. We wanted to maintain the true wooden feel. GCII did that with one of our competitor's coasters; they brought that ride back to the classic it once was, and that's exactly what we want for GhostRider."

"Another reason we went with GCII is because we are upgrading the coaster's trains. The company's Millennium Flyer has proven to be a very successful train. We saw that on Gold Striker. It'll be an improvement over our current trains since the Flyers are trailers as opposed to the original double-axle trains the ride opened with. With all these factors combined, that told us that GCII was the direction we wanted to go for GhostRider."

What structural changes will be made to GhostRider's original profile.

J.G.: "We're removing



Knott's Berry Farm has begun a major overhaul of its GhostRider wooden coaster as part of the Ghost Town area's 75th anniversary in 2016. This rendering depicts the ride's new trains, which are Millennium Flyers supplied by Great Coasters International, Inc. GCII is heading up the coaster's comprehensive rebuild. COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

the block brake on the high turn above the station. And instead of that turn being flat like it is now [to accommodate the brake], it will be modified into a banked turn. We're changing the following drop a bit to smooth out that transition. That will allow the train to maintain its speed through the turn and require no trim braking. That will enhance the ride experience by making it more thrilling. Once the train leaves the chain lift, it will offer non-stop action until it hits the new magnetic braking system at the end of the course. The trains will be slowed by magnetic brakes as they enter the brake run. Then they'll be held and stopped in the station with the original pneumatic squeeze brakes.

"The ride will retain its current height of 118 feet as well as its original footprint but what we're doing is created more gradual transitions that will produce more airtime. Some of the banking will be changed in a few of the more harsh areas such as over by Beach Boulevard and the helix. Basically we're concentrating on four areas – on some of the hills and valleys – just to smooth them out and offer a better and more comfortable ride for our guests.

"We'll have three trains but we'll only operate two at a time. Since we are open

year-round, we want to always have a spare train available so we'll never have to drop down to a single-train operation."

The supplier

AT also caught up with GCII's Design Engineer Adam House to get his take on bringing GhostRider back to life. "Re-purposing an existing ride to provide something new and thrilling is a pretty monumental task. One of the redeeming qualities of the existing GhostRider is its elegance and dominance on the edge of the park. It has been historically known as one of the most beautiful coasters ever built, and we took that to heart. We've preserved the overall look of the ride, while at the same time turning it into a smooth, exciting and durable coaster.

"Cedar Fair knew from the beginning that at one time GhostRider was a world-class wooden coaster with a very large fan base. They were adamant about preserving the traditional coaster experience. Over the years, GhostRider continued to get more and more aggressive and really became a nightmare for the park in regards to both ride maintenance and rider complaints.

"We worked very closely with Cedar Fair and Knott's Berry Farm to determine the areas on the ride that were

not only rough, but also constantly being re-tracked. With all of this information, we felt confident that re-profiling and re-banking the "heart" of the ride; re-tracking everywhere else and adding Millennium Flyers, that GhostRider could once again be a top-ten ride. Almost all major profile changes will be happening in the section I refer to as the "heart" of the ride. Basically the first drop and the two nested turns as well as the helix and finale.

"This is a very exciting project for us at Great Coasters. We have performed rehabs to rides all over the world to thrust them back into top-10 contention," House concluded. "GhostRider is the first project that we will truly be turning a wooden roller coaster into a 'Great Coaster' by not only performing profile changes but also adding our golden standard in rolling stock."

Grand re-opening Spring 2016

The 75th anniversary of Ghost Town area is a major milestone for Knott's Berry Farm. Additional improvements will see the Pan for Gold attraction relocated back to its original spot, which is adjacent to what became the entrance and queue for GhostRider. Along with the creation of new water features, the Pan for Gold location will help maintain the area's Wild West thematic aspects. Also, in order to offer better viewing for guests, the Calico Stage will be relocated to the plot of land that is being vacated by the now-closed Screaming Swing attraction.

"We're really looking forward to the 75th anniversary of Ghost Town, which has been an iconic part of the park for so many years," added Kaprelyan. "Making sure GhostRider blends in well with the area is a major priority. Once it reopens, it will once more hold the record of being the West Coast's longest, tallest and fastest wooden coaster. And with the work we're doing with GCII, we'll return the ride's original shiny luster and popularity."

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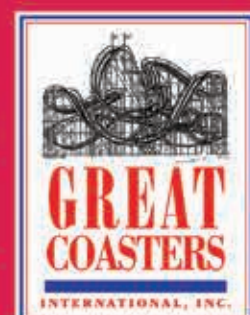
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Celebrity Chef **Art Smith** is bringing a taste of real Florida to a new restaurant opening in summer 2016 at **Disney Springs** at **Walt Disney World Resort**. Homecoming: Florida Kitchen and Southern Shine will showcase the cuisine of Chef Smith, who was born and reared in the town of Jasper, Fla., on the Florida-Georgia border. After 25 years of preparing award-winning meals for celebrities and heads of state and appearing on television, he is making Florida his home once again. With farm-to-fork cuisine that showcases the bounty of Florida, and design inspired by turn-of-the century Florida architecture of the late 1800s, Homecoming will feature traditional Southern favorites with sophisticated, chef-inspired creations. The 6,000-square-foot, 200-seat restaurant "is where Florida heritage meets New Southern cuisine," said Smith.

Merlin Entertainments is partnering with **Warner Bros. Consumer Products** and **The Lego Group** to bring a new 4D animated film featuring the popular characters from *The Lego Movie*, from **Warner Bros. Pictures, Village Roadshow Pictures** and **Lego System A/S**, to guests at **Legoland Parks** and **Legoland Discovery Centers** around the world starting in January 2016.

The Lego Movie 4D A New Adventure is premiering at **Legoland Florida Resort** on Jan. 29, 2016, followed by **Legoland California Resort** on Feb. 6, with the film continuing to roll out at the other Legolands. Shortly after, guests at the 11 Legoland Discovery Centers in North America, Asia and Europe will get to experience this thrilling new adventure.

An all-new special event venue, Sunset Showcase, opens later this year on Sunset Boulevard at **Disney's Hollywood Studios**. This entertainment showplace has



FASTTRACK

COMPILED: Scott Rutherford
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been custom designed to host a variety of different experiences over time. The premier engagement at the new Sunset Showcase will be Club Disney, where guests can join Mickey and the gang and take to the dance floor in this electric club environment, where a DJ Club Host spins the perfect playlist mix of your favorite **Radio Disney** Top 40 songs as the floor and walls come alive with vivid images from classic Disney animation.

After nearly two decades on hiatus, hippos are returning to the **Cincinnati Zoo**. The zoo said that it has met its fundraising goal for the \$7.3 million hippo exhibit, the final phase of the \$34 million Africa exhibit. Two Nile hippos will call the 70,000-gallon exhibit pool home. It will include an underwater viewing area.

Six Flags St. Louis recently lost a bet with **Six Flags Great America**. The loser of the **Major League Baseball's National League Division Series** had to rename their coaster after the winning team. American Thunder, a **Great Coasters International**, Inc. ride that opened in 2008, will now be known as **Cubs Thunder** for the remainder of the 2015 season. Some St. Louis favorites including **Mauls BBQ Sauce**, pork steaks and toasted ravioli will be delivered to the Chicago area park on Friday to fulfill the lost bet.

The abandoned **Chippewa Lake** amusement park and about 95 acres of land surrounding it are being of-

fered for sale for \$3.75 million. **Continental Business Enterprises Inc.** purchased the property in 1969. Two months ago, the company started conversations with Medina-based **Gerspacher Real Estate Group** to sell the property, which includes 1,500 feet of lakefront property and 40 acres of undeveloped farmland. The property is zoned local commercial in Lafayette Township and suburban residential in Westfield Township.

The **Stratosphere Hotel, Casino & Tower's SkyJump Las Vegas** commemorated its 200,000th jumper with a congratulatory celebration and grand prize giveaway on Oct. 2, 2015. Following her decent, **Ruby J.**, the 200,000th jumper, was surprised on the landing pad by Stratosphere staff and welcomed with champagne, balloons, confetti and a grand prize package valued at \$2,000. The package consists of a seven-day cruise to Mexico on Norwegian Cruise Lines, a three-night stay at Stratosphere, SkyJump merchandise and a "Take Vegas Back" package with cocktails and food at Level 107 Lounge and Radius.

SkyJump Las Vegas is a controlled 855-foot drop from the top of the iconic Stratosphere Tower. Riders of SkyJump Las Vegas are suited up in a special jumpsuit and connected to a high-speed descender machine.

The **Disneyland Resort** will continue its 60th Anniversary Diamond Celebration through Summer 2016, extending the three spectacular after-dark shows created for the special anniversary – the Paint the Night parade, the immersive Disneyland Forever fireworks show and the all-new World of Color – Celebrate! The Wonderful World of Walt Disney. The celebration, which also features sparkling décor, themed food and merchandise, will conclude on Labor Day Monday, Sept. 5, 2016.

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New Switchback wooden coaster makes a fall debut at ZDT's

Gravity Group builds first modern-day shuttle woodie

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SEGUIN, Texas — When Danny and Sarah Donhauser opened ZDT's in 2007, it began principally as an indoor arcade fun center. Soon, the property began to develop along the lines of a standard FEC with some rides, go-karts and interactive offerings. Eventually, water park attractions were installed with waterslides and a relocated Master Blaster. At that time, a small amusement park was underway. Always hopeful from the beginning, owner Danny Donhauser knew a coaster would be added one day. Most facilities at this point would have considered a portable fair-ground style coaster. The Donhauser family took a different approach — a first-of-its-kind roller coaster in the entire world.

Working with The Gravity Group of Cincinnati, Ohio, the ZDT's owners have installed the world's first modern-day, reversing, wooden shuttle roller coaster. During the concept phase, the ride took several turns, making for a more exciting project with each change. Opening officially on October 17, Switchback became a reality after townsfolk had watched construction take place all summer. Danny Donhauser spoke to the challenges of the summer construction. "We actually saw a decrease in attendance with the rain and all the construction," Sarah Donhauser, managing owner for ZDT's, said, "So many people thought we were closed with all the construction."

With that PR challenge now behind them, ZDT's is poised to enter the big leagues with the only new wooden roller coaster to open in the U.S. in 2015. Seguin, a small Texas town of just more than 26,000 and one of the oldest towns in Texas, is about a 45-minute drive from the heart of San Antonio. While rural enough to be small town, the proximity to one of America's major cities is also a plus for someone looking to break away



Above, following a slightly overbanked turn, riders zip through one of the oldest buildings on the property. Below left, A quick drop prior to the overbanked turn. Below right, ZDT's Sarah and Danny Donhauser stand in front of the vertical spike at the end of the track where the train reverses direction. AT/TIM BALDWIN



for something different that afternoon.

The signature touches to Switchback make it immediately distinctive. On first look, the spike jutting skyward in the center of the ride gives a first-impression appearance that the ride is yet to be completed. This, of course, is the ride's reverse point. Seated in four rows, eight riders are dispatched with a snappy curve onto the 64-foot lift. The Gravity Group's Timberliner trains negotiate a tight high curve and take the ride's initial plunge. The compact nature of the available space inspires an action packed layout. Darting directional changes, a 104-degree banked turn, speed bumps and a course that zips through building structures deliver non-stop excitement. The "moment," of course, is the climb up the spike where the track just ends. Front seat riders get the full impact of this illusory thrill. At that point, the train travels backward all the way back to the

base of the first drop and then aligns itself onto the transfer track to slide into the station.

The lift hill height is 64 feet tall, while the height of the spike is one foot taller than the first drop. The length of the track is 1,196 feet, but Gravity Group estimates the actual ride length is 2,125 feet with the shuttle aspect letting the riders travel the majority of the course in both directions. Maximum speed is 41 mph. The ride time is approximately two minutes.

"At first we considered an indoor coaster for our first coaster and we decided it wasn't the right thing. We needed something that was visual that people could see," said Sarah Donhauser.

When AT asked what led the Donhausers to The Gravity Group, Sarah said, "We had heard about The Gravity Group from someone in the industry. Danny gave them a call, and they immediately got right on it. Danny and Chad [Miller, engineer and co-owner of The Grav-

ity Group] hit it off from the beginning and immediately started designing."

The idea of a shuttle coaster versus a traditional coaster went back and forth during discussions. Typical steel shuttle coasters pull trains up an incline backward. The Donhauser family credits their son Zac (the 'Z' in ZDT's) with the strong opinion that a wooden roller coaster needs a traditional lift hill to build anticipation and should have that first drop. Before the shuttle idea was scrapped, Miller reported that he has already been working on incorporating all the components the Donhausers were looking for and that the traditional lift and steep first drop could actually all work together with the shuttle concept. At that point, ZDT's and The Gravity Group knew they had reached their ultimate design.

The transfer mechanism is the clear innovation to the project. "The design of the transfer worked just fine. As we worked in the field and were testing it, we took care of details that we needed to see as it worked. We had all the locking pins in place and we adjusted some decisions of where they were mounted," said Miller. He also states that the Timberliner trains didn't require any modifications to work with the shuttle concept, other than the brake fins being tapered at both ends.

While refining new innovations did take its time, much of the delay came during the construction process. "We learned a lot about Texas soil," said Miller. "It was a perfect storm of a bunch of things. It rained; every time they needed to pour concrete it would rain."

Danny Donhauser adds, "Our concrete doubled in price. We had a basic idea of what the foundation would be. Then the geologist told us it wasn't going to work, and that there would be some shifting. We knew we wanted the additional steel structure to keep the maintenance to where it would always have the quality as it would feel brand new. We went with a pier and beam foundation, which is more expensive." While the final price was not

disclosed, Switchback was a significant investment for the park.

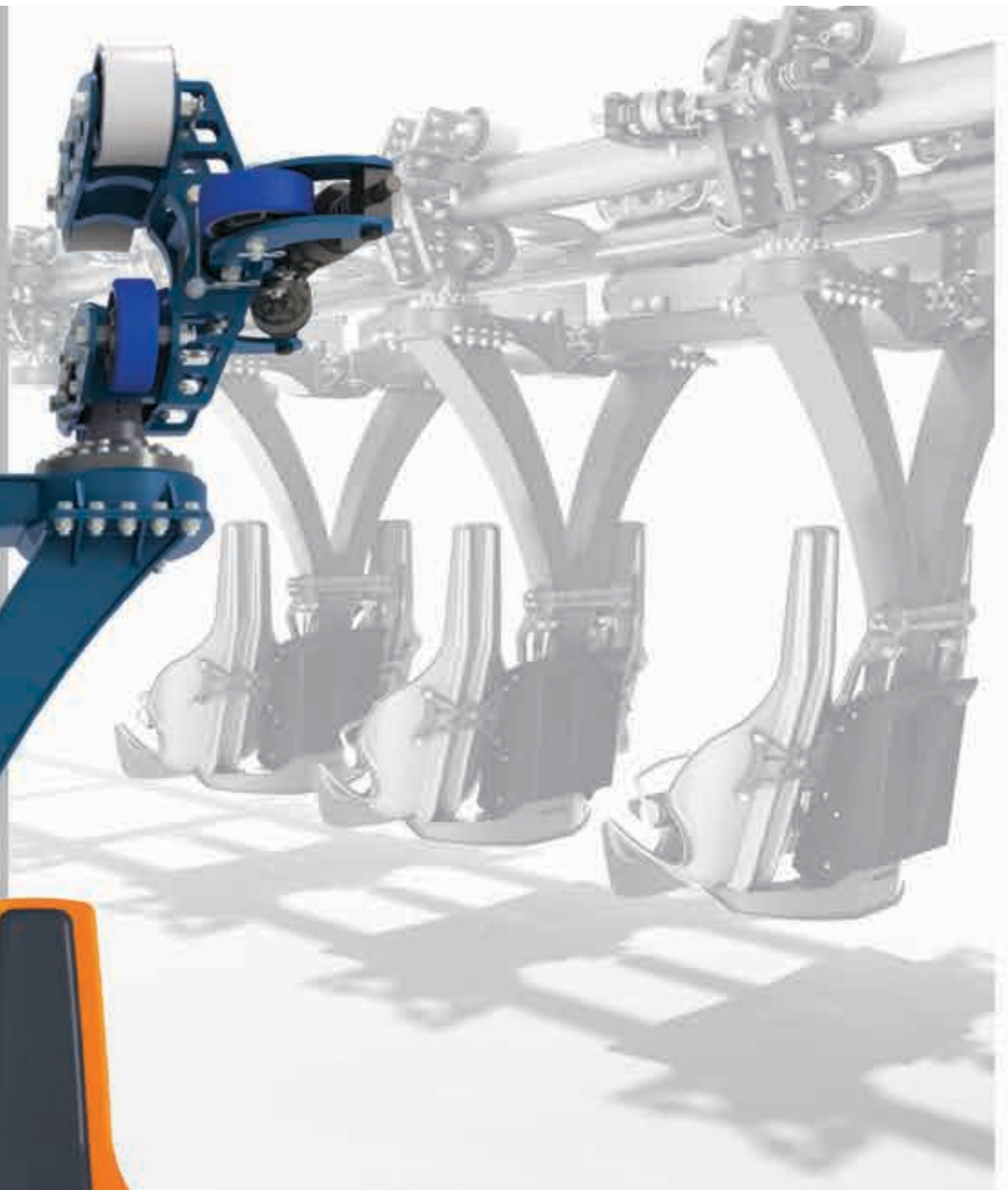
The naming of the ride was inspired by LaMarcus Thompson's legendary Switchback Railway over a century ago at Coney Island. Because that historic coaster didn't have a complete circuit, the name Switchback seemed a suitable fit. The design of the Timberliner trains from Gravity Kraft also have a throwback aesthetic. One of the stream engine styled trains is adorned with silver accents, the other gold.

"My first reaction after that first ride was 'Wow! So much intensity in this short amount of time,' It was just fabulous. I couldn't sleep the night before," laughed Sarah Donhauser. She says the first ride was taken by the five members of the family, Miller and two of their kids' friends. "It was amazing. It was in the dark. We didn't get to ride it in the daytime until a week later. And it was even better. It was getting more exciting with each ride."

Miller says his favorite moment is going up the spike and switching directions. "It's a feeling I've never experienced on any of our coasters, for sure. It's the weirdest part, and I like weird," chuckled Miller.

For a family park, a first coaster presents a challenge of knowing to what level of thrills to market a ride. ZDT's has found that perfect spot of delivering the goods to teens and thrill-seekers while not making it so intimidating that younger kids won't ride. During opening weekend, AT observed some children that met the 48-inch height requirement but opted to watch a little while. Seeing them bounce down the exit ramp a short period later exclaiming how fun the ride was brought smiles to the Donhausers. It was clear that their decisions were spot on perfect.

AT asked Miller if this new shuttle concept is something The Gravity Group will continue to market, or if they were going to let ZDT's have the only one. "I don't know if we'll market it much, but we won't turn anyone away that wants one," smiled Miller. "We've already had inquiries."



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Carowinds' 2016 expansion continues with intra-active attraction



CHARLOTTE, N.C.— Carowinds, along with PopCap Games (creator of some of the world's most popular video game franchises) and the Electronic Arts Inc. studio are teaming up for a new digital theme park experience. The Carolina themer will open the world's first intra-active 3-D game experience, Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare: 3Z Arena, in spring 2016.

An intra-active experience means the game allows players to interact with the opposing team's screen. Guests will step inside the state-of-the-art Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare: 3Z Arena complex equipped with 3-D technology. Massive screens, surround sound and motion-based seats will allow them to enjoy outrageous and imaginative encounters with their competition. Teams will compete in the Plants vs. Zombies universe during a backyard battle where they'll shoot screens with blasters and track their scores as they go.

"Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare: 3Z Arena is another example of how Carowinds is committed to bringing unique and innovative experiences that the entire family can enjoy together," said Mike Fehnel, Carowinds vice president and general manager. "This wildly popular brand has such a universal appeal and aligns perfectly with our promise to deliver the best day experience ever."

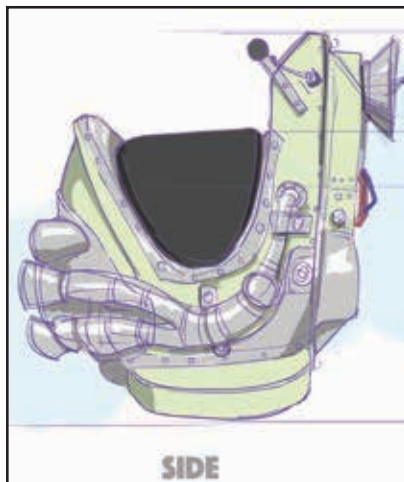
The new attraction, exclusive to Carowinds, will be based off the Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare franchise – a humorous and over-the-top shooter video game series that drops you into a crazy, all-out battle between plants and zombies

in their fight for suburbia. The newest release from the franchise, Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare 2, will also launch spring 2016, and for the first time, zombies have taken over and plants are on the attack. Players will be able to join the battle with new characters including Super Brainz, a zombie super hero who thinks he's an 80s action movie star, and Citron, a bounty-hunting orange from the future.

"We're always striving to create new and unique ways for people to experience the Plants vs. Zombies universe," said Jeremy Vanhoozer, senior creative director, Plants vs. Zombies franchise. "Our franchise is all about creating fun moments and doing things differently. This first-ever interactive Garden Warfare attraction from Carowinds will be unlike anything people have seen before and we can't wait for them to experience it next spring."

The Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare: 3Z Arena includes:

- 68 motion-based seats equipped with handheld laser devices.
- Nearly 3,600 square foot arena.
- Two 14-foot by 26-foot screens with independent 5.1 surround sound.
- The attraction will operate approximately 10 times per hour to accommodate 600-700 guests.
- Players will be able to purchase photos in the Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare: 3Z Arena retail store.
- The attraction will be located inside the former Action Theater in the parks County Fair section.



As part of its ongoing 2016 expansion, Carowinds will open the world's first intra-active 3-D game experience, Plants vs. Zombies Garden Warfare: 3Z Arena. Guests will step inside the state-of-the-art arena complex equipped with 3-D technology and find huge video screens, surround sound and motion-based seats that will allow them to enjoy imaginative encounters with their competition.

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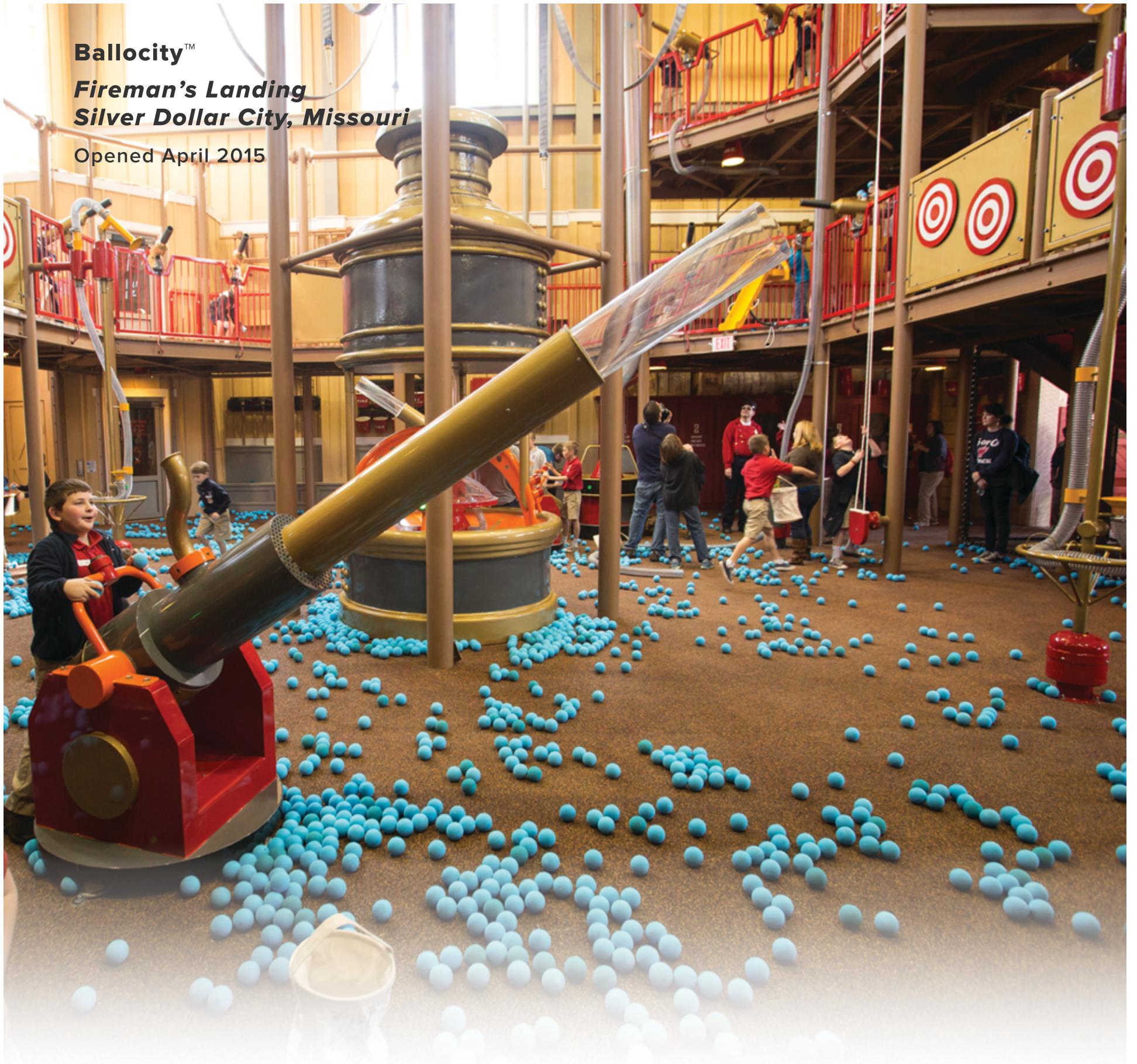
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New SeaGlass Carousel is the latest addition to New York legacy

AT: Tim Baldwin

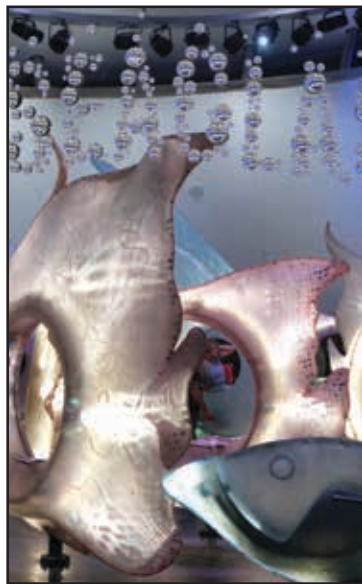
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. — In the previous century, generations of carousel makers created a reverent history with its fondness for the merry-go-round. With roots as far back as the late 1800s, carousel companies had set up shop around Coney Island. Around two dozen carousels were in operation on Coney Island when the century began anew in 1900.

However, there is no more perfect example of how things change over time than Coney Island. Long gone are most of the historic carousels of a bygone era. But just as New York is ever growing, ever changing, the city's link to the momentary pause to enjoy one of life's simplest pleasures is never too far away. The story of New York's carousels somewhat mimics the amusement ride's spelling — carousel, carrousel, carousell. Indeed, things change.

This past decade, a resurgence of carousel love seems at the forefront. Families, tourists, historians and carousel enthusiasts have much to celebrate when it comes to New York. While much has been lost, the renewed interest in preservation, as well as the ultra-modern have made the city somewhat of a carousel Mecca once again.

The Ride Entertainment Group has an operational division of various facilities around New York that feature carousels. Just recently opened this past August, the long-awaited **SeaGlass Carousel** made its debut. Unlike anything else in the world, it could be described as simply stunning. Differing from the traditional lineup of horses, the SeaGlass Carousel features an aquarium feel with translucent fish glowing in alternating colors. Undulating up and down, the fish also turn and rotate giving even more life to the setting as



passenger views change throughout the ride. It could almost be considered a cross between a tea cup ride and a carousel.

Algarin Thompson is the park manager at the Pier 62 Carousel, located next to Chelsea Pier and Battery Park. *Amusement Today* caught up with Thompson a few weeks after the debut of the SeaGlass Carousel. When asked if this carousel was the first of its kind, Thompson smiled, "It's the only one of its kind." He reported that interest in the carousel's opening had accelerated over the years. "Lots of locals were waiting for it to open for years. Once we opened, on the weekends the waiting time is one hour to two hours. The response has gone very well."

The innovative carousel was built by Show Canada. The company believes each project they embark on is unique. The SeaGlass Carousel would certainly bear testimony to that. Their work has been seen worldwide in various Olympic ceremonies. A total cost of \$16 million was involved in the project which has been under development for five years.

Four different orchestrated audio tracks keep each ride dif-



The new SeaGlass Carousel at Pier 62 near Battery Park has captivated New Yorkers with its sheer beauty.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

ferent than the one before. A composer was selected who did the four tracks written just for the carousel, each musical selection having its own light show. There are a total of 30 fish, 18 of which have the up-and-down movement. Passengers are able to choose which they would prefer. Two accommodate wheelchairs. The cost is \$5 per rider. A ride cycle is 3.5 minutes.

Ride Entertainment Group also operates carousels at **Fantasy Forest at the Flushing Meadows Carousel** and the **Forest Park Carousel**.

"The carousel at Flushing Meadows is actually a combination of two, both from Coney Island," said Adam Sandy of REG. "One is from 1907 and the other 1911, both the Feltman and Stubbman carousels. They were both in storage, and then an operator put them together for the 1964 World's Fair." An RFP went out in 2012 for the operation and maintenance of the Forest Park Carousel, which had been closed since 2009, and then a separate RFP was made available for the Flushing Meadows carousel, which had been running continuously. REG became aware of the proposals and pursued them. According to Sandy, the Parks Department had unsatisfactory experiences with the previous owner. Reportedly, no one bid on either offer, so they combined the two and Ride Entertainment stepped up. "We felt we could do it," Sandy said. "We worked to grow. We started as a sales company, and then Ed really worked to add different divisions. We added installations and financial partnerships, and then we opened the operations division in 2012 with the Flushing Meadows and Forest Park sites." REG has since added several rides and activities at Flushing Meadows filling the space with new attrac-

tions. Sandy stated that the future will concentrate on aesthetics. "We have a really strong community around us," said Sandy, acknowledging the site's success.

David Galst is the managing director of the Forest Park carousel. Having been closed for more than three years, he said, "To get it open for the first couple years, it was basic maintenance that had to get done. We had to do a thorough inspection to all the crank arms and sweep arms to make sure they were stable. Once we were able to make sure we could ensure safe operation for a couple of years, we could then go in and make a big investment for the future. And that's what we've done this season." Enhancements to the ride included taking everything off to get down to the center bearing. It has since received the needed modifications and parts to operate well into the future. Cross sweeps, all the crank arms and paint restoration to match the original Dentzel style took place in the off season. "This carousel dates back to 1910 when it operated back in Massachusetts," says Galst. "It is one of two Daniel Muller carousels left in operation." (The other is at Cedar Point.) A transition of the lighting from incandescent to LED has also improved safety, reduced energy usage and reduced the amount of heat the old-fashioned lighting used to produce.

In addition to the carousels in New York, REG also manages and operates carousels in Boston and Baltimore.

Along with the trio of carousels operated by Ride Entertainment, New York City also boasts a notable collection spread throughout the city.

Located in Central Park, the Michael Friedsam Memorial Carousel, commonly known as the **Central Park Carousel**, is one of the park's most famous sites. In-

terestingly, it is the fourth carousel in the park on the same site, the first dating back to 1871. That first carousel was animal-powered, either by mule or horse, allegedly trained to start or stop when an operator tapped on the floor. Sadly, fires destroyed the following two replacements in 1924 and 1950. The current one was installed in 1951, although it dates back to 1908 when it was built by Solomon Stein and Harry Goldstein. It operated in Coney Island into the 1940s. It was reportedly found abandoned in an old Coney Island trolley terminal. The carousel features 57 hand-carved horses (52 of which are leapers) making it one of America's largest. Two chariots also adorn the ride, which is housed in a beautiful brick pavilion, gifted by Michael Friedsam, and built in 1951. The ride features a Ruth & Sohn band organ.

Jane's Carousel in Brooklyn Bridge Park is open year round. At \$2 a ride, passengers can choose from 48 hand-carved horses or two large chariots within the glass-enclosed jewel box pavilion designed by Pritzker-prize winning architect Jean Nouvel. The carousel overlooks the East River and is positioned adjacent to the Brooklyn Bridge. The PTC carousel (No. 61) was built in 1922 and operated at Idora Park in Youngstown, Ohio, for several decades. Idora Park closed in 1984 following a tragic fire. The \$9 million pavilion, park and carousel were a gift to the people of New York by a single individual — artist Jane Walentas. While she and her husband

► See **CAROUSELS**, page 49



Ride Entertainment Group operates and has given new life to Fantasy Forest at the Flushing Meadows Carousel.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



Closed for a few years, REG has restored the historic Forest Park carousel and brought back much of its grandeur.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

►CAROUSELS
Continued from page 48

had purchased the carousel in 1984, they had no idea it would take close to three decades to move the carousel into the yet-to-be-developed Brooklyn Bridge Park. Jane would then go on to virtually restore the entire carousel herself, stripping the decades of paint away to reveal the detailed woodwork once again. It opened to the public with its magnificent restoration on September 16, 2011.

A look at carousels of New York City wouldn't be complete without the rebirth of the **B&B Carousell** at Coney Island. The frame of the B&B dates back to 1906. After a period of time in New Jersey and having received new horses by noted carver Charles Carmel, it eventually returned to Brooklyn by 1935. Carousel connoisseurs can explain



Jane's Carousel returned to operation in 2011 following the 1984 closure of Idora Park in Youngstown, Ohio. Today the ride is housed in a modern "jewel box" glass pavilion.
COURTESY JIM McDONNELL

that a Coney Island style evolved that featured a more dramatic horse with nostrils flaring, necks straining and a dash of flamboyance. As the new millennium arrived, carousels at Coney Island were a rarity. By 2005, the B&B Carousell was the lone survivor. Before the owners could dismantle it and auction it off, the city's

Economical Development Corporation took action and bought the entire carousel for \$1.8 million to keep it intact.

In 2008, the workshop at Carousels and Carvings began removing more than 20 layers of paint to reveal delicate details once carved into the wooden horses. Needed repairs were



This Coney Island classic, the B&B Carousell, was saved from auction, restored and reopened in 2013.
AT/SAMMY PICCOLA

also made, but always in the traditional purist style of wooden dowels and glue, never screws or metal hardware. Eventually the original colors were researched and returned to the carousel.

In June of 2013, the restored carousel opened in a David-Rockwell designed pavilion in the center of Steeplechase Park.

Sliding doors can keep inclement weather at bay or give a quick change to an indoor/outdoor ambience. It also features a Gebrüder Bröder band organ.

To the lovingly restored or the ultra-modern, New York City continues to embrace its legacy with the carousel with its inspiring and fascinating installations.



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Morgan's Wonderland celebrates 5th birthday, expansion plans

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — As Morgan's Wonderland winds down its sixth season, it has taken its 5th birthday into a year-long celebration. While the one-of-a-kind park has been around for more than half a decade, it still is slowly becoming more known, even among those in the amusement industry.

In April of 2010, philanthropist Gordon Hartman opened Morgan's Wonderland. The name and inspiration for the park came from Hartman's daughter, Morgan. Despite personal challenges, her soaring spirit caused Hartman to act on his desire to make a special place that would not only be a playground for those with special needs, but also for their families, caregivers and friends. The difference between this imaginative haven compared to other facilities is that every single activity and attraction would accommodate everybody.

"Inclusion is the overarching objective for Morgan's Wonderland," said Hartman. "Our vision is to play an instrumental role in helping establish more ultra-accessible family fun parks throughout the nation and the world." True to his goal, Morgan's Wonderland has sparked interest from various cities around the world.

Since opening, among the 500,000 visitors who have enjoyed a day at the park, all 50 states and more than 50 countries have been represented. Bob McCullough, spokesman for Morgan's Wonderland, told *Amusement Today* that they were gearing up for a visit for people from Sweden in mid-November. "A woman discovered us in a YouTube feature and came to the park and fell in love with Morgan's Wonderland. And now she is bringing nine special needs youngsters from Sweden to visit with us. It's a more than 5,000-mile journey to San Antonio. We continue to be discovered."

One challenge of the park was to communicate what the park is and that although it is made for special needs, everybody is welcome.

McCullough champions two particular parties involved. Chance Rides met the



challenge of creating all-inclusive rides for the park's guests. What would be considered traditional amusement rides have no barriers for anyone with physical challenges. The train ride, carousel and car ride, all manufactured by Chance, have vehicles to where no child — or even adult — in a wheelchair would need to leave the wheelchair to enjoy the experience. The carousel has two chariots that accommodate wheelchairs and those chariots feature motion just as the horses do. The train and car ride have carriages for wheelchairs, with the car ride featuring a pivoting platform that does not even require a ramp to enter the vehicle.

The other company appreciated by the park is the sponsorship with Toyota. The park welcomed the support from Toyota and offers a display area for the company's vehicles which are built to meet the needs of a physically challenged family member, no matter what the specific case may be. Hartman initiated a program called Soccer for a Cause. Once interest level was determined to make it a reality, Hartman acquired a soccer team, which is the San Antonio Scorpions, and Toyota sponsored the construction of the stadium, which is located adjacent to the park. All revenue from the stadium and team go to the support of Morgan's Wonderland, the only professional franchise team to commit its net proceeds to a non-profit organization.

"We are not a volume-based theme park. We are more interested in quality



Larger than life musical instruments provide an opportunity to stimulate the senses. A covered entrance protects guests from sun or rain as they exit their vehicles. Special needs guests visit free of charge. AT/TIM BALDWIN

rather than quantity," says McCullough. "We get by with a lot of help from friends: individuals, corporations — a lot of people with big hearts." The park has an events center that can be rented out to have ongoing fund-raising events within the community. There are also three pavilions that can be rented for birthday parties and such.

Not all attractions are actual amusement rides. There are sand areas, playground equipment specifically designed for Morgan's Wonderland and a musical area — all of which accommodate wheel chairs for every activity. One particularly astonishing component is an assortment of swings, some of which include platforms that can accommodate actual wheelchairs. A common occurrence is to see parents visibly moved by watching their children participate in an activity they never thought possible. There is even a wharf area where all visitors can participate in a catch-and-release fishing activity. The park claims it is the most stocked fishing area in the city.

Many activities are shaded, while some are in climate controlled buildings. "The Sensory Village attempts to stimulate a variety of senses," says McCullough. To be more specific, this indoor facility is wonderfully themed where sights, sound and motion interact with imagination. Children can play along with animation that causes butterflies to land on their shadow if they stay still or cause tadpoles to follow them around. Using a chroma key green screen, families can see

themselves on television monitors giving a weather report. Interacting with tools in the fix-it shop, children can hear the sounds of the electric tools they touch. In the grocery area, children can mimic a shopping experience at their own height and even check themselves out at the register. Therapeutic horses allow family members to ride comfortably in a Western-themed nook. Instead of just watching or even riding, children's brains are active in this imaginative area. "They're learning while having a good time," adds McCullough. The park even conducts education field trips.

While there is a small core staff, volunteers make it possible for a visit to be affordable fun. People with special needs are admitted free. Only family members and friends without special needs pay a low admission charge.



Some of the carousel figures include high backs to provide additional support. Two carriages are wheelchair accessible and gently rock. A bench between two horses also provides gentle movement. AT/TIM BALDWIN

As this issue of *Amusement Today* is shipped to the IAAPA Attractions Expo, Morgan's Wonderland has announced Morgan's Inspirational Island. This first major expansion of the property is a water based splash area. It will be the first ultra-accessible splash park. The park clarifies that it isn't a water park with slides and wave pools, but a place where people can enter and have fun splashing around. Special wheelchairs are being built so that guests can transfer out of their own wheelchairs into the ones made for the splash park to eliminate any concerns about their possessions becoming wet or damaged. Morgan's Wonderland is confident this will be another never-been-done facility. The expansion is reported to add more than three-acres to the already 25-acre park. It will include six themed play areas and a water ride. It is obvious the splashing fun will be a huge benefit for a day in the San Antonio sun. Full details of Morgan's Inspirational Island will be covered in the January issue of *Amusement Today*.

In a short time, this unique facility has touched many lives. As it prepares to enter into its next chapter with the splash area expansion, it is predicted that more and more people will discover the mission of Morgan's Wonderland. For McCullough, the job is a dream come true. "We have so many people leave the park totally happy and totally amazed." Hartman believes "The best is yet to come."

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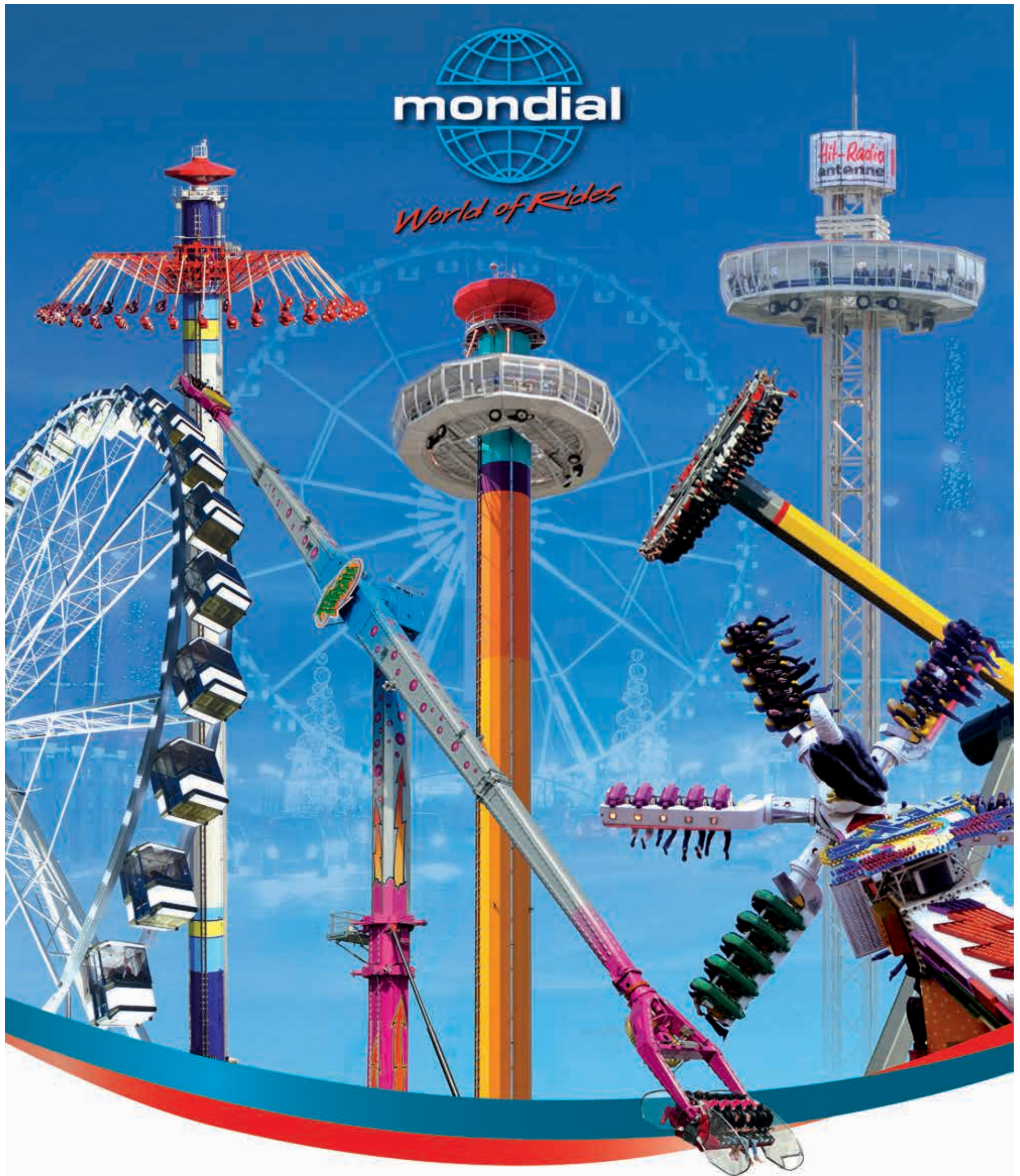


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2015 North American fairs still showing strong results

AT: Pam Sherborne
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FAIR ROUNDUP

Fairs across the country are still going strong. Some fair officials have reported slight dips in attendance, but, overall, it seems 2015 is still going very well.

Following are reports from some of those fairs that have wrapped up.

Colorado State Fair, Pueblo, Aug. 28-Sept. 7

Officials at the Colorado State Fair reported an increase in visitors in 2015 over 2014. This year's event drew 500,207 fairgoers compared to last year's 498,721.

"I'm thrilled that attendance exceeded the half-million level," Chris Wiseman, state fair general manager said, at the conclusion of the event.

The 2015 fair marked a record-breaking year for the annual Colorado's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Junior Livestock Sale. Preliminary totals showed this year's sale resulted in about \$531,300 from the state's most dedicated bidders, while last year's sale totaled \$481,200.

Wiseman said it's too early to have a financial assessment of the fair until the profit/loss

report is completed, but added that "preliminary information is positive."

"We also stayed true to our mission of highlighting the importance of agriculture, providing educational opportunities to the people of Colorado, and supporting 4-H and FFA youth," he said. Crabtree Amusements provided the midway with over 40 rides.

Oklahoma State Fair, Oklahoma City, Sept. 17-27

Rain and unseasonably warm temperatures had a negative impact on attendance at the 2015 Oklahoma State Fair. But, that wasn't the only reason fair officials feel total attendance dropped from about 1.1 million in 2014 to the approximately 900,000 this year.

Even so, it also was reported that the event generated \$103 million in direct spending into the Oklahoma City economy.

As far as the weather, rain was forecasted for the entire first weekend, Friday through Sunday, but it did hold off until Sunday. Yet, officials felt just the forecast kept some



The Oregon State Fair, Salem, Aug. 28-Sept. 7, surpassed last year's attendance and officials are deeming it a success. Attendance this year was 268,000 compared to 2014's total of 226,000. Fantastic Shows provided the midway. COURTESY OREGON STATE FAIR

people home. After the rain, temperatures were warmer than usual, also keeping some folks at home.

Fortunately, the last half of the event, the weather was great.

Then, the appearance by Presidential Candidate Donald Trump was reported to have a negative impact on attendance. Even though Trump did attract a large crowd, fair officials felt the public feared his appearance would draw even more of a crowd thereby stretching the limits of the fair. So, many stayed home that day.

Highlights this year included Disney On Ice presents *Frozen*. Ticket sales for this show were up considerably due to the overwhelming popularity of the movie. This was by far the most successful Disney On Ice show in the history of the partnership between the fair and Disney On Ice.

In addition, the PRCA Xtreme Bulls Tour sold-out the evening that Gary Allan performed, for the third straight time.

Wade Shows provided over 70 rides to the midway including the Rock Star, manufactured by A.R.M., Spin Out by Tivoli, and the Star Dancer Observation Tower by Larson International.

The carnival also brought its portable Chance Toboggan that had been completely restored and outfitted with new LED lights.

Tulsa (Okla.) State Fair, Oct. 1-11

After 11 days of spinning rides, smoked meats on a stick and an eclectic group of vendors peddling their wares, the Tulsa State Fair ended on Oct. 11 on what seems to be a high note.

While total attendance numbers weren't available at AT press time, fairgrounds Marketing Supervisor Sarah Thompson said past fairs typically attract about one million visitors, and it seems this year's fair was no different.

Thompson attributes part of that to weather. The sunny skies and cool temperatures helped with attendance.

Not only did the weather cooperate, a few fairgoers said this year's ride lines seemed shorter than last.

This was the first year for Wade Shows to provide the carnival at the Tulsa State Fair. The carnival brought in more than 60 rides.

Oregon State Fair, Salem, Aug. 28-Sept. 7

This year's edition of the Oregon State Fair was a success. Paid attendance was 268,000 this year compared to 226,000 in 2014.

This was the second year fair officials have used actual paid attendance, or "unique visits" in total counts.

"The leadership of the Oregon State Fair decided in 2014 to use actual paid attendance, otherwise known

as unique visits, as the only reliable way to measure the gate," said Don Hillman, fair manager. "We only count people who come to the fair on their volition, either by paying admission or receiving admission as part of a promotion. On the flip side, we don't count anyone who helps stage the fair—employees, vendors, contractors, exhibitors or volunteers."

Fair officials also reported a food and beverage increase of 18 percent this year over 2014; a parking increase of 22 percent; a carnival increase of 20 percent; and a sponsorship increase of 29 percent.

The Oregon State Fair was under the full control of the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department from 2007 to 2013. The Oregon Legislature restructured the fair as a public/private partnership in 2014 with the formation of a Governor-appointed State Fair Council.

In 2015 the fair completed its transition to a public corporation, which now operates under the sole authority of the State Fair Council and the newly hired Chief Operating Officer Mike Paluszak.

"For the 150th fair we opted to keep the things that clicked in 2014," said Hillman. "But the list of new strategies for 2015 made some people gulp. For example, we shuffled the locations of major departments and attractions on

► See FAIRS, page 54



Visitors to the Oklahoma Fair in Oklahoma City saw this fully refurbished and LED-lit Toboggan from Chance Rides. It was part of the Wade Shows 70 ride midway. COURTESY SCOTT CONNOR

►FAIRS

Continued from page 53

the fairgrounds. We offered some very daring admission price promotions. We dramatically upgraded our adult beverage offerings. We even brought back nightly fireworks and that's just scratching the surface."

Every major public event has its challenges, and the 2015 Oregon State Fair was no exception. For one thing, the pre-fair summer heat wave and an invasion of worms wreaked havoc on lawns, requiring many green spaces on the fairgrounds to be painted green at the last minute.

A summer-ending windstorm hit the fairgrounds in the morning hours of the fair's second day of operation.

And, if these two things weren't enough, Portland Public Schools opened a week earlier than normal, posing a threat to attendance from the Portland metro area.

In 2016, this fair will stage its 151st edition set for August 26-September 5.

Next year, the fair will have a new carnival after a very long partnership with Funtastic Shows. A scheduling conflict for Funtastic Shows was created when the Washington State Fair, Puyallup, decided to open earlier next year, therefore overlapping with the Oregon fair.

Oregon State Fair officials decided to go ahead and seek another carnival. A contract with Rainier Amusements was inked in September to play the 2016 fair.



Fiesta Shows provided the carnival midway for the 2015 Topsfield (Mass.) Fair, which ran Oct. 2-12. The carnival provided 47 rides including this Compact Spinning Coaster, manufactured by SBF/Visa. It was on display at the 2014 International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions Expo. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

FAIR ROUNDUP

Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson, Sept. 11-20

The 2015 Kansas State Fair wrapped up 10-days of Fried N' Joy, entertainment and fun September 20. The annual event brought large crowds to the Kansas State Fairgrounds.

Attendance numbers weren't available at press time, however, early indicators of a success were present. For example, 11,000 more grandstand tickets were sold prior to the fair compared to the 2014 at the same time. In addition, youth livestock entry numbers prior to this year's fair were up by more than nine percent over the same time as in 2014.

"What a fantastic fair this has been," said Lori Hart, interim general manager. "The success of this fair couldn't have been possible without the Kansas State Fair staff, volunteers and loyal fairgoers. As this year's fair comes to a close, I can't help but extend my gratitude to everyone who makes the Kansas State Fair such a worthwhile and meaningful event in the state."

Among the food offerings fairgoers found this year were: pumpkin spice funnel cake, double smoked bacon popcorn, Cap'n Crunch corn dogs, Oreo churros, chicken lollipops, deep-fried peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and jalapeno Twinkies.

The 2015 Kansas State Fair Museum celebrated the Year of the Ride honoring 100 years of the Ye Old Mill and the rich history of the midway rides at the fairgrounds.

Looking ahead, the theme for the 2016 Kansas State Fair Museum will be the Year of Commerce, highlighting commercial activity that has occurred over the last 103 years at the Kansas State Fair.

Highlights to this year's event included the Beard and Mustache Contest, with over 40 contestants for its debut at the fair. This event is expected to be back next year.

Also returning to the 2016 fair will be the Lego Bricks Building Contest, which was a friendly, yet rigid competition for families, teams and individuals to participate in building an original Lego structure reflecting the Kansas State Fair in only one hour.

Creations from this year's contest varied from the Next-Tech Wireless Grandstand to the Ye Old Mill and other attractions at the Fair.

North American Midway Entertainment provided the midway with approximately 40 rides.

Topsfield (Mass.) Fair, Oct. 2-12

This year's Topsfield Fair was one of the best, according to Dave Thomson, spokesperson for the fair.

Thomson didn't have the final numbers at AT press time, but said, "preliminary estimates will bring us in close to last year, which was 472,000."

Some of the highlights to this year's fair included the Giant Pumpkin contest, which brought in several huge pumpkins due to the dry growing conditions. The winner came in at just under one ton at 1,994.5 pounds.

"This is the second biggest pumpkin weighed in at the Topsfield Fair," Thomson said. "Our biggest was a record breaking (at the time) 2,009 pounds in 2012."

Weather wasn't completely cooperative, with some opening weekend rain and some cold temperatures, but weather was ideal for the last several days.

Fiesta Shows provided the midway with 47 rides including a new one, a Compact Spinning Coaster by SBF/Visa.

Other highlights included thrill shows, free musical entertainment, Dock Dogs and AXE Women Loggers of Maine.

Populous in the news

Grady County Fair celebrates two milestones



On August 17, 2015, Populous celebrated two milestones at the 100th opening of the historic Grady County Fair in Chickasha, Okla., with a ribbon cutting for the new Outdoor Event and Rodeo Arena (top) and the ground breaking of a new climate controlled indoor event arena (above). The new outdoor event arena boasts 1,300-seat covered grandstand and a new entry structure designed to blend with the historic 1930s art deco fairgrounds buildings. The new indoor event arena will allow the fairgrounds to host regional and national equestrian and livestock shows as well as family entertainment shows and expositions. Populous designed the master plan for the ambitious expansion of the fairgrounds and has followed through with the construction of the two new event arenas to be fully completed in 2016.

COURTESY POPULOUS

Populous conducts workshop for Brome Co.



Populous, fairgrounds master planners and architects, recently completed a master planning workshop for the Brome County Agricultural Society located in Brome, Quebec, Canada. The firm conducted its 22 category site analysis diagrams and developed two master plan options. The winning plan is shown in the group photo. Shown left to right: Tom Enright, fair steering committee, Bill Miller, president, Charlie Smith, senior principal/senior architect with Populous, Sophie Giroux, fair treasurer, Nelsha Fontaine, fair administration, and Gaylon Davis, board of directors. COURTESY POPULOUS

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The 2015 Big E draws over 1.3 million, sets two single day records



The 2015 Big E, West Springfield, Mass., drew 1,345,961 visitors when it ran Sept. 18-Oct. 4. There were also two single day attendance records set, even though attendance was down slightly from 2014. North American Midway Entertainment provided the midway with 48 rides.

AT/RON GUSTAFSON



WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The 2015 Big E drew 1,345,961 visitors and set two daily attendance records during its run Sept. 18-Oct. 4.

Record days were opening day, Sept. 18 with 73,213 visitors and Connecticut Day, Sept. 23, with 97,892 guests.

"I want to personally thank all of our guests who came out, sunshine or showers, to enjoy the 2015 Big E," said Eugene J. Cassidy, The Big E's president and CEO. "We graciously appreciate the support of the agriculture community, all six New England states and the extended fair family including thousands of volunteers who put The Big E on their agenda each year.

Highlights from this year's fair included the first ever Collector Car Experience. This was an inaugural event for this exhibit. It was hosted by Mike Brewer, of Wheeler Dealers, and Wayne Carini, of Chasing Classic Cars. The duo was backed by restoration specialists Rick and Kelly Dale, Tyler Dale and Brettly Otterman, of History Channel's American Restoration.

The North American Midway brought 48 rides for kids of all ages to this year's fair including the brand new Blitzler, manufactured by Pinfari.

The Turducken Sandwich, Garbage Bowl, several new pulled pork offerings, the Idaho Taco, Maple Bacon Fried Dough and the Choco Baco Frenzy led a long list of new foods this year.

The Big E Cream Puff, Éclair and Craz-E

Burger and Breakfast Sandwich held their popularity. The Deep Fried Martini debuted and a new Sangria Shack was added to the beverage offerings.

Other highlights included:

- The Big E Circus Spectacular;
- The Big E Mardi Gras and daily parades;
- The always popular Avenue of States and Storowton Village Museum, along with the Storowton Village Gazebo featuring Mitchell Showboat Marionettes;
- The New England Center's Creative Arts Showcase, which had more than 1,000 entries including 190 quilts (a new category) and other handcrafted treasures; and
- The ESE Horse Show, featuring Hunters, Jumpers and Hunt Seat Equitation.

The Big E debuted a new App, available for iPhone and Android devices. Over the course of the fair, it accrued more than 25,000 downloads.

This year, the social media outreach had 185,000 followers on Facebook, more than 9,000 on Twitter and 4,000 on Instagram, when the fair concluded.

The Big E will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year during its run set for Sept. 16-Oct. 2.

Catherine Pappas, communications manager, said they started planning for the big event earlier this year, but there were no announcements at this time about what those plans would be.

FAIR SPOTLIGHT: *Ed Connor, The Big E merchandise manager*

Ron Gustafson
Special to Amusement Today

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — "No two days are ever the same."

That's a quote heard many a time throughout the outdoor amusement industry, and, perhaps, no one knows that better than Ed (Edward) Connor, merchandise manager at The Big E, New England's Great State Fair.

For the past 26 years, Ed has strolled through the massive fairgrounds here, tending to retail booths that sell a variety of logoed fair merchandise as well as other novelty items.

And at age 76, Ed keeps pace with much of the younger generation during the fair's 18-day run.

"Actually, the best part is that I only have to work two or three months a year and then I'm off to Florida for the winter," he said of his current position. "And being here helps me stay in touch with the many people and suppliers I have met in my 50-plus years in the amusement industry."

The Agawam, Mass., resident is no stranger in his hometown either, as he was director of games and merchandise at the former Riverside Park, now Six Flags New England.

It was at Riverside, then owned by the Carroll family, where he acquired a nickname "the snake."

"My employees never knew where I would be coming from, and before they knew it, I would be standing in front of their location and watching everything that was happening," Ed said of the moniker he acquired in his 25 years at the property.

Yet, it was all in good fun as "my employees knew if they needed help in any situation I would be close by," he added.

Role At The Big E

With The Big E preparing for its centennial in 2016, it's been a busy year for Ed at the fair.

"We introduced our new line of anniversary items as a preview for next year to see what items would sell the best," he explained. "We sold



Ed Connor, The Big E's merchandise manager showcases some of the many gift items on display during this year's fair. This is Ed's 26th year working at the fair.

AT/RON GUSTAFSON

more than I had anticipated after less than a week and I had to reorder the anniversary items."

The fair also added a Made In America store this year, which was a huge success, according to Connor.

He's the first to admit the industry — as a whole — has changed for the better over the years.

"Rides are getting bigger, faster and safer," he said of the changes. "Computers are continuing to improve in all

areas of our business."

During his spare time he enjoys visiting with his grandchildren, playing golf and relaxing in Florida.

As for those entering the outdoor amusement industry, Ed has some practical advice: "If you make it fun going to work, it will be the best experience you will ever have."

Hall Of Fame

Ed's dedication to the industry he has loved for more than a half century

was underscored in 2006 when he was inducted into the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) Hall of Fame. Longtime industry friends John Frantzis, Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury, Conn., and Tom Morrow, Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H., went into the prestigious hall that same evening during NEAAPA's annual gala event.

"It is quite an honor to be recognized by your peers for doing the things you enjoy doing," he said of the milestone. Ed served as NEAAPA president from 1981-82.

Ed and John Frantzis still see each other on occasion and reminisce about the days when most New England parks were family-owned.

Nearly every year Ed helps man the NEAAPA booth on the massive show floor at the IAAPA Attractions Expo. More than 28,000 persons are expected to attend this year's trade show.

"It's great working the booth just to see friends that I have met over the years," he said of the expo.

First new Chance Zipper in 15 years opens for Skinners

AT: Pam Sherborne
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WICHITA, Kan. — For the first time in 15 years, a brand new Chance Zipper is on a midway.

Skinners' Amusements took delivery of the new Zipper on June 5 and, according to Jeff Miller, sales, carnival market, for Chance, who was on hand to see it open, the response was great.

"Everything went very well," Miller said. "This is Phase I of the re-introduction of the Zipper. The whole lighting package is different from the older models. This new one comes with a fully programmable LED package."

Phase II will entail the redevelopment of the gondola.

"We are working on making an open car," Miller said. "We hope to have a model ready for IAAPA (International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions) this year."

Phase III, set to be ready in about a year, will feature a modernized drive system.

Other than the lighting package of the Skinners' Zipper, however, everything is the same as the other models still seen in abundance on midway across the country. It features a vertical spinning and turning motion. The maximum height of the ride is 56 feet.

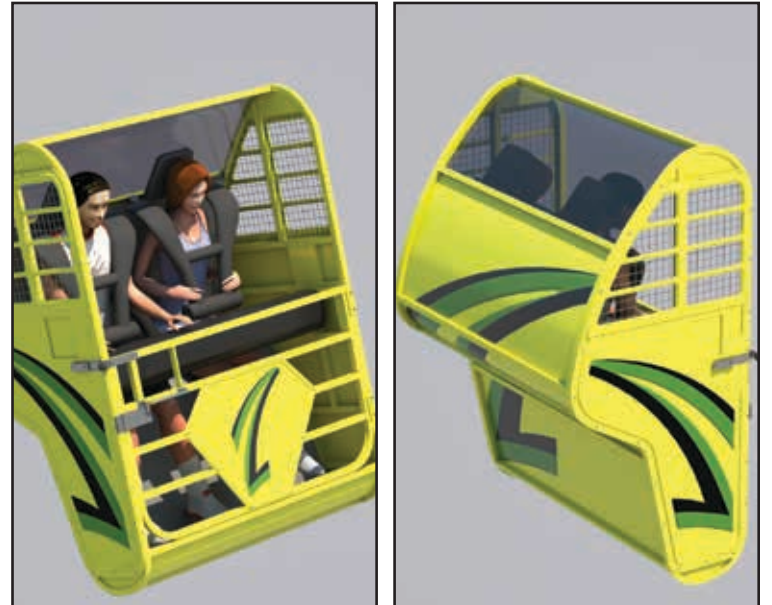
The segmented cable system dramatically decreases maintenance time and wheel wear. There is an electric cable drive with soft start and programmed ride cycles.

The powered hydraulic leveling jacks simplify setup and it transports easily on a single trailer.

Miller said even though it has been 15 years since Chance has manufactured a new Zipper, the ride is still a staple on the midway.

Production of the Zipper was decreased at Chance when the company shifted a focus to more park production.

"But, we had a customer who had to have one," Miller said, speaking of the Skinners. "It is probably one of those things that wouldn't have happened if not for this customer. We are thankful for the Skinners to bring it back."



This is the latest from Chance Rides, the new open-seat Zipper. Jeff Miller, sales manager of the North American carnival market for Chance, said the open seats have created a whole new thrill in ride experience. The company also is offering a kit to customers who want to have their existing Zipper fitted with the new gondolas. COURTESY CHANCE RIDES

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CARNIVAL LIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne
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The **Nebraska State Fair**, Grand Island, was the recipient of the Zero Waste Award from WasteCap Nebraska at a ceremony held in Lincoln, Neb., last month.

"The award recognizes an entity that has made significant strides to reduce inputs, reduce waste, recycle and/or reuse by products," said State Fair Facilities Director **Jaime Parr**, during the announcement. "Zero Waste" is having a landfill diversion rate of at least 90 percent. That means keeping waste product out of the landfill to reduce our footprint."

To further aid in the fair's recycling efforts, in July, fair officials earned a Recycling Equipment Grant from the Nebraska State Recycling Association through funds provided by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The grant for \$8,528 and additional funds supplied by Casey's General Stores and the Nebraska State Fair 1868 Foundation allowed the purchase of 12, four-yard recycling containers.

These containers were used inside the food pods to help concessionaires sort waste between the landfill and recyclable waste containers.

Some of the fair's recycling numbers included: 7.87 tons of cardboard, 3.03 tons of plastic, 1,428 pounds of aluminum cans, and 900 gallons of used fryer oil.

Fair officials plan to step it up even more in those sustainable efforts in 2016 when the fair runs August 26 – September 5.

When it comes to trash and recycling at **The Big E**, West Springfield, Mass., numbers are up there as well. That fair will recycle about 650 tons of trash this year. Fairgrounds employees placed 500 trash barrels, 160 bottle and can barrels and 60 organic barrels. There were also large dumpsters for recyclable materials and trash as well as hefty compactors for cardboard and organic waste.

Throughout the day during the fair, **Eastern States Exposition** grounds keeper **Gary Smith** and a crew of approximately 40 people are at work. They started at 6 a.m. and work in staggered shifts monitoring receptacles until 10 p.m. Once the grounds are empty, Waste Management's front-end loaders and big trucks come in to take away refuse to local transfer facilities.

The **Oregon State Fair**, Salem, has brought on a new Portland contractor to provide carnival operations beginning next year.

The local *Statesman Journal* reported that officials announced the state fair had severed its nearly four-decades-old partnership with **Funtastic Shows** and signed a new deal with **Rainier Amusements**, which launched in 2014.

Officials had pursued a new deal because of a scheduling conflict with Funtastic, which also provides carnival operations for the **Washington State Fair**. Officials of the Washington State Fair voted to extend the number of days, causing a scheduling conflict for Funtastic.

Plans for Rainier Amusement's debut at next year's state fair haven't been detailed, but several new rides are expected to be introduced. The 2016 state fair is scheduled to begin August 26.

The **Ionian (Mich.) Free Fair** officially announced last month that **Becca Usher** is the new fair manager for the organization.

Usher most recently served as the vice president of the **Ionian Free Fair Association** board of directors and has been on the board since 2012. She has also been marketing director for the fair during that time. She resigned her former titles after accepting the new job, but will remain on the board.

Usher will replace **Beverly Clark**, who has served as fair manager since 2007. Clark will continue to sit on the Ionian Free Fair board of directors.

"Bev and I have worked together for the last few years. I'm been her 'understudy' and she has done a great job preparing me to take over the fair's operations," Usher said.

Usher added that she will continue to consult Clark during the job transition.

The **Arkansas Livestock Show Association**, in partnership with the Arkansas Cancer Coalition, approved a policy on April 4, 2015, to make the **Arkansas State Fair and Fairground Complex** tobacco free. That policy went into effect with this year's event, which ran October 9-18 at the fairgrounds in Little Rock, Ark.

The use of any tobacco and nicotine products, including electronic cigarettes by any staff, volunteers, visitors, vendors and exhibitors is strictly prohibited in all fair indoor facilities and within 20 feet of all indoor facilities. Facilities covered by the new policy include all indoor administrative offices, facilities that house livestock and other animals, as well as entertainment facilities and exhibit halls.

Violation of the policy will result in a warning, and anyone who refuses to abide by the policy will be asked to exit the building immediately. Fairgoers will be made aware of the new policy with new signs that are posted at building entrances.

The **Rowan County Fair**, Salisbury, N.C., was supposed to be open for nine days starting Sept. 25, but Fair Manager **Johnny Love** said, "We were open for more like nine hours." Attendance was about a tenth of the 25,000 visitors predicted.

Rain dampened the fairgrounds every day. Five inches of rain fell the final weekend of the fair.

It was a huge loss for the fair association, including some of the \$20,000 worth of entertainment that had been booked. Some of the entertainment could be canceled; others had to be paid. And, there was about \$5,000 give out during the livestock competition that was held.

So, they came up with a plan to try to recoup some of the cost by holding a second fair, **Rowan County Fair 2: Let the Sunshine Roll**, November 5-8. Money to hold the second fair is coming from money set aside for the 2016 event.

B&K Amusements, the company that provides carnival rides at the annual Faith Fourth of July in the city, is expected to bring two units with about 20 rides to the event.

Officials also reached out to vendors and concessionaires during October.



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25 decades since the first York Fair

Americas first fair started by William Penn's son, Thomas Penn

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bderekshaw@amusementtoday.com

YORK, Pa. — During the past 250 years, the York Fair has experienced a tremendous amount of change — so has our country.

This annual tradition was granted to the citizens of York, Pennsylvania in 1765 by Thomas Penn, son of William Penn, founder of what is now known as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The fair was a celebration of the harvest. Actually a charter was issued for two yearly fairs for “commercial endeavors.” Even back then, this two-day agricultural market was considered “the liveliest days of the whole year.”

Originally situated in what is now Penn Commons (near present-day William Penn High School in downtown York), troops involved in the War of 1812 camped on the grounds when they were passing through the area. In 1856, the newly formed York County Agricultural Society moved the three day fairgrounds event to a seven acre site on East King Street also in York city. After enjoying increased success for 32 years, the third and current site, a 73.25-acre parcel was purchased in 1887 for \$29,000, or \$400 per acre, west of downtown York. The fairgrounds, now 86.5-acres, is bordered by West Market Street, Highland Avenue, Bannister Street and Carlisle Avenue, giving it a suburban feel.

Between 1861 and 1864 injured Union Soldiers were placed in temporary hospitals set up on the fairgrounds site. This “makeshift” hospi-



Thomas Penn is considered the father of the York Fair. COURTESY YORK FAIR

tal, known as Camp Scott, was the result of the firing on Fort Sumter, Antietam and other Civil War battles. Confederate soldiers camped on the site during their 1863 occupation of York. In the 20th century, an influenza epidemic that killed 166 people also closed the event in 1918. Ten years later night operation began. The fair did

remain open during World War II, when many other fairs across the country were closed. It was also in operation on September 11, 2001. The York Fair remained open then as directors felt the fair was a showcase and celebration of American culture that had been attacked without cause.

Rides first appeared as early as 1889 with a steam powered carousel, followed a year later by balloon ascensions. A Prescott Loop the Loop wooden roller coaster was on site for at least the 1904 season. James E. Strates Shows had the ride contract for multiple decades, with a three year stint in the middle of Strates era by the now defunct Endy Brothers Midway. Even in the late 1960's Strates rides were delivered using their trademark approach, via railroad car. A track siding on the fairgrounds is where they off loaded the amusement cargo. Reithoffer Shows ran the ride midway for 30 years, 1980–

► See 250 YEARS, page 61



Even Amusement Today was part of the 250th York Fair. In the “York Fair Through the Years” exhibit, an article about wooden loop roller coasters found on fairgrounds at the turn of the last century was in one of the display cases in the 22,000 square foot exhibit. The York Fair had a Prescott Loop in 1904. A real photo postcard provided the photographic evidence. The article originally ran in the April, 2013 issue. AT/B.D. SHAW



Taking a break from the action to get caught up on AT news (l to r), George Moffett, president and Todd Bolton, entertainment consultant/concert producer with Variety Attractions Entertainment Booking Agency, Zanesville, Ohio. They were in York for the 250th fair. Acts they brought in for the fair grandstand included: Alabama; Brantley Gilbert with A Thousand Horses; John Kaye & Steppenwolf and Foghat; Cole Swindell; TNA Wrestling and Andy Grammer with American Authors. AT/B.D. SHAW

York Fair sees 11 percent gain in attendance, good weather

AT: B. Derek Shaw

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YORK, Pa. — The 10 day York Fair, that started the Friday after Labor Day, drew 574,865 visitors to the 86.5-acre site. In 2014, attendance was 518,641. “We were blessed with near-perfect weather,” said General Manager Mike Froehlich. “While we had to deal with rain on the first Saturday, the other nine days blessed us with comfortable temperatures and fall-like evenings. Without rain we very well could have ended this year’s 250th Celebration of the York Fair in record breaking territory. It was a great way to celebrate a community tradition that goes back 250 years.”

The more than nine thousand seat grandstand entertainment included sell-out shows for Brantley Gilbert

with A Thousand Horses and Alabama who was making their 24th appearance as part of 250th anniversary celebration. Other acts were: John Kaye & Steppenwolf and Foghat; Cole Swindell; TNA Wrestling and Andy Grammer with American Authors as the opening act. Add to that schedule two mornings of harness racing, along with the annual high school Bands on Parade; 250th Celebration Parade and 250th Closing Ceremony and fireworks rounded out grandstand offerings.

In celebration of 250 years since the first one in 1765, a York Fair “Through the Years” exhibit in Memorial Hall East (approximately 29,000 square feet) was open for fairgoers to see, learn and reminisce. Froehlich explained what the exhibit contained, “This exhibit included a 90 foot long York Fair timeline from 1765 to the present, fair memorabilia that included photos, programs, postcards,

fair related antiques, butter sculpture, movie theatre where a PowerPoint/video about the history of the York Fair and the history of entertainment at the York Fair ran continuous during operating hours of the fair.”

The underlying theme of this year’s fair (in addition to the special anniversary) was youth development. “We wanted to showcase our youth and their accomplishment at every opportunity”, said Froehlich. He continued, “Our Fair Queen, the Queen’s Court (runner ups), 4-H and FFA Special Award recipients were at the forefront of all special 250th Celebration programs for this year’s fair.”

Deggeller Attractions out of Stuart, Florida, was again the midway ride operator for the fifth consecutive year, bringing in 52 rides. Routing was simple and tim-

► See YORK FAIR, page 61



Near perfect weather helped the 250th York Fair to a 11 percent attendance increase over last season. All total 574,865 visitors came out to fair. Deggeller Attractions provided the midway with 52 rides. New on the midway this year was a Dartron Cliff Hanger and a Dalton Farm Animals ride.

AT/B.D. SHAW

►YORK FAIR

Continued from page 60

ing was perfect as they finished playing the Maryland State Fair three days earlier on Labor Day and were only 41 miles from point to point. In fact they preset a few rides while the Maryland State Fair was in progress, including Riptide, the Pinfari roller coaster. "We had a crew drive up every day. That was a good thing," said Cathy Deggeller, co-owner. New to the spot this year was the Dartron Cliff Hanger and Dalton Farm Animals.

When asked about how they did at the York Fair, Deggeller replied, "For the 250th anniversary I'd say it was a success. It was a record breaker, that's for sure. We had the highest ride gross since we started coming." Cathy continued with comments on load-in and load-out and the overall ride midway design, "We like the layout and everything else. The ease of getting in and out is good."

The only issue Deggeller is wrestling with in York is how to increase ride midway participation by concert goers. This year they offered a low price arm band for rides after each concert let out. Response was only fair. Unfortunately the offer was sold after the concert goer had purchased their tickets. "The ride band has to be sold at the same time concert tickets are sold, in advance not spontaneously," explained Deggeller. They are talking with the York Fair staff about this special midway pricing option to be offered at concert ticket point-of-sale. "For an additional x amount you can add a ride

band to your purchase," is the type of dialog Deggeller would like to see happen when concert goers purchase their seats.

AT asked what makes the York Fair unique. Froehlich replied, "For any fair to be successful it must reflect the culture and heritage of its communities. If this is accomplished, no two fairs are alike and thus unique unto themselves." He also had his take on why folks keep coming back, "Fairs are traditional opportunities for families and friends to gather together, have fun and make new memories each year."

When asked about plans for next year and down the road, GM Froehlich responded, "We are working on developing a Junior Fair Ambassador program to get more youth involved in helping to spread the good news about the York Fair. Regarding future plans we always are fine tuning things. Change is inevitable and is a tremendous catalyst to move organizations forward. So stay tuned..."

The dates for the 2016 York Fair are September 9-18.

After York, the carnival operator played the State Fair of Virginia in Doswell and left early at the order of the Governor. State Police were needed elsewhere, due to the threat of heavy rains and severe weather that was climbing up the East Coast. Deggeller started tearing down at 7:00 pm Thursday, October 1st, three full days before the normal Sunday closing, which was supposed to be on the 4th this year. The foul weather got them into Little Rock, Ark., their next spot, on the early side.



Russell Redding, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture and Thomas Penn (actually re-enactor, "Mister Ed" Gotwalt). AT/B. DEREK SHAW

►250 YEARS Continued from page 60

2010. Deggeller Attractions is the current midway operator, a spot they have held the past five fairs.

1926 saw the debut of the grandstand along with an expanded, five day operation. The first all-weather building, Memorial Hall opened in 1955. Today there are six buildings on the grounds, including the 114,000 square foot UTZ Arena, housing livestock events during the fair and everything else during the year. In 1975, the fair expanded once again to a nine-day operation, over two weekends. The 2008, York Fair saw the first nightly harness racing offered to fairgoers. At least three U.S. presidents have visited: Teddy Roosevelt (in office), John F. Kennedy (while campaigning for office) and George W. Bush for a non-fair political rally. Most national acts have played the York Fair, including a 23 year Grandstand appearance by Alabama. They made their 24th return engagement this year, after a short absence.

The most recent expansion of operating days occurred in 1997 – from nine to 10 days. The York Fair always opens the Friday after Labor Day through Sunday of the second operating weekend. In 1876 admission was 25 cents and \$1.00 per carriage. This year general admission was \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 6-11. It is free for younger fairgoers. Vehicle parking is \$7.00.

The entire 86.5-acre complex was renamed the York Expo Center early this century to more properly reflect the 200-plus events and activities that occur on the property throughout the year. National, regional and local events are held at

Dick Knoebel visits York Fair



The last time Dick Knoebel was at the York Fair was 1954. A lot has changed since then. He made it a point to attend the 250th edition as a guest of York Fair Press Office Manager and AT staff writer, B. Derek Shaw. His tour took him all over the 86.5-acre fairgrounds including a visit to the UTZ Livestock arena with Building Superintendent Roger Bankert. Next up Knoebel was interviewed for the Central Pennsylvania CBS affiliate, WHP-TV. Dick told station viewers, "I think the midway is a very first class operation. The rides all look immaculate and the lights all work and I know it's going to be a great show for the York Fair this week. I'm impressed." Dick spent time with the York Fair general manager, being given a special 250th anniversary pin. Above, clockwise: Knoebel; Jeannie Reedy, Knoebels office manager; Brenda Froehlich, wife of General Manager Mike Froehlich. Below, rounding out the day was a visit to Don Deggeller, owner of Deggeller Attractions, the ride midway operator. Twenty years ago, Dick bought Deggeller's Giant Wheel. It is the largest Ferris Wheel operating in Pennsylvania. All told, Dick spent seven hours visiting America's First Fair. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



various venues on the grounds. Some include: the Street Rods National East convention, Train Collectors of America show, Keystone State Games, Celtic Classic Dog Show and numerous sizeable regional volleyball and wrestling tournaments.

According to the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs, there are 109 fairs held annually, ranging from a few day event to 10 or more days. Collectively, six million people attend them annually, including the annual Farm Show in Harrisburg each January.

When asked what makes the York Fair unique, past York County Agricultural Society

Board President Gene Schenck responded, "It's still the best place to see friends face-to-face. You can smell, hear and taste things that you can't find any other place, at any other time. The smell of livestock manure and the sound of an auction are things you won't experience at the mall."

From a small annual two-day celebration of the harvest to a 10 day smorgasbord of agriculture, food contests, craft exhibits, games, ride midways and loads of entertainment, the York Fair continues the long standing tradition. America's First Fair is one of America's best fairs.

Washington State Fair has a solid year

AT: Tim Baldwin
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PUYALLUP, Wash. — Good weather once again helped folks “Do the Puyallup” for a fantastic fair. The Washington State Fair ran from September 11–27 and it seemed to be a solid success for the annual event. The theme this year was “Party Big Washington.” The sasquatch-like fair mascot even shares that name — Big Washington.

During a visit nearing the halfway point of the Fair, *Amusement Today* met up with Karen LaFlamme, public relations for the Washington State Fair. While she stated that the Fair doesn’t actually release attendance figures, at that time they were on track to see just above the one million mark in attendance. After the close of the fair, she reported back to *AT* that the fair did indeed greet in excess of one million guests during the 17-day run.

Star Trek: The Exhibition was one of the fair’s key exhibits to promote this year. LaFlamme reports it was a million dollar exhibit. “It contains props, artifacts and costumes dating back to the TV shows plus the movies,” she said. “It’s a fascinating exhibit.” Fairgoers paid a small upcharge for this experience.

Also available was Sweet! A Tasty Journey. This was a free exhibit to all visitors to the fair and covered not only the history of how candy was made, but showcased old packaging and jingles and other trivia.

For those 21 and older, the fair offered Beer Haven. “It is basically a taproom on wheels,” said LaFlamme. “It has 60 taps and offers a variety of craft beers from around the country.” Those eager to participate could buy the interesting package that allowed adults to purchase 30 ounces of beer for \$20. Ingeniously, one could try just a few ounces of one beer and a few ounces of another, while the special setup kept track to make sure each fairgoer got what they paid for. *AT* asked if this particular feature of the fair might continue in the future. “Beer Haven will probably stay for years to come,” said LaFlamme.

Another new area to the fair is Timber Gulch. It resembles an old Western town in Washington where comedy cowboy shoot outs take place, and hands-on activities for kids such as churning butter and shaving wood are available. The fair finds this area special as it helps visitors to relate to times past before technology has seemed to have taken over much of people’s lives. An expansion of this area in the future is expected.

Ron Burback, Sr. of Funtastic Rides explained the long relationship between the fair in Puyallup and Funtastic Rides. “With the name changes, our operation goes back to 1935 when my partner’s (Bob Bollinger) father helped build the roller coaster,” he said. Burback remembers attending his first fair back in 1948. When asked to compare the Washington State Fair to some of the other annual stops, Burback laughed, “It’s the 900 pound gorilla! That’s the only way to put it; it’s one of the major fairs in America.”

Puyallup offers a unique circumstance where the fair co-owns a handful of permanent rides on the midway along with Fun-

tastic. With a shared profit arrangement, it’s a win-win for both the Washington State Fair and Funtastic Rides. Burback says the biggest draws on the midway are Classic Coaster, the giant slide, the S&S Space Shot tower, and the Wildcat (Schwarzkopf coaster), depending on the particular day. Funtastic operated a total of 72 rides and 72 games.

John Hinde was the project manager of the multi-year restoration of the wooden Classic Coaster. During several decades of experience in the amusement industry, he has worked on projects literally around the globe. His demeanor reflected a fondness for the wooden coaster. “It’s such an icon in this area,” he said. “During the reconstruction time, I had so many visitors stop in the parking lot and just want to talk about their experiences throughout all the years. Some of the old operators from even the 40s and 50s would stop by.” Hinde also said, “I think of the city of Puyallup being so involved with the fair, (the restoration) is something they did for the city. It’s something everyone is proud to have here. I don’t think anyone wanted it to leave.” If lines of people are any indication, Hinde is spot on. This tremendous act of preservation is noted with awards and historic signage throughout the queueing area, letting people learn a bit of the ride’s (and fair’s) history as they await to ride the aptly named Classic Coaster. The biggest hurdles during the rebuild was the weather, be it rain or the winter, according to Hinde. “But it wasn’t anything we couldn’t get around.” He also said the trains are holding up well.

“The people love it!” added LaFlamme. “It is faster. It is nice and tight and moves right along.”

Celebrity acts offered a heavy lineup of entertainment this year. The top three ticketed concerts for 2015 were Keith Urban, Heart and Duran Duran.

Some specific figures following the close of the fair are as follows:

- The opening day food drive brought in 290,000 pounds of food for the Puyallup Food Bank, which was a one-day record. Guests arriving before noon with a non-perishable food donation received free admission.

- 46,665 passengers boarded the Pierce Transit “Fair Express” bus. Transportation to and from the Fair was available from three locations.

- The 1,621 pound pumpkin was the heaviest ever in the fair’s giant pumpkin contest.

- 5,769 kids took advantage of the BECU Free Kids’ Weekend on opening weekend.

While the Washington State Fair has run for 17 days for decades, that is soon to change. “Starting next year,” says LaFlamme, “we are going to open Labor Day weekend and run for four weekends (instead of three), and take Tuesdays off.” LaFlamme confirmed to *AT* that Tuesdays were considered one of the slower days and that would give the operators and fair staff a day off each week. With this change, the fair calendar will go from 17 operational days to 21.



Continuing a tradition that dates back to 1935, Ron Burback, Sr. of Funtastic Rides operates all the midway rides (including the permanent fair owned rides) at the Washington State Fair. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Beer Haven was a new feature at the fair this year. It offered guests 60 different flavors of beer on tap. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Above, Classic Coaster has seen new life after a multi-phase rebuild process led by project manager John Hinde (left). AT/TIM BALDWIN

IAFE to move convention to San Antonio after 40 years in Vegas

AT: Pam Sherborne
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SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Officials at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) signed a contract with the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas, to host the 2018 association's annual convention.

Associations often move the annual conventions. Some more often than not.

This year's IAFE annual event will mark its 38th year in Las Vegas. The 2016 event will be the association's 39th year, and 2017 will mark its 40th year in the same location.

"The contract the IAFE has with The Paris and Bally's Hotels in Las Vegas will end in 2017," said Marla Calico, IAFE chief operating officer. "The association has regularly surveyed members and had frequent, and increasing, feedback to move the convention to a different location.

"We asked several cities in the U.S. to host the convention and 11 cities (or properties) responded," she said. "Then, the IAFE board of directors authorized the staff to conduct a thorough review and solicit final proposals. The goals in securing the new location focused on final costs to the association, which would keep the registration and trade show pricing at affordable levels while providing the required space, services and amenities necessary for the best delegate and exhibitor experience.

"The proposals were also evaluated on the aspects of access to flights, weather and the availability of quality restaurants, attractions and experiences for non-convention activities," she said.

Calico said IAFE officials feel there will be many benefits by going to San Antonio in 2018, including the opportunity to create fresh and innovative programming for the event.

Another key benefit will be the proximity to the home base of so many of the IAFE members, the majority of which come from the midwest. There was significant response in member surveys conducted last year that was positive toward a convention location more in the central part of the U.S., especially from members currently not attending the convention.

The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center will be the

center of activity for the 2018 convention. The trade show will be on the ground floor and directly above will be educational sessions, informal networking areas and meal functions.

The general sessions will take place in the Lila Cockrell Theatre, also located in the convention center. The convention will be in the new section of the center, opening in 2016.

"Our convention delegates will have eight hotels from which to choose for their lodging," Calico said. "The facilities have a range of amenities and price points designed to fit the diverse needs of our group. All but one are located within a walking distance that is shorter than that of our current convention location if you were to walk from the Paris Hotel guest room elevator access to the Bal-

ly's Event Center."

The hotels will include: Marriott Rivercenter, Marriott Riverwalk, Grand Hyatt, Hilton Palacio Del Rio, Courtyard by Marriott on Riverwalk, Residence Inn – Alamo Plaza, La Quinta Inn & Suites, Riverwalk, and the Historic Menger Hotel.

The convention is scheduled to be in San Antonio for two years: November 25-28, 2018 and December 1-4, 2019.

At its April 2015 meeting, the IAFE board of directors authorized the staff to begin the process of soliciting invitations and proposals from properties across the United States for the 2020 and 2021 conventions. That process will begin in first quarter, 2016. The first step will be the call for invitations.

"So, we do not at this time know which cities or properties will respond," Calico said.



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California parks boost conservation in state's severe drought

AT: Dean Lamanna
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PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — This resort city became a media flashpoint earlier this year when aerial images of lush lawns and golf courses abutting desert expanses were used to illustrate Southern California's burgeoning thirst amid its naturally arid environment.

Indeed, the Golden State is experiencing one of its worst prolonged droughts on record. Yet while the visual contrast was easy for a news photographer to capture and the public to grasp, the problem is far more complicated than forcing grass to grow in places where rocks and rattlesnakes normally rule — involving not just the state's swelling population, but the vast water needs of the agricultural sector and the vagaries of the southwestern U.S. climate.

The good news is that most of California's residents and businesses, motivated by necessity and government mandates after nearly five

years of parching weather, are conserving — reducing consumption up to 25 percent or more in many places. And amusement parks, most of which have had cost-reducing water recycling and conservation programs in place for years as part of their business models, are finding new ways to lead by example.

Wet 'n' Wild Palm Springs is one fun spot that has been proactive.

The park has assigned several of its employees to be "water watchers" who educate the rest of the staff about conservation and look for water waste around the property, whether in the form of leaky waterslide equipment or dripping irrigation lines and faucets. It has also met with officials of the local water utility to make sure the park, beyond filtering and recirculating water in recreational use, is doing its part.

"We have made major adjustments to our landscape watering schedule," said David Andrews, Jr., general manager. "We've also changed a few of our landscapes to be



To save water, the dolphin sculptures in the main plaza fountain at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, Calif., have been left high and dry since early this year. The park also is landscaping with mulch and drought-resistant plants to conserve. COURTESY SIX FLAGS DISCOVERY KINGDOM

more drought-tolerant and plan to further that effort. In addition, our removal of misters around the park has resulted in a significant amount of water saved."

Adjusting irrigation systems, turning off water features, installing flushless restroom urinals and targeting areas of sod for replacement with desert theming are helping **Castle Park** in Riverside

meet the city's water-consumption reduction mandate. But such decisions can be difficult in a business founded on creating oases of relaxation and escape.

"It's a delicate balance," said Justin White, general manager. "We sometimes get complaints when we turn off fountains. You have guest perception versus what you're trying to save."

The current El Niño weather pattern in the Pacific Ocean, said to be the strongest since an identical phenomenon brought heavy rain and flooding to the state in 1997, may alleviate the drought to some degree. But climatologists and state officials have said it could take several years of wet winters to replenish reservoirs and the critical Sierra Nevada snowpack, which hit a 500-year low in 2015.

Through research and direct inquiry, *Amusement Today* learned what several parks up and down the state have been doing to confront the crisis.

Bay Area H2Obligations

While integrating several sustainable measures, **California's Great America** in Santa Clara described its traditional effort to be a "good partner" with its community in smart water usage.

"We recycle water and maintain a closed loop system with our own retention pond that is used for irrigation," said Roger Ross, communi-

► See DROUGHT, page 65

Ride Entertainment Group to represent Metallbau-Emmeln

STEVENSVILLE, Md. — Ride Entertainment has begun representing Metallbau-Emmeln GmbH of Germany. The company, which fabricates amusement rides, controlled-entry systems and shipping containers, has been in business nearly 40 years.

"We are excited to partner with Metallbau and represent their product in North America," said Adam Sandy, Ride Entertainment's chief Business Development officer. "They offer many family-based attractions and this was the type of ride we did not have in our portfolio. We are excited to bring the product to clients throughout North America. Metallbau's attractions can currently be found at Six Flags properties, Darien Lake, and

Legoland Florida, and we are looking to expand that significantly."

Metallbau-Emmeln features traditional amusement rides like swinging ships and guided-car rides, but also ride concepts not found in many U.S. parks like the Pony Trek. This family ride allows children to have their own adventure riding a mechanical horse around a pre-determined course.

Metallbau's Managing Director Franz Lohmann said, "We have known Ride Entertainment for a long time and are pleased to work together. Partnering with Ride Entertainment as a representative for North America will allow us to introduce our amusement rides to parks, along with our philoso-

phy of building quality German rides that can be enjoyed by children and their parents. Before partnering with Ride Entertainment a small number of North American parks have purchased our rides. We trust that the partnership of Ride Entertainment and Metallbau-Emmeln will be a successful one that will result in amusement parks in North America getting to know our products, which provide fun to children and their parents in parks all over the world."

North American customers interested in learning more about the Metallbau-Emmeln line can visit Ride Entertainment at the IAAPA Exhibition, booth 3427.

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►DROUGHT

Continued from page 64

cations manager. "We have installed low-flow urinals in restrooms throughout the park, and we've already had low-flush toilets.

"Great America has reduced both domestic water usage and reclaimed water usage every year since 2012. We are a participating member of San Jose's South Bay water recycling program, and it is our intention to further reduce our water usage."

In Vallejo, smart water management and recycling at **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom** — a combined oceanarium and theme park — has always been key. But it has become even more so in recent years.

"We've made great strides in updating our facility and overall water usage is much more efficient," said Don McCoy, park president. "We invested in extensive upgrades to our irrigation system — having installed the latest technology in controllers that adjust for barometric and moisture conditions through Internet connections.

"We have also replaced

and updated all of our life support systems for our marine mammal facilities... and installed shade coverings to help reduce evaporation over the animals' pools. Wash downs have been reduced significantly and now are performed only in targeted areas when necessary."

Reducing use in Greater L.A.

According to the public affairs website for the **Disneyland Resort** in Anaheim, since 2008, nearly all of the water used in the massive water features at the two-park property is recycled.

Working in partnership with the Orange County Water District, the resort diverts water occasionally drained from such features away from storm drains and into the district's innovative Groundwater Replenishment System — which combines an advanced purification process with the natural filtration of the region's underlying aquifer to turn highly treated wastewater into potable reuse.

"We wanted to take advantage of the possibility of recycling all of our water," said Frank Dela Vara, the re-

sort's director of environmental affairs, "so we embarked on a multiyear project that put the infrastructure in place to allow it to happen."

Along with irrigation weather sensors, rigorous systems maintenance and the use of low-flow plumbing fixtures in its service areas and hotels, the Disneyland Resort invests heavily in drought-tolerant plants and has installed acres of porous, runoff-reducing asphalt in its parking areas to filter and drain rainwater into the ground.

Knott's Berry Farm in neighboring Buena Park, like Disney, got an early jump on the current water crisis. Since 2009, it has taken steps that have decreased its total water consumption by 35 percent.

"We're upgrading our restrooms with waterless urinals, which will result in the conservation of more than five million gallons of water annually," said Leidy Arevalo, publicist. "We also use pressure washers for cleaning walkways, which requires 66 percent less water than hosing down."

Arevalo added that the adjacent **Knott's Soak City** utilizes a closed loop system

that reuses nearly 98 percent of the water park's water. "The system is constantly tested and treated in a safe manner, just like an aquatic swimming pool. When the water park's season is over, its water is recycled and used in select bodies of water throughout Knott's Berry Farm."

In the San Fernando Valley, **Universal Studios Hollywood** has adopted the corporate conservation policy and sustainable practices applied throughout the NBCUniversal lot, of which it is an extension.

"As part of our ongoing 'Green is Universal' sustainability initiative, we continue to educate employees about water conservation," a park spokesperson told AT. "Now, more than ever, we are focused on existing and new water conservation measures — which include using recycled water across the property for land irrigation, landscaping with drought-tolerant plants, and transitioning to all low-flow and waterless facilities."

Saving water in San Diego

At the southernmost end

of the state, **SeaWorld San Diego** has been augmenting conservation measures it has had in place for seven years. In addition to the drought-resistant plants and low-flow fixtures seen at other parks, SeaWorld is using moisture-retaining mulch in its container plantings and has replaced several thousand square feet of lawn with artificial turf.

"We've set our irrigation budgets at about 70 percent of the 30-year historical average," said David Koontz, communications director, noting that only 15 percent of the water used in the park is freshwater, and only 16 percent of that is used for landscaping. "The 1.3 billion gallons of water in our animal pools is saltwater drawn from Mission Bay — cleaned and filtered."

Last year, SeaWorld purchased two ride-on scrubbers to use in lieu of hoses to clean pathways. And this past April it completed converting a restroom near Shamu Stadium to saltwater flush toilets. The anticipated annual amounts of water saved with these two moves are impressive: five million gallons and 1.3 million gallons, respectively.

Skyline Attractions introduces new Crazy Couch

ORLANDO, Fla. — Another year means another new product from Skyline Attractions. The company has announced a new kids' ride, lending its quality American design and manufacturing expertise to a market desperately in need of something new.

"We've been hearing from operators how rare it is to find something new and reliable for kids that is American-made and supported," the Skyline team said. Accepting that challenge, Skyline applied its clever design techniques to achieve fun new motions unique to the industry in a simple and easy-to-maintain package.



During the 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo, Skyline Attractions was debuting this new Crazy Couch ride. COURTESY SKYLINE

The result: Kids and adults down in the zany experience tilt side-to-side and up-and-

Interest has been crazy big, resulting in a purchase of Crazy Couch (see ad page 46) even before it rolled off the production line. The ride seats up to 10 kids per cycle, or up to eight kids with two adults. Mobile and fixed-site models are available, which are both crazy simple to operate and ridiculously easy to maintain. Fixed-site models are priced just under \$99,000.

Skyline Attractions, LLC is the Orlando-based exclusive manufacturer of Skyline Design, LLC's innovative creations. For more information about Crazy Couch and their other American-made products visit skylineattractions.com, or call (407) 587-0080.

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IALDA can assist with seminar presentations

The International Amusement and Leisure Defense Association (IALDA) was initially formed in 1994 as a non-profit association whose mission is to serve and defend the amusement and leisure industry. It consists not only of attorneys but other persons involved in managing risks for members of the amusement and leisure industry. IALDA currently has approximately 60 members in 29 states.

A key component of IALDA's mission is to provide educational programs to the amusement and leisure industry. To that end, IALDA has put on numerous symposiums, seminars and other presentations at key association meetings, including presentations for the current 2015 IAAPA Attractions Expo, the World Waterpark Association, the Bowling Proprietors Association of America, the Roller Skating Association, the Amusement Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers (AIMS) safety seminar and many other industry forums. Members of IALDA have recently participated in webinars and made presentations on safety issues, social networking issues and crisis management.

Members of IALDA are currently involved in keeping their clients abreast of the changes required by the amended American with Disabilities Act laws, ASTM and other industry guidelines, employment issues, cases on patron responsibility (including the assumption of inherent risks in attending an amusement facility) and many other cutting edge industry issues.

If you are interested in becoming a member of IALDA you may obtain a copy of an application from the Web site or contact the chairman of IALDA's membership committee, Dave Daly at (781) 237-0600 or djd@dalylaw.com.

• www.IALDa.org

OBITUARY

Funtime co-founder Gasper Lococo, 87

HURON, Ohio — **Gasper Charles Lococo** passed away on October 2, 2015, of natural causes at his home surrounded by his family. He was 87.



Lococo

Lococo was born on February 22, 1928, in Sandusky, Ohio, to the late August and Jenny (Cosentino) Lococo.

He was a Sgt. First Class in the United States Army who proudly served his country from 1950 to 1952. Gasper began his amusement career working at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio. In 1968, Lococo, along three other partners, left Cedar Point to form Funtime, Inc. and in November of that same year the group purchased Geauga Lake Park from the Schryer family. Funtime later entered into a lease agreement with the city of Columbus to manage Wyandot Lake Park in 1983. That same year Funtime Inc. purchased 50 percent controlling interest in Darien Lake Park, New York, acquiring the remaining 50 percent by the 1990s.

Lococo was an innovator in the amusement park industry; he was well respected and recognized by his peers for his many achievements. He was passionate about family and

wanted to bring that passion to other families through his amusement parks. Gasper and the Funtime group changed Geauga Lake from a small family-owned park to a force in the industry. The introduction of the world's first steel roller coaster with back-to-back double loops, simply known as Double-Loop, thrust Geauga Lake into the limelight. He and his partners grew Funtime Inc. into a multi-million corporation that was worth \$60 million dollars when it was sold in 1995 to Premier Parks. After the sale, Gasper retired from the amusement industry.

He enjoyed golfing, being an Ohio State fan and spending time with his family. Gasper gave back to his local community, both in Sandusky and Hudson (near Geauga Lake).

Gasper Lococo is survived by his wife, Anna Marie Lococo, whom he married on October 6, 1951. He is also survived by his daughters, Jean Marie Lococo and Kristen Lococo; sons, August and Anthony Lococo; 6 grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; brothers, Peter and Chuck Lococo; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Daughter Pamela Art Fessler preceded him in death.

PEOPLE WATCH

Sally Corp. announces promotions

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Sally Corporation announces the promotions of three very deserving individuals: John Stegall to vice president of Technical Services, Rich Hill to Creative director, and Greg Rodriguez to Customer Service manager.

John Stegall, formerly Technical Services director at Sally, has been promoted to the position of vice president of Technical Services for the dark ride and animatronics design/build company. In his new position, he will be responsible for all technical design and primary technical hardware procurement. In addition, John will have the responsibilities of ride equipment procurement, electronic research and development, and continued guidance and leadership to the technical services department.

Rich Hill, who joined Sally Corporation 16 years ago as an artist, and has spent eight years in Sally's design department, has been promoted to Creative director. As Creative director he will continue to work hand in hand with Drew Hunter, vice president of Design, and our design team as we continue to create wonderful products for the amusement park industry.

Greg Rodriguez is a Sally Corporation veteran, working on and off for the company for the last 30 years. In a recent stint, Greg was asked to come on board to temporarily support the Customer Service department during a particularly busy period. Within a few short months it was apparent that Greg has a passion for service excellence, a strong business-to-business acumen, and is a vital resource to our customers. Now, Greg has been named Customer Service manager and plans to keep the department running smoothly and consistently.

Caesars introduces new Vegas team

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Caesars Entertainment has appointed **Shaun Swanger** as vice president and general manager of The Linq Promenade and High Roller observation wheel. In this role, Swanger will oversee the sales and operations of the open-air retail, dining and entertainment district located in the center of the Las Vegas Strip, as well as the world's tallest observation wheel.

"Swanger brings more than 20 years of industry experience across Australia and the United States as a seasoned property management and marketing executive," said President of Hospitality Bob Morse. "His drive and retail expertise will lead the team to deliver the best possible guest experience at The Linq and High Roller."

The team reporting to Swanger includes recently hired Managing Director of Sales for the High Roller **Ron Drake**, General Manager of The Linq Promenade **Tonia Chafetz**, General Manager of the High Roller **Eric Eberhart** and Director of Marketing for The Linq Promenade and High Roller **Lindsay Sanna**.

SeaWorld appoints Rearden to new role

ORLANDO, Fla. — SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc. announced that **Matt Rearden** has been appointed to the newly-created role of senior Business Development officer, effective immediately. Rearden previously served as the corporate vice president of Business Affairs for the company.

Rearden will report directly to Joel Manby, SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.'s president and CEO. He will be responsible for developing new business and strategic partnerships and capitalizing on international and domestic development and merger and acquisition opportunities, while continuing to lead strategic planning initiatives for the company.

"Matt has been an integral part of this company, leading many successful initiatives over the course of his career with us. His talents and track record make him the perfect person for this position," said Manby. "We know that Matt will continue to bring value to our company as we look at new and exciting partnership and growth opportunities for the future."

Universal Hollywood promotes two

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. — Universal Studios Hollywood has promoted **Xiomara Wiley** to executive vice president, Marketing and Sales, and **David Miller** to senior vice president, Brand Marketing, it was announced by Larry Kurzweil, president and COO, Universal Studios Hollywood.

"These well-deserved promotions speak to the commitment, leadership and innovation Xiomara Wiley and David Miller have consistently delivered to Universal Studios Hollywood," said Kurzweil. "As an exceptional strategic and collaborative marketer, Xiomara has spearheaded our company's incredible growth and global brand awareness through flawless execution that has enabled us to build upon our competitive marketplace position. David Miller is an invaluable asset to the company who has cultivated our outstanding brand and creative development efforts, establishing an advertising center of excellence within our company and industry."

S&S announces management changes

LOGAN, Utah — As part of its strategy to position the company for continued growth, S&S Worldwide, Inc. announced the following organizational changes:

Rich Allen, currently serving as president and CEO of S&S, has accepted the position of CEO and chairman of the board. Rich has served in a leadership role for S&S since his employment as vice president & general manager in 1997 and has seen the company triple in size during that time.

Tim Timco has been appointed as president of S&S. Timco, who joined the company in 2013, was promoted to the role of vice president, Sales and Marketing in 2014.

Other company management changes include: **Jason Mons**, formerly VP & GM, has been promoted to the position of executive vice president; **Gerald Ryan**, an employee of S&S since 1996, has accepted the position of executive director of Sales and Marketing; **Toby Lane**, who joined S&S when it acquired Arrow Dynamics in 2002, adds decades of experience in amusement ride fabrication to the company's management team in his new role as general manager; **Pete Barto**, well known in the amusement industry through his previous affiliation with the IAAPA trade association, has joined the S&S leadership team as director of Sales for North America and Europe; **Preston Perkes**, who has been with S&S for nine years, has accepted the position of director of Project Management and **Quin Checketts**, a 20-year veteran of the S&S creative design team, has been promoted to the position of Product Development manager.

Gateway promotes Don Eash

GILBERTSVILLE, Pa. — Gateway Ticketing Systems announced the promotion of **Don Eash** to executive vice president and COO. Eash, who joined the company in 2014 as the director of Operations, brings with him more than two decades of industry experience in strategic IT leadership, systems implementation and technology support.

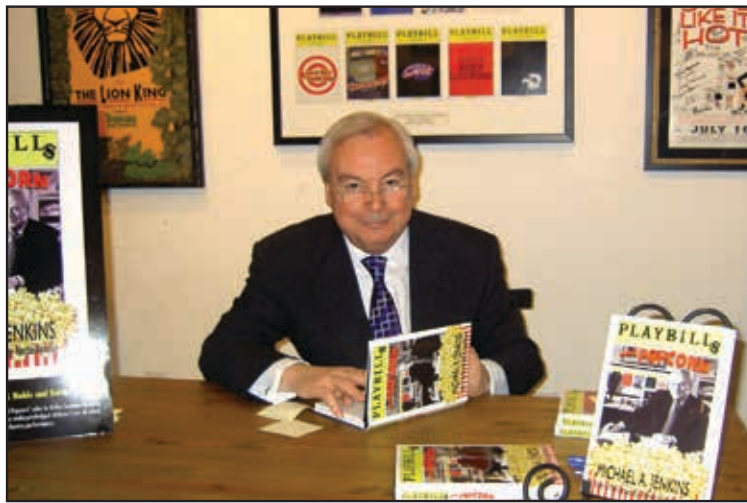
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Why operating two companies has lead Michael A. Jenkins to transistion from the IAAPA exhibit floor after 43 years

For the last 23 years Michael A. Jenkins has had a day job and a night job. Most people in the leisure industry know Michael from his company Leisure and Recreation Concepts (LARC) - the day job - but many are unaware of his dual presidency now approaching almost a quarter of a century. It all started when his long time friend Tom Hughes who was head of the Dallas Summer Musicals (DSM) at Fair Park Music Hall passed away of cancer. Dallas Summer Musicals was Michael's first job and he and Tom actually started working for the legendary producer and original director of DSM, Charles R. Meeker, around the same time. Meeker became a mentor to both young men. Jenkins went on to study stage design at Baylor University which lead to a position with Six Flags Over Texas (SFOT) where he became vice president of entertainment and new projects. Jenkins played a vital role in the development of all the Six Flags parks during that period. During his employment at Six Flags two more men, Angus G. Wynne Jr., Chairman of Six Flags Inc., and Luther Clark, President of Six Flags Inc., would become mentors in the life of the young Jenkins. Jenkins had lost his father in an airplane crash when he was 3 years old and the presence of these male role models, Meeker, Wynne and Clark, were influential in shaping his career path.

After Six Flags Inc. was sold to the Pennsylvania Railway, Jenkins would leave the organization and create a company for the leisure industry called Lei-



sure and Recreation Concepts (LARC). It would be one of the first consulting companies that would focus on providing all the expertise a client would need to bring their dreams to reality, a turn-key approach. The company also believed that no job was too big or too small to warrant the experience of the LARC team. This philosophy earned LARC a stellar reputation in the leisure industry. Projects as large as the historic Union Train Station in St Louis or as small as designing the route of a small children's train in Gainesville, TX were given equal attention from the LARC team.

Hughes had become the managing director of Dallas Summer Musicals and asked Michael to serve on the DSM board of directors some years later. Now back to how this story started, Michael received a call while he was in Seville, Spain working on a LARC project from the DSM chairman of the board, Don Spies, that with Tom's unfortunate passing the musicals were about to close. Michael returned to Dallas immediately to help

with the approaching season, after all, it was his first job, he could not just let DSM close their doors. At a special called meeting, the DSM Board explained to Jenkins they were all lawyers, accountants and business professionals and they knew nothing about Broadway Musicals or producing shows. Jenkins was offered an interim position at Dallas Summer Musicals (DSM) - the night job - to stabilize and save the organization from closing. Jenkins agreed to help but only if the DSM board agreed he would be allowed to continue operation of his company, LARC, at the same time. The year was 1994 and it was supposed to be a one year interim position; you could say the rest is history. But the fat lady has not sung and the history of Michael Jenkins tenure at DSM 23 years later is not over. During his years of service he has received four Tonys, two Drama Desk awards, has been involved in more than 135 shows on Broadway, 496 national tours and this year he will guide the Dallas organization into its 76th season, all while also operating LARC. A bit of trivia, DSM has been under the guidance of only three men over the last 76 years, Charles Meeker and his 2 assistants, Tom Hughes and Michael Jenkins.

Running two companies is a task not many could maneuver but any job that leaves people smiling is a job Jenkins enjoys. Entertainment is the common thread, just like his favorite quote from P. T. Barnum, "The noblest art is that of making others happy." But the hectic pace of both LARC and DSM over the last 23 years has lead Michael to look at both organizations with their future in mind, as well as his own.

LARC has been a member of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) since 1970 (45 years) and exhibiting since



1972 (43 years). Jenkins can remember when there were about 38 booths at a hotel in Chicago when IAAPA held its first convention. He has seen the association grow to numbers that only a handful of convention centers in the US have the capacity to host. Jenkins served on the IAAPA Board of Directors and chaired the first strategic plan for IAAPA's future direction. For years LARC and Zamperla hosted the IAAPA International Reception, welcoming international attendees from around the world. Previously, LARC had the privilege of creating the IAAPA logo that was used for years by the association. Participating in the Applause Award, Give Kids the World and producing the What's New Theater when IAAPA was in Dallas, TX are just a few of the partnerships LARC enjoyed with this great industry organization. Jenkins and the LARC staff have a deep loyalty to IAAPA and all that the organization stands for. LARC will maintain its membership with IAAPA. It has been, and continues to be, a great ride.

After 53 years in the leisure industry Michael Jenkins wanted to give a voice to why the decision was made to not exhibit at the convention this year after being on the showroom floor for 43 years. But more important, share the news that LARC has been approached with new opportunities in the world of financing entertainment venues. These opportunities have generated a different pathway for clients seeking to build or expand entertainment for parks. It was also clear to the LARC organiza-

tion that a majority of the LARC client base was coming from repeat customers and referrals - a perk of being in the business for 43 years. Jenkins does state that IAAPA created a platform to build the LARC brand and he appreciates all IAAPA has done to improve the industry and offer networking opportunities for companies in the leisure industry to meet their clients. He often describes IAAPA as the "second greatest show on earth," of course the "greatest show on earth" belongs to Ringling Bros. Jenkins has a sparkle in his eyes when he shares the description, like he is thinking that IAAPA could definitely be described as a circus.

The main IAAPA aisle where Michael Jenkins and his company LARC have stood for 43 years will continue to operate and shine with all the lights, bells and whistles of an amusement park midway. LARC, along with Michael Jenkins, will continue operating from Dallas, TX. If you have an attraction you are looking to design and, more importantly, finance, Michael invites you contact LARC at **214-942-4474** or e-mail at **larc@larcinc.com**. Michael said in closing, "If you are ever in Dallas please come by the LARC office, we will be there, building dreams to reality for our clients. If we know you are coming we will send the stage coach out to pick you up."



Thinkwell Group produces Stage 48 studio tour finale

Warner Bros. brings guests closer to Hollywood movie magic

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

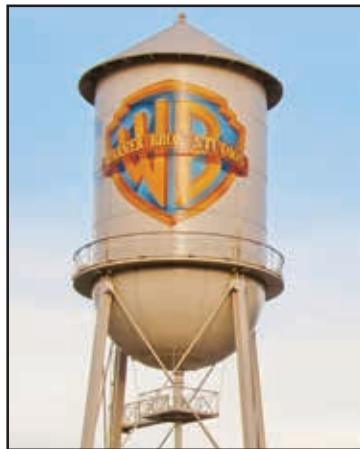
LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Hollywood studio tours come in different shapes and sizes. From the guided, small-group intimacy of the Paramount Pictures Studio Tours to the ride-the-movies action of Universal Studios Hollywood, showbiz enthusiasts can choose the experience that best fits their taste, time and budget.

Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood in Burbank, long operating quietly a few blocks from Universal's whiz-bang backlot theme park, is setting a new participatory standard with Stage 48: Script to Screen. The 25,000-square-foot facility, which opened in mid-July following two years of development and construction, is an immersive attraction that serves as the tour's grand finale on the studio lot. It offers visitors a hands-on introduction to film and television production — incorporating interactive features and exhibits to illustrate the process.

Los Angeles-based Thinkwell Group, working in collaboration with Warner Bros., supplied the creative power behind Stage 48. The global design and production agency, which was founded in 2001 and also has offices in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., and Beijing, China, has worked with companies including Caesars Entertainment, Mall of America, Six Flags and Universal Studios.

Thinkwell's successful prior collaboration on Warner Bros. Studio Tour London's *The Making of Harry Potter* led to its contract for the studio's Burbank lot tour expansion. Adding interactivity would be key: Warner Bros.' own marketing research returned a message, "Get Closer to the Entertainment You Love," that became Thinkwell's driving thesis.

"Although it's one of the best filmmaking tours in Hollywood, with a lot to see, there wasn't a lot to do," said Chris Durmick, Thinkwell's award-winning senior creative director, who headed up the Stage 48 project. "Warner Bros. knew they had great, unprecedented access to film and TV sets, but because a lot of the shows were in active production or on hiatus, visitors could only look and not touch. The studio



Behind-the-scenes backlot sights abound at Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood before the tram rolls up to the new, walk-through grand finale, Stage 48: Script to Screen.

COURTESY WARNER BROS. STUDIO TOUR HOLLYWOOD

wanted something that was inspirational artistically and would let guests participate in the process of making a piece of entertainment."

Tour enhancements also called for playing up the celebrity element. Popular Warner Bros. in-house personality Ellen DeGeneres now appears in official video welcomes at the start of the backlot tour and at Stage 48.

Upon entering Stage 48, visitors walk through a series of displays showing various stages of pre-production. They can see what a screenwriter's desk looks like, try casting a film at an interactive touch table and examine actual scale models of film set pieces. Visitors can also outfit computer-generated models in costumes from *The Great Gatsby* or *Camelot*.

Durmick is particularly



Durmick

happy with the execution of the casting director's exhibit. "It's really simple and intuitive," he said. "You grab a headshot of an actor as though it was just scattered on the table in the casting director's office. And by dragging it to a certain target, you'll see a clip of that person screen-testing either for a TV show or a film."

Next at Stage 48 is the production area, which houses the original Central Perk Café set from *Friends*. Here visitors can act out a scene on the famous couch, get behind the camera or be a member of the studio audience. This area also includes the space capsule used in the film *Gravity* for guest exploration.

In the post-production section, visitors can see how special effects, sound design and editing complete the Hollywood magic. Visitors can ride a Batpod from *The Dark Knight* through green screen technology, act as Dobby from the *Harry Potter* films using motion

capture technology or portray a larger-than-life Gandalf from *The Hobbit* at a forced perspective table display.

"*The Hobbit* table is, hands down, my favorite exhibit," Durmick said. "It completely explains a real optical illusion technique that was seen on the big screen, and it's a static thing — no moving parts. Guests are just floored by it."

The attraction concludes with the Legacy Room, which features a collection of Oscars and Emmys Warner Bros. has received during its almost 100-year history. There is also an almost 180-degree projection screen that shows a compilation of clips from the studio's best-known movies and TV programs.

Durmick, a 20-plus-year industry veteran who grew up in Pittsburgh, Pa., frequenting Kennywood amusement park and got his start as a performer at Universal Studios Hollywood, observed that the "authenticity" and intimacy of the

tour set it apart.

"Warner Bros. is the place to get a real factory tour of how the film industry and its departments work," he said. "At Universal, with the size of the audience and the size of the trams, they can't really give you that kind of access anymore."

Presenting and preserving the studio's legacy, acknowledged Durmick, was a huge responsibility for Thinkwell.

"There's that sense of, 'Oh, my gosh — we've got to get this right!'" he said. "But working so closely with Warner Bros. helped keep us true to the brand. In determining guest expectation, we always kind of see ourselves as our own audience. And being the ambassador for the guest experience, and for the guests themselves, gives us very strong ground on which to stand creatively."

"Still, there's always a little mystery to it; it's not an absolute science. I wish it were."

•wbstudiotour.com



Stage 48 houses archival and interactive exhibits tied to Warner Bros.' hit films and TV shows. Visitors can re-size themselves as characters from *The Hobbit* on a forced perspective set (left) or, via special effects, ride in the space capsule from *Gravity*. COURTESY GETTY IMAGES FOR WARNER BROS.



SpeedVegas to rev-up at Sin City in 2016

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines: A driving experience that puts thrill-seekers in the driver's seats of exotic sports cars from the famous manufacturing likes of Ferrari, Lamborghini and Audi is coming to Sin City.

Called SpeedVegas, the unique attraction will feature a 1.5-mile Formula One-inspired course that includes 60 feet of rising elevation, banked corners and a half-mile straightaway. Located about 10 minutes from The Strip on South Las Vegas Boulevard, it is scheduled for completion in early 2016.

The SpeedVegas complex also will incorporate a multi-level, 21,000-square-foot welcome center with indoor and outdoor observation decks. The course will be fully lit for after-dark operation and events.

"SpeedVegas promises to offer visitors an extraordinary experience," said Aaron Fessler, the attraction's CEO. "Whether they are there to drive one of our cars or simply to watch a friend enjoy their own driving experience, it will allow everybody to experience the upper limits of exotic sports cars in their true element."

"The entire complex has been designed around creating the best possible driving experience," added Kenneth A. Gruskin, founder and principal of the Springfield, N.J.-based Gruskin Group, which created the attraction's award-winning design. "The track has a strong visual presence.... Drivers on South Las Vegas Boulevard and I-15 can view the supercars swooping through the 'S' curve up a hill in a long, banked curve. They can also see the exotics accelerating from the starting grid along the track's merge lane. This creates an exciting visual canvas of the SpeedVegas experience."

Mirroring the lean and purposeful exotic car engineering aesthetic, the welcome center has exposed structure and mechanical systems along with metal siding, stucco accent walls, industrial-style lighting and stained concrete flooring. Its long exterior horizontal walls display racing-style graphics to enhance the over-

all visual appeal and excitement. A flashy sign stretching nearly 100 feet atop the building will reflect the city's energetic vibe.

To conserve energy, the building's various overhangs minimize solar heat gain as well as provide comfortable shade for terrace seating.

Gruskin Group's master site plan incorporates desert-contrasting racing colors (e.g., red, yellow and silver) that amplify the intensity of

getting up-close and personal with the featured vehicles both on and off the track.

• www.speedvegas.com

SpeedVegas will allow thrill-seekers to take the wheel of an exotic sports car and negotiate a 1.5-mile, Formula One-inspired course — including banked corners and a half-mile straightaway — at high speeds.
COURTESY GRUSKIN GROUP



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MARKETWATCH



| COMPANY | SYMBOL | MARKET | PRICE 10/19/15 | HIGH 52-Week | LOW 52-Week |
|---|---------|--------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| The Blackstone Group | BX | NYSE | 33.93 | 43.58 | 28.01 |
| Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland | MERL | LSE | 371.30 | 473.30 | 335.10 |
| Cedar Fair, L.P. | FUN | NYSE | 55.84 | 60.64 | 44.45 |
| Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media | CMCSA | NASDAQ | 61.56 | 64.99 | 50.01 |
| | CMCSK | NASDAQ | 62.14 | 64.69 | 51.26 |
| The Walt Disney Company | DIS | NYSE | 109.47 | 122.08 | 86.25 |
| Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd. | 9010 | TYO | 1196.00 | 1318.00 | 1015.00 |
| Haicahang Holdings Ltd. | 2255HK | SEHK | 1.76 | 2.13 | 1.07 |
| Leofoo Development Co. | TW:2705 | TSEC | 10.10 | 12.90 | 8.22 |
| MGM Resorts International | MGM | NYSE | 21.00 | 23.70 | 16.84 |
| SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. | SEAS | NYSE | 18.72 | 22.68 | 15.11 |
| Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town Co., Ltd. (OCT) | 000069 | SZSE | 8.22 | 14.78 | 5.12 |
| Six Flags Entertainment Co. | SIX | NYSE | 50.17 | 51.09 | 33.22 |
| Skyocean International | 00593HK | SEHK | 11.14 | 12.46 | 4.22 |
| Tivoli A/S | DK:TIV | CSE | 3534.00 | 4000.00 | 2941.00 |
| Village Roadshow | VRL | ASX | 7.48 | 7.59 | 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

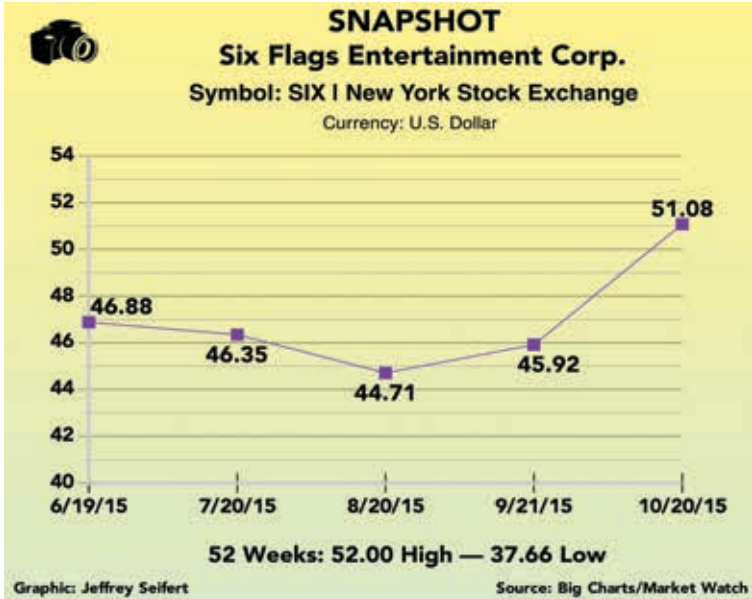
DIESEL PRICES

| Region (U.S.) | As of 10/19/15 | Change from 1 year ago |
|---------------|----------------|------------------------|
| East Coast | \$2.524 | - \$1.141 |
| Midwest | \$2.600 | - \$1.006 |
| Gulf Coast | \$2.325 | - \$1.264 |
| Mountain | \$2.523 | - \$1.215 |
| West Coast | \$2.576 | - \$1.166 |
| California | \$2.808 | - \$1.105 |

CURRENCY

On 10/20/15 \$1 USD =

| | |
|--------|-------------------------|
| 0.8814 | EURO |
| 0.6468 | GBP (British Pound) |
| 119.39 | JPY (Japanese Yen) |
| 0.9546 | CHF (Swiss Franc) |
| 1.3757 | AUD (Australian Dollar) |
| 1.2946 | CAD (Canadian Dollar) |



BUSINESS WATCH

OA Finance helps amusement professionals

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo. — It's the off season in the outdoor amusement industry. For some, it's a time to sit back, relax, and enjoy a well deserved rest. For others, however, this will be the time that helps to make 2016 their best year yet.

“For our most successful customers, what might be considered the off season is one of their busiest and most productive times of year,” says **Wade Muller, OA Fiance**. “It’s the time when show folks take stock of the prior year, and ask themselves ‘How can we improve our business for 2016?’ And if the answer is a new ride, a new concession trailer, support equipment or pretty much anything related to their business, we can help.”

“Several of the biggest industry trade shows of the year take place in late fall and winter,” adds Wade’s father, **Paul Muller**. “When show owners see the new equipment and rides, they begin to wonder how that equipment could enhance their operations and profitability. We help our customers get the financing they need to make the purchases that strengthen their operation for the upcoming year.”

“We’re delighted by the way the outdoor amusement industry has responded to OA Finance,” says Wade.

In short:

•GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** (NYSE: SIX), announced on Oct. 19 record-high financial performance in the third quarter with revenue growing 6 percent or \$33 million to \$575 million and Adjusted EBITDA growing 6 percent or \$17 million to \$308 million. The growth was primarily driven by higher admissions revenue and higher in-park revenue as attendance grew by 9 percent to 12.9 million guests. On a constant currency basis, which excludes the foreign exchange translation impact from the company’s parks in Mexico and Canada, revenue grew \$41 million or 8 percent and Adjusted EBITDA grew \$21 million or 7 percent.

For the first nine months of 2015, revenue grew \$54 million or 5 percent to \$1.0 billion, and Adjusted EBITDA grew \$26 million or 7 percent to \$419 million driven primarily by both admissions and in-park revenue. —Business Wire

•MANHATTAN, N.Y. — Officials from the **Battery Conservancy** (**SeaGlass Carousel** in NYC) and **Ride Entertainment Group** (operators of the carousel, rang the bell at Wall Street on Sept. 23 to signal the close of day’s stock trading.

•FAIRFIELD PARK, Ohio— **McGowan Insurance**, an affiliate of **The McGowan Companies**, announced the addition of **Drew Tewksbury**, senior VP of their newly formed **McGowan Amusements Group**. Tewksbury joins a handpicked team of the most experienced and respected professionals in the amusement insurance industry. In addition to over 18 years of marketing, sales and leadership experience in the insurance industry, Tewksbury is also a licensed amusement ride inspector and carries a **National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials** Level 1 Certification.

•LONDON — According to **London & Partners**, London’s tourism boom has continued during the second quarter of 2015, with the city welcoming a record 5.1 million international visitors between April and June this year, six percent more than the same period last year, according to the **Office for National Statistics** during a international passenger survey.

Tourist spending over the same period was £3.2 billion, an eight percent increase compared with the second quarter of 2014. The national picture is also positive with 9.9 million international visitors coming to the U.K. between April and June 2015, five percent more than the same period last year.

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* "Restaurants & Institutions" magazine

2015 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS — NEW YORK CITY

Zamperla showcases new rides for 2015 GTA attendees

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — **Zamperla** not only welcomed **2015 Golden Ticket Award** guests to **Coney Island**, they also debuted three new rides on the midway that weekend. The one with the highest profile was the **Endeavor** — a newer, more open take on the classic Enterprise ride. Adorned with a snazzy light package, the Endeavor at **Luna Park** seats 24 passengers. Of note, Zamperla has sold one of the first installations to **Six Flags Over Texas** which will feature side-by-side seating, doubling the capacity to 48 on the park model.

A family ride called **Windstarz** also made a debut. A circular flat ride, Windstarz features multiple arms with seating for two on each end controlled by a sail. Pushing and pulling on the sail raises and lowers the riders. While actually done mechanically, the wind sail aesthetic adds a new colorful touch to this traditional style of ride.

Much less of a high profile, but every bit as intriguing was **Super Happy Swing**. On the beach it was known as Seaside Swing, and it showcased a dramatic improvement over the original Happy Swing on various levels. **Michael Coleman** of Zamperla says, “The ride was developed out of necessity. Our original 12 capacity unit was so popular that the lines for the ride had to be dealt with. Due to the tight spacing at Luna Park, we needed to keep a similar footprint, so we added four seats to

the original ride and gave it a larger swing angle.” Of note, the original Happy Swing accommodates children and their parents, and the height requirement is a popular 36 inches. This bigger version not only addresses capacity, but gives the simple motion of the ride a bigger presence. Coleman adds, “Standing at nearly 23 feet tall, the ride has a nice visual impact compared to the original at 18 feet. At 33 percent more capacity and increased swing angle, we ended up creating a more popular ride than the original.”

Two roller coasters at Coney Island were also spotlighted among the assortment. Rigorous work has made the world famous **Cyclone** smoother and faster than it has been in decades. Currently, **Baynum Painting** is adding even more to the splendor with a shiny new paint job. Some refined detailing of the track on the looping **Thunderbolt** also has created a smoother ride than when it premiered in 2014.

Valerio Ferrari of Zamperla smiles when AT asked what it was like to have everyone gathered at their showpark. “It is like our own trade show — we can display the rides and show them in operation. We can discuss the maintenance aspect, share customer revenue, reliability...it’s really the best way to secure a sale. This is much better than to show a brochure or show a video on YouTube.”

—Tim Baldwin



Zamperla debuted several new rides for the GTA event including the Endeavor (above) and Windstarz (right).
AT/TIM BALDWIN



Scenes from the Golden Ticket Awards



Above, guests enjoy Victorian Gardens at night. Below, Len Soled, Rides 4-U; Emily and Eric Anderson and Ron Gustafson, Quassy Amusement Park.



Above, Pat and Wendy Crain, Belmont Park San Diego. Below, Timo Klaus, Kumbak Amusement Engineers.
AT/DAN FEICHT; ALL PHOTOS



Above, Clair Hain, Great Coasters Intl. and Tim Timco, S&S Worldwide. Below, Pete Owens, Dollywood and Brian Knoebel, Knoebels Amusement Resort.



2015 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS — NEW YORK CITY**MAILBAG: 2015 Golden Ticket Awards**

Gary: Just wanted to drop an email and say thank you for hosting the event. Great event and great times. Thanks again for all you do in the industry!

Jerry Brick, Lake Compounce

Happy Monday! I can't even begin to tell you how excited we ALL are on receiving the Best New Attraction for 2015 (Fury 325) from you all!!! How amazing!

Laresa Thompson, Carowinds

AT Team: Congrats on a wonderfully fantastic 2015 GTA event. Well done, as always!

Jeffrey Siebert, Fiesta Texas

Gary: This is me crying because I missed seeing you all at GTA – however, I was delighted that Gary Henry was able to attend this year. He was so impressed with the event and all the hosts – like you all. There is a team of folks behind the curtain I know making it all happen (thanks to them as well) and it was amazing. The event continues to set a high bar for our industry!

Terri Adams, Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort

Gary: On behalf of Keith James, and myself, we just wanted to say what a great time we had at the Golden Ticket Awards this weekend. While it was our first time experiencing the awards, it certainly will not be our last. Your team did a great job organizing the event, and we're already looking forward to next year's event on our "home front." Thanks again for a great weekend.

Chloe James Hausfeld, Jack Rouse Associates

Gary: I just wanted to drop you a note and congratulate you on a spectacular Golden Ticket Award event, and to thank you for all that you do for the industry and for Schlitterbahn!

I always find it rejuvenating and encouraging to hear from all the folks in our industry, and to hear again the love and passion that they have for our industry. The tribute to and acknowledgment of Mr. Zamperla and Mr. Ferrari, and their work at Luna and in our parks was wonderful—adding a special flavor to the evening. I also truly enjoyed the young singers from Broadway with their beginnings in the theme parks being highlighted, as validation of the young lives that we can affect with our work. Everyone did a fantastic job of keeping the evening rolling and lively. And what can I say about the food—truly a taste of Brooklyn! As I read this, I sound like a gushing teenager—but I could go on about the park visits and the fireworks, and still not be done.

Well done!!! Please give your staff a hearty CHEERS and THANK YOU from this humble park operator.

Gary Henry, Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resorts

Gary: Once again, thank you for giving Luna Park at Coney Island the opportunity to host this year's Golden Ticket Awards.



Visitors to the 2015 Golden Ticket Awards had built in free time to explore the city including Manhattan (above); Statue of Liberty (below left) and Times Square (below right). AT/DAN FEICHT



Thank you also for nominating me "Person of the Year": this nomination was totally unexpected (I was so unprepared I could hardly manage my emotion) and for this reason highly appreciated!

Alberto Zamperla, Antonio Zamperla spa

Good morning guys, I just wanted to send a note of thanks for allowing us the opportunity to participate and win a Golden Ticket for 2015. Six Flags Over Georgia & White Water are great parks and both have solid legacies and very bright futures. We look forward to collecting a few more GT's in the years to come!

Trent Turner, Six Flags Over Georgia

Gary: Thanks for the great time at the Golden Ticket Awards. We talked about how well it was planned and produced. Even the food at the awards banquet far exceeds the events I've attended.

Robie Capps, Robie Capps Photography

Hi Gary: Thank you again for hosting an AMAZING Golden Tickets weekend. We had a wonderful time in NYC. Great job as I believe all in attendance truly enjoyed every moment.

Sara Ingram, Premier Rides

Hi Gary: I just wanted to let you know that everything was wonderful on Saturday and I enjoyed the award ceremony along with visiting Luna Park at Coney Island. What a wonderful place.

Maggie Warner, Morey's Piers and Beachfront Water Parks

Hi Gary: I wanted to send an email and personally thank you for inviting us to provide the entertainment at the Golden Tickets. It was my first time at the awards, and I had a wonderful night seeing old friends and meeting new ones. I hope to come back for many more years. Thank you for everything you do.

Robbie Eicher, RWS and Associates

Gary: How wonderful! What a great event and party! You did it! Cocktails and dinner in Central Park followed by the tours and the event at Luna Park the next day were both extra special! Thank you for including us.

Bill and Jane Anne Alter

Gary: I just wanted to express my thanks once again for the GTA connections and also for a great weekend of networking and very well organized events spearheaded by you. All of us with The Apex Park Group were extremely impressed by the hospitality, high level of professionalism and generous offerings and wanted you to know of our appreciation. Additionally, I would like to again thank you for the coverage by your *Amusement Today* company associated with our acquisition of Indiana Beach.

Your Publisher's Picks were excellent and your overall contributions to the presentation as a whole were outstanding. I hope you were able to get some good rest because I was close by you on the ride home on the bus from Coney Island and you looked a wee bit tired, and deservedly so. I hope our paths connect again soon at the World Waterpark Association or at IAAPA.

Once again, a fantastic job done and many thanks from this first year Golden Tickets Awards participant and all of us at The Apex Parks Group.

Ken Kobane, Apex Parks Group

Janice: As always it is an honor to be allowed to join. I don't have the antics of some of the other presenters, but I do recall how nervous I was that first time and how now it just flows. It wouldn't happen without you, I know Gary thinks the world of you and all the load of the "show" from interfering with his hectic other responsibilities. You are truly one of the greatest and that is evident by the growth of the attendance and following. I was just talking with Tisha about next year and I want her to come as she has never been to Cedar Point. In fact all the times I have been I have yet to ride a single attraction. We will be there and if you need me I would be honored.

Angus Jenkins, Chance Rides

Hi Gary: Thank you so much for your business as we really loved having your group!

Christopher White, Park Lane Hotel New York



SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

2016 Safety Seminars ramping up; registrations open

AIMS Safety Seminar registration now open

ORLANDO, Fla. — Registration for **AIMS International's Annual Safety Seminar** is now open. This comprehensive seminar, to be held January 10-15, 2016 at the **Doubletree by Hilton at SeaWorld** in Orlando, Florida, offers classroom and hands-on safety

training along with valuable networking opportunities for ride inspectors, maintenance, operations, and aquatic personnel in the amusement industry. With more than 300 students expected, the seminar is renowned for its diverse

► See AIMS, page 76



iROC Safety School riding into Knott's Berry Farm

BUENA PARK, Calif. — **International Ride Training, LLC (IRT)** will host their annual iROC school at **Knott's Berry Farm** in sunny Buena Park, Calif., January 27-29, 2016. The iROC school is designed as an operational train the trainer curriculum that includes the standards of performance for specific operator skills with significant focus on preparation of teaching the standards to the front line.

Patty Beazley and Cindee Huddy, managing members of

IRT, expect the 2016 school to be a sell out. Huddy stated, "Our 2015 school had 40 parks in attendance with close to 100 participants. Attendance has increased substantially every year since our inaugural 2007 school that was formerly known as ROTC. Furthermore, we are extremely excited that Knott's Berry Farm will be our host site for our event."

The iROC school will ensure operations instructors are more effective teachers of ride opera-

► See iROC, page 75



NAARSO Annual Safety Seminar set for Hershey, Pa., Jan. 24-29

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

► See NAARSO, page 76

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www.aimsintl.org

**NAARSO
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 & Convention Center
 Hershey, Pa.
*Hands on ride training
 to be held at
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www.naarso.com

**IRT/iROC
Safety Training School**

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cindee@ridetraining.com

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www.iaapa.org/events-education/events/fecevent

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 Riverview, Fla.
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www.gibtownshowmensclub.com

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Amusement Expo 2016**

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 Las Vegas
 Convention Center
 Las Vegas, Nev.
 (708) 226-1300
www.amusementexpo.org

iROC**Continued from page 74**

tor skills, both in the classroom and in the field. The school offers classroom learning and hands on activities at various ride locations of Knott's Berry Farm. IRT offers certification to trainers, instructors and the operator level. IRT has developed the 10 critical components of ride operator safety basics that support and

complement the manufacturers requirements of operations and compliance with ASTM F24. The iROC school centers on the 10 critical components and how to be an effective trainer.

Huddy stated, "We are committed to strengthening trainer and operator effectiveness across the amusement industry continuum. Our school allows the opportunity for current instructors to

see, reflect upon and discuss how the program can best be used as a tool to support professional growth in an effective educator practice for instructors and trainers.

The school's tuition is \$1,595 and includes lunches and a reception. A reduced pre-registration rate of \$1,495 is in effect until December 15, 2015. For additional information concerning

the school, visit www.ridetraining.com or call (615) 714-2617 or email to: cindee@ridetraining.com.

Beazley concludes, "our goal at IRT is for all of operations, from instructor to trainer down to the front line, to have the tools available to them to do their best. We believe our school and training provides this opportunity for all operational teams."



29th ANNUAL SAFETY FORUM

January 24 – 29, 2016

It's that time of year to begin planning on attending the 29th Annual Safety Forum for the most up-to-date training and Hands-on activity experience. This year we are excited to be traveling to Hershey, PA with a visit to Hershey Park.

OPERATIONS CERTIFICATION

We are please to offer new advanced Operations classes again this year for those wishing to further their Operational knowledge. In addition, we will continue the Level I Operational classes to support the requirements for taking the exam.

Registration will begin on Sunday, January 24, 2016, with an orientation session. Classes will end after noon on Friday, January 29 and the Inspector Level I & Level II certification exams will take place later that afternoon. Tuition cost is \$445 for current 2016 members of NAARSO, non-member's tuition cost is \$520.

The event will be held at Hershey Lodge located at
 325 University Dr, Hershey, PA 17033
 Room rates are \$99 single/double.
 Attendees can phone in their reservation at (800) 437-7439 on or before
January 11, 2016, in order to get the stated room rate.
 Make sure to mention NAARSO.

In addition to our annual safety seminar, we will offer the Limited Specialty class and the Train the Trainer class on Saturday, January 23 & Sunday, January 24.

Membership Meeting will be held at the Hershey Lodge
 January 24 2016, at 1:30 p.m.
 Full brochure will be posted on the website later this year.

SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

►AIMS

Continued from page 74

curriculum and the quality of its expert instructors who are today's leading industry professionals.

The AIMS Safety Seminar is unique in its wide selection of class offerings. Each day, Monday through Friday, students are able to choose from up to 15 different classes each hour. Those who return to the seminar year after year are assured they will gain new and valuable information they can put to use upon returning to their facility or work site.

"The AIMS seminar Education Committee has put together an amazing curriculum for this year and several new classes have been added to address safety-related developments in the amusement industry," said Holly Coston, AIMS seminar manager. "New classes will include discussions on disability and ride eligibility updates, the use of selfie sticks, drones and other hazardous items and guest behaviors, and troubleshooting control systems," said Coston.

"AIMS is forever grateful to its volunteer instructors who dedicate themselves to sharing important and timely industry safety knowledge and expertise with our students each year," said Karen Oertley, AIMS executive director. "These individuals contribute to the overall success of the AIMS Seminar by keeping the curriculum topical and relevant to safety issues facing the amusement industry today."

Tuition for the week long seminar is \$595 and includes all class materials, the open-

ing reception, daily lunch, morning and afternoon snack breaks, Continuing Education Units (CEU) from Greenville Technical College, and AIMS Completion Certificates. AIMS certification testing and other certificates are offered at an additional fee.

Testing and AIMS Certifications offered at the seminar include Levels 1, 2 and 3 Certifications in Maintenance, Operations and Ride Inspection and Level 1 Certification in Aquatics. Attendees can also register for CPO (Certified Pool Operator) and OSHA 10 Certification and Certificates in Water Park, Leadership, Carnival and ASTM F770. AIMS also offers Level 1 tests for Maintenance, Operations, and Ride Inspection in Spanish.

Scholarships to the seminar are available. IAAPA provides five scholarships (www.aimsintl.org) and OABA offers four individual scholarships to OABA members who are first-time Safety Seminar attendees (oaba@oaba.org). All scholarships cover the \$595 tuition fee, including class materials, an opening reception, all lunches and breaks, Continuing Education Units (CEUs), and a completion certificate. Additional fees for testing and certification and travel expenses are not included.

AIMS has secured a discounted rate of \$99 per night at the Doubletree for all attendees.

A complete schedule and class listing, seminar registration, along with hotel and other information can be found at www.aimsintl.org.

►NAARSO

Continued from page 74

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, NAAR-

SO 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.

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Oertley

ORLANDO, Fla. — The AIMS Safety Seminar is the most comprehensive safety training seminar for individuals working at amusement and theme parks, carnivals, family entertainment centers, zoos and other amusement industry attractions throughout the world.

On January 10-15, 2016, more than 300 amusement industry ride inspectors, maintenance, operations and aquatics personnel will gather for the **2016 AIMS Safety Seminar** at the Doubletree by Hilton at SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla. to learn from over 140 industry professionals and experts. Complete information on the seminar can be found at www.aimsintl.org.

Testing and AIMS Certifications offered at the seminar include Levels 1, 2 and 3 certifications in Maintenance, Operations and Ride Inspection and

Level 1 certification in Aquatics. Attendees can also register for CPO (Certified Pool Operator) and OSHA 10 Certification and Certificates in Water Park, Leadership, Carnival and ASTM F770. AIMS also offers Level 1 tests for Maintenance, Operations, and Ride Inspection in Spanish. This year, testing will be held on Friday afternoon. Those not testing will attend classes. All students will receive their completion certificates and CEU documents at the conclusion of the seminar. Test results and certification documents will be mailed the week following the seminar.

Seminar Scholarships are available

Thanks to the generosity of IAAPA and OABA, scholarships are available to qualified individuals. The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, (IAAPA), provides five individual scholarships to the AIMS Safety Seminar in memory of **Alan Ramsay** who was an avid industry supporter and safety advocate. Application forms and complete information on the Alan Ramsay scholarships is available at www.aimsintl.org.

Additionally, the Outdoor Amusement Business

Association, (OABA) offers four individual scholarships to OABA members who are first-time Safety Seminar attendees. One of these scholarships is dedicated in memory of **June Hardin**, owner of Wapello Fabrications, who strived for quality, safety and ASTM standards throughout her career. OABA members can contact oaba@oaba.org for more information and scholarship applications.

All scholarships cover the \$595 tuition fee, including class materials, an opening reception, all lunches and breaks, Continuing Education Units (CEUs), and a completion certificate. Additional fees for testing and certification and travel expenses are not included.

Visit AIMS at IAAPA

Please plan to stop by the **AIMS International booth no. 5435** during the **IAAPA Attractions Expo** in Orlando, Nov. 17-20. We'll be there to answer any questions about AIMS and the Safety Seminar or just have a friendly chat. We are also in need of items for our popular **Silent Auction** held during the Safety Seminar. Items can be dropped off at our booth during the trade show.

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Sales and Marketing
Randy Reid,
Production Manager

•
Employees/Size:
45/seven buildings
on 10 acres
(four of which are used
for manufacturing)

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

L A K E -
LAND, Fla.
— At 19
years of age,
Phil Lane
was working
in a central
Florida plas-
tic coatings
company. He and his boss,
Mac Maquire "were goofing
around with polyurethane,"
at the time.



Phil Lane

"My dad (Arnie Lane)
was working in sales at a
rubber and gasket company
in Tampa," Phil Lane said.
"We started thinking."

And, the wheels started
turning.

Literally and figurative-
ly.

The three of them got to-
gether and decided to form
what is today Maclan Corpo-
ration.

"That was where the
'Mac' in Maclan came from,"
said Lane. "My boss, Mac,

and then dad and I."

Unfortunately when
Lane landed a contract with
an aggregate mining compa-
ny providing polyurethane
wheel linings, a fairly large
contract for a newly formed
company, Maquire got cold
feet and bowed out.

Yet, the name stuck and
40 years later, Maclan Corpo-
ration is still in business,
still growing, still keeping up
with all the trends, still striv-
ing to provide top quality
products and services, and
has become a one-stop shop
in the wheel arena.

"When we first started,
we would just take off the old
polyurethane and put new
back on," Lane said. "Today,
we can do the entire wheel."

The company grew from
six employees to one that
now has 45 employees. The
company has 10 acres of land
in Lakeland, Fla., with seven
buildings, four of them used
for manufacturing.

And, it grew from sup-



plying the aggregate mining
industry to one that supplies
a variety of industries, most
notably, the amusement in-
dustry, yet has maintained
its relationships in the min-
ing industry.

Lane said they continue
to look for new technology
to produce their products,
technology that has trended
toward automation. For ex-
ample, the company pro-
vides CNC (computer nu-
merical control) machining.
Tools such as the FaroArm
can make three-dimensional
measurements to within one-
fifth the width of a human
hair.

"We try to automate as
much as we can to get that
quality," Lane said. "But, we
still keeps our hands on the
parts."

Looking back, Lane said

there were two very impor-
tant points in time that, per-
haps, were the turning points
for Maclan, making it what it
is today.

One of these points in
time actually happened prior
to Maclan's formation and
that was the decision by the
Disney company to locate
in central Florida. Disney
World opened in 1971 in Or-
lando.

At some point, after 1975
when Maclan was formed,
Disney began looking for a
local company to redo their
ride wheels. They found
Maclan. That was Maclan's
introduction into the amuse-
ment industry.

The second thing that
happened was in 1984 when
Maclan's raw material sup-
plier brought them a resin,
something different. That
lead to the development of
PPDI.

"It turned the life span
of a wheel on a ride from

► **See MACLAN, page 79**



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SAFETY & MAINTENANCE**►MACLAN****Continued from page 78**

months to years, literally," Lane said. "We introduced this into the marketplace. Disney first used it on their Spaceship Earth attraction where they had to have those wheels redone every 30 days. With the PPDI, they were able to get an entire season out of them."

Maclan began spreading out, adding services, product offerings and employees.

In its variety of buildings and shops in central Florida, Maclan now manufactures new roller coaster wheels. It can reline used roller coaster wheels and offers custom-built products.

It produces pipes and fittings, sheet and rod stock, rubber flex hoses and pipe fitting linings, rubber tank linings and pulley laggings. In machine fabrications, there is hub manufacturing, chutes and launders, and CNC (computer numerical control) machining and more.

And, there is much custom manufacturing.

Lane is sure to stress that Maclan is a family business and that is very important. His father is no longer around to look over the business, but there are uncles as well as brothers-in-law.

His wife, Vickie Lane, is very much a supporter. She is quick to say how well her husband treats his employees.

"He is very good to his employees," she said. "He provides a summer picnic on the water every year. There is a Christmas party during the winter. There is an employee lunch every month."

His brother, Michael Lane, is a silent partner. Another brother, Bob Lane, handles sales. He has his own company but represents Maclan.

There are also children involved. Lane's daughter, Maegan Lane Wallace, currently handles amusement sales and marketing. Her brother, D.J. Lane, is the pipe shop foreman. Another brother, J.R. Lane, worked with Maclan for almost 15 years before deciding to take a step back and work for a drainage piping company.

"All of us have worked



The Lane family tree, front row from left: Becka Engle, Vickie Lane, Phil Lane and Maegan Wallace. Back row from left: D.J. Lane, Jennifer Evans and J.R. Lane. COURTESY MACLAN

Right, when visitors arrive at Maclan's front office they first see this display showcasing a few of their wheel and material coating samples. Below, from the Maclan photo archives is this photo showing Betty Lane, wife of co-founder of the company Arnie Lane. Both are now deceased. COURTESY MACLAN



for the company at one time or another," Wallace said, referring to her siblings.

Aside from her brothers, she has two sisters, Becka Lane Engle and Jennifer Lane Evans. Neither are actively involved in the company at this time.

"We are all family here," she said. "Some of our employees have been here for so long."

Wallace said she has many memories of growing up around Maclan.

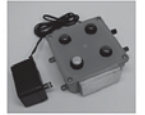
"I remember my father working very hard," she

said. "He went in early, came home late and even worked weekends sometimes. 'Whatever it takes to get the job done,' he would say. He likes to be involved and doesn't hesitate to jump in line next to his employees."

Lane said: "I work every day in the shop with my employees. It is still a hands-on job. We've always tried to be quality conscious. We are dedicated. We are serious. It's been 40 years and we are still here. That tells you something."

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SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

PTCI introduces new ADA device, single-seat train

AT: Scott Rutherford
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

HATFIELD, Pa. — Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc. has been a mainstay in the amusement industry for more than a century. The company's products are now an integral part of the landscape and the public's collective consciousness. This year, PTCI is introducing two new products during IAAPA Expo 2015.

Amusement Transfer Accessibility Device

PTCI's first new offering addresses the need for a way to adequately and safely restrain park guests living with certain physical handicaps. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) made a number of advances to ensure that certain amusement rides were accessible to guests with a variety of physical limitations. The majority of these included signage and access

ramps.

On the 25th anniversary of the ADA, PTCI is introducing its Amusement Transfer Accessibility Device for the physically-disabled. This unique new apparatus allows guests to board a roller coaster train under their own power and ensures they remain secured and upright as the ride goes through its paces.

PTCI Owner and President/CEO Thomas D. Rebbie explains to *AT* the reasoning and process for creating this ADA-compliant device. "We were approached by Indiana's Holiday World and asked if we could develop something to assist physically disabled guests who wanted to ride a wooden roller coaster. We're now pleased to present this new device. Holiday World has used it with success on all three of its wooden coasters that feature PTCI trains."

► See PTCI, page 82



Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc. (PTCI) is rolling out two new products during IAAPA Expo 2015. The new Amusement Transfer Accessibility Device for the physically-disabled (shown here) will allow guests with certain physical handicaps to board and ride wooden roller coasters. The device has been successfully used at Holiday World. COURTESY PTCI



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SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

The PTCI-360° is the company's newest train. Utilizing up to 12 single-seat cars, the PTCI-360° is extremely agile and can operate on any wooden coaster track including those with 360-degree inversions as shown here during testing. COURTESY PTCI

►PTCI

Continued from page 80

Rebbie added that the device is currently configured for PTCI cars but can be modified to work on other manufacturers' trains as well as those on steel roller coasters.

PTCI-360°

PTCI's next new product – the PTCI-360° – is an attractive single-seat train that is an updated, 21st century version of the articulated rolling stock once widely used on wooden coasters of the Golden Age.

The PTCI-360° features a four-wheeled pilot car with a divided body that can lead up to 11 single two-passenger coaches. The train offers all the safety features expected from PTCI with the added bonus of being ultra-flexible. The PTCI-360° can operate on virtually any wooden coaster track configuration including those with complete 360-degree inversions.

"For several years now we've been asked by numerous parks if we could develop a single-seat car that would run on their wooden coaster track," said Rebbie. "And after 18 months of research and rigorous testing, we're happy to report that this new 12-car train performed well beyond our expectations – including flawlessly negotiating a complete 360-degree barrel roll."

"We felt it could only benefit our company to offer a train that could operate on any wooden roller coaster track," added Rebbie. "And the PTCI-360° is that train."

For more information including technical details on the new ADA device and the PTCI 360°, contact PTCI at (215) 799-2155.



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Long Island parks remembered in new book from History Press

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert
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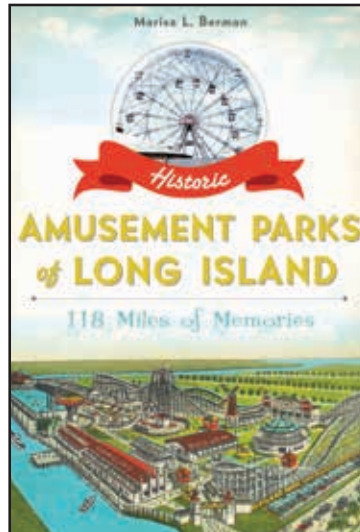
New York City and its surrounding areas have a long and storied amusement park history. The first North American amusement parks were found near the highly populated cities along America's East Coast. At the end of World War II, New York City veterans moved their families east to Long Island. As the population increased, so did the need for recreation, resulting in the creation of dozens of amusement parks on the island.

The 118-mile island has evolved over the years, and is now home to almost 8 million people. Even though the population has increased, the recreation opportunities of the past — bowling alleys, golf ranges, arcades, drive-in movie theaters and amusement parks — have all declined. **Adventureland** in Farmingdale and **Splish Splash** in CoRam remain, but not too long ago Long Island was home to more than 30 amusement parks to help families unwind, celebrate birthdays, and fascinate youngsters.

Historic Amusement Parks of Long Island — 118 Miles of Memories is a celebration of the parks that Long Islanders loved, and unfortunately lost. Recently released by Arcadia Publishing and The History Press, the 144-page paperback book is similar in size and shape to the popular *Images of America* series. Unlike Arcadia's *Images of America* series, which relies primarily on photos and captions to tell a story, this book contains a considerable amount of text with fewer photos.

Author Marisa L. Berman is a historian and nonprofit professional and has worked at numerous museums and cultural institutions across Long Island and New York City. Berman previously authored *Nunley's Amusement Park*. At speaking engagements with that book, people would mention other parks in the area that were also cherished, bringing her to the realization that there were other stories to be told.

Long Island, New York, is mostly thought of as suburbia to New York City, but two



of the city's five boroughs, Brooklyn and Queens are technically part of the island as well. That means that the birth of the American amusement park and the many parks that comprised the most famous amusement park center of all — **Coney Island** — are all part of Long Island's history. The borough of Queens also played a significant role with **Rockaways' Playland**, **Fairyland Park** and **Nunley's** to name a few.

Amusement Parks of Long Island is divided into four chapters, one for each of the commonly-known geographic areas of the island. A pre-chapter introduction provides background information on amusement parks in general, their start on the east coast of the country, the effect of the Great Depression and their rebirth at the end of the Second World War. Appropriately, chapter one features the parks of Brooklyn.

Coney Island, of course, still remains and could — and has — filled many volumes on its own. Other Brooklyn parks that were not so well known outside of the local area included **Buddy's Fairyland**, **McCullough's Kiddie Parks** — one at Steeplechase and another at West 15th, **Nelly Bly Amusement Park**, and **Peter Pan's Playland**.

Nine parks are featured in chapter two, Queens. In addition to the various kiddie lands was a major park, **Rockaway Playland**, home to the **Atom Smasher** roller coaster, made famous as a featured scene in the widescreen-film *This is Cinerama*.

Moving eastward across the island, chapter three highlights the Nassau Parks. Nassau is the first county east of

the city and is considered to be suburban. With less of a concentration of residents and more land available, it is no surprise that a larger number of amusement parks were developed, with 11 featured in this chapter. Of the 11 that once entertained the masses, only **Adventureland** remains, and celebrated a 50th anniversary in 2012. **Nunley's** and its 1912 **Stein and Goldstein** carousel lasted until 1995. After years of preservation efforts, the **Nunley** carousel reopened in 2009 at Museum Row in Garden City, not too far from the site of the original **Nunley** Park.

Chapter four, **Suffolk Parks**, covers the Suffolk County area that makes up the easternmost part of Long Island. Being further away from New York City, this part of the island is less densely populated and still includes a great deal of active farmland and a number of vineyards. The parks of Suffolk County tended to have specific theming, including two Wild West-themed parks: **Dodge City** and **Frontier City**, along with two fairy tale parks: **Fairyland** and **Fairytown**. None of the parks in this part of the island lasted beyond the 1960s.

In the final conclusion chapter the author states, "Independently owned and family-run parks can no longer survive in a world that seems to require constant stimulation, new technology and accessibility." Though intended as an explanation of the disappearance of parks across Long Island, the same can be said for parks throughout North America. Family-owned parks do exist, but are few and far between, with the majority belonging to or affiliated with mega-corporations. The chapter discusses some of the large corporate venues that are available on the island today such as **Chuck E. Cheese** and **Dave and Busters**. The chapter also lists isolated attractions, such as carousels, that remain from some of the many parks that once graced the island.

Fairly comprehensive in its coverage of Long Island's parks, the author admits that during her research she stumbled upon even more parks that existed on the island, for



A crowded day at **Fairyland** park causes long lines for the wet boat ride. COURTESY KAREN PAVONE



The kiddie park at **Feltman's Restaurant**, Coney Island was later known as **Wonderland** and then evolved into the **Space Age**-themed kiddie park **Astroland** in 1962. COURTESY BRIAN MERLIS/BROOKLYNPIX



The rides at **Nunley's Rockaway Beach** kiddie park, included a Ferris wheel, carousel and roller coaster. COURTESY DENNIS CICCONE JR.

which little or no information was available. Even though a favorite park may not be mentioned, *Amusement Parks of Long Island* provides an interesting look at the many places amusement centers that once thrived on the most populated

island in North America.

Amusement Parks of Long Island: 118 Miles of Memories retails for \$21.99. It is available at local retailers, online bookstores or directly from Arcadia Publishing's website, arcadiapublishing.com.

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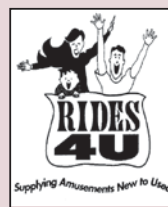
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