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Camelbeach Mountain's ProSlide Tornado stirs thrills

AT: Jeffrey Seifert jseifert@amusementtoday.com

TANNERSVILLE, Pa. — Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark, nestled in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains, unveiled its latest thrill ride over the summer.

High Noon Typhoon, a **ProSlide** Tornado with an extended ProSlide Mammoth River lead-in, complements the park's 36 other water attractions — adding a high-thrill ride to its extensive collection of waterslides. It occupies the mountainside water park's highest point.

Ken Ellis and **Arthur Berry, III**, co-owners of **Camelback Mountain Resort**, of which the waterpark is a part, celebrated the opening of the attraction in mid-July with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and an inaugural ride down the slide.

"There's nothing Art and I love more than seeing Camelbeach guests of all ages enjoying themselves on these slides, so we do the important research," said Ellis, who took the plunge in full business attire. "The only way we know a slide will deliver the thrills is to ride it ourselves. That's why we wore our 'wet suits' to work!"

▶ See TORNADO, page 6



High Noon Typhoon, a Tornado waterslide from ProSlide Technology, Inc., of Ottawa, Canada, began whipping up thrills in July at Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark in Tannersville, Pa.

COURTESY CAMELBEACH MOUNTAIN WATERPARK

2018 WWA Symposium and Trade Show to highlight industry's best

Annual event mixes business, fun in Las Vegas

AT: Pam Sherborne psherborne@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Water park industry professionals and suppliers will descend on Las Vegas Oct. 23-26 for the 2018 World Waterpark Association (WWA) Symposium and Trade Show.

All activities, excluding the WWA Annual Golf Tournament and the WWA Annual Reunion Party at Wet'n'Wild Las Vegas, are being held at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino. The week will be filled with workshops, educational sessions, networking and social events.

"The WWA show is about bringing people together," said **Rick Root**, WWA president. "Our industry does well when the people working within it can connect with like-minded professionals and learn from each other.

"We're excited to be in Las Vegas, a city that offers an unmatched level of energy and excitement for our show," Root said. "It's always an appealing location for us, and we're expecting a strong turnout."

WWA Show 2018 will bring attendees more than 40



educational sessions covering topics from safety to maintenance to marketing to hiring best practices. All-day certification workshops start on Sunday, Oct. 21.

In addition, Root said that as of mid-September they were expecting about 350 booths on the trade show floor. The trade show runs for two days, 12:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 23, and 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24.

This year's educational program includes two new workshops, both taking place Tuesday, Oct. 23. The first is the Executive & Senior Officials All Hazards Preparedness Workshop, presented by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service and funded by the U.S. Dept. of Homeland **Security.** This workshop is being offered at no cost to attendees. It will offer those who attend the opportunity to take home an action plan for water park-specific scenarios, such as a major weather event, as well as general emergency situations.

The second is a workshop titled WWA University: Fuel Your In-Park Revenue with Marketing Strategies, which will offer attendees the chance to hear about the latest trends in food and beverage, group sales and marketing strategies that deliver the best results for each revenue category.

In addition to these new workshops, the WWA educational program will feature two leading keynote speakers. Up first on Thursday, Oct. 25, is **Mark Scharenbroich**, CSP, CPAE, who will discuss his Nice Bike concept and how making the right connections move people.

Next up on Friday, Oct. 26, is **David Avrin**, CSP, who will shine a light on the monumental shift in purchasing behavior and expectation while showing everyone's role in eliminating barriers, engaging prospects and creating customer experiences worth sharing.

"Our attendees have high expectations for the WWA educational program and we work closely with our committees to develop content that is actionable, meaningful and highly impactful," said **Aleatha Ezra**, director of park member development for WWA.

WWA has a tool on the Who's Exhibiting page at wwashow.org that allows attendees to find companies with whom they wish to schedule an appointment and

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| IEWSPAPER

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AMUSEMENT VIEWS

AT NOTEBOOK: Jeffrey Seifert, jseifert@amusementtoday.com

Aquatics for civic health



Seifert

Civic groups and government leaders are recognizing the benefits that aquatic facilities provide for their city, county or state. The result has been a major push to provide the funding necessary to replace dilapidated city pools and build new facilities.

Fortunately, community support is typically strong, particularly if the community is involved with the decision-making.

Taxpayers understand that a few more dollars raised through slight increases in property and sales taxes can produce significant results. Sometimes cities get creative with the taxes, as in the case of Aurora, Colo., which decided to use a marijuana tax to fund its latest water park.

Other cities have received monetary help from civic groups, such as Kiwanis Clubs, or private companies and enterprises that have a major presence in the

When El Paso, Texas, realized that people were leaving the city for better opportunities elsewhere, the community banded together to form a citizen initiative to pass a \$473 million Quality of Life bond program that included \$37.5 million for aquatic facilities.

Last winter, Grand Prairie, Texas, opened Epic Waters, the largest indoor, city-owned water park in North America. Epic Waters was funded by a 1/4-cent sales tax originally passed 25 years earlier to build a horse racetrack. When the racetrack was paid off early, Grand Prairie citizens opted to keep the tax in place to fund recreational facilities.

In New York State, Gov. Andrew Cuomo awarded \$10 million to the City of Oswego to build a water park to link to convention facilities as part of a downtown revitalization package.

From splash pads and water parks to swimming pools and aquatic centers, water play is an important part of every community. Aquatic facilities draw people out of their homes, encouraging them to interact with each other, enjoy the sunshine and reap the benefits of healthful activity. The social, cultural, recreational and therapeutic opportunities of city-funded aquatic centers cannot be overstated.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



GUEST OPINION: Rick Root, President, World Waterpark Association

To create great experiences, inclusivity is key

In the past few years, more and more water park operators are taking a look at how to make their websites, facilities and staff more accessible and welcoming to guests with disabilities — both physical and cognitive. At their core, water park operators want to provide the best, most enjoyable experience they can for families visiting their facilities. This motivation is one of the

reasons our industry is embracing the concept of inclusive tourism.

As defined by Push Adventures (pushadventures.com.au), an inclusive tourism consultancy based in South Australia, "inclusive tourism is about reducing uncertainty around what to expect from a destination or service. It creates increased participation in tourism activities and embraces the entire community of travelers, regardless of ability.

Several water parks are already leading the charge by introducing an "access for all" approach. A leading example within the U.S. market is Morgan's Inspiration Island at Morgan's Wonderland in San Antonio, Texas. Designed with special needs individuals in mind, Morgan's Inspiration Island was recently named one of the "World's Greatest Places" by Time

magazine — thanks to its safe, barrier-free environment for children with special needs. Other parks implementing "access for all" programs include Hersheypark in Hershey, Pa., and Sesame Place in Langhorne, Pa., to name a few.

Outside the U.S., Sandcastle Waterpark in Blackpool, U.K., has received numerous awards for its commitment to inclusive tour-

ism. For the Sandcastle Waterpark team, it's been about thinking through the complete guest experience from pre-visit to visit to post-visit. The park has installed a variety of inclusive services while also training staff to treat each guest, regardless of ability, with care and understanding.

As Push Adventures states, inclusive tourism goes beyond providing a ramp: "Not all disabilities are visible and every person is unique. There are so many small details that can make the world of difference to a person's travel experience."

Increasing our focus on inclusive recreational experiences as we expand our parks, attractions and services will not only serve our guests well, it will position our businesses and our industry as preferred destinations for this growing market segment.

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



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2MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow

Patty Miller, World Waterpark Association

Patty Miller began her career with the World Waterpark Association (WWA) in 1986, handling the books and all mailings for the organization's monthly magazine. After attending her first WWA trade show, she gained a greater appreciation for the scope of the water park industry and the service WWA provided to it. Eventually, she delved into sales and marketing for WWA to help it grow. "I could not be happier in my position, and I take pride in helping people 'get their feet wet' in this unique industry," said Patty, who currently serves as WWA's director of trade show and supplier relations. "I enjoy every minute of it."

Number of years in the industry: 32

Best thing about the industry:

The wonderful people I deal with, suppliers and parks alike. It's a fun, happy industry.

Favorite amusement rides: Waterslides (the less adventurous ones), lazy rivers and swim-up bars (LOL).

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry... I am not sure what I would be doing. I definitely would be a completely different person on every level.

Biggest challenge facing our industry:

Youth (and parental) dependency on mobile devices. It is a different world, challenging our parks to bring families to play outdoors.

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

Going to water parks.

When it comes to pizza, I usually order... Supreme with lots of veggies.

The last time I wore tennis shoes was... This morning.

My best vacation ever was... A lovely oceanfront villa in Rincón, Puerto Rico. So remote that no one could find you if they tried. Avocados at roadside the size of footballs!

My favorite weekend activity is...

Summer: spending time at the lake with my pups and a gaggle of giggling kids. Winter: snuggling by the fire with puzzles and my pups.

When I look out my office window...

I work out of the loft of my home, so I see my lovely, jungle-like deck with houseplants galore!

My childhood ambition was to... Have babies, especially boys. Turns out I got what I wanted — twin boys (now 33).



Patty Miller, currently director of trade show and supplier relations for the World Waterpark Association, is a 32-year industry veteran. COURTESY PATTY MILLER

When I meet someone for the first time, the first thing I notice is...

If they are smiling.

When I daydream, I usually find myself thinking of...

Walking on the beach.

For lunch, do you grab something on the go or sit down and eat?
On the go.

It's football season! My favorite team is... The Kansas City Chiefs.

When driving in my car, I typically listen to... Satellite radio — '70s.

The best place I have ever eaten ice cream would have to be... Dip cones from Dairy Queen.

When in the grocery store, do you have a list or just grab what you need?
A list... always a list.

You are invited to the White House. What room would you most want to see? I actually have been invited to the White House. It is all completely magical.

Best advice I would give my 21-year-old self: If you get a chance to travel, take it. Second, find your happy.

My favorite time of the day is... Evening.

Ten years from now I hope to be... Retired in the Caribbean!

Salty or sweet? Salty.

THE INDUSTRY SEEN

Exchanging mini-Larson Loops of gold



COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — On Friday, Aug. 31, Hunter Novotny, son of Larson International owners Jeff and Stephanie Novotny, and Melissa Howell began a new chapter of their lives with their marriage at Settlers Creek, a historic farmstead. Hunter, a newer member of the amusement industry, is employed at Larson, where he is learning all plant operations. Melissa works as an RN and BSN at University Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas. The couple makes their home in Lubbock. Amusement Today congratulates the newlyweds and wishes them all the best as they begin their journey together.



► TORNADO Continued from page 1

Ame Cameron, vice present of sales and marketing for Camelbeach, said High Noon Typhoon reflects the park's commitment to "continuous innovation to ensure the biggest and best waterpark experience. With its six-story plummet and thrilling twists and turns... we are excited for our guests to ride this incredible new addition!"

Standing six stories tall, the funnel-shaped ride provides scenic views, extreme speed, G-forces and weightless hang time as riders soar over the treetops.

Riders begin High Noon Typhoon by boarding a cloverleaf-shaped, four-passenger innertube. The tube slides into a river with open-air segments and a dark, enclosed section, tilting and turning along a winding path before dropping into the large funnel.

Within the funnel, the tube climbs to the opposite side, where guests experience a moment of weightlessness before the tube reverses direction and oscillates several times before entering the narrowest part of the attraction and then slipping into a splash pool for



Ken Ellis, co-owner of Camelback Mountain Resort, boards a cloverleaf-shaped innertube along with the attraction's lifeguards for the inaugural ride; afterward he poses with them in his "wet suit."

COURTESY CAMELBEACH MOUNTAIN WATERPARK

the finale.

High Noon Typhoon joins the ranks of Camelbeach guest favorites, which include Triple Venom, three six-story-tall body slides with whipping turns and drops; Titan, one of the world's longest river tube slides, which takes the whole family on an eight-story descent with seven switchbacks; and Mummy's Oasis, a play zone with water features. The park's hillside location provides a natural slope for most of the downhill water attractions.

The greater Camelback

Mountain Resort is a destination offering skiing and snowboarding as well as the 125,000-square-foot Aquatopia indoor water park and adventure attractions including ziplines, an alpine coaster, a 45-minute Segway tour into Big Pocono State Park and more. Visitors typically extend their stay with overnight accommodations at the 453-room Camelback Lodge.

Earlier in the season, Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark was named one of the top 30 water parks in the U.S. by





Riders experience a moment of weightlessness as they reach the highest point of High Noon Typhoon's massive funnel. COURTESY CAMELBEACH MOUNTAIN WATERPARK

U.S. News & World Report.

"Guests love Camelback Resort because of the endless opportunities for adventure," Cameron said. "Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark delivers a combination of thrill and relaxation for all ages in a familyfriendly mountain setting, and we couldn't be prouder to have been chosen."

•camelbeach.com



WWA

Continued from page 1

set those appointments before they arrive in Las Vegas.

In addition, this is the second year for the WWA Show application (app). "Whether it's reading speaker bios, earning points playing a photodriven game or reviewing exhibitor information and finding booth numbers, we expect to see strong support for the WWA Show app again in Vegas," Ezra said.

WWA is hosting several networking events. Those include the Annual Golf Tournament set for Tuesday, Oct. 23 at the **Desert Pines Golf Club** and the Annual Reunion Party at Wet'n'Wild Las Vegas set for Friday, Oct. 25. At this latter event, attendees will be able to mingle with hundreds of innovators who are taking the industry to the next level, all while enjoying behind-the-scenes time at the water park venue.

Considering what a tough year 2017 was for large swaths of the water park industry globally, both Root and Ezra said they are hearing that 2018 was considerably better in many regions. While not every





WWA Show 2018 will bring an expected 350 exhibitors — and, as in years past, a sea of splashy products — to the floor of the Las Vegas Convention Center. Networking and educational opportunities abounded at WWA Show 2017 in West Palm Beach, Fla. This year's event in Las Vegas will offer 40 educational sessions in addition to a dynamic trade show floor. COURTESY WORLD WATERPARK ASSOCIATION

park in every region experienced perfect weather every day, the weather was generally more consistent and allowed operators to string more good days together.

"Many of our operators used the off-season to brainstorm some new, innovative ways to market and promote their attractions," Root said. "As the proverb says, 'necessity is the mother of invention."

According to Root, innovations implemented this season included dynamic pricing strategies and launching new in-park promotions and events to boost attendance.

Ezra emphasized that industry trends are positive. "We continue to see a lot of exciting things happening in the water leisure industry, both in the private and public sectors," she said.

New on the private side are water parks like Aquaventure Waterpark at Atlantis Sanya, Hainan, China; Laguna Waterpark at La Mer, Dubai, UAE; Aqua Planet, in Clark Freeport Zone, Philippines and Great Wolf Lodge Georgia, La Grange.

On the public sector side, innovative aquatic centers have gone online such as **Epic**

Waters Indoor Waterpark,
Grand Prairie, Texas,; The
CORE, Hobbs, N.M.; Ridge
Waters Waterpark, Butte,
Mont. and Neptune Island
Waterpark, Hartsville, S.C.

"These parks have once again shown what can happen when city entities partner with other organizations in their community to fund and build a well-thought-out aquatic center," Ezra said.

A major industry achievement this year was the support garnered by the **World's Largest Swimming Lesson** (WLSL) on June 21.

"When we launched this

event in 2010, we had no idea how much support our members would throw behind it, nor did we expect that we'd reach a billion people with the message that learning to swim is a lifesaving skill," Ezra said. "We hit some big milestones with 41,814 children and adults coming out to 603 host locations in 27 countries."

"We continue to be amazed at how our water park members have elevated this event and really made it part of their community efforts to combat drownings and ensure children learn to swim."

• waterparks.org



World Waterpark Association 2018 Symposium and Trade Show

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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

Liseberg unleashes B&M dive coaster — page 12 / Six Flags previews 2019 attractions — page 14

Intamin delivers 270-foot thriller to Poland

Hyperion debuts as Energylandia's tallest roller coaster

AT: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ZATAR, Poland — Energylandia is one of Europe's newest theme parks. Having just opened in 2014, it has built 12 roller coasters, an impressive feat for a park that has even been around for a few decades.

This past summer, the park presented it's biggest to date — and big is an understatement. Hyperion, manufactured by **Intamin**, has crowds raving.

"During our first creative discussions, Energylandia asked for a 200-foot high coaster. We convinced the owner to feature not just one of Europe's biggest scream machines, but to push the limit to 270 feet to

introduce Europe's highest and fastest lift coaster," said **Gerard Slenders**, vice president, Intamin. "Hyperion is a statement to the whole roller coaster world in terms of height, speed and layout creativity. There is no other roller coaster featuring this variety of elements on this scale."

The coaster stands more than 252 feet tall. The first plunge dives into a tunnel for a drop height of 269 feet, hitting a top speed surpassing 88 mph.

The 4,757-foot-long layout features several exhilarating elements. A second large hill delivers ample airtime. The following maneuver flips riders into a quick inversion before plunging into a curving dive drop. Apart from the tall thrill elements, Hyperion includes a mixture of low-of-the-ground elements like speed bumps with strong airtime, a side wavehill and an S-curve/hill combination.

"This mixture of elements results in the most re-rideable coaster of its size," said Slenders. "Although the figures are extreme and intimidating, they are very comfortable due to a well-balanced G-force equivalent. Nobody needs to be concerned about G-forces that are too extreme."

Two trains seat 28 passengers each. The configuration of riders is four per row, with seven rows. The wide rows have guests on the outside seats extended beyond the rails. "The initial request to perform four across came from Energylandia," said Slenders. "The seat arrangement is the most obvious change, but not the only one. The spacious Megacoaster coaches feature our latest train technology, including the most advanced seat/ containment system design we introduced two years ago with the Taron double launch coaster at Phantasialand in Germany. The seat features an over-theshoulder lapbar without shoulder straps or shin bar holders



Hyperion's diving drop gives riders a momentary inversion. COURTESY ENERGYLANDIA

to allow maximum freedom for the rider."

In addition to the wide legroom, which Intamin states is the largest on any roller coaster worldwide, the train floor is flush with that of the station which maximizes a fast load and unload process in addition to the comfortable ergonomics.

"We raised the middle seats half a foot higher than the outer ones, resulting in a floorless ride experience," said Slenders. "The outer seats generate higher G-forces, but feet are in contact to the floor while the middle ones guarantee an extra portion of thrill due to the high-level rider position. In combination with the open, spacious coach

design, every seat guarantees a pole position ride experience."

The queue line offers sleek and futuristic styling, complete with blue lighting and space era metallics blended with the feel of a concrete bunker. The words Hyper Novi Station are illuminated in the loading station helping to carry the cool factor.

"With Hyperion we defined a new landmark of this size. It is high, it is fast, but it features many different and even unique airtime and speed experiences — be it the first drop and big airtime hill or the zero-G airtime hill of nearly four seconds of floating airtime," said Slenders. "This is exactly what Energylandia was looking for."

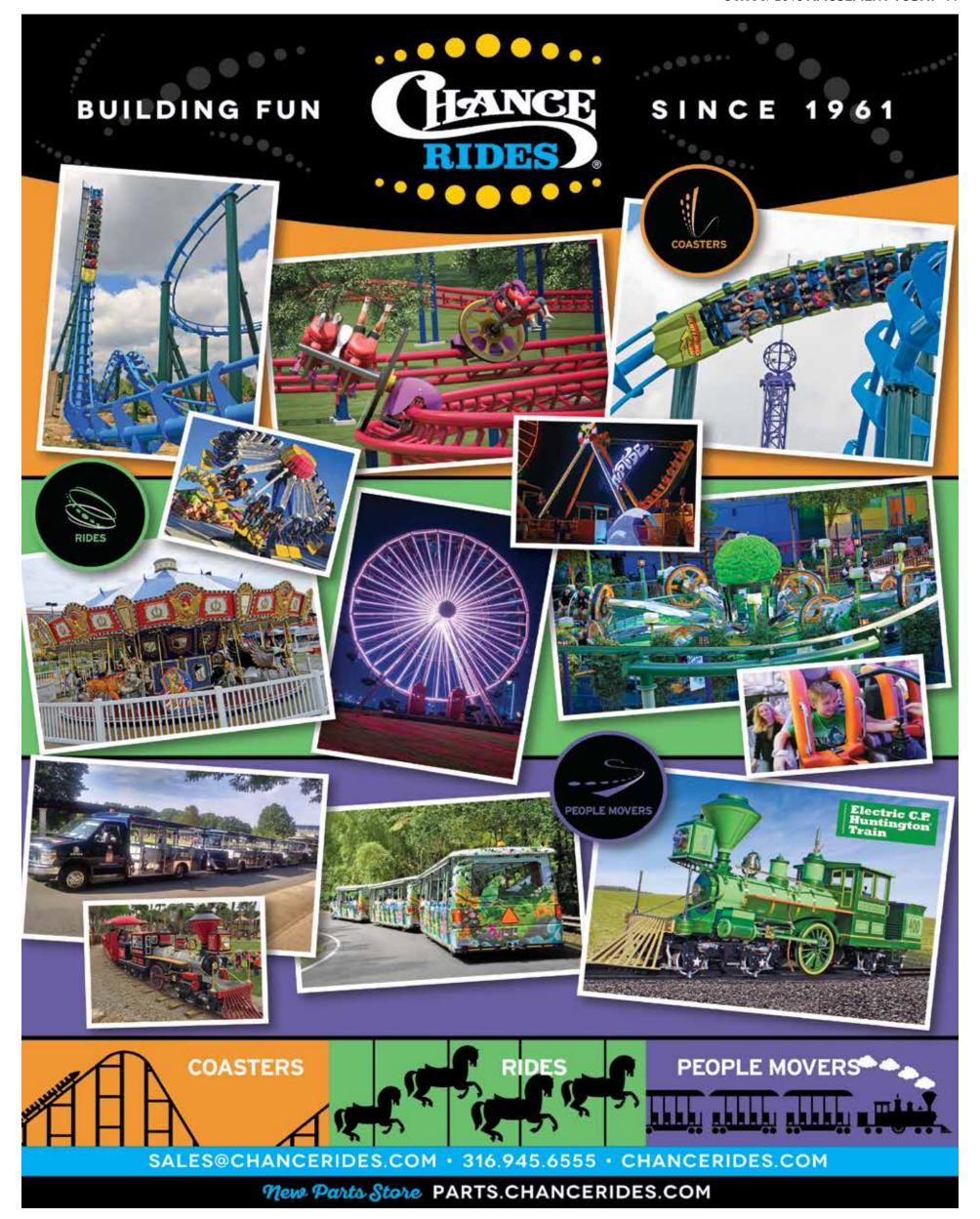






The first two drops (left) are among Europe's tallest. The initial plunge is close to 270 feet tall. Intamin's design on the trains are focused on comfort and view. The wavehill (right) is just one of Hyperion's high-speed elements. COURTESY ENERGYLANDIA





Liseberg introduces Valkyria, latest dive coaster from B&M

AT: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

GOTHENBURG, Sweden — "It's been a complicated project, but the end result has been worth all the wait in the world," said **Andreas Andersen**, CEO of **Liseberg** amusement park.

Valkyria, the newest dive coaster from **Bolliger & Mabillard** (B&M), has made its mark on the park's landscape. It officially opened Aug. 10.

Sporting the trademark floorless vehicles that have become associated with such coasters, Valkyria features the signature moment of holding riders right at the precipice of the ride's 50-meter (164-foot) plunge — a spectacle that captivates riders and nonriders alike.

The park's biggest-ever investment boasts records for being the tallest and longest dive coaster in Europe.

Asked about the factors that went into selecting the attraction, Andersen told *Amusement Today:* "It was a bit of coincidence. We were

looking at replacing our launched coaster Kanonen and initially wanted a spinning coaster. However, the proposals we were looking at did not work out."

The park contacted B&M, not expecting the company to be able to accommodate a new customer. But B&M managed to squeeze Liseberg into its production schedule.

"We wanted a Dive Machine, and we worked with their engineers to fit it into the park, making sure it would be as long and varied an experience as possible," Andersen said. "And I think we have succeeded with that, given the constraints of the site."

Rising 154 feet, Valkyria stands taller than other coasters at the park. The initial plunge is taken at 90 degrees into a fog-filled tunnel. Throughout the ride, which is just shy of 3,000 feet in length, thrill-seekers are treated to three inversions: an Immelmann, a zero-G roll and a heartline roll. Three trains seat 18 passengers in three



Featuring a 90-degree first drop and three inversions, Valkyria at Liseberg amusement park is the fifth, and largest, B&M dive coaster in Europe. Its official opening was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 10. COURTESY LISEBERG

rows of six riders, achieving an hourly capacity of more than 1,000 guests.

Valkyria sports detailed theming and signage to help it fit into a redesigned area of the park themed with interpretations of Norse Mythology. A Valkyrie was a winged creature whose task was to carry fallen warriors into the afterlife. Inside the station, shields of gold adorn the walls while a fiery cauldron is suspended from the

ceiling

Said Andersen: "The whole area is far more immersive, greener and just prettier. The new station for Valkyria is stunning — the best station building we have made."

Digging the tunnel delayed the ride's opening a bit later than the park would have hoped, but it is a key element the park wanted.

"This coaster is, of course, all about the drop, but I actually like the overall pacing



of the ride," Andersen said.
"It is very fast, varied and not just a one-trick pony. We have built a new Liseberg icon, a new favorite for the guests that puts Liseberg and Gothenburg on the map."

•liseberg.com



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Six Flags reveals new roller coasters, rides and more for 2019

Multiple suppliers behind an array of high-profile thrillers

AT: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — As August, and the summer operating season, drew to a close, the public relations machine of **Six Flags Entertainment** spun eagerly forward— revealing additions for 2019 across the entire chain. Many of the attractions on deck are sizable, with numerous manufacturers providing the goods.

Topping the list are roller coasters.

Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, Calif., unveiled the unexpected. West Coast Racers will be the park's 20th — yes, 20th — roller coaster. Supplied by Premier Rides, the innovative ride is the first quadruple-launch coaster in the U.S. It will take passengers on a double lap race along a twin track layout, with the trains switching tracks midride.

"The challenges in switching tracks are impressive, but the team Six Flags put together for the project is even more impressive," said Jim Seay, president of Premier Rides, noting that the coaster had been in development for years. "A highly dynamic, terrain-following layout, integrated with both a quad launch system and a highly immersive pit stop that results in some 30 close interactions between the trains, all make for what will be an engineering marvel as





West Coast Racers (left), from Premier Rides, will be America's first quadruple launch roller coaster. Trains racing side by side will experience 14 crossovers. Maxx Force (right), a new air-launched roller coaster from S&S Worldwide, will, among other extreme elements, feature the world's fastest inversion at 60 mph. COURTESY SIX FLAGS ENTERTAINMENT CORP.

well as a lifetime thrill experience."

"This newest coaster strengthens our position as The Coaster Capitol of the World," said **Neal Thurman**, park president. "With 20 coasters, we will have more than any other theme park on the planet."

At Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Ill., S&S Worldwide is supplying Maxx Force, an air-launched, 175-foot-tall coaster with a racing theme of its own. Riders will launch from zero to 78 in less than two seconds and negotiate five inversions, speed bumps, banked curves and airtime hills. Dragsterstyle trains will seat 12 passengers.

The ride "is in a class all by itself. No other coaster in the country accelerates at that blistering speed," said **Hank Salemi**, park president.

Preston Perkes, execu-

tive director of administration for S&S Worldwide, was as enthused as Salemi about the project.

"We are so excited to work with the Six Flags Corporation to bring our air launch coasters back to the United States," Perkes told Amusement Today. "Over the last eight years S&S has perfected its air launch technology with the opening of multiple coasters in Asia. But the coaster we are bringing to Six Flags Great America has some unique and exciting recordbreaking features that can't be experienced anywhere else in North America."

According to Perkes, the principal element is the launch. The ride will break the North American record for fastest acceleration on a coaster, as it is designed to launch from zero to 60 mph in less than 1.4 seconds and from zero to 80 mph in less than 1.9 seconds, potentially hitting up to 3Gs. "It's like being shot out of a gun," he

Following the launch, successive records are broken as the train rises into the world's highest double inversion and then enters the world's fastest inversion — a zero-G roll at 60 mph.

"The design of this ride is derived from more than 20 years of air launch experience but adapted to a coaster," Perkes said. "S&S knows how to launch people on rides and does it faster than any other method available to man. With this air launch coaster, S&S developed new trains which have a newly designed restraint system to

include even better fit of different-sized passengers while comfortably restraining them through ride elements.

"We worked intimately with Six Flags' creative team in producing the vehicle race car design. The racing theme fits the ride perfectly and the F1 style vehicle will add to the passenger experience."

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, Calif., will see a Batman-branded ride for the first time. Batman the Ride will be the next 4D Free Spin coaster from S&S Worldwide. It is the seventh installation of this pulse-pounding model for the chain. Seating extends from both sides of the track, and magnetic fins initiate sudden flips as thrill seekers descend down the track, which is built on a vertical plane.

Six Flags America in Upper Marlboro, Md., had previously announced the closure of Apocalypse, the park's standup coaster. But in a familiar Six Flags playbook move, the ride wasn't completely going away. A makeover involving the exchange of the standup vehicles for floorless ones will create a new experience called Firebird. This will be the first standup-to-floorless conversion orchestrated by Six Flags.

(On a historical note, the coaster was originally **Bolliger & Mabillard**'s very first roller coaster project, Iron Wolf, when it first appeared at sister park Six Flags Great America in 1990.)

High-profile thrill rides also are on order.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas

in San Antonio announced not only an extension of offseason weekend operation to a vear-round calendar, but also the impending arrival The Joker Wild Card. Built by Zamperla, the massive pendulum ride will swing 17 stories in the air. It will join other DC character-themed attractions in its positioning between Superman Krypton Coaster and Batman the Ride. Achieving a maximum arcing motion of 75 mph, it will be the fastest ride in the park.

Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, N.J., will open a similar ride. Wonder Woman Lasso of Truth will join other DC-branded attractions in a recently revamped area of the

> See SIX FLAGS, page 16



will introduce Six Flags SkyScreamer, which will help rebrand the park under the Six Flags name. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Lone Star Revolution, seen here in production at the Larson International facility will stand 100 feet tall at Six Flags Over Texas. AT PHOTO



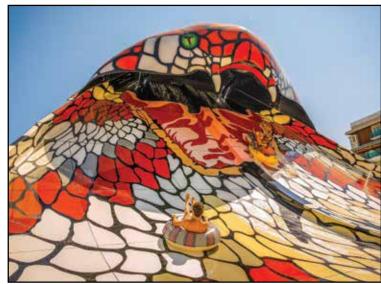






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Three pendulum rides from Zamperla (left) will debut at Six Flags Over Georgia, Six Flags Fiesta Texas and Six Flags Great Adventure. King Cobra (right), supplied by Polin, will debut at Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec in Mexico. COURTESY SIX FLAGS ENTERTAINMENT CORP; POLIN

SIX FLAGS Continued from page 14

oark.

Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington will be receiving the second Giga Loop manufactured by Larson International. Following the success of the company's 100-foot loop, the world's largest loop ride will soon have a cousin.

"Building the second Giga Loop for Six Flags Over Texas is certainly progressing faster than the first unit with all the design, fixtures and new CNC [computer numerical control] equipment in place," said Jeff Novotny, president of Larson, following the announcement. "The Giga Loop ride takes over 10,000 man hours to build and requires the majority of our weld shop floor space when it is together in a circle horizontally. There will be a little fine-tuning on the automatic air release system associated controls, but other than that, the second ride will be just as exciting as the first ride."

Six Flags' renewed emphasis on DC characters continues with two other figures at two different parks.

Six Flags New England in Agawam, Mass., will open Cyborg. After passengers board an indoor Chance Freestyle spinning ride, the experience will feature lighting and sound to help convey a story of a sentient cybernetic system called The GRID taking over the S.T.A.R. Labs. At Six Flags St. Louis in Eureka, Mo., Supergirl Skyflyer will be the first ride themed to the young heroine. Seating 48 passengers, the ride is a Zamperla Endeavor — a rotating wheel that raises

upright to turn passengers upside down.

Three other high-profile additions will be popular installations from the Six Flags repertoire. Three parks return again to Zamperla, Larson and **Funtime**.

Funtime, represented by Ride Entertainment, will deliver Six Flags Skyscreamer at the newly branded Six Flags Darien Lake in New York. The high-flying, whirling swing ride will tower 240 feet. Pandemonium will open at Six Flags Over Georgia in Austell and serve as a centerpiece to a new ScreamPunk district. A Zamperla Giant Discovery, the pendulum ride will swing 15 stories into the air and reach speeds of 70 mph. La Ronde in Montreal, Canada, will debut Chaos, a seven-story Larson Fireball loop ride.

"It is exciting for the Ride Entertainment team to work with Darien Lake for a second year in a row," said Adam Sandy, the company's chief business development officer. "In 2018 they added Tantrum, their first major coaster in a decade. Now Darien Lake is adding a signature StarFlyer from Funtime in the park's inaugural year as a Six Flagsbranded property. We can think of no higher compliment than the company purchasing their 11th StarFlyer from us."

There is always a time to get wet. Six Flags announced a King Cobra slide from **Polin Waterparks** to be installed at **Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec** in Mexico. King Cobra is a double-lane racing slide that climaxes with riders sliding into the maw of a snake's head, complete with dripping fangs.

At **The Great Escape** in Queensbury, N.Y., the water park is getting a makeover and new name: **Six Flags Hurricane Harbor**. Families will enjoy Bucket Blasters, a WaterMania attraction from Zamperla with interactive water guns and seating for 24 people.

"We are excited that our outdoor waterpark is getting fresh, new updates to become Hurricane Harbor," said **Eric Gilbert**, president of The Great Escape. "[It] will offer exciting new attractions with Bucket Blasters and Shipwreck Cove, plus a completely new look featuring imaginative tropical theming and a myriad of park enhancements to delight guests of all ages."

Little ones have not been overlooked in the Six Flags attractions news.

Frontier City in Oklahoma City, once again under Six Flags management, will introduce Timber Town. The revamped kids' area will feature four new rides, including a roller coaster.

Six Flags Mexico in Mexico City is receiving two new kids' areas: DC Superfriends and Bugs Bunny Boomtown. Between them, they will contain 13 rides, six of which will be completely new.

"We appreciate Six Flags' trust in us to deliver world-class attractions at the thrill, family and kiddie level," said Michael Coleman, North America sales manager, Zamperla. "The 2019 supply from Zamperla is a showcase of rides which have proven performance at other Six Flags locations throughout the U.S, Canada and Mexico."

•sixflags.com

Maine's Funtown Splashtown USA refurbishes car ride area

SACO, Maine — Earlier this season, **Funtown Splashtown** updated an area near the exit of the park's **Arrow** Antique Car Ride course.

New to the attraction is an on-ride photo system supplied by **NXT Capture**. In addition, younger visitors now can obtain their own "driving license" (for a small fee).

"Guests, especially the kids, love the licenses," said **Ed Hodgdon**, park marketing and information technology manager.

The ride exit courtyard and adjacent patio seating space have been repaved with asphalt and brick pavers; the upgraded walkway also improves drainage. A nearby restroom has received a new facade that compliments the new ride photo booth.

The Antique Car Ride was installed in 1983. The popular, well-maintained attraction itself needed no special upgrading during this round of park enhancements.

—B. Derek Shaw



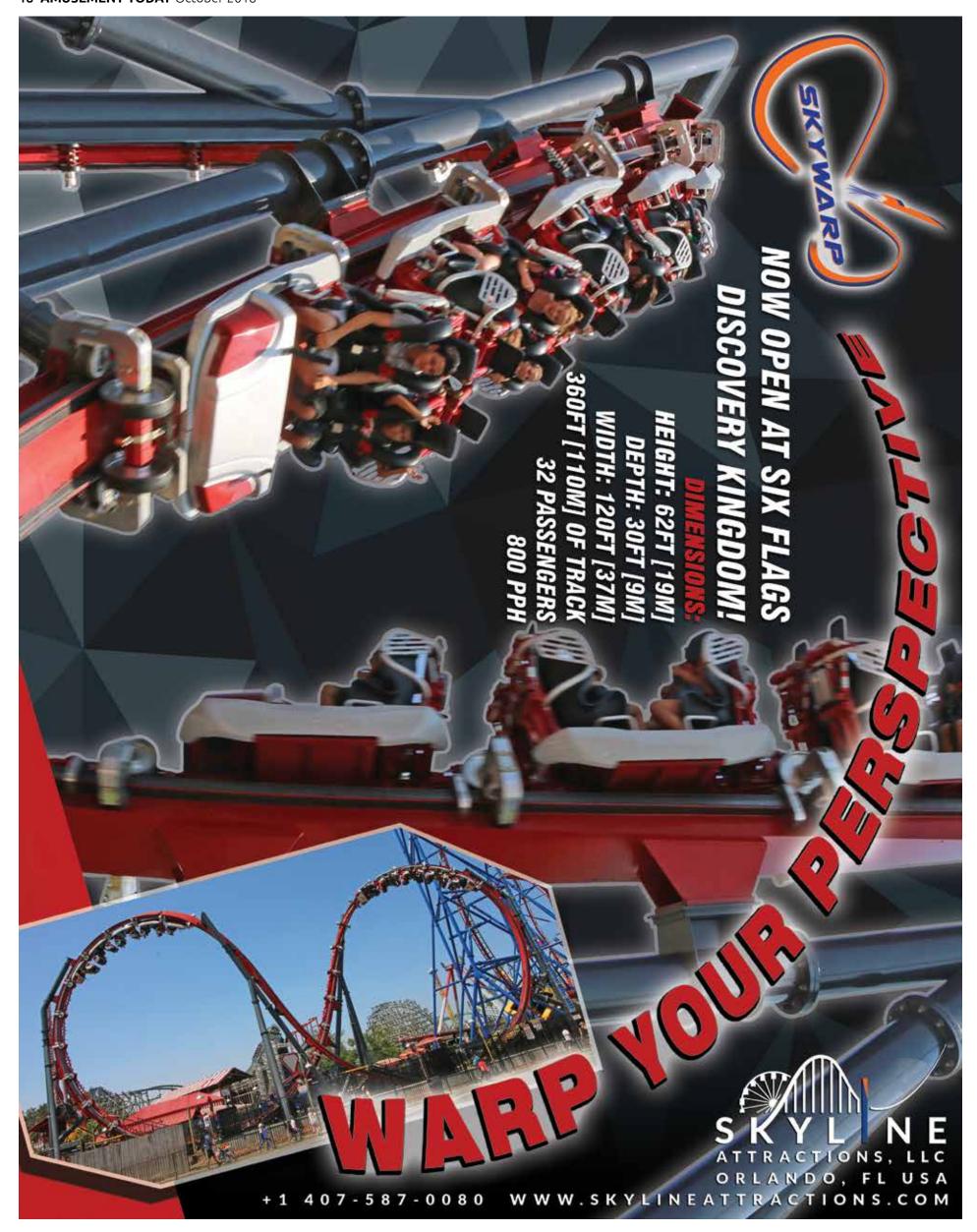


The courtyard area outside the exit of Funtown Splashtown USA's Antique Car Ride has undergone several improvements, including the addition of a booth selling on-ride photos and kiddie "driving licenses." Funtown Splashtown's Senior Vice-President, Bill Cormier, stands in front of the refurbished area (above right). COURTESY RON GUSTAFSON; AT/GARY SLADE









Six Flags Discovery Kingdom debuts Skywarp ride prototype

AT: Dean Lamanna dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

VALLEJO, Calif.— Skywarp, the latest ride innovation from Orlando-based **Skyline Attractions, LLC**, officially opened to the public at **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom** after a testing and preview period in mid-August.

The twisting, figure eightshaped thriller, sporting **DC Entertainment** theming with the name Harley Quinn Crazy Coaster, accommodates 32 passengers in opposing vehicles. Each coaster-style vehicle rocks back and forth, building up to full speed before completing several swift forward and reverse rotations through twin Immelmann inversions.

The experience creates a dueling, near-miss effect that is repeated several times during each ride cycle. The attraction has an hourly capacity of 800 pph.

Skywarp moved from initial concept and design to the introduction of this prototype in just 18 months, demonstrating the dedication, focus and ability of Skyline's team.

"We strongly believed in this concept from the beginning," said **Jeff Pike**, president and founding partner of Skyline. "It was wonderful to have a partner like Six Flags who believed in that vision, as well, and helped us achieve it in such a short turnaround. We couldn't have made this happen this quickly without that strong partnership."

Skywarp is unusual in that it actually utilizes one train (to which the two vehicles are affixed) with one drive system. Its parallel-looped, 360-foot-long closed track structure rises 62 feet, yet the entire installation has a footprint of just 120 by 30 feet.

Adam Sandy, chief business development officer of Ride



With the full support of Six Flags, Skyline Attractions took its unique dueling thrill ride prototype from concept to public opening in just 18 months. COURTESY SIX FLAGS DISCOVERY KINGDOM

Entertainment, Skyline's sales representative and business collaborator, praised the decadeplus relationship his company has enjoyed with Six Flags.

"We are incredibly honored that they have trusted us as their partner in placing yet another prototype attraction at a Six Flags property, and we are thrilled that riders are having as much fun as they are," he said. "Proving that Six Flags' vision is, yet again, on the nose."

•skylineattractions.com

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Skywarp, named Harley Quinn Crazy Coaster by Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, features two vehicles that glide rapidly through twin Immelmann inversions after a momentum-building forward / backward sequence. COURTESY SIX FLAGS DISCOVERY KINGDOM

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Fueled by nostalgia, antique auto ride returns to Kings Island

AT: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

MASON, Ohio — Well into its fifth decade of operation, management at Kings Island knows that the heartfelt memories of times past are always strong across generations of guests. Now, it is bringing back a beloved attraction.

"When we ask guests what they would like to see return to Kings Island, the most popular response — by far — is the antique cars," said Mike Koontz, park vice presented and general manager. "For so many, it's an attraction they remember riding with family, or it was their first driving experience as a kid. It holds such a special place in their hearts."

The antique cars officially left in 2004," said Chad Showalter, park director of communications. "Since then, it has been an ongoing conversation for the past 14 years. We have been looking at the right time to bring them back, and 2019 is the right year."

The original car attraction was removed for the addition of Italian Job: Stunt



Backlot Stunt Coaster) during the years the park was under the Paramount Parks umbrella. The new Kings Mills Antique Autos will be located in the Coney Mall area of the park, with the historic Racer coaster as the backdrop. The three-minute, quarter-mile-long drive will take guests through lush landscaping, water features and a covered bridge.

While the autos will retain the look of the original Les Taxis, the cars will be new. Supplied by Winnipeg, Canada-based Gould Mfg. — a maker of amusement rides since 1965 — the vehicles are 2/3-scale replicas of the 1911 Ford Model T. The four-passenger cars come with single pedal control with automatic braking and feature a rugged rear axle equipped with hydraulic braking. According to the Coaster (now known as manufacturer, the controlled



Kings Island is bringing back its popular antique auto ride in response to nostalgic public demand. Gould Mfg. of Winnipeg, Canada, is supplying the vehicles for the attraction. COURTESY GOULD MFG.

center guide rail slip clutch allows operators to comsteering prevents abuse.

"Kings Island decided to include our optional Remote-Control Engine Cutoff System [with the installation]," said Peter Loewen, president of Gould. "This

pletely control the vehicles at any time with either a tabletop keypad or a handheld device.'

He added his thoughts on the attraction's appeal: "We believe there is great fondness for this type of ride as more and more parents and grandparents want to give their children and grandchildren the same experiences and memories of driving on the same style of ride when they were young."

Mack Rides launch coaster to anchor new Carowinds area

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Over the years, Carowinds and Cedar Fair have undertaken a subtle and gradual makeover to the Carolinas theme park.

With a revamped water park, a newer section dedicated to county fairs and a strong focus on culinary experiences, Carowinds has announced its biggest investment to date.

Blue Ridge Junction, a new area, will debut next season. The star attraction is Copperhead Strike, a double-launch coaster from Mack Rides. Themed to the easygoing culture of the Blue Ridge Mountains region, the section will also contain a new restaurant, Blue Ridge Country Kitchen.

Roller coaster fans will recognize the new ride as a steel coaster of the Blue Fire style made popular at Europa-Park. Known for smooth maneuvers and



The ground-hugging Copperhead Strike will feature two launches and five inversions. Its layout will be in view of spectators not up to the challenge of confronting the coaster's bite. COURTESY CAROWINDS

comfortable trains, this custom version has attributes all its own.

Departing from the station into a slow rollover called a Jojo roll, trains enter a themed building where the first launch takes place. Linear Synchronous Motors take riders from zero to 42 mph in 2.5 seconds. The ground-hugging, sinuous, 3,255-foot journey includes five inversions and a second launch (from 35 to 50 in two seconds) midway through while traveling over speed

The coaster has a storyline, too. Trespassers — er,

→ See CAROWINDS, page 22



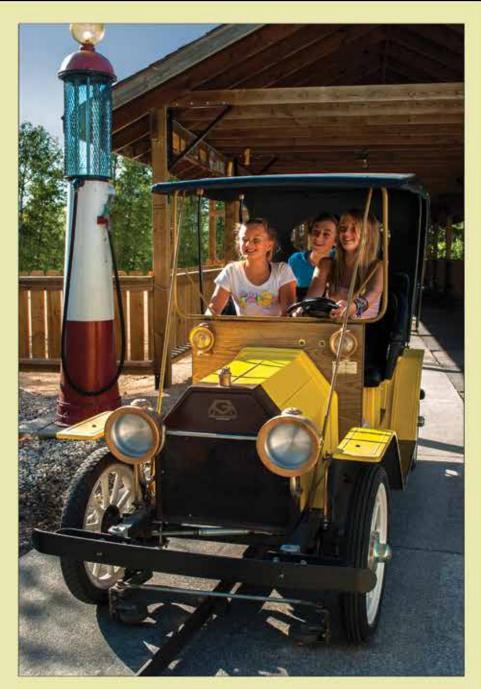


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Outdoor Amusement Business Association president retires

WINTER PARK, Fla. — Bob Johnson, President and CEO of **OABA (Outdoor Amusement Business Association)** will retire in February 2019. It was announced in mid-September by **Jay Strates**, 2018 OABA Chairman. Johnson spent the past 24 years with the mobile amusement industry trade association, most recently as President, with the first ten years serving as Executive Director. Prior to that Johnson spent 16 years with **Six Flags**,



Bob Johnson

Inc. as Vice President of Administration, starting in 1978. Johnson's education includes Parsons College, Iowa State University and Cornell College with a BS in Psychology and Business

"While Bob and his wife Alex are looking forward to visiting with family on the West Coast, traveling and pursuing their retirement dreams, Bob will not completely 'sail off into the sunset,' as he is passionate about the great families that comprise our membership and the amusement industry where he has worked for 41 years, and I have asked him to assist us in the transition," said Strates.

A search for a well-qualified successor is on-going with plans to announce the new President at the OABA annual meeting in February. Interested candidates should send credentials to:

Strickland Associates Re: OABA President 2344 Sherbrooke Road Winter Park, FL 32792 aaron@strickland-associates.com

Strickland Associates is a human resources firm that has been retained by the OABA to assist with the process.

The OABA is the largest, national trade association representing the mobile amusement industry for more than 53 years, based in Winter Park, Florida. Its mission is to promote the preservation and growth of the outdoor amusement industry through leadership, advocacy and education.

CAROWINDS Continued from page 20

riders — at Granny Byrd's farm are out to get her secret jam recipe. But the sound of a cocked gun lets them know it's time to go. Three trains fashioned after 1930s Coupes, each seating 16 passengers, will be the mode of transportation.

"Cedar Fair was looking for a multiple launch, low-to-the-ground, very fast coaster," said Bob Dean of Leisure Labs, LLC, which represent Mack Rides. "There are quite a few elements in this coaster. Cedar Fair was involved in the design alongside Mack Rides, and that partnership has come up with a winner. It's going to be very fun. The feeling of speed is going to be what the whole thing is about."

"This is a clear demonstration of our commitment to be the premier entertainment destination of the Carolinas for families and thrill-seekers alike," said Pat Jones, Carowinds' vice president and general manager. "Copperhead Strike adds a completely different experience than our other world-class coasters, giving our guests a diverse park-wide experience that satisfies like never before."

A new 130-room hotel, Springhill Suites by Marriott at Carowinds, is currently under construction for next season as well. Also new is a dormitory for students from across the region and around the world. According to the park, the housing will allow it to develop internship programs for travel and tourism



Galaxyland, the indoor park at **West Edmonton Mall**, Alberta, Can., opened a new ride the last weekend of April and it has been met with much excitement. Called Havoc, the ride is a Space Trainer ride by Italian ride manufacturer **Moser Rides S.r.l.**

The ride consists of 30 seats, divided into five benches, all placed in a circular fashion facing inward.

Havoc has three axis of rotation, and therefore can rotate passengers to literally any angle.

The West Edmonton Mall ride is 46 feet tall, with riders suspended at 40 feet at their highest point.

Riders can come to within three feet of the park's ceiling, and within five feet of the park's coaster's tracks, which completely surround the ride.

Officials at **Frontier City**, Oklahoma City, Okla., have announced a new attraction for children in 2019, Timber Town.

The new children's zone will include new rides and attractions.

There also will be new characters such as Bucky the Beaver, Hootie the Owl, and Bubba the Bear, who will help put a new spin and updated theme on the park's most popular kiddle rides.

The National Crafts and Cowboy Festival at **Silver Dollar City**, Branson, Mo., is well underway as the 1880s-style theme park brings in craftsmanship, cowboys, chuck wagon cooking and Native American artistry.

The festival began Sept. 12 and will run through Oct. 27.

New this year is the Cherokee Indian Trading Post presenting Native American artisans demonstrating heritage crafts such as flute making, pottery and bow making, along with cooking demonstrations of Cherokee recipes.

More than 125 visiting craftsmen, including Best of Missouri Hands juried artists, are joining Silver Dollar City's 100 traditional craftsmen, with crafts including clock making, weaving, copper color art, fiddle making, basket weaving, gourd painting and jewelry making.

A variety of live musical performances are held throughout the park.

TripAdvisor announced last month its list of the top museums in the U.S. and throughout the world based on an algorithm that gathered the quality and quantity of reviews and ratings for museums worldwide over a 12-month period.

According to TripAdvisor, the top five museums in the U.S. are: New York City's National 9/11 Memorial & Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, La.; the Art Institute of Chicago in Chicago, Ill.; and the USS Midway

Museum in San Diego, Calif.

The top five museums in the world, according to TripAdvisor, are the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, France; New York City's National 9/11 Memorial & Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the British Museum in London, U.K.; and Prado National Museum in Madrid, Spain.

According to TripAdvisor booking data, ticket sales to museums grew by 29 percent in 2017.

Gold Cub Mini Golf Course, touted as the only Jack Nicklaus-designed miniature golf course in the world, opened in Juniper, Fla., on Sept. 6.

Nicklaus Design Associate **Chad Goetz** spoke to local television station WPTV, West Palm Beach, Fla. Goetz was quoted in that report stating: "We hope the result is something very different than the typical miniature golf experience, and one that is enjoyable for golfers and nongolfers alike."

There are elevations and sophisticated elements to the course that can be frustrating, even for a pro like Jack.

The **Nicklaus Children's Healthcare Foundation** will get \$1 from each ticket sale. The course predicts it will donate \$30,000 annually.

A \$140 million beach side amusement park is being planned next to the **Margaritaville Resort and Hotel**, Biloxi, Miss. The **Barrington Group** firm is the developer of the project.

A story posted by the Mississippi News Journal reported that the amusement park project has been given the green light. Local convention and visitors bureau officials say the park will add another dimension of fun to the area. No timetable has been given for completion.

Hundreds of Estes Park residents are crying foul over a mountain coaster that would send riders hurtling down a 1,900-foot slope in unincorporated Larimer County, CO., on the edge of the tourist community.

The group **Estes Park Citizens Against The Slide**, or EPCATS, has appealed the coaster's approval to the town of Estes Park and Larimer County commissioners, citing conflict of interest, lack of citizen involvement and poorly worded town codes.

The mountain coaster, proposed by town trustee and Mayor Pro-Tem **Cody Walker** and his **Yakutat Land Corp.**, would be on 160 acres of Yakutat land north of U.S. Highway 34.

Sombrero Stables horseback riding trails that currently traverse the property would be rerouted to allow for the mountain coaster and ancillary facilities.

EPCATS hopes to stop the coaster through its two appeals or at least change some rules that allowed the project to get approval without citizen input.

Fairytale Town, Sacramento, Calif., debuted a new play structure last month for the first time in 21 years, starring a popular character from West African folk tales named Anansi the spider.

The story-book themed children's park allows children to interact with places and characters from well-know fairy tales and nursery rhymes.

The new play area is called Anansi's Web and features three vertical climbing webs hanging between posts adorned with some of the different animals in Anansi's stories.

New X-Factor Extreme leads improvement spree at Joyland

AT: Pam Sherborne psherborne@amusementtoday.com

LUBBOCK, Texas — Joyland Amusement Park owners had guests swinging into and out of the season this year on a new ride, X-Factor Extreme, bringing the total number of rides to about 30 at this family-owned-and-operated amusement park.

David Dean, the park's owner, said the response to the new ride was great.



"It was extremely popular this season," he said. "It turned out to be in our top five rides."

The 50-foot-tall thrill attraction helped make this season a good one, Dean said, but it wasn't the only upgrade made to the park for 2018 season. Other improvements included painting, ride maintenance and the opening up of an updated party room.

"We had a great summer, but it was shortened by 11 days compared to last year due to the schools opening earlier," he said. "Last year, schools opened the week before Labor Day. This year, schools opened August 15. You just have to deal with it the best you can."

The park has been opening during the local schools' spring break in March and that has been successful. They plan on doing that again in 2019.



Purchased used from Happy World Shows, X-Factor Extreme, though a portable ride, has been given a concrete slab border and a new sound system. The 50-foot-tall ride has a seating capacity of 16. AT/GARY SLADE









David Dean (left), owner of Joyland Amusement Park, said X-Factor Extreme — manufactured by a Czech Republic-based company originally known as Calvera Rides but now called Happy Rides — quickly became one of the park's top five rides. X-Factor Extreme came with an elaborate lighting package (right) that cycles through several colors and patterns.

AT/GARY SLADE; COURTESY JOYLAND AMUSEMENT PARK

X-Factor Extreme was manufactured by a company formerly known as **Calvera Rides**, now named **Happy Rides**, based in the Czech Republic. Dean purchased it used from **Kevin Exum** of **Happy World Shows**. It was installed in an undeveloped part of the park, where two acres remain in which to expand.

"It is a portable ride, but we built a really nice slab around it to make it appear more of a permanent structure," Dean said. "We added a good sound system to it. It came with a good lighting system, too. It is a really good ride."

The ride capacity is 16 people, with four rows of four, two rows facing each other. Once everyone is secured into their seats, the loading platform lowers and the claw (gondola) beings to swing. Then, the claw begins to rotate as the arm swings. It continues swinging until the ride hits a peak of 100 degrees. Dean said it has the capability of hitting a peak of 120 degrees depending on how it is set.

Dean said he had originally been looking for a spinning coaster to add for the 2018 season.

"We thought we had one, but the deal fell through. Since we already had the financing available, we began to look at what was available. That is when we found this one."

He would still like to have a new coaster. There is an **Alan Herschell** Mad Mouse in the park. It came from the now-shuttered **Bell's** Amusement Park in Tulsa, Okla., and was installed at Joyland in the 1970s. Plans were to remove the Mad Mouse if Dean had been able to purchase another coaster.

"If we do find another coaster, we will go on with those plans," he said. "We would put the coaster into our undeveloped area and not place it where the Mad Mouse is now. It's just too hard sometimes to put a new ride where an old one had been."

Along with the addition of the X-Factor Extreme, Dean said a lot of park painting was done to prepare for the 2018 season. The sky ride and the log ride were painted, the latter of which is done just about annually now. While much of the painting was done in-house, Dean said they also hired the services of **Baynum Painting**.

There was quite a bit of maintenance done on the park's Chance Space Shuttle ride during the off season.

"I was actually thinking we might not keep it, but our maintenance project really brought it back to life. I think we will keep that now." Park staff reworked some shaded areas and a party room was added. The party room was an existing space but was updated. Air conditioning was installed, it was repainted and a television was added.

"We had some games in there, but we took most of them out and just left a couple of Skee-Balls," Dean said. "We not only use this room for parties now but also for training."

This year the park also switched from **Coca-Cola** to **Pepsi**, after 45 years.

"We just felt Coke wasn't giving us what we needed," Dean said. "Pepsi did a great job of making the switch happen. The transition was almost seamless."

Dean said they installed a wireless credit card system in their outlying food services. It was done in-house and, "after a few glitches," it has worked out fine.

"We also increased our wages this year to over minimum wage," Dean said.

mum wage," Dean said.

He said it might not be a cure-all for hiring enough seasonal employees, but he did feel it helped.

Expansion coming to Coney Island's Luna Park in 2019, 2020

150,000 square feet of new attractions include a major log flume ride

AT: Dean Lamanna dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

NEW YORK CITY — Luna Park, the reborn attractions area within the classic amusement enclave of Coney Island, has revealed plans for a two-year expansion that will bring several major new attractions and amenities.

The project represents another significant investment by Luna Park operator **Central Amusement International** (CAI). The size of the property, currently at 300,000 square feet, will total 450,000 square feet when the buildout is completed — a 50 percent expansion. As with the park's present land area, the new acreage will involve parcels leased by CAI from the city.

Plans call for adventure activities including ziplines and a ropes course to open next season, with a 40-foot-tall log flume ride







Subject to further design approvals, Luna Parks two-year growth plan will see the addition of a log flume ride in 2020, with a ropes-and-ziplines course opening next season. Also part of the expansion is an open-air food court and entertainment area. COURTESY NEW YORK CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

to be unveiled in 2020. New food outlets, arcade games, pedestrian plazas and relaxation spots are among the additions.

CAI won the opportunity to develop the vacant lots, located between Surf Avenue and the boardwalk between West 15th and West 16th streets, after the New York City Economic Development Corp. (NYCEDC) sought proposals for them. The decision was based on CAI's strong track record with Luna Park

and the careful details of its proposal. City and NYCEDC officials also felt CAI's vision would create greater aesthetic consistency inspired by historic Coney Island style.

"The Coney Island Boardwalk is both a cherished summertime destination and an important economic engine for South Brooklyn," said James Patchett, NYCEDC president and CEO. "These exciting new attractions will build on unprecedented investments

in this historic community, create new job opportunities and ensure the area remains engaging and family-friendly for future generations."

The ropes course will be suitable for visitors with varying skill levels, while the custom-designed log flume from **Zamperla** will be extravagantly lit and feature a 30-mph drop. Altogether, the upgrades were expected to benefit not only Luna Park but surrounding businesses.

"It is an honor to work

with the City of New York to continue the expansion of Luna Park and the revitalization of the historic Coney Island amusement district," said Alessandro Zamperla, president of Luna Park, adding that an elaborate new portal will welcome visitors arriving from the subway. "Our shared commitment to the constant growth and development of Coney Island has allowed us to burnish this iconic place."

•lunaparknyc.com

Jersey Shore's new amusement rides were hits, rain or shine

AT: Pam Sherborne psherborne@amusementtoday.com

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. — New rides at several New Jersey shore-area amusement parks brought great responses from guests this past season, even if they failed to keep the inclement weather at bay.

"It's been a very tough season," said **Kimberle Samarelli**, executive director of the **New Jersey Amusement Association**. "If the weather wasn't bad, the predictions were bad. The weather reports didn't play in our favor."



Supplying Amusements New to Used

There were 10 rainy days during the summer that landed on either a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, which is never good for Jersey Shore attractions.

Chris Maier, owner of Land of Make Believe in Hope, N.J., said it was "the rainiest season in memory." Maier's park was one among several Garden State facilities opening new





Land of Make Believe in Hope, N.J., welcomed summer visitors with a new SBF/Visa Mini Dance Party 360, while Jenkinson's Boardwalk in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J., rolled out Crazy Cabs, a new SBF/Visa Mini Break Dance. Both attractions were brokered through Rides 4-U. COURTESY LAND OF MAKE BELIEVE, JENKINSON'S BOARDWALK

rides for 2018. Others were **Fantasy Island Amusement Park** in Beach Haven and **Jenkinson's Boardwalk** in Point Pleasant Beach.

All three parks started the season with new SBF/Visa Group rides brokered through Len Soled of Somerville, N.J.-based Rides 4-U, Inc.

Land of Make Believe purchased a Mini Dance Party 360. Called Scream Machine 360, the 30-foot-tall ride spins while taking passengers up and over, adding new thrills to the park's lineup.

Maier said he wanted the ride

for demographic reasons and that it has proven a solid draw for eightto-14-year-olds. "The response to the ride, when it wasn't raining, was very good," he noted.

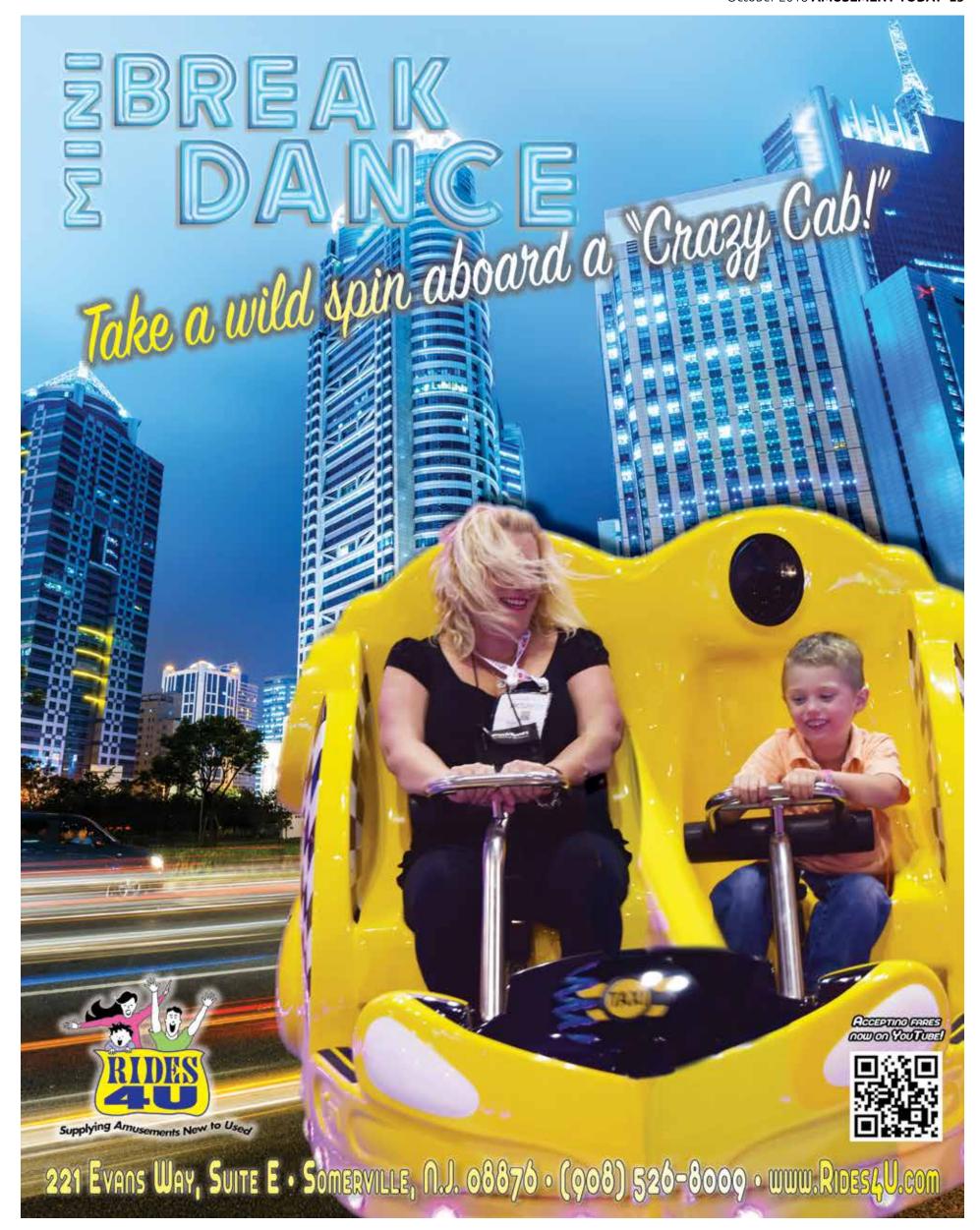
Diane Frey of Fantasy Island Amusement Park said the fun spot's new Pirate Jet was a hit despite the lousier weather. "It was great," she said of the ride, a Mini Jet model with a capacity of 12 and theming attractive to both kids and adults. "Our guests absolutely loved it."

Jenkinson's Boardwalk owner **Anthony Storino** said he was very

pleased with his new Mini Break Dance ride, called Crazy Cabs. Added Len Soled: "It's a 'tweener-type of ride, but good for all ages. We had it at the IAAPA [International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions] show in Orlando last year."

It certainly had a good showing in Point Pleasant Beach. The ride's colorful, whirling platform, elevated at a 45-degree angle with four cars seating four riders each, provided the kind of "lift" summer visitors were seeking, regardless of the weather.

•rides4u.com



11-Day Iowa State Fair enjoys increased attendance, new grandstand

56 new foods highlight 2018 edition of the fair

AT: B. Derek Shaw bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

DES MOINES, Iowa — Weather certainly played in favor of the Iowa State Fair this year as the venue enjoyed a slight increase over last year's total of 1,130,071. "I am ecstatic with the record breaking attendance numbers this year [1,130,260]. I credit good weather, new programming, diverse entertainment and an overall great economy in Iowa," said Gary Slater, Fair Manager and CEO. "I must also mention our grounds improvements that have impacted attendance from our carnival areas updated in 2017 and our Grandstand renovations in 2018, both of those have significantly improved the Fairgoer experience." The theme this year was "Nothing Compares to Iowa State Fair Moments."

This fair is one of a handful throughout the country that runs with a completely independent midway. This year over a dozen operators brought in rides, varying from one to six. They include: M & C Attractions, Luehrs' Ideal Rides, Del Rio Cristiani, Sam's Amusements & Carnivals, Evans United Shows, TopScan LLC, RDM Independent Rides, Mid-American Carnival, Wood Entertainment Company, State Fair Spectaculars, S.J. Entertainment, Kenny's Funland, Lauther Amusements.





The Iowa State Fair had 39 rides on their two independent midways — 22 in Thrill Ville and 17 in Thrill Town (kiddie area). This is the second year the 164-year-old fair has operated with independents. COURTESY IOWA STATE FAIR

IowaStateFair NOTHING COMPARES

Talley Amusements and **Lowery Carnival Company.** This is the second year the Iowa State Fair has had an independent midway.

New rides to this years' fair included Scooter bumper cars, Wisdom, Sam's Amusements; Rock N Tug, Zamperla, Lowery Carnival Company; Wave Swinger, Preston Barbieri, State Fair Spectaculars; Giant Wheel, Lamberink (33 meter,) Talley Amusements; Raiders (re-themed to Metro Maze), Wisdom, M & C Attractions; Fireball, Larson International, Evans United Shows; and Roundup, Hrubetz, Kenny's Funland.

The top grossing rides in Thrill Town (kids area) were

Metro Maze, Wisdom, M&C Attractions; Jungle Twist (Wisdom spinning coaster) Luehrs' Ideal Rides; and Kiddie Bumper Boats, Del Rio Cristiani. In Thrill Ville (main midway) the Top rides were Crazy Mouse, (Spinning coaster, Reverchon) S. J. Entertainment Inc.; Giant Wheel, Lamberink (Talley Amusements), State Fair Spectaculars; and Hang Glider (Battech Enterprises), Luehrs Ideal Rides.

"Last year, the ride areas were renovated and in 2018, a record number of credits redeemed in one day, a testament to the fair's investment in cleaner, safer, and more family friendly rides and games," said Mindy Williamson, marketing director. "The digital wristband program was a considerable upgrade for kids and families too."

Since 1921, Ye Old Mill



Fort Worth Texas based Talley Amusements brought in their Lamberink (33 meter, Giant Wheel.) They were one of 12 different carnivals supplying rides to the independent midway. COURTESY IOWA STATE FAIR

has been a favorite ride at the Fair. The 1,500-foot-long indoor canal attraction recently underwent upgrades with its outdoor queue. "Both of them were very wide queue-ways (referring to the other Mill Ride at the Minnesota State Fair.) Both have been configured to have a 40-inch queue line," said Tracy Shedd, ride manager of SkyFair Inc. "The change helps eliminate large groups congregating in one spot. "It's more of a control so you know who is with who

Entertainment on the grandstand and other venues across the fair included Thomas Rhett, Reba McIntire, Florida Georgia Line, Queensryche, Faster Pussycat, Great White, Autograph, Here Come the Mummies, Ashley McBride, Gap Experience, Renata, Biz Markie, Marc Broussard, Martin Sexton, Blessed Union of Souls and DMC of Run-DMC.

and just to get as many people

through as we can."

"We have reviewed ways to improve our millennial [demographic] attendance and created Goat Yoga and Fair After Dark programs this year," said Williamson. "We also had an antique stage for our Grandstand performances with limited seating. Construction this year allowed for 4,000 additional seats, better restroom and concession facilities and also a bigger, better stage. We continued to improve on our carni-

val areas that were renovated last year which showed in our uptick in participation. We had a record setting credit redemption day during the fair this year."

There were over 200 food stands with 75 items on-a-stick. The Iowa State Fair had a contest narrowing down the 56 new foods to the Top Three that fairgoers could vote on: Apple Egg Rolls, Belly Up Burger, and Pork Belly on-a-stick. The Apple Egg Rolls were the 2018 winner.

Many concert goers traveled to the fair by car with a record 75,554 cars parked on the fair-grounds. With the addition of parking along the northeast side of the fairgrounds last year and a tram service, the previous record of 71,226 was easily broken.

Fair After Dark was a new series this year that allowed fairgoers behind the scenes access to the most iconic areas of the 164th Iowa State Fair. Highlights include everything from the Butter Cow cooler to snuggling baby animals in the Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center. The Iowa State Fair hosts numerous livestock shows, as well as home to the Super Bull, Big Ram, Big Boar, Biggest Rabbit and Largest Pigeon.

packages Admission included an advance admission for \$8.00 prior to the Fair (with even a Cyber Monday \$4.00 promotion on opening day). Discounted admission was available after 5 p.m. for \$9.00 and also on Veteran's Day, Older Iowans Day and Extreme Sunday, which occurred on the final Sunday. An additional \$3.00 discount for the donation of three canned goods to the Food Bank of Iowa was offered to those who participated that Sunday.

The Iowa State Fair is the single largest event in the state of Iowa and one of the oldest and largest agricultural and industrial expositions in the country, just 10 minutes from downtown Des Moines. The 2019 edition takes place August 9-19, with the theme, "Nothing Compares."

•iowastatefair.org





Many late summer fairs combat both hot and wet weather

AT: B. Derek Shaw bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

NORTH AMERICA – Fair season continues with the consistent unpredictability of weather in the U.S. and Canada. Here is a recap of some recent events.

Maryland State Fair Timonium, Md. Dates: Aug. 23-Sept. 3 Attendance: 572,008 2019 Dates: Aug. 22-Sept. 2

The 137th Maryland State Fair enjoyed a three percent gain in attendance over the 2017 edition. A period of searing heat did not significantly impact enthusiasm at the suburban Baltimore fair site.

"We had excellent weather from the beginning through the first weekend, then record heat with minimal rain during remainder of fair," said Edie Bernier, publicity director, Maryland State Fair & Agricultural Society, Inc. She added, "The return of schools after Labor Day and new exhibits and shows were instrumental in the increased attendance."

The theme of the 12-day event, "More Than a Fair, We're a Culture," highlighted the many cultures that make the Maryland State Fair an educational, relevant and popular community event.

Deggeller Attractions provided a new midway layout with an expanded kiddie land. The operator brought in 42 rides, including 21 on the main midway and 21 in kiddie land. New this year were Riptide Roller Coaster (Pinfari), Traffic Jam (SBF-Visa Group), Dragon Coaster (Kolmax), Tea Cups (Zamperla), Circus Train (Kolmax) and Pirate Island (funhouse) Wisdom.

The three top-grossing rides included Hydra (KMG), Giant Wheel (Chance Rides) and Dragon Coaster, (SBF-Visa). Deggeller declined to release ride midway revenue figures.

For an additional fee, **Charm City Helicopter Rides** gave many fairgoers a once-in-a-lifetime bird's-eye view of the fairgrounds and surrounding area.

Some of the best and most unique food items included The Crabby Patty, a fried Maryland Crab Cake topped by a fried Maryland Soft Shell Crab with lettuce and tomato on a bun. Also popular was a Kettle Corn Sundae, with vanilla ice cream topped with fresh-made kettle corn and whipped cream, then drizzled with fudge. The Crabby Patty received national attention from foodnetwork.com and the distinction of being named by people.com as one of The Craziest Fair Foods You Can Find at State



This year Deggeller Attractions provided a new midway layout with expanded kiddie land with 21 rides for a total of 42. COURTESY DEGGELLER ATTRACTIONS

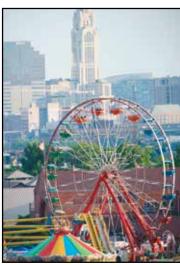
Fairs across America.

This year, the fair featured a variety of new exhibits and events that generated large crowds. They included a **Lego** Interactive Display, Mobile Glass-Blowing Studio, the Classic & Muscle Car Under the Stars Car Show, Kids' Celebration Show, College Days at the Thoroughbred Horse Races, Celebrity Milk Shake Competition and Master Gardener Learning Garden.

Smashmouth, Jefferson Starship, Chris Janson, and Chase Bryant and Chris Lane were among the name entertainers.

Special discount promotions, instrumental in increasing attendance, included Governor's Volunteer Appreciation Day, Comptroller's Day, University of Maryland College Park Bogo Day, Food Lion (grocery chain) Hunger Relief Day and the Baltimore Sun Bogo day.

"The main challenge this year's fair faced was following the first four days of beautiful weather having six consecutive days of record heat," said Maryland



A dozen carnival operators supplemented rides from the 2018 contract holder, Amusements of America. The Giant Wheel, Chance Rides brought in by Amusements of America shown with downtown Columbus clearly visible in the background. COURTESY OHIO STATE FAIR

State Fair General Manager **D. Andrew "Andy" Cashman**. "Our top-notch first-aid team actively canvassed the fairgrounds to encourage hydration and provide assistance when needed.

"We received a positive social media shout-out from a fairgoer who was helped by our team. While attendance was low during the early hours of those days, it significantly picked up in the late afternoon and evening hours."

Next year's fair is scheduled for Aug. 22-Sept. 2.

• marylandstatefair.com

Ohio State Fair Columbus, Ohio Dates: July 25-Aug. 5 Attendance: 908,306 2019 Dates: July 24-Aug. 4

Attendance jumped 13 percent for the 2018 **Ohio State Fair** this year, despite lingering memories of last year's tragic **KMG** Fireball accident on opening day.

"The carnival midway rebounded...," said Luis Perez, assistant general manager. "Amusements of America went above and beyond any standard state, local, municipal and manufacturer inspection protocols to ensure the safety of the rides, and it was reflected by the reception of fairgoers. We thereby exceeded our revenue projections, though not quite at the level prior to 2017."

The fair is usually hostage to the weather. "Our attendance is always very weather-dependent," explained General Manager Virgil Strickler. "We usually see a slight dip in our attendance with rough weather, and the heavy rain we had nearly all day on two consecutive weekdays was no exception. Despite that, an impressive crowd of happy fairgoers turned out to experience our fair's entertainment, livestock shows, education and activities."

A total of 72 rides were brought to the fair this year, with 31 being kiddie rides. Amusements of America was the main contract holder, however participating subcontractors included **Belle City**,

TopScan LLC, Del Rio Cristiani, D & J Amusements, Poor Jack's Amusements, Monkey Maze LLC, Stellar Amusements, Interstate Amusements, East Coast Entertainment, Murray Bros, Strates Shows and Red Carpet Amusements. Together they generated approximately \$1.7 million in midway revenue.

New rides included the Wheel of Lights (Mulligan Manufacturing, Interstate Amusements), Monster Trucks (Wisdom, Interstate Amusements), Mini Himalaya (Venture, Belle City), Black Widow (Eyerly, Poor Jack's) Silver Streak (Spillman, East Coast Entertainment), Pharoah's Fury (Chance, D&J Amusements) and Polar Express (Wisdom, Amusements of America).

The three top-grossing rides were SkyGlider (O.D. Hopkins, owned by the Ohio State Fair), Giant Slide (Mike Joyce, Amusements of America) and Giant Wheel (Chance, Amusements of America).

Alicia Shouts, marketing and public relations director for the Ohio Expo Center & State Fair, remarked on the gate figures: "Attendance has started to recover and is just slightly below where it was in 2016, the year before the accident. Ridership outpaced our expectations and was nearly twice that of 2017, but overall midway revenue was still down from 2016 and before."

There were plenty of highlights. After his show, Jeff Dunham did a 47-minute Facebook Live video at Brian Shenkman's Bulk Candy Store, sampling various types of candy and deep-fried food items. The Budweiser Clydesdales drew especially large crowds when the hitch was preparing for and finishing with the fair's daily parade. A sold-out concert with Reba McEntire and strong shows at the fair's indoor concert venue made for a successful concert series.

The fair's partnership with Ohio-based **Velvet Ice Cream** continued for its sixth year with the annual creation of a custom exclusive flavor available only at the Ohio State Fair: spicy caramel.

Special days included WSYX/WTTE Opening Day, Telhio and Ronald McDonald House Charities Day, WOSU Kids Day, Meijer Day, Molina Healthcare Day, Buckeye Health Plan Day, Veterans & Military Day, NBC4 Family Discount Day, National Church Residences' Senior Day, AAA Member Day, Ohio Lottery Day and Ohio Soybean Day. Finishing out on the last day of the fair was Pepsi Day, offering a \$3 admission with an empty Pepsi product.

New foods included Turkey ribs, Philly Donut Burger, Pork Butt Fries, Stuffed Hot Italian Peppers, Big Buchanan Sausage with Kimchi, Campfire Pretzel (soft pretzel with marshmallows, peanut butter and chocolate), Taco Tots, Sriracha Bacon Tots, Stuffed Waffles on a Stick (chicken, breakfast sausage, Snickers, Milky Way, cookie dough), Bacon-Wrapped Deep-Fried Pickle, Hog Stack Sandwich (rib, shredded pork, bratwurst patty) and, for dessert, Jalapeno Peach Funnel Cake.

The top-selling food types were ice cream (American Dairy Association Mideast), BBQ restaurants (Concessions by Cox, Famous Gabby's, J.P.'s Ribs), German food (Schmidt's Restaurant), bourbon chicken (Martin's Fine Foods) and roast corn (Ohio Roast Corn).

Of the many "firsts" this year, two were standouts. The Ohio State Fair podcast, "A Fair to Remember," took listeners behind the scenes of the fair with unique stories, including a strange item that could be used for admission in 1953, the most popular place to get engaged at the Ohio State Fair, the rivalry between competitors vying for the blue ribbon, farmers using genetics to breed prizewinning cattle and many more.

Also, Brian Shenkman of the Bulk Candy Store worked with Marsha's Buckeyes, an Ohio candy maker, to create the world's largest buckeye candy — a 344pound chocolate-and-peanut butter confection created with more than 75 pounds of peanut butter, 75 pounds of margarine, 10 pounds of chocolate and 150 pounds of powdered sugar. It defeated the previous record of 271 pounds. An official weighin by the state's Weights and Measures department included having the buckeye ride in the fair's daily parade, a celebration with songs performed by the fair's marching band, mascot visits and free candy buckeyes for those in attendance.

Celeste Center concerts included The Beach Boys, Reba McEntire, TLC / En Vogue, The Commodores, Trevor Noah, Casting Crowns and Styx / Cheap Trick.

•ohiostatefair.com

Wisconsin State Fair West Allis, Wisc. 2018 Dates: August 2-12 2018 Attendance: 1,037,982 2019 Dates: August 1-11

The first-ever World Cheese Curd Eating Championship took place at the 167th edition of the **Wisconsin State Fair**. That

▶ See FAIRS, page 29

FAIRS

Continued from page 28

event featured the inimitable **Joey Chestnut**.

The theme this year: "Make Your Day WonderFair."

"We were blessed with several days of beautiful weather, but it was by no means perfect all 11 days," said **Kristi Chuckel**, fair communications director. "The first weekend was very hot, and while our attendance was still good, it wasn't great. After a couple days of rain during the week, things really cleared up and the final weekend was absolutely beautiful. Our second Saturday was a record-breaking day, with more than 132,000 attending."

The SpinCity amusement area, run by numerous independents, offered a total of 49 rides, including 22 kiddie rides and 27 adult rides. More than 90,000 rides were taken on the enclosedgondola WonderFair Wheel, owned by **Michael Wood**. The Giant Slide, built by **Fred Pittroff**, celebrated its 50th year at the fair with nearly 120,000 riders.

New operators for 2018 included **Skerbeck Entertainment Group** (which brought in a Twin Flip), **Moser Rides**, Chance Rides (a Zipper) and **Mitchell Brothers and Sons** (an **ARM** Drop Tower originally built as a VR tower for the 2017 **NFL** Super Bowl).

The three top-grossing adult rides included the Galaxy Roller Coaster, (S.D.C., Reithoffer Shows, Inc.), Wave Swinger (Zierer Rides, Fair Ride Entertainment, LLC) and New York, New York Four-Story Fun House (Gosetto, Fair Ride Entertainment, LLC).

The three top-grossing kiddie rides were Puppy Express, (SBF-Visa Group, Prime Pacific, LLC), Raiders Walkthrough (Wisdom Rides, Roses Rides, LLC), and Wacky Shack Kiddie Fun House (Owens Trailers, International Attractions).

SpinCity's total gross was up by \$155,677, a record amount.

More than 3,000 exhibitors participated in fair contests representing agriculture, art, horticulture, culinary and other categories. Fair staff planted 22,000 flowers and plants throughout State Fair Park.

Safety and security were the number-one priority at the fair. Explained Chuckel: "One challenge we have had is finding enough employees to staff our gates, bag checks and metal detectors. This year, we created a job center that was open each day for several hours in the weeks leading up to the fair. It proved to be successful in helping us find quality employees, and we plan to continue this model."

Food is always integral to the event, with cream puffs

being the top-selling item (nearly 400,000 were sold this year). Sporkie's Champion Albanese's Roadhouse served up 11,500 orders of Deep-Fried Spinach Lasagna Bites, and runner-up Slim's PBR Park dished out nearly 11,000 orders of French Onion Soup On-A-Stick. Fairgoers enjoyed 55,000 grilled cheese sandwiches at the Real Wisconsin Cheese Grill, 40,000 Wisconsin Baked Potatoes and 16,000 Butterfly Pork Sandwiches at the **Pork Shoppe**. An unusual item, deep-fried Ants on a Stick, generated a lot of attention.

A new promotion for 2018

was "Throwback Thursday," during which fairgoers enjoyed half-price admission. Other promotions included Wells Fargo \$2 Day benefiting Hunger Task Force, Discover Wisconsin Day, Kohl's Family Value Day, Meijer Day, and Miller High Life Veterans and Military Recognition Day.

Shows this year were performed by the likes of Montgomery Gentry, Alice Cooper, BoDeans / Original Wailers, Cole Swindell, Temptations / Four Tops, TLC / En Vogue, Foreigner and Reba McEntire.

•wistatefair.com/fair



One of the 49 rides found on the midway, dubbed Spin City, at the Wisconsin State Fair.

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MIDWAYSCENE

AT: B. Derek Shaw bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

Three years after last hosting a real elephant that sparked protests from animal rights activists, the **New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm & Horse Show**, Augusta, debuted a fake 300-pound elephant at their August 3-12 fair. David Feimster of F&F Productions, Jackson, N.J. came up with the idea after he heard nearby New York City was banning the use of elephants and other wild and exotic animals for entertainment . Peanut stands seven feet tall and five-and-a-half feet wide, about the size of a baby elephant. In addition, he walks and talks, shoots water through his trunk while interacting with fairgoers. **Reithoffer Shows** had the carnival midway.

While many fairs in North America ban the use of any type of drones, the **New York State Fair**, Geddes, N.Y. embraced them. The August 22 - September 3 fair included a 9:30 pm nightly drone light show (except Labor Day). The show — provided by Watervliet, Michigan-based **Great Lakes Drone Company**, LLC, — featured 25 drones with lights attached. Flying in precision patterns to form objects, the drones were choreographed to music that played from the venue's main stage sound system. **Business Facilities** magazine recently named New York the "leading state" for drone-technology development. **Wade Shows** provided the midway rides.

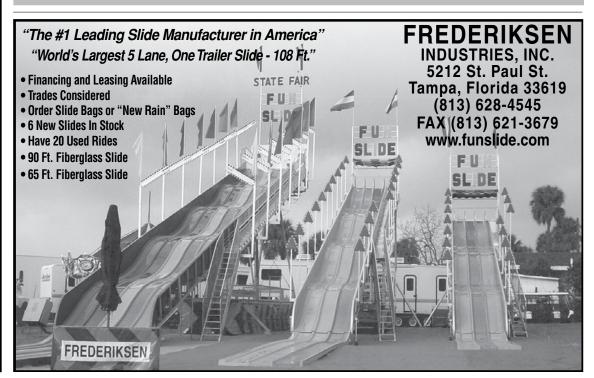
For 2019, **Deggeller Attractions** is adding a fourth roller coaster to its lineup, this time a **Pinfari** ZL42 looping coaster. The ride was purchased from a showman in Ireland and will be the only traveling coaster with a loop in the United States. The attraction is expected to be transported on five semi-trailers, debuting next year. The show currently owns a **Zierer** Flitzer Coaster, **SDC** Riptide Coaster, and an **L&T Enterprises** Wild Mouse. The last one previously operated as Pedro's Mouse at the now-defunct **Pedroland Park** part of the 50-year-old South of the Border complex in Dillon, S.C.

Miranda Muir has been chosen as the new general manager of the Elkhart County, Ind. 4-H Fair, taking over for Bryan Blair who was

there four years, serving as their first general manager. He is now the General Manager of the York Fair/Expo Center in Pennsylvania. Muir began her duties in mid-September, overseeing daily operations, personnel, financial reporting, facilities and fair board relations. She has worked as the general manager of the Tillamook County Fair in Tillamook, Oregon, and Kissimmee Valley Livestock Show and Osceola County Fair in Kissimmee, Florida. Muir is a graduate of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions' Institute of Fair Management. NAME provided the rides for the July 20-28 fair.

State legislators are still undecided about whether the Colorado State Fair will remain in Pueblo for the 147th edition in 2019. Legislators argue the fair has been losing money while in Pueblo, with limited financial support from the city. Fair officials point out that legislators would like to move it for the economic boost. As for the lack of support from Pueblo, Colorado State Fair General Manager Scott Stoller says that just isn't the case. "The city of Pueblo has shown support both publicly and financially, and it has been significant," Stoller said. While no official measure to move the fair has been brought up in this year's legislature, the worry is still present every year. The fair has been in Pueblo since 1872, even before Colorado was a U.S. state. Crabtree Amusements is the carnival midway operator.

Robin Jennison is the new General Manager for the Kansas State Fair, effective September 23. The fair board had been searching for months before selecting the 64-year-old. Previously Jennison was Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. Prior to that he was a state legislator from western Kansas, eventually serving as Kansas Speaker of the House. Jennison will continue to live in Wichita with his wife Colleen who is Kansas market vice president at Cox Communications. Interim general manager, Bob Moeder oversaw the September 7-16 fair, based in Hutchinson. North American Midway Entertainment was the ride purveyor.



▶ Europa-Park surges ahead with indoor park — page 34 / Aquatica Orlando gets a 'Ray Rush' — page 36

Splash World water park to highlight Malaysian development

Polin Waterparks to supply waterslides, water play structures

AT: Dean Lamanna dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

PULAU MELAKA, Malaysia — An elevated water park combining ultramodern amenities with the latest waterslide innovations is in the works off the tropical shore of manmade Malacca Island.

Called Splash World, the indoor / outdoor project will be situated on the 14th level of a massive, cruise shipshaped development, which will reach 30 stories at its highest point. Designed as a family-friendly holiday destination, the resort comprises hotels, residential units, an 800-store retail mall and multiple amusement and entertainment options in a location just three hours from Singapore and two hours from Malaysia's national capital, Kuala Lumpur. The area already draws 16.5 million tourists annually.

The overall design of the US\$198 million complex, being built by **Hatten Group** of Malaysia, pays homage to the area's history as a port city. It was conceptualized by Kuala Lumpur-based **WHZ Environmental Design**.

Expected to open in 2020 and designed and installed by Polin Waterparks of Turkey, Splash World itself will offer a variety of exciting rides, slides and splash pools. The 46,452-square-meter facility includes a two-level, interconnected lazy river that will wind through and around more than 50 other water attractions. Polin's Navigatour, a water coaster slide, will be the means by which guests can move from the lazy river's lower level to upper level, while various slides will let gravity do the work of moving guests from the upper level to lower level of the facility.

Eleven of Splash World's rides will be extreme waterslides offering high speeds





Splash World, part of a sprawling, cruise ship-shaped resort development near Malaysia's manmade Malacca Island, was designed by Polin Waterparks and will feature numerous waterslide and water play products manufactured by the company. COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS

and sharp curves, with added visual effects created by color patterns and special lighting. The length of all slides combined totals more than one kilometer.

Polin's multi-award-winning King Cobra waterslide will be a Splash World highlight. The ride's configuration sends two double tubes racing through a circular path filled with twists, turns and a climactic drop.

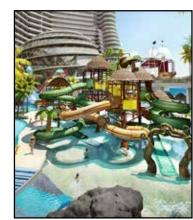
Dato' Colin Tan June Teng, managing director of Hatten Group, felt that including King Cobra in the park was "imperative" in light of its impressive aesthetics and thrill value. "It's a revolutionary ride," he said. "It's exhilarating, entertaining and takes the guest experience to the next level. It was at the top of our list of must-have attractions."

Guests will also be able to get an adrenaline rush from numerous other Polin products, including:

- •Surf Safari a waterslide featuring a daring, 40-degree sloped entrance and parabolic design.
- •Looping Rocket a high-drop waterslide incorporating dazzling translucent colors.
- •Windigo enclosed tubes that fan out to create geometrical curves and wind back together to conclude in multi-racer lanes.
- Aquatube an enclosed slide that carries guests through twists and turns in complete darkness.

Datuk Wira Eric Tan Eng Huat, chairman of Hatten Group, was confident that the result of Splash World's meticulous planning and large number of attractions will be happier guests who spend less time waiting in line and more time having fun. "We aim to create a waterpark that offers an unforgettable experience for our guests and their families," he said. "Our expectations are that the experience we offer lives up to every guest's wildest expectations."

•polin.com.tr



Wave pool concept to create concentric surfing-quality waves

YEPPOON, Australia — A project described as Australia's first full-scale surfing wave pool was expected to begin demonstrations this month after a period of testing.

Developed by Gold Coast-based **Surf Lakes Intl.**, the concept deploys concentric wave technology that is able to produce high-quality surfing waves closely mimicking ocean waves. At full operational capacity, the technology can produce up to 2,400 waves per hour because each concentric wave produced breaks into further waves on several reefs around the lake. Wave shapes are varied and crests can reach as high as 2.4 meters.

The full-scale realization of the concept in Yeppoon is intended for technology refinement and shareholder / media /potential licensee demonstration only, and it will not be open to the general public. Shaping of the lake and reef was completed over the summer, followed by the installation of the massive, hydraulically powered central wave-making machine.

Surf Lakes was originally conceived by former mining engineer **Aaron Trevis**. **Chris Hawley**, engineer, and **Reuben Buchanan**, corporate advisor, joined the company as directors in 2016.

Surf Lakes plans to license the technology around the world as a standalone attraction or as a feature for incorporation into resort properties, theme parks and leisure destinations.

—Dean Lamanna



Surf Lakes relies on concentric wave-making technology and reefs positioned around the pool to bend and vary wave shapes. Excavation and construction at the demonstration site was completed over the summer. COURTESY SURF LAKES INTL.



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Indoor water park pushes theming boundaries

Rulantica: Europa-Park's second gate surges forward

AT: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

RUST, Germany — From time to time, the amusement industry brings forth something on a level that surpasses even experts' expectations. Europa-Park is on track to debut something that extraordinary. More than five years in development, Rulantica is taking shape at a rapid pace.

Rulantica is the resort's second park. Currently, Europa-Park is the country's most popular theme park, bringing in more than 5.5 million in attendance annually. To call Rulantica an indoor water park doesn't begin to convey the scale and scope of the project. Along with the park, the expansion includes the resort's sixth hotel. With a distinctive theme, along with a lake between the accommodations and the water park, Hotel Krønosår is dubbed the Museum Hotel.

Thomas Mack, managing partner, Europa-Park, said, "It is our biggest investment in our more-than-40-year history. Right now, the length of stay is about 1.4 days. We want to increase that length of stay to where they stay two days, three days or even longer. Together with the Black Forest, there is so much to see in our region."

Europa-Park has significant convention facilities and five other superiorrated resort hotels. During the winter months of January – March, the park is closed, although the con-



With a master plan ready (above), the signage to Rulantica is in place as visitors drive to the Europa-Park resort.
COURTESY EUROPA-PARK; AT/TIM BALDWIN

vention business still thrives. Rulantica will offer conventioneers further recreation opportunities.

"The hotels stay open all year round. Rulantica will help us fill those hotels," said Mack. "For Hotel Krønosår and the water park, we didn't want to do palm trees and pirates because there are already so many water parks with those. We wanted to stay in Europe, so we went with a Scandinavian theme. I think the storytelling will be amazing."

The waterfront between the hotel and park will feature a fountain show and video projections at night. Future plans are for an entertainment district to be built. The hotel contains 304 rooms.

From the hotel, guests will cross over a trestle bridge to enter the water park. Once inside the massive structure, visitors are sure to have an impactful first impression.

Inside the park, theming will be over the top. Each support column will be themed to its specific "land," and a total of eight themed lands will immerse guests. Among them will be Vinterhal (Glacier Temple), Skip Strand (Shipwreck Beach), Skog



Lagune (Forest Lagoon) and Trølldal (Troll Valley).

Other areas will allow children and families to interact with mermaids underwater.

"The Glacier Temple and

Troll Valley are really exciting me," said Glen Sturgis, show producer. "The Troll Valley has so many levels going through it. Even though it







Artist renderings show the attention to detail being integrated into the park's theming. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

RULANTICA

Continued from page 34

is an area for younger kids, it gives them a lot of opportunities to wander around and explore. Working on the theming of Glacier Temple, the theming combined with the design, it's just a beautiful structure. For guests going up to the slides, it's such an interesting experience. There are so many cool nooks and crannies to look at. And then it has so much adventure. Shotgun Falls are waterslides that send you in the air and you splash down in some of the deepest pools."

RULANTICA

Maintaining the snow and ice to keep its crystal look over the course of time has been a challenge for the project. Sturgis reports that the park has been doing a lot of mockups and sampling as well as talking to other properties about best practices. **Mack Solutions** is doing the theming and design concepts.

Waterslides are being provided by **ProSlide Technologies** and **Aquarena**.

"We think we will have room for more than 3,000 people in the water park," said Michael Kreft von Byern, representative to the board. "The strategy is to have even more people in the building and expand the outside area. We are already working on the expansion phase."

Keeping with the Nordic theming, rental cabanas will not be tents, but physical detailed cottages.

"We are able to implement all the learnings from the other hotels — design wise, operation wise, construction wise. I would describe this as a constant process of improvement," said Kreft. "We produce entertainment and fun fresh for our guests every day."

While the project is too far out for a specific opening date, Europa-Park management is aiming for the end of 2019.

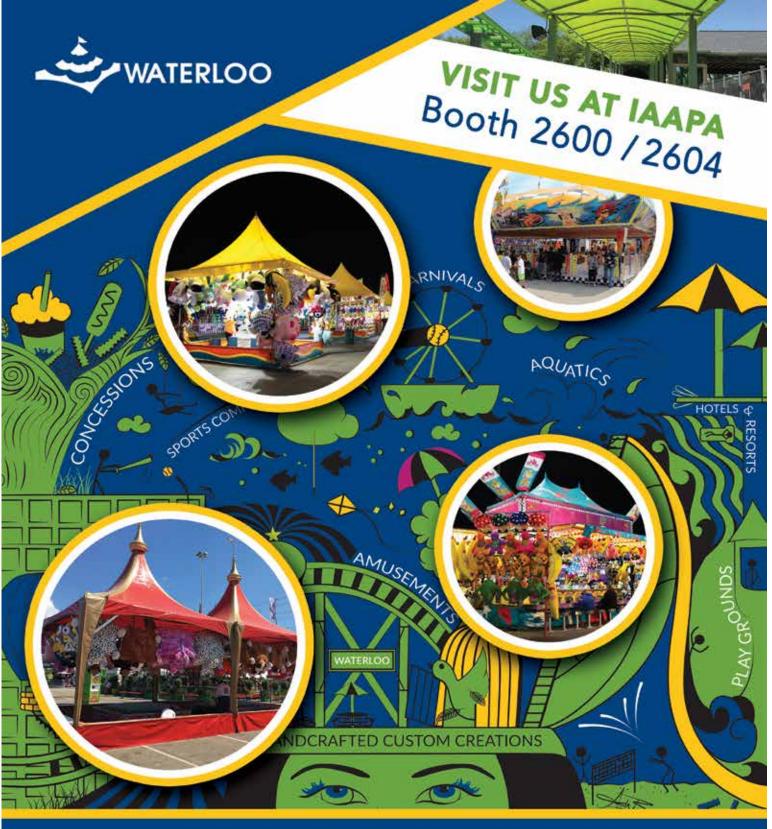
"The sheer vision for [Rulantica] is really driving people to go through the hard work," Sturgis told *Amusement Today*.

"It's a huge step for us. It will bring us to the next level," said Mack.



Massive ceiling support beams (above) are taking their position as construction moves forward. Thomas Mack stands before the construction site (right) of Hotel Krønosår. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK; AT/TIM BALDWIN

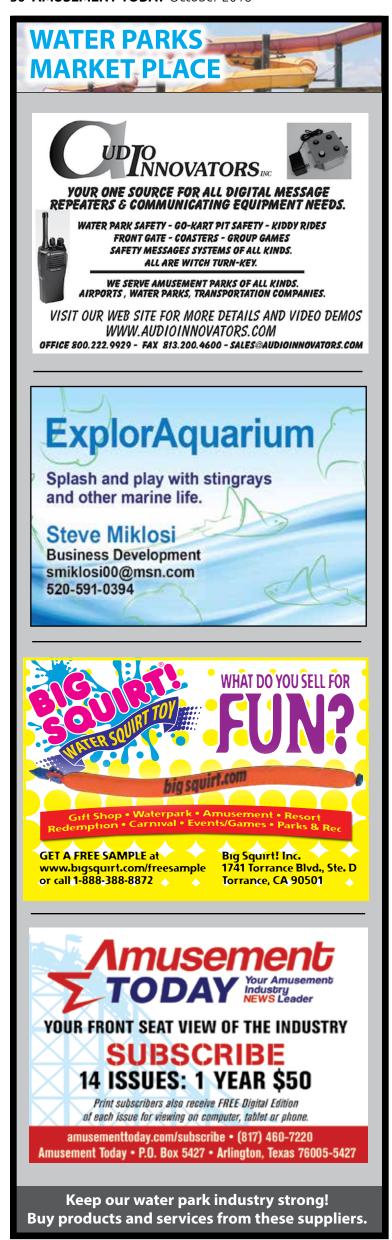




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WhiteWater West provides fusion slide

Ray Rush brings new thrills to Aquatica

AT: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Adding waterslides is vital to continue growth for water parks. Creating something iconic is a goal every facility can put on their wish list.

Of **SeaWorld's** trio of **Aquatica** water parks, the Orlando original has gained fanfare and acclaim in a very competitive market. New for 2018, the park has debuted Ray Rush.

"When we conceptualized this waterslide, we wanted to celebrate the majesty of one of our favorite animals, the manta ray. We were thrilled that WhiteWater was able to capture not just the sweeping movements of a manta ray but also visually represent the sensation of swimming in a fever of rays. Ray Rush has quickly become a favorite amongst our guests, making it one of our most popular rides," commented Aquatica Senior Leader, **David Heaton**.

Franceen Gonzales, executive vice president, WhiteWater West, is excited about the family aspect of the ride. "The vehicle we have allows kids to be tucked into their parents or across from them. It's a big open raft. Aquatica is about family experiences. The rider height requirement is 42 inches and we wanted it to be family friendly."

Ray Rush offers guests to Aquatica multiple experiences.

"A first-of-its-kind fusion water slide, Ray Rush has truly raised the bar for the variety of experiences a ride can offer. It is an exhilarating combination of three unique slide elements seamlessly blended into a single attraction," commented **Paul Chutter**, WhiteWater's Chief Business Development Officer.

"Never before have we put together these iconic elements, except for Ray Rush — it's the first," Gonzales told *Amusement Today*. "You are oscillating in an orb, launched on one of the world's first Family Blasters, and the manta element has a drop, but it is still fun for families. It's a very long ride, and I don't think people expect that."

Climbing to the top of a 60-foot tower shared by the park's Walhalla Wave, riders board rafts in groups up to four passengers. Upon dispatch, the rafts are immediately swept into a Master Blaster element. Unique to Ray Rush, the launch is taken on a horizontal plane instead of a typical uphill section. It's a fresh take on the proven technology. While being thrust,



Arriving guests get the full visual statement (above) of Ray Rush. The ride experience begins with a horizontal launch (below) on a Family Blaster under a canopy of arching waters. AT/TIM BALDWIN; COURTESY AQUATICA



they slide below arching waters above. Riders are swept into an aqua sphere where they undulate inside until being swept out and dropped into manta shaped "wings," which offers moments of weightlessness as rafts navigate the element.

Enclosed slide portions connect the elements and offer translucent rings and ray shapes placed into the fiberglass slide delivering flashy and entertaining visual effects. The finale sends

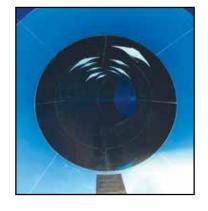
riders splashing into a catch pool.

On Sept. 8, the attraction officially received a Golden Ticket Award for Best New Ride in a Water Park at the 2018 Golden Ticket Awards held in Branson, Mo.

Aquatica opened in March of 2008 and sits on 59 acres. Currently, the park offers animal interactions in addition to two wave pools, activity pools, fast-moving rivers and several slide towers.

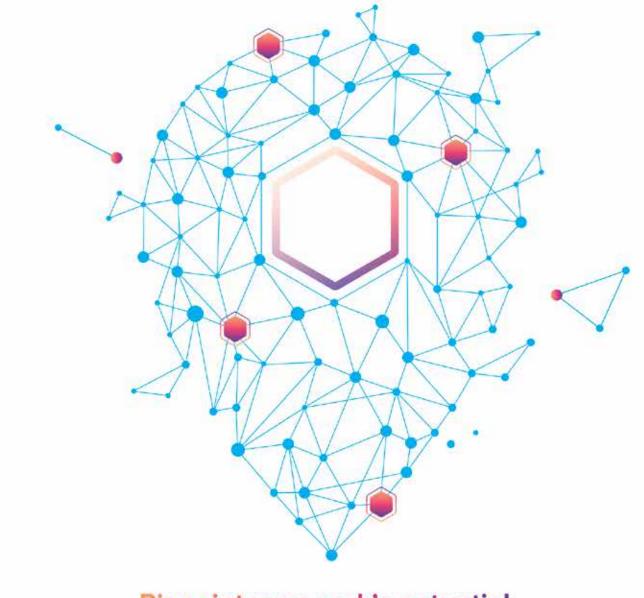
Riders (right)
experience
weightlessness in
the manta "wings."
Translucent touches
such as mantas
and rings of light
accent the enclosed
tube sections.
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Columbus Zoo completes fourth expansion of Zoombezi Bay

Water park project latest in long-term partnership with ADG

AT: Dean Lamanna dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

POWELL, Ohio — The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's 22.7-acre Zoombezi Bay water park launched its summer season with a brand-new expansion designed and built by Aquatic Development Group (ADG) of Cohoes, N.Y. The \$3.7 million addition, called Otter Banks, debuted Memorial Day weekend.

"We're incredibly excited for the opening of Otter Banks," said **Tom Stalf**, the zoo's president and CEO. "This aquatic attraction gives us the opportunity to provide our guests with an experience unlike any other in Central Ohio. It includes both adventure and relaxation while also offering more space and shorter lines during their visit."

Designed and built around ADG's Adventure Lagoon installation, Otter







Zoombezi Bay's new Otter Banks water play area includes activity pools and a pair of 30-foot-tall, intertwined drop slides from Aquatic Development Group, plus an inflatable obstacle course supplied by Wibit.

COURTESY ZOOMBEZI BAY; AQUATIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP (OVERVIEW)

Banks features three separate play areas totaling 2,500 square feet. They include an activity pool with basketball, three waterfalls and in-water seating; an action pool that holds an inflatable obstacle course by **Wibit**; and two 30-foot-tall, intertwined drop slides.

John Gannon, water park general manager, noted that guests were consistently asking for more slides, interactive water ride attractions and space to relax. "Our goal here is to not have people standing in long lines," he said.

Otter Banks can accommodate approximately 500 guests at a time. In addition to water attractions, it has expanded lounge seating and 15,000 square feet of decking around the play areas. It also offers cabanas.

The Columbus Zoo's partnership with ADG dates back more than a decade. It chose ADG to design and create Zoombezi Bay on the former site of Wyandot Lake

Amusement Park, which the zoo purchased from Six Flags Entertainment Corp. in 2006. The water park opened to the public in 2008 with \$20 million in attractions, including three waterslide complexes, a 544,000-gallon wave pool and a 575,000-gallon action river.

In 2011, ADG designed a waterslide expansion to provide two new slides — a 45-foot uphill water coaster and a half-pipe tube slide. Three years later, ADG designed and built the park's

\$4.5 million Baboon Lagoon children's area featuring nine children's waterslides, numerous interactive water play features and a 1,000-gallon dumping bucket.

"We have been pleased to work with ADG when we have looked for ways to expand our water park," Gannon said. "We are very excited about the new Otter Banks expansion and are also proud of the other projects' successes."

•zoombezibay.columbuszoo.org



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LetoLeto, billed as Russia's largest indoor water park, debuts

Facility's design, key attractions supplied by Polin Waterparks

AT: Jeffrey Seifert jseifert@amusementtoday.com

TYUMEN, Russia — Expected to be a boon to tourism, **LetoLeto Water Park**, said to be the largest indoor facility of its type in Russia, opened in the country's Siberian geographical region in June.

Although the city of Tyumen, which was founded in 1586 as the first Russian settlement in Siberia, can enjoy warm, humid summers, its long, cold winters — known to have dipped to 58 degrees below zero — make it an ideal location for an indoor water park. LetoLeto's amenities also include a 187-room hotel, a gourmet restaurant, cafés, bars, bistros, sport grounds, spas, baths and saunas.

The facility is considered an important development not only for the city, but for the Russia's Ural Federal District.

"I am sure that it will become one of the most favorite places for family recreation and will turn into a point of





LetoLeto Water Park has a colorful tangle of waterslides, including the magenta-and-purple Magic Hole, the blue Turbolance and the Windigo racing slides. The Turbolance's runout includes a whoosh over a speed bump. COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS

attraction for tourists from other regions of the country," said **Alexander Moore**, acting governor of the region.

"LetoLeto is a gift for those appreciating comfort and quality," said Mark Dobryansky, head of the public affairs department of Sibintel Holding, a local developer that collaborated with Polin Waterparks of Turkey to help bring the three-year project to fruition.

In addition to the park's design, Polin supplied more than 10 waterslides for the

107,000-square-foot facility, including three of the company's most popular models: Turbolance, Windigo and Magic Hole.

The Blackhole/
Turbolance slide can accommodate single, double or quad tubes. Riders first traverse a long twisting Blackhole enclosed tube chute before encountering a steep drop. The rafts are then thrust up the side of a wall, where riders will encounter a moment of weightlessness before sliding back down — moving over a speed bump then into a runout that ends in a splash pool.

The brightly colored magenta-and-purple Magic Hole slide is a fully enclosed elliptical tube chute with a flat bottom. It can also accommodate single, double or triple inline tubes or circular rafts of four. The chute takes advantage of Polin's special lighting effects with translucent stripes and stars, dazzling guests as they slide through the tube.

Windigo, a four-lane mat racer, starts with a spiraling enclosed section and also features lighting effects. The slides then align four-across for the final drop, allowing guests to race to the finish. Other popular Polin slides onsite include a space boat, spheres, an aquatube body slide and a looping rocket speed slide. (The latter two installations total more than 3,200 feet in length.)

Also within the park are several pools, including a hot tub / whirlpool, a wave pool with four programmable modes, a lazy river and one





Views of LetoLeto Water Park's exterior and lobby reveal an attractive, wave-inspired contemporary design aesthetic. COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS

the largest kids' water play zones in Russia. The park and its hotel are fully adapted for guests with disabilities.

To better serve the burgeoning water park industry in Russia. Polin established and the country of the largest kids' water play zones in Russia. The park and its hotel are fully adapted for guests with disabilities.

To better serve the burgeoning water park industry in Russia, Polin established an office in the city of Krasnador several years ago. Since then, Polin has been the project supplier for a number of water parks across the country, including **Gorki Indoor Waterpark** just outside of Ryazan.

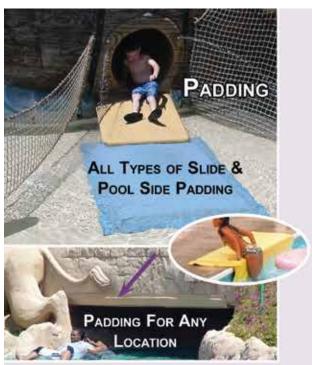
"It's a real honor to know that our attractions are helping our [project] partners, like LetoLeto, not just satisfy their patrons but gain their enduring affection," said **Selim Doguoglu**, general manager of Polin's Krasnador office. "It's truly satisfying to see the comments guests make after experiencing our designs. We know we've succeeded when guests rate our partners' parks with their highest reviews."

•polin.com.tr



Children have their own water play zone away from the main waterslides appealing to older kids and adults at LetoLeto Water Park. COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS











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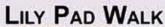
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Daytona Lagoon recovers from 2017 hurricane, adds new slides

AT: Jeffrey Seifert jseifert@amusementtoday.com

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — In September 2017, **Daytona Lagoon**, a family entertainment center and water park, was damaged by Hurricane Irma as the storm wreaked havoc throughout the Caribbean and Florida.

The fun spot's popular Kraken's Conquest racing slide was reduced to a twisted pile of fiberglass when powerful winds ripped it from its supports and dumped it onto an adjoining street. Park management was able to resume operating the arcade within a few days, but the water park required a major cleanup. It reopened without the racing slide once the other water park attractions were deemed safe.

Already in the midst of a \$2 million upgrade at the time the storm struck, Daytona Lagoon took the opportunity to redo Kraken's Conquest, keeping the name and the same support tower

After working with water park equipment supplier **Arihant** of Vasai, Maharashtra, India, replacement pieces started to arrive in May, and by early summer an upgraded Kraken's Conquest mat racer slide was up and running. The new waterslide adds an enclosed tube section to the first half of the course with translucent bands allowing light to come through — creating a psychedelic effect as riders slide down the tube.

A second slide described as a pendulum ride utilizes the same tower. Riders in two-person inline tubes drop more than 50 feet into a U-shaped structure. The tubes climb a steep uphill portion opposite the drop and then, after losing momentum, slide back down into the same valley. The motion continues, pendulum style, until the rafts come to a stop.

Recent investment in the facility includes improvements to a miniature golf course also damaged by the hurricane, plus a new indoor ropes course, an expanded arcade and a new gokart track.

Daytona Lagoon dates back to 1998, when it opened as **Adventure Landing**. In 2005 the property was sold and rebranded as Daytona Lagoon. In September 2015, it was sold again to **United Parks**, which kept the name and pledged to make \$2 million in improvements.

•daytonalagoon.com



After Hurricane Irma left
Daytona Lagoon's racing
slide a twisted mass
(above), the fun spot
upgraded its support
tower with new slides,
including a "pendulum
ride" that gives twoperson tubes oscillating
momentum (right).
COURTESY ARIHANT;
DAYTONA BEACH POLICE
DEPT. (DAMAGE PHOTO)





NEWSSPLASH

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert jseifert@amusementtoday.com

Maui Sands Resort & Indoor Waterpark, Perkins Twp., Ohio, has been purchased once again by a resort and hotelier company willing to give the ill-fated property another go. Multiple owners have attempted to make the indoor water park hotel resort successful after the original developer went bankrupt during the resort's construction. The resort became infamous when the Travel Channel featured it on its Hotel Impossible series.

Ironically, that TV appearance attracted the attention of Maryland-based **Vintro Hotel & Resorts** which then purchased the venue for \$7 million. Vintro said the property has a lot of potential particularly with a location just off US 250 and Ohio Route 2 — one of the busiest intersections in the Sandusky/ Great Lakes tourist area.

The company plans to invest \$15 million in renovations to the property, including removal of the original **Holiday Inn** which predates the creation of the water park resort. A plumbing leak in January left a foot of water in more than 170 rooms on the first floor of that building. Vintro has deemed the Holiday Inn unsalvageable.

Vintro owns and operates hotels, resorts and senior living facilities in Florida, Washington, Missouri and Idaho. This is the company's first venture in Ohio.

Point Pleasant, W.Va., could become home to a Yogi Bear Jellystone Park. Developers Lance and Susan Thornton of Thornton Group & LandSu Land Development, Inc. are in negotiations to acquire 445 acres of farmland that includes a historic 11,000-square-foot mansion purported to be owned by George Washington. The mansion was allegedly modelled after his home in Mount Vernon.

The Thorntons plan to invest \$10 million into the property to build a massive water park, luxury cabins, R.V. sites, tent camping sites, and horse-riding trails. The mansion will be turned into an upscale bed and breakfast.

Owner **Bret Morgan** has agreed to sell the property because of the Thornton's plan to preserve the history of the home. Morgan, who after 26 years plans to retire, will leave all the antique furnishings in the home.

Currently the only obstacle to the development is the lack of county water and sewer facilities to tie into the property. County commissioners are looking at possible solutions. The Thornton's hope to break ground in the spring and have the park up and running by 2020. The first phase of the plan calls for an \$8 million water park, followed by development of the cabins and campground.

The new indoor, city-owned, **Coventry Waterpark and Leisure Centre**, under construction in Coventry, England, will be warmed by trash. Specifically, the facility will tie into the Heatline scheme, a system developed by the city that provides high temperature and high pressure water to local buildings. The hot water is generated at the Whitney Incinerator which burns rubbish collected by the city of Coventry. The wa-

ter is then delivered via underground pipes to nearby facilities where a heat exchanger feeds the buildings normal heating systems. The Heatline scheme is expected to cover the entire demand for heat, including hot water for showers, heating of the water used for the slides and pools and general space heating for the building.

Ground was broken mid-September for construction of a \$1.23-million splash pad in Parkersburg, W.Va. The splash pad is designed to be accessible to all and includes three zones for different age groups.

Some of the funding of the splash pad was provided by contributions from local foundations and businesses.

The splash pad is being built at the **City Park Pool** which will also receive \$500,000 in renovations. The pool was constructed in the 1930s, and nothing has been added to it since that time. Renovations will include the addition of climbing walls, a zipline, new diving boards, expanded concession stand and an outdoor patio area. Ramps will also be included to make the pool and recreation areas more accessible. The project is expected to be completed in May 2019.

Ice Land Water Park in Ras Al Khamah (RAK) has closed. The elaborate polar-themed water park opened in 2010 with the hopes of helping to bring tourism to the little-known emirate of RAK. Although tourism is growing, the water park was never busy and it did not bring in enough visitors to keep it sustainable. In recent years, visitors reported that the park was not being adequately maintained.

The shutdown was unexpected and caught more than 200 employees by surprise. Many are from foreign countries on a UAE work visa and could face deportation if they cannot find new jobs.

The government closed the park to boost the emirate's tourism competitiveness.

"The RAK government has been persistent in its efforts to boost development across vital sectors, as well as to set and implement clear directions for the future of the emirate and, with that in mind, has moved forward with foreclosing Ice Land Water Park for the time being," it was quoted as saying.

Most people associate waterslides with water parks and humans, but at the **Philadel-phia Zoo**, otters have their own waterslide to play with.

Working with **Polin Waterparks**, the zoo has now enhanced its Zoo360 experience with the opening of Water Is Life: Red Panda Pass and Otter Falls. This new exhibit offers exciting new experiences for the animal residents. The primary feature of Otter Falls is its oversized slide through which the creatures can frolic, swim and slip.

The new exhibit has proven to be extremely popular with guests who have been visiting in person to watch the otters' angular antics. A video of the animals slipping down their personal waterslide has more than 16,000 views on the zoo's Facebook page.



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BUSINESS & NEWSMAKERS

▶ Women of Influence: WhiteWater's Franceen Gonzales — page 48 / Cedar Point's retro retail — page 50

Sally Corp., Aardman partner on 'Shaun the Sheep' dark ride

Animated character stars in immersive multimedia concept

AT: Dean Lamanna dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Sally Corp. of Florida has inked a deal with Bristol, U.K.-based Aardman Animations to design and market a dark ride based on the funny, family-friendly Shaun the Sheep character and product franchise.

The attraction will allow fans of the internationally popular animated television series of the same name (a spin-off Aardman's *Wallace & Gromit*) to help Shaun conquer all manner of havoc on the farm. Riders will board a custom-themed dark ride vehicle that will transport them through the character's colorfully rural world.

The four-minute ride experience will feature dozens of scenes inspired by the series.

Shaun being a sheep who doesn't follow the flock, he winds up leading it into all sorts of scrapes —

turning the peaceful Mossy Bottom Farm into a scene of amusing mayhem. Every day brings a wild and, yes, woolly (mis)adventure, with the action steeped in the highenergy slapstick and quiet comedy that are hallmarks of Aardman's style.

Lauren Wood Weaver, Sally's director of marketing, communications and business development, described the concept as ideal for any facility looking for new, suitable-for-all-ages attraction — one that blends practical sets, animatronics and award-winning





media.

"With Sally's ability to scale dark rides to any budget or footprint, the possibilities are endless," Weaver said. "This attraction is perfect for any park or FEC looking to satisfy their family demographic. From farm-themed attractions and play parks to cafes and stage shows, people are noticing the universal appeal of this popular IP and integrating it into attractions worldwide.

"Now, Sally gets the opportunity to join in the fun and create a fully immersive Shaun the Sheep dark ride that will be nothing short of a flockin' good time."

No stranger to creating dark ride experiences based on popular franchises, Sally's recent success with Justice League: Battle for Metropolis has paved the way for regional parks to incorporate IPs that make for destination-quality dark rides.

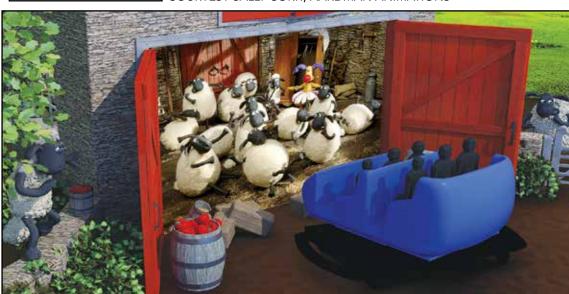
The four-time Academy Award-winning Aardman Animations is a studio best known for its stop-motion animation technique with clay puppets and vivid, humorous characters. Appealing to adults as well as children, *Shaun the Sheep* can be enjoyed on multiple levels.

"Shaun the Sheep loves new adventures, and we're



The Shaun the Sheep dark ride concept developed by Sally Corp. and Aardman Animations offers flexibility in size and configuration. Aardman's woolly characters are shown above holding one possible ride layout.

COURTESY SALLY CORP., AARDMAN ANIMATIONS



thrilled by the opportunity to provide Shaun's

global family audiences with a completely unique way to immerse themselves in the world of our characters," said **Ngaio Harding-Hill**, Aardman's senior manager of attractions and live expe-

riences. "Integrating Shaun's slapstick humor and farmyard antics into a thrilling dark ride experience promises to be an exciting creative partnership that we hope audiences will adore."

The Shaun the Sheep dark ride experience is flex-

ible in size and configuration. Representatives from both Sally and Aardman were on hand at **Euro Attractions Show 2018** in Amsterdam in September to introduce the attraction concept and discuss it with prospective buyers.

•sallycorp.com

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Six Flags raises scare attraction ante with horror film tie-in

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — In a bid to raise its profile in the increasingly bloody (and profitable) arena of Halloween attractions, Six Flags Entertainment Corp. is taking an IP tack that appears somewhat riskier than that taken by competitor Universal Studios, which relies heavily on scary mazes based on triedand-true horror franchises.

Teaming with CBS Films, Six Flags has rolled out a Fright Fest experience at three of its parks based on *Hell Fest*, a new horror movie from CBS Films and **Lionsgate** that opened Sept. 28. The locations featuring the attraction are **Six Flags Magic Mountain** in Valencia, Calif.; **Six Flags Great Adventure** in Jackson, N.J.; and **Six Flags Great America** in Gurnee, Ill.

The parks have installed mazes that replicate the screen story's most unnerving and gory scenes. Room by room, guests must find their way out or risk being trapped by "The



With self-reflexive irony, the new movie Hell Fest, about a costumed killer loose in a theme park Halloween attraction, has inspire official tie-in mazes at three Six Flags parks. COURTESY CBS FILMS, LIONSGATE

Other," the movie's deranged antagonist — who ironically in the film stalks a theme park Halloween attraction, creating mayhem that patrons at first think is part of the scary fun.

"Our guests visit Fright Fest to experience the scariest and most haunting attractions," said **Stephanie Borges**, vice president of North America strategic marketing and partnerships for Six Flags. "Partnering with CBS Films adds a new, completely immersive in-park experience to our existing lineup and takes this year's event to a whole new level of fear."

Park guests who are brave enough through the Devil's Mouth into The Hell Fest Maze, with rooms including:

• The Mausoleum, an increasingly narrow corridor that forces guests to feel the

touch of death

- The Mask Room, filled with floating white faces that spring to life when visitors least expect it.
- The Doll Room, filled with dolls straight out of one's worst nightmares.
- The Torture Chamber, where the bodies of the disassembled, dissected and disemboweled wish to share their horrific ending.

"Fall means Halloween, and for millions of people, Halloween means Fright Fest," said filmmaker **Gregory Plotkin**, the director of *Hell Fest*. "We are excited for Six Flags patrons to have the unique opportunity to step inside the terrifying world of *Hell Fest*."

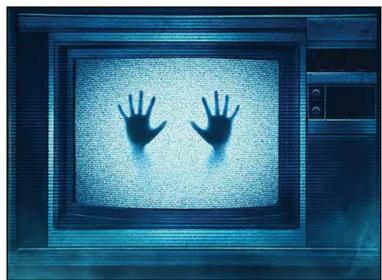
Six Flags' Fright Fest runs Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 31. Operating schedules vary by park.

—Dean Lamanna



While Six Flags tries wearing a new mask of fear, Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights continues to deploy more proven IP — such as the Halloween and Poltergeist film franchises — for its scare event.

COURTESY UNIVERSAL STUDIOS' HALLOWEEN HORROR NIGHTS





Ticket to a lifetime of togetherness



Amusement Today's annual Golden Ticket Awards (GTA) recorded a first on Sept. 7 during its weekend event at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo., when Tracy Shedd of Skyfair proposed to Holly Coston of AIMS Intl. and Skyfair. Holly gave a resounding "Yes!" and showed off the ring to close friends. The following evening, Amusement Today Publisher Gary Slade congratulated the couple during the GTA ceremony held on the Showboat Branson **Belle.** COURTESY HOLLY COSTON

ON THE MOVE

Betson Enterprises, headquartered in Carlstadt, N.J., has

announced the expansion of its sales team with the hiring of sales representatives Brandon Horton and Mark Roth, covering two major U.S. markets.

Horton brings experience in the hospitality and entertain-



ment industries with previous Horton stints at Chuck E. Cheese's, Incredible Pizza Co. and Gatti's Pizza **Co.** He will cover the Southwest as regional sales representative.

Roth joins Betson with more than 25 years of experience in business-to-business sales in the roofing industry, mainly with Woodfeathers, Inc. A Portland, Ore., native, he will serve as regional sales representative for the Northwest region.

Michael Gazer has joined Player One Amusement Group (P1AG) of Toronto as senior vice president and general manager.

Gazer brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in marketing, sales, operations and finance to his new role, in which he will oversee all aspects of P1AG across North America and provide strategic leadership and insight to drive growth across the business. Gazer previously held executive roles at Hooplah, Inc., Nelson Education, Ltd. and Shifting Gears Consulting.



Gazer Most recently, he was president of Apetito Canada, where he was responsible for the growth and expansion of the brand and busi-

Boston-based Berkshire Hills Bancorp, Inc., parent company of Firestone Financial, has named Gary Levante vice president, corporate social responsibility (CSR) officer — a newly created position within the Berkshire Bank Foundation. He will work to expand the foundation's community engagement efforts to implement an all-encompassing CSR strategy. In doing so, Levante, who has been with Berkshire since 2010, will lead efforts to integrate CSR into all activities of the company and foundation.



Pam Lifford has been promoted to president of Warner Bros. Global Brands and Experiences, with responsibility for Warner Bros. Consumer Products (WBCP), DC, Themed Entertainment

and a new Global Franchise team. The new business will align strategies and increase consumer engagement across the Burbank, Calif.-based company's key brands and franchises. Lifford is charged with developing and aligning fanengagement business opportunities. She joined the company as president of WBCP in February 2016; in her first year, she increased overall busi-



ness by 47 percent. With more than 25 years of experience in the consumer products industry and global licensing, Lifford's career includes 12 years with the Walt Disney Co. in progressive leadership roles.

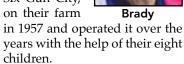
OBITUARIES

Eleanor Brady, co-owner/operator, Six Gun City (N.H.)

JEFFERSON, N.H. — Eleanor Ruth Brady, 99, a member of the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) Hall of Fame, died Aug. 18 at her home. She was 99.

Brady was born in 1919 in Plymouth, N.H. Raised in Groveton, she was a graduate of Groveton High School and attended North Hampton Business College in Massachusetts.

In 1938, she married James Paul Brady of Berlin. They moved to Jefferson in 1941 and operated a dairy farm until 1955. The Bradys established what would into grow western theme park, Six Gun City,



Six Gun City started out small with a dairy bar. The Bradys kept adding on until they had a theme park with a Western Main Street, cowboy skits, gift shops and rides. In 1988, they added waterslides. In 2006, they purchased the adjacent Jefferson Campground. Two years later, the Bradys were inducted into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame for their contributions to state tourism.

Eleanor was predeceased by her husband in 2007 after 69 years of marriage. She is survived by her children Lawrence, George, Jane, Richard, James Jr., Michael, Karen and Thomas; her grandchildren Mark, Anne, Patrick, Christine, Richard Jr., Sarah, Ellen and Kerry; 15 great grandchildren; and a sister, Barbara Gilbert.

Ward Hall, often called 'World's Greatest Showman'

LELAND, Ill. — Ward Hall, modern-day P.T. Barnum

and former director of the Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA), passed away Aug. 31 at age 88.



Hall

Often called "The World's Greatest Showman," Hall was a larger-than-life king of sideshows and owned dozens of them over the decades. His most famous was World of Wonders, which he co-owned with Chris Christ. A lifetime member of the International Independent Showmen's Association (IISA) in Gibsonton (a.k.a. "Gibtown"), he was also a past president of the organization.

A performer since 1944, Hall worked first as a lion tamer and later as a sideshow barker and manager. He brought joy and wonderment to the tens of thousands of people who saw his shows in traveling circuses, carnivals and theaters.

Hall worked with a variety of human and animal oddities / entertainers — from monkey girls to sword swallowers to miniature horses. He wrote four books and appeared in seven movies and hundreds of videos and TV programs. He performed at Madison Square Garden and Lincoln Center and sang at Carnegie Hall — all in New York City — and he was still working until the time of his death.

An inductee of the Circus Ring of Fame and, in 2008, the OABA Hall of Fame, Hall was the subject of an official biography, Ward Hall - King of the Sideshow!, authored by attractions industry journalist Tim O'Brien.

Bill Luehrs, co-owner/operator of Luehrs' Ideal Rides

HIGHLANDS RANCH, Colo. — William Francis "Bill" Luehrs, a for-

mer midway co-owner operator, died on Aug. 18. He was 78. Luehrs



was the old-Luehrs

est son of the late Hub and Winnie Luehrs, who founded Luehrs' Ideal Rides, Inc., in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1957. Bill grew up working on the show along with his siblings, twins Jon (deceased) and Jean and younger sister Lorelei. Bill was an avid golfer, a devoted Chicago Cubs fan and a huge Green Bay Packer fan.

In the 1970s, Luehrs returned with his family, wife Maggie and daughters Mary Chris, Lisa and Annie, to Luehrs' Ideal Rides and owned and operated games. In 1980, Luehrs went on to own a McDonald's restaurant franchise in South Florida. His daughter Mary Chris Smith currently is president of Allied Specialty Insurance and executive vice president of XL Catlin.

Luehrs's sisters brothers-in-law Jean and Joe Clair and Lorelei and Andy Schoendienst — all third generation — along with their children own and operate Luehrs' Ideal Rides out of Collinsville, Ill.

Morris Vivona, Sr., founder, Amusements of America

WEST CALDWELL, N.J. New York State Showpeople's — Morris Vivona, Sr., founder of Amusements of America, passed away at age 97 on Aug. 25.

. Vivona was born in Newark, N.J., in 1920. In 1939, he launched Amusements of America with the purchase of a Ferris wheel that turned at the New York World's Fair. He was the eldest of five brothers who built the company, and he contributed to its daily operations as chairman of the board.

Vivona served as past president of the National Showmen's Association and the Association, served as director of

OABA, and was the eldest member and former director of Miami



Vivona

Showmen's Association. He also served as president of the St. Louis chapter of the Showmen's League of America.

In 1995, Amusements of America was named the world's largest traveling amusement park by the Guinness Book of World Records

— an honor that made Vivona very proud. He received many awards, including the IISA Hall of Fame, the State of South Carolina's Friend of the Fairs Award and the Man of the Year honor from the Miami Showmen's Association.

Vivona was still working shows and was considered the oldest active showman in the U.S. at the time of his passing.

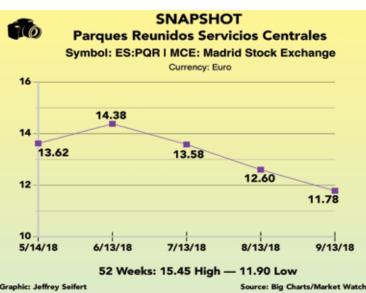
Morris was the husband of 70 years to the late Ethel Vivona; father of Dr. Kathryn Fedina and her husband, Anthony, Adrienne Vivona Inman and Morris Vivona, Jr.

MARKET WATCH

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 09/13/18	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	вх	NYSE	35.94	37.52	29.57
Merlin Entertainments Group / Legoland	MERL	LSE	380.20	469.40	317.10
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	53.17	70.82	50.1
Comcast Corp./NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	37.04	44.00	30.43
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	110.67	117.90	96.8
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.36	0.83	0.32
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	70.31	72.27	51.87
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	3490.00	3560.00	2346.00
Haichang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.69	2.30	1.55
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	6.20	8.26	6.05
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	27.48	38.41	26.31
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	11.78	15.45	11.62
Sansei Technologies, Inc.	JP:6357	TYO	1367.00	1864.00	894.00
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	32.41	32.47	10.42
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	69.41	73.38	56.01
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	10.20	15.88	8.46
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	674.00	704.00	545.00
Village Roadshow	AU:VRL	ASX	2.32	4.15	1.73

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 Excange, Corp.; TYO/TSE, Tokyo Stock Exchange
—SOURCES: Bloomberg.com; Wall Street Journal



DIESEL PRICES Region As of Change from (U.S.) 09/10/18 1 year ago East Coast \$3.246 +\$0.417

East Coast	\$3.246	+\$0.417
Midwest	\$3.194	+\$0.441
Gulf Coast	\$3.039	+\$0.392
Mountain	\$3.367	+\$0.540
West Coast	\$3.465	+\$0.458
California	\$3.969	+\$0.790

CURRENCY

On 09/14/18 \$1 USD =

0.8579 EURO

0.7648 GBP (British Pound)111.63 JPY (Japanese Yen)

111.63 JPY (Japanese Yer 0.9680 CHF (Swiss Franc)

1.3904 AUD (Australian Dollar)

1.3001 CAD (Canadian Dollar)

BUSINESS WATCH

Cedar Fair reports record revenues in August

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Regional theme park and resort operator **Cedar Fair Entertainment Co.** announced that results for the five weeks ended Labor Day, Sept. 3, represented record revenues for the fiscal month of August. Preliminary net revenues were \$288 million, up 6 percent, or \$17 million, when compared with the same period in 2017. This was the result of a 5 percent, or 255,000-visit, increase in attendance; a 1 percent, or \$0.52, increase in average in-park per capita spending; and a 7 percent, or \$2 million, increase in out-of-park revenues, including resort accommodations. Year-to-date preliminary net revenues through Sept. 3 were \$1.04 billion, up slightly compared with the similar period through Labor Day last year.

Imax Corp. reports second quarter 2018 results

NEW YORK — **Imax Corp.** reported second quarter 2018 revenues of \$98.3 million, gross profit of \$60.4 million and net income attributable to common shareholders of \$7.6 million, which calculates to \$0.12 per diluted share. Adjusted net income attributable to common shareholders for the second quarter was \$19.0 million, which calculates to \$0.30 per diluted share. Adjusted EBITDA per credit facility was \$39.5 million. During the quarter, the company installed 31 theater systems, 30 of which were for new theater locations. The total IMAX-branded theater network consisted of 1,410 systems as of June 30, of which 1,314 were in commercial multiplexes. There were also 635 theaters in backlog as of that date, compared to 580 in backlog as of June 30, 2017. Imax Corp. also signed contracts for 40 new theaters and 98 upgrades in the second quarter of 2018.

Ripley's Believe It or Not!, Nitro Circus partner

ORLANDO, Fla. — Now in its 100th year, **Ripley's Believe It or Not!** has entered into a two-year touring, digital content and publishing partnership with action sports entertainment brand **Nitro Circus**. Ripley's, as a category-exclusive partner, will be featured throughout Nitro's live shows and the **Nitro World Games**. Utilizing athlete ambassadors, the two brands will collaborate on original digital content and experiences. "Nitro Circus and Ripley's strive to make the unbelievable believable," said **Amanda Joiner**, Ripley's senior director of publishing and licensing. "It's this passion and common thread that makes for a perfect partnership." Added **Brett Clarke**, Nitro Circus's chief commercial officer: "Nitro fans can expect a truly unique partnership between two like-minded brands. There couldn't be a better strategic alignment." Per the agreement, **Ripley Publishing** also becomes the exclusive publisher for Nitro Circus.

Esselworld taps Intercard debit card technology

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — **Intercard**, a global leader in debit card technology for the attractions industry, has made deeper business inroads in India with a major installation at **Esselworld Amusement Park** in Mumbai. As of last spring, Esselworld has been operating with an automated Intercard cashless payment system — an important part of the park's plan to remain competitive in the growing Mumbai amusement market. The system integrates with Esselworld's existing point-of-sale and enterprise resource planning software, and it allows park patrons to easily pay for and enjoy all rides, food and beverage venues, as well as merchandise stores. The system uses cards and wristbands with RFID technology that activate Intercard readers at all attractions. The 42-acre Esselworld is one of the largest amusement parks in India, drawing about 1.8 million visitors annually. Intercard has more than 70 installations in the country.







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Women INFLUENCE

A view from the top...

Franceen Gonzales is executive vice president, business development, for WhiteWater West Industries, Ltd. The company is a global leader in water park design and the design and manufacturing of attractions and products for water parks.

Gonzales has been with WhiteWater for almost five years. She specializes in the design and planning of amusement facilities and oversees business development in North America, South America and the Caribbean

Accomplishments and affiliations...

- International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) — board member, 2011-13; executive finance committee member, 2016; membership board chairman, 2011-13; Outstanding Service Award, 2014
- World Waterpark Association (WWA) board chairman, 2006-08; board member, 2002-10; Hall of Fame inductee, 2017; Kelly Ogle Memorial Safety Award, 2005, 2009; Executive Board Award, 2005
- Amusement Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers (AIMS)
 board member, current vice chair; John Allen Safety
 Award, 2009
- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) board member, 2014-16; numerous committees
- National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF) board member

Sharing her wellspring of knowledge

INDIAN ROCK BEACH, Fla. — At age 14, there was no way for Franceen Gonzales to know her "summer job" at the local water park in El Paso, Texas, would turn into a successful and dynamic career. She just needed a summer job, her mother said

Her first job at Wet 'N' Wild Waterworld was cleaning out the pools. Over several years, however, her loyalty and skill got her promoted to lifeguard, supervisor, manager and, eventually, director of operations. The park's owner, Berry Edwards, didn't want to have to replace her when she began attending Stanford University in San Francisco.

"Starting after spring break, he would fly me home every weekend to work in the park until my exams were over," Gonzales recalled

Today, Gonzales thrives in the global water park industry. She travels extensively and helps lead her team of 12 at White-Water West Industries, Ltd., tend to the company's international clients. Volunteering with industry associations allows her to share her knowledge.

During this interview, Gonzales was riding in a taxi in Cancún, Mexico, where IAAPA's safety committee had wrapped a meeting. During its planning, in view of the growth of attractions in the area, the committee decided to reach out to local owners and operators and invite them to

a free forum

"We thought it might be good for there to be some training," Gonzales said. "We had 125 people turn out," she said. "And these were middle management people who are hard to touch sometimes. We were surprised and pleased."

Her excitement for the industry is evident. It's this passion that drove Gonzales forward. Along every step, her path was cleared.

Her first mentors were her parents, Ruben and Gloria Gonzales. From her mother, Franceen learned to always do the very best she could. From her father, she learned to always work hard no matter the task.

From her first boss at Wet 'N' Wild Waterworld, she learned a lot about humanity, of being fair. He taught her a lot about safety.

After college, Gonzales sought and got the position of general manager at Waterworld Safari, Phoenix, Ariz. That particular park would later become Wet 'n' Wild Phoenix, but from 1997 to 2004, when Gonzales was there, it was owned by Golfland Entertainment Centers.

"I was working there during the insurance crisis," she said. "For some reason, my park had less incidences of complaints and injuries. The insurance company wanted to know why."

They visited her park and saw she had

Franceen Gonzales

Executive Vice-President,
Business Development
Whitewater West Industries, Ltd

Richmond, B.C., Canada



implemented some safety elements. The insurance company said they would insure the Golfland parks if all of them implemented these elements. Golfland boosted her to director of operations.

All along, Gonzales sought out industry associations. She volunteered as much as she could, gaining visibility.

In 2004, Gonzales was recruited to work as park director for Hurricane Harbor at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, N.J. She remained there until 2006, when another opportunity arose with Great Wolf Resorts, which was just beginning construction on its indoor water park lodges. She served as vice president, risk management and water parks, for the company until 2013.

While at Great Wolf, she worked with CEO Kim Schaefer. "She was a very strong woman, a great mentor," Gonzales said.

When Geoff Chutter, founder and CEO of WhiteWater, began to recruit Gonzales, she didn't understand why.

"I was in the safety and operations side of running a water park, not in sales for a manufacturer," she said. "I asked him, 'Why do you want me?'

"He said, 'You understand the client. I need you to help our team understand the

client... I need you on that bus.'"

Not totally convinced, Gonzales wanted to know where she would be sitting on this bus and who would be driving it.

"What I saw was that WhiteWater had the big picture of the industry, and they were taking it globally," she said. "I found that interesting."

Chutter said another thing to her: "Franceen, you've been doing this for a long time. It's time for you to stretch."

"So, I stretched. It was the best thing I ever did."

She would like to see others coming into the industry do the same.

"It is important for us to show them there is a career path for them," she said. "There are a lot of positions in the development side. Since many attractions have become so immersive, there are positions for those in show and theater.

"Have you ever taken a survey where you have to check what you do?" she said. "This industry doesn't have its own line. You could check entertainment, but that doesn't really tell the story."

The industry needs its own check box, Gonzales feels. She can't wait for the day.

—Pam Sherborne

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REMOVAL: Buyers will have auction day until 5:00, and October 26th & 27th from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Buyers of large items will be given additional time for removal. ALL items MUST be removed by November 13th.

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At Cedar Point, attractions from the past make for retro retail

By wearing nostalgia on its sleeve, the park is finding new profits

AT: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Amusement parks have been operating in the U.S. for more than a century. Even the more modern theme parks are reaching the 40-, 50- and 60-year marks. With time, parks develop fans that cross multiple generations.



A recent trend is merchandise that spotlights rides, logos and looks from the past.

Cedar Point has found great success with what it calls the Vintage Program.

"We reached back into our archives and pulled out some logos from the '90s. Once we produced that product, we realized that people are loving this."

> —Jessica Bradley, Area Manager, Merchandise, Cedar Point

"The first pitch for the retro line was for Wildcat and it just took off from there," said **Jessica Bradley**, area manager, merchandise, Cedar Point. "We reached back into our archives and pulled out some logos from the '90s. Once we produced that product, we realized that people are loving this. We went to one of our vendors and pitched them ideas and logos and the Vintage Program arrived."

The program is now in its third year, and Cedar Point has continually added more offerings.

"They love it," Bradley told *Amusement Today*. "There's a blue heather T-shirt with the old train logo on it — that one we can't keep on the shelves. Disaster Transport is one of the new favorites this season."

Wildcat was a **Schwarzkopf** compact coaster that operated from 1971 to 2011. Disaster Transport was an indoor **Intamin** bobsled ride removed in 2012 for the newer GateKeeper coaster.

"People love Cedar Point. With our 150th coming up, it is a good time to reflect on what the park had in the past and make it present for people who weren't here to be able to enjoy the rides and people who were here can relive it," said Bradley, now in her seventh season.

Games also have their following. Fascination and Down a Clown have shirts of their own. "Fascination is huge," said Bradley. In one of the main retail shops, the vintage line is front and center, complete with a Fascination table as a showpiece.

It would be easy to say the line could be viewed as a risk. Bradley reports there were no naysayers. "I think our retail team is unique. We are either all

in or only a couple who aren't sure. This was definitely a team effort to think about the '90s. We went back into the archives to see what was relevant."

Old Cedar Point logos aren't hard to come by, accord-



Wildcat, a Schwarzkopf compact coaster, was retired after 2011 and was the first shirt in the Vintage Program. COURTESY CEDAR POINT; AT/TIM BALDWIN



Shirts sporting designs from former rides (above) such as Schwabinchen, Rotor, Wildcat, Avalanche Run and more are presented front and center. Fascination, Down a Clown and Paddlewheel Excursion shirts (below) are shown displayed with an authentic Fascination game. AT/TIM BALDWIN



ing to the merchandise department

"What is neat about the Vintage Program is the garments that they are on. With some of the Cedar Point shirts we sell now, we try to make sure we have apparel and souvenirs for guests of all ages and financial backgrounds. Some shirts are \$14.99 but aren't necessarily the best feel. With the Vintage Program, the shirt itself is amazing. It's blended heather and the marbled look lends itself to a program called 'vintage.'"

The vintage apparel generally sells for around \$24.99.

Other operators are also buying into the trend. Old rides and original logos can be spotted in numerous theme parks around the country.

 ${\color{red} \bullet \, cedar point.com}$



Universal Orlando's Aventura Hotel a sleek resort addition

ORLANDO, Fla. — Universal Orlando Resort's newest accommodations, Universal's Aventura Hotel, opened for business in mid-August. The stylish 600-room hotel is the destination's sixth property in partnership with New York City-based Loews Hotels & Co.

Aventura offers contemporary rooms with floorto-ceiling windows and technological conveniences, such as in-room tablets that allow guests to order pizza in addition to controlling the TV, lighting and room temperature. All rooms, and the hotel generally, are outfitted with high-speed fiber-optic network connections for future tech upgrades.

Dining options include the resort's first-ever rooftop bar and grill: Bar 17 Bistro. Guests can enjoy cocktails and small plates inspired by global cuisine while taking in expansive views of all three Universal theme parks — including the 200-foot centerpiece of Universal's Volcano Bay water park, Krakatau, which spews glowing blue "lava" at night. Urban Pantry, a modern food hall, offers diverse flavors, fresh ingredients and dishes such as teriyaki stir fry and smoked salmon pizza.

Guests at the property enjoy exclusive theme park benefits and hotel amenities at a price designed for value-savvy travelers. Aventura is steps away from all three Universal Orlando theme parks -Universal Studios Florida, Universal's Islands of Adventure and Universal's Volcano Bay. A walking path connects the hotel directly to the water park, and complimentary shuttle buses are available for resort-wide transportation.

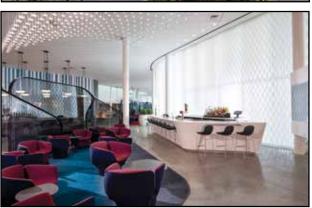


Universal Orlando Resort's Aventura Hotel is a strikingly contemporary addition to the Central Florida skyline. The 600-room property offers high-tech amenities, a rooftop bar and grill, and expansive views of the surrounding theme parks. COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

The 17-story hotel, located on Adventure Way opposite Universal's Cabana Bay Beach Resort, represents another move by Universal to attract a larger share of Central Florida's tourism business. About 72 million people visited the region in 2017. Universal now has a total of 6,200 hotel rooms in the area.

Rates start at Universal's Aventura Hotel start at \$116 per night for a four-night stay. For more information, visit the resort's website: universalorlando.com.





Legoland New York reveals eight 'lands' in Lego model form

A mini-bricktacular previews fun to come at new resort in 2020

AT: Dean Lamanna dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

GOSHEN, N.Y. — Late in summer, more than 100 members of the media and special guests joined officials from Merlin Entertainments to get the first look at the eight themed "lands" that will form the \$350 million, 150-acre Legoland New York Resort.

The event took place at the resort's future location in upstate New York, just 60 miles northwest of Manhattan, where site preparation has already begun for a planned 2020 opening. It was highlighted by the unveiling of a model of the family theme park rendered in — what else? Lego bricks.

The mini-marvel, in fact, required 135,000 bricks carefully assembled by 20 Master Model Builders.

"Legoland New York is coming, and it's time to get excited," said resort public relations manager Matt Besterman. "This will be the ultimate must-see destination for families in the Northeast."

On hand to help reveal the





flourish, unveiling a model made from 135,000 Lego bricks.



LEGOLAND

model were a group of local children who wore costumes representing each land of the park. The eight lands:

• The Factory is the beginning of the Legoland New York experience. Once visitors pass under the iconic arch, they're in a world that appears to be built of Lego bricks. The Great Lego ride offers a journey through the brick-manu-

COURTESY LEGOLAND NEW YORK RESORT facturing and packaging process from a Lego Minifigure's point of view.

- Bricktopia is a land with no rules or restrictions on creativity. Guests will work with Master Model Builders to build and test Lego creations.
- Lego Ninjago World is where aspiring ninjas can master the ancient art of Spinjitzu.
- •Heartlake City is home to the Lego Friends: Emma, Olivia, Stephanie, Andrea and
- Knights' Kingdom, site of the Lego Castle, is a land of knights, princesses, wizards and dragons — including the Dragon Coaster, a family ride.

The forthcoming Legoland New York Resort revealed its site plans with a grandly creative

- Lego City is home to the Minifigures. Learn to be a Lego City firefighter and help save the day at Rescue Academy, or attend Lego Driving School and to get an official Legoland driver's license. With restaurants, shops and a theater, there is plenty to see and do.
 - •Pirate Shores is the place

for young buccaneers to find adventure. Climb aboard a galleon and say "Anchors aweigh!"

 Miniland is the heart of every Legoland park, a massive panorama of Lego-built cities from across the country, with interactive features around every corner.

While the theme park will operate seasonally, the resort will offer a 250-room Legoland Hotel open year-round.

•legoland.com/new-york



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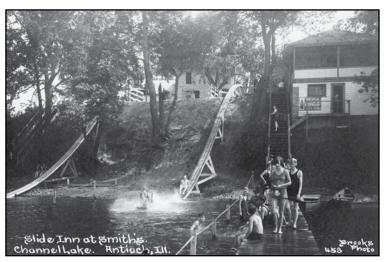
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MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

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

Sellner's Water Toboggan Slide: possibly the first waterslide?



From the NRCMA Archives (the Sellner/Larson Collection) is this photo of a Sellner Water Toboggan Slide operating at Slide Inn at Smith's Channel Lake in Antioch, Ill. (no year listed). NRCMA research has confirmed slides as early as 1925 in Duluth, Minn. Typical slides (officially patented on Feb. 12, 1929) stood 30 feet tall and featured a wooden track length of 100 feet. Wooden sleds were anchored via a slotted track with a metal-lined groove for safe operation. We ask the industry historians if these early slides could be the first known waterslides in our industry? NRCMA/SELLNER COLLECTION

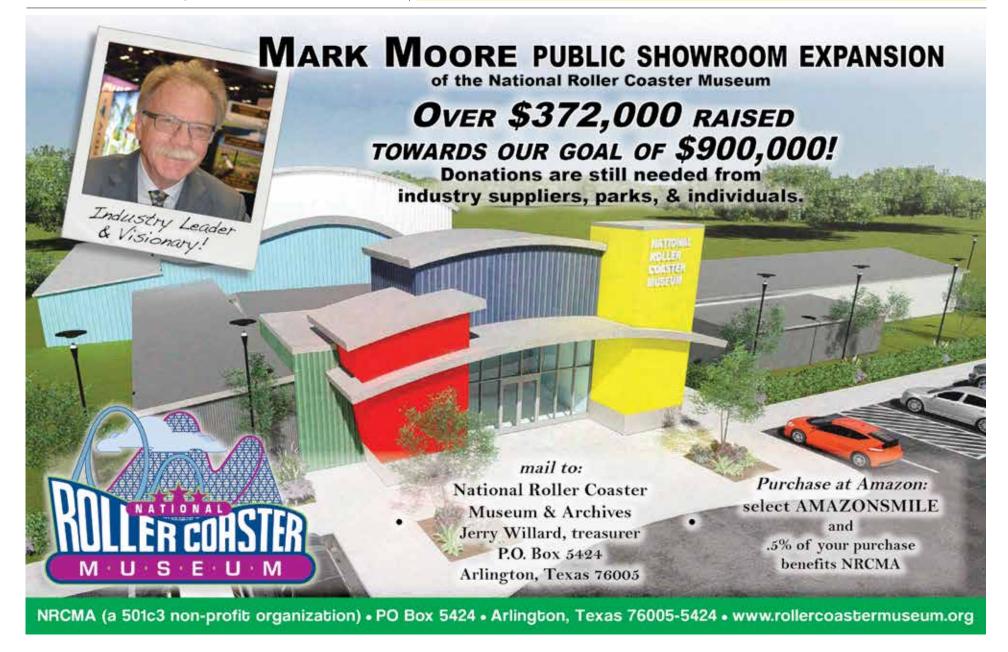
FROM THE ARCHIVES COLLECTION



1917:

Both swimmers and well dressed spectators enjoy the 300-foot-long swimming pool at Neptune Beach Park, in Alameda, California, with the ominous Thompson Giant Safety Racer in the background. After being relocated by the L.A.

Thompson Pacific Coast Company from the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, it reopened in May 1916 as a separate concession (a common misconception is that it opened in 1917 when Surf Beach became Neptune Beach). The popular twin track racing coaster had a total track length of 5,000 feet with nearly 600 feet of the structure extending out into the bay. The park closed after the 1939 season, leaving Playland-at-the-Beach as San Francisco's only local amusement park. – *Richard W. Munch*





▶ AIMS News & Notes — page 57 / APSP releases newly revised, improved training manuals — page 59

Pa. Ride Safety Board meets

AT: B. Derek Shaw bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

HARRISBURG, Pa. – Four times each year, the **Pennsylvania Ride Safety Advisory Board**, which operates under the **Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture**'s Bureau of Ride & Measurement Standards, convenes.

The meeting comprises seven representatives from the amusement industry, two members of the public and two special advisors who gather to discuss and either accept, conditionally accept, table or reject new ride approvals submitted by carnivals, amusement parks and water parks.

The summer edition included four manufacturers with 11 different attractions / rides that were brought before the board during a three-hour-plus meeting.

Presenting manufacturers included **Show Canada Industries** for the Comcast Experience. Named Universal Sphere, the attraction will be located in the lobby of **Xfinity Live!** within the Wells Fargo section of the **Philadelphia Sports Complex**. It is slated to open prior to Thanksgiving. The free-of-charge, 32-capacity bench seat attraction is similar to an **IMAX** theater. The theater slowly revolves during a 270-degree, six-minute experience powered by four laser projectors, fully immersing the audience. It will meet **ASTM** and Chapter 139 Pennsylvania Code 7 standards.

Other companies presenting were Horan Adventure Development, LLC, for their Monkey Trunks tree-climbing experience destined for Kalahari Resorts Poconos; Amusement Products, LLC, maker of various types and styles of go-kart vehicles; and KMG for the modifications it has made to two portable Afterburner ride models and one new model owned by carnivals that travel throughout the state.

A great deal of the advisory meeting focused on the KMG Afterburner (also known as Fireball or Wild Claw). This was the type of ride that suffered metal fatigue at the 2017 **Ohio State Fair**, resulting in a fatality and several injuries. All Pennsylvania owners of the ride were issued a stop-use order at the time that remained in effect until recently.

KMG addressed the issue separately, by serial number. Reithoffer Shows, Inc., and Wade Shows, Inc., both purchased and installed the modification that is available from KMG on a ride-by ride basis. This includes six new assemblies newly manufactured from the main

▶ See PENNSYLVANIA, page 56



Space Center Houston is now a Certified Autism Center

HOUSTON, Texas — Space Center Houston is the first space center in the world to become a Certified Autism Center (CAC).

The designation, given by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES), is awarded to organizations that have completed a professional training and review process with the goal to better serve individuals with autism and other sensory needs.

"Science, technology, engineering and mathematics education is for everyone," said **William T. Harris**, the center's president and CEO. "This certification highlights our dedication to be inclusive and to inspire the next gen-



eration of problem solvers."

The certification process involves rigorous training for staff, inspections and improvements that enable Space Center Houston to welcome and accommodate more effectively those guests with autism spectrum disorder and other sensory and cognitive challenges. Earning the CAC designation also includes a commitment to maintain that training and provide the best guest experience possible.

"This is who we are," said Harris. "We are a values-based organization, and we've incorporated accessibility and inclusion into the very fabric of Space Center Houston as part of our way forward."

Parents with children on the autism spectrum often find vacationing and visiting attractions such as museums and theme parks to be a challenge due to sensory needs, dietary restrictions and safety concerns. For almost 20 years, IBCCES has been the industry leader in autism training for licensed healthcare professionals and educators around the globe.

IBCCES recognized that

→ See SPACE, page 55



Space Center Houston has been recognized as a Certified Autism Center by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards. The nonprofit is the first science and space exploration learning center to earn such a distinction.

COURTESY SPACE CENTER HOUSTON

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SPACE

Continued from page 54

many families with children with special needs have limited options and created programs specifically for the hospitality and travel industry.

"We're thrilled to work with such an amazing organization that can impact the lives of so many," said Myron Pincomb, IBCCES board chairman. "Space Center Houston has gone above and beyond to show its commitment to serving those on the spectrum, and what they offer is so important for those individuals. It's crucial for organizations to ensure all guests can experience the world around them in a safe and welcoming environment."

Space Center Houston goes beyond simply meeting **ADA** requirements, and the CAC designation is the latest example.

In 2016, the center hired **Stephanie McMahon**, a special education certified teacher and mother to a child with autism, as a senior lead instructor in its



Among various accessibility and inclusion initiatives, Space Center Houston upholds its Certified Autism Center status by offering sensory-friendly backpacks, which contain sound-canceling headphones, sunglasses, a fun space book and other helpful items.

COURTESY SPACE CENTER HOUSTON

education department. The center named McMahon as their accessibility and inclusion coordinator the following year. McMahon also leads the center's Accessibility and Inclusion working group, composed of representatives from across departments.

"The working group is our forum to brainstorm, plan and create plans to ensure that we are meeting all our guests' needs," said McMahon. "From facilities to our website, everyone comes together to support our [accessibility and inclusivity] initiatives."

Space Center Houston offers "Sensory Friendly Evenings," with reduced lights, sounds and crowds as well as Space Center University for the visually impaired and other events designed to provide quality learning experiences for guests with special needs. McMahon also noted the

center's development of the "Stellar Explorer Guide," which individuals and school groups can use to prepare guests with autism for an upcoming; and "Vocabulary Cards" for non- or low-verbal guests that can help with transitions and timelines.

In response to the need for more trained and certified destinations, IBCCES also created autismtravel.com, a free online resource for parents that lists certified destinations and connects families to other resources and each other. Each destination listed on the site has met CAC requirements, which include extensive staff training and an on-site audit conducted by leading autism experts.

Space Center Houston will also be listed with other CACs on autismmember. org, a partnership between IBCCES and the **Autism Society** to connect families and individuals with businesses and resources committed to serving individuals on the spectrum.

Drawing one million visitors annually, Space Center Houston is the cornerstone of the mission of the **Manned** Space Flight Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit science and space exploration learning center with extensive educational programs designed to inspire through the wonders of space exploration. It is the official visitor center of NASA Johnson Space Center and generates \$73 million in economic impact in Greater Houston annually.

spacecenter.org







A KMG Fireball (also known as After Burner) ride in stationary mode. The ride was a main focus of the Aug. 21 Pennsylvania Ride Safety meeting because of a fatal accident that occurred on a similar model during the 2017 Ohio State Fair. AT FILE PHOTO

PENNSYLVANIA Continued from page 54

sweep down to the seating. The modification replaces square tubular steel that could accumulate water, sludge and other debris while in transit or storage. Such accumulation appears to contribute to the deterioration of the tubular steel from the inside out. The new design replaces the tubular single point of suspension with separate steel plates that are joined together and exposed on all sides so as not to accumulate moisture.

Pennsylvania required complete stress analysis of the new design to insure its

structural integrity. **Deggeller Attractions** purchased a new Afterburner model, which incorporates the approved modification for older models.

The advisory board approved both models with the completed modification for operation inside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Approval was pending on the new ride model. The board also recommended that additional **NDT** testing on the replacement part where it meets the existing flange occur on a regular basis.

Gary Chubb, senior maintenance director of facilities and safety for Hersheypark,

made remarks in the public comment portion of the meeting about the upcoming changes to the Xtreme Cup Challenge ride, which will be upgraded, rethemed and relaunched next year as Reese's Cupfusion. While the ride path will basically be the same, except for the elimination of the bunny hops as the train approaches the end of the ride, elements such as video projection will be incorporated. Sally Corp. is the ride manufacturer and Raven Sun Creative is handling the design elements.

The fall meeting takes place Oct. 16.

•agriculture.pa.gov





NEWS & NOTES

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Pat Hoffman, Mark Moore receive AIMS award at Golden Ticket Awards

Patrick Hoffman was presented with the 2018 AIMS International Safety award during the Golden Ticket Awards held Saturday, September 8, in Branson, Missouri. The Award, presented to Hoffman by AIMS Executive Director Karen Oertley, recognizes a person or organization that has made a significant impact or contribution in improving safety in the amusement industry by demonstrating leadership, innovation, and foresight.

In presenting the award, Karen Oertley related that Hoffman began his career in the theme park industry in 1969 when he joined Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio, as maintenance supervisor.

In his career he has served in senior positions at Fun Spot Amusement Park & Zoo, K&K Insurance Group, SLE Worldwide, and as an independent safety consultant serving theme parks and leisure facilities around the world conducting safety, operational and maintenance inspections as the president of The Hoffman Consulting Group.

In 2000, Hoffman joined **Six Flags** and retired in 2017 as corporate vice president of safety, security & risk management where he was responsible for management and implementation of safety, security and risk management programs, insurance policies and procedures for all Six Flags operations around the world.

He is a past president of AIMS International and was a board member of A.R.E.A., the predecessor of AIMS.

Throughout his career, Hoffman has been an active participant in many industry organizations including **IAAPA**, **OABA**, **WWA** and **NAARSO**. He served on several ASTM committees and task force groups and is a past member of the F-24 Executive Committee.

Now, as president of the Hoffman Consulting Group, he provides consulting services on operations, safety, security as well as crisis management and litigation support for the defense of the amusement and leisure industries.

In his nomination of Hoffman for this prestigious award, Six

Flags' **Ed Zaker** remarked: "Pat Hoffman is the Super Star of Safety ... he is a fixture in the safety field worldwide, he is well liked and respected, and is always there to assist any organization or individual in our Industry in the name of Safety compliance.

"Pat is an active supporter of AIMS, with his well known lifelong contribution to our industry and safety. I could not think of a more deserving person to receive the AIMS International Safety Award. I am confident that this award will validate his personal and professional commitment to the ever evolving safety of the amusement industry."

In accepting the award, Hoffman remarked that he was honored to receive this award from AIMS, and expressed his gratitude to Six Flags' Ed Zaker for nominating him for the award and his wife Jan, for her support. He went on to thank all the individuals and organizations in the industry that support the work to improve amusement industry safety worldwide.

Following the presentation of the AIMS Safety Award, **Tim Viox**, AIMS board president



Tim Viox (left) and Karen Oertley (right) of AIMS International present Pat Hoffman (middle) with the AIMS International Safety Award. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

took the podium to announce the recipient of a new award created by the AIMS Board of Directors to recognize outstanding dedication and service to AIMS International: The inaugural **AIMS Lifetime Contribution Award** presented posthumously to **Mark Moore**.

Viox remarked that Mark, as president and founder of **Uremet Corporation**, was the industry leader in innovation and safety improvement for urethane coatings on roller coaster wheels. His passion for the trades — for

the mechanics and electricians, carpenters and welders — was a driving force behind his tireless efforts in contributing to AIMS' mission to improve industry safety through leadership in education. Mark served on the board of directors for more than a decade, was President of AIMS International from 2009 to 2011, and was AIMS' executive director until 2014. Mark was also an active member of ASTM F24 as well as other industry organizations including IAAPA, NAARSO, and BALPPA. He served on the

National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives board of directors.

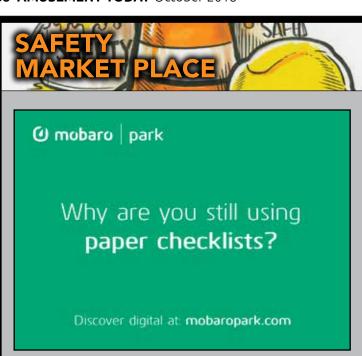
Viox said, "As president of AIMS, nothing would please me more than to hand this award to my friend, shake his hand and say 'thank you for your contributions,' but sadly, Mark lost his life in a motorcycle accident in July of 2016. He is sorely missed, but continues to be an inspiration to me, the AIMS board of Directors and family, and to the entire amusement industry."

In accepting the award on behalf of Mark, his wife and widow, **Carol Moore** graciously thanked AIMS for the invitation to accept the award and expressed her appreciation to the past and current AIMS board and staff for their dedication to this organization.

Congratulations to both AIMS Awards recipients! Congratulation are also in order to AIMS Safety Seminar Manager, Holly Coston and Tracy Shedd on their engagement which took place over the GTA weekend in Branson, Missouri!

Registration for the 2019 AIMS Safety Seminar is now open! www.aimsintl.org.











Step into Swim campaign doubles 2017 total

Donations pour into National Swimming Pool Foundation

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The **National Swimming Pool Foundation** (NSPF) has seen donations nearly double in 2018 through its **Step into Swim** (SIS) campaign, which enables underprivileged children across the U.S. to learn how to swim. Its mission: to create one million more swimmers. As of mid-August, the campaign had raised more than \$112,000. Every dollar donated goes directly toward qualified learn-to-swim programs.

"How often does one dollar do three great things: prevent drowning, create more swimmers and increase demand for water-based activity?" said **Thomas Lachocki**, Ph.D., CEO of NSPF. "When we open our wallet to fund swim lessons, we open the door to brighter futures."

Among the major donors:

- **Pentair**, a global water technology company, donated \$40,000 in late 2017 to help jump-start the 2018 program.
- Master Pools Guild (MPG) donated \$40,000 for the third year in a row. MPG builders are craftsmen operating with a strong commitment to quality, customer service and business ethics.
- Bill Kent Family Foundation donated \$10,000. The foundation seeks to contribute to building a socially and economically just society that values nature and protects the ecological balance for future generations, promotes humane health care and fosters educa-

tional programs as well as art and culture that enrich communities.

- National Plasterers Council (NPC) contributed \$10,000 this year, up from \$5,000 in 2017. NPC has been active in the pool industry for decades, focusing on pool surface research and educational programs for pool surface applicators.
- Hayward joined the growing list of manufacturers supporting SIS this year, donating \$5,000. Hayward offers environmentally responsible, cuttingedge pool and spa equipment for residential and commercial in-ground and above-ground pools.
- American Chemistry Council donated \$5,000. It represents a diverse set of companies that invest millions to ensure modern-day products are safe for both communities and the environment.

The following organizations will benefit from the SIS donations received this year: Angels of America's Fallen, YMCA of Greater Charlotte (N.C.), Jewish Community Center

Association, New York State Parks, SwimToday (a program of USA Swimming), Cincinnati Public School System and many individual learn-to-swim programs selected by Master Pools Guild members and dealers of Pentair and Hayward. All donated funds are directed toward learn-to-swim programs, with NSPF covering all

administrative costs. Angels of America's Fallen is a fourth-year SIS recipient that supports children of fallen military and first responders by engaging them in healthy activities throughout their entire childhood. Another perennial benefactor is the New York State Parks Learn to Swim program. Over six years, the program has expanded from a single location to 28, reaching more than 3,000 children each year. The program is made possible through a partnership with the American Red Cross.

NSPF was founded in 1965 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. For a full listing of products, programs and services, visit the organization's website.

nspf.org

The National Swimming Pool Foundation's Step into Swim campaign enables underprivileged children across the U.S. to learn how to swim. COURTESY NATIONAL SWIMMING POOL FOUNDATION



NSPF endorses Model Aquatic Code adoption

COLORADO SPRINGS, National Colo.— The Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF) has released a position statement recommending that the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) be evaluated and adopted in whole or part by all state, territory and local health departments; aquatic facilities and the industry. The objective is to protect the future of aquatic facilities and their staff and

The nation's only all-inclusive model pool code, MAHC is based on scientific data and best practices gathered by public health and aquat-



ics industry experts, making it more expedient for jurisdictions to justify, adopt and implement.

Unlike legislation, the MAHC is voluntarily adopted, wholly or in part, and driven by expertise. It is free, publicly accessible and backed by the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as endorsed by the Commercial Energy Specialists, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, National Association of County & City Health Officials and National Environmental Health Association.

The MAHC 3rd Edition, released July 18, addresses emerging public health topics such as Legionella decontamination and the design and operation of floatation tanks, as well as ongoing challenges such as natatorium noise reduction.

—Dean Lamanna

APSP releases newly revised and improved training manuals

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) has released updates of manuals covering pool / spa technology and hot tub service and repair. Written and reviewed by industry experts, these manuals reflect new standards and changes within the industry.



The revised manuals give students a solid foundation of practical knowledge and guidelines. They provide the core material needed for real-world applications and help prepare students to earn their APSP University certification designation through knowledge checks, an updated reference index and revised manuals that follow ANSI/APSP Standards.

In addition to helping students learn essential industry skills, the updated manuals will be the basis for the organization's newly revised APSP University live certification courses. Starting this fall, APSP University instructors will teach courses using updated PowerPoint presentations that correspond with the manual updates.

"These manuals were carefully and methodically developed and have served us well for many years," said **Silvia Uribe**, education director for APSP. "As APSP enters into a new era with education, it is essential that we provide students with the most up-to-date manuals to help advance their learning."

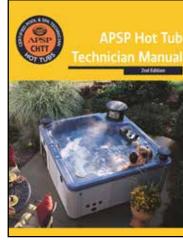
The two newly revised manuals:

• The APSP Service Tech Manual (5th Edition) is a reference tool that provides comprehensive information about pool and spa technology, service and repair. It covers topics including safety; practical knowledge; water



quality structures and finishes; circulation; filtration and hydraulics; electrical requirements; pump motors; heaters and optional equipment; control systems and maintenance. It is the manual and textbook for the following courses: CSP Certified Pool & Spa Professional Course, CMS Certified Pool & Spa Maintenance Specialist Course, and CST Certified Pool & Spa Service Technician Course.

•The APSP Hot Tub Technician Manual (2nd



Edition) is a comprehensive guide that provides practical knowledge on servicing and troubleshooting of hot tubs. It covers topics including safety and health; practical knowledge; structures and finishes; basic electricity; circulation; plumbing and filtration; pumps and equipment systems; electronic control systems; heaters; water chemistry and general maintenance. It is the manual and textbook for the CHTT Certified Hot Tub Technician Course.

"Owning these updated manuals are critical for today's pool and hot tub professional," said Carvin DiGiovanni, vice president of technical and standards for APSP. "We've updated them to correspond with the current ANSI/APSP Standards to ensure students are servicing and installing to the latest codes and standards. Pool and hot tub professionals will find these updated technical manuals of great value as learning tools in their professional day-to-day practice."

These updated manuals are available to purchase in hard copy for APSP Members and non-members. Orders may be placed online at apsp.org/store or by calling APSP Member Services at 703.838.0083. ext. 301.

Students can take APSP University courses that use the APSP Service Tech and APSP Hot Tub Tech manuals now. Visit apsp. learnupon.com for more information.

—Dean Lamanna



Walt Disney Co. expands environmental commitment

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Walt Disney once said, "Conservation isn't just the business of a few people. It's a matter that concerns all of us."

In keeping with that credo, the Walt Disney Co. is making another move that will benefit the environment, and the greater good, at its theme park complex in Southern California.

By mid-2019, the Disneyland Resort will eliminate single-use plastic straws and plastic stirrers as part of company's commitment to reduce plastic waste at its locations around the world. In addition, the Anaheim destination is reducing in-room plastics by 80 percent, reducing the use of plastic shopping bags and eliminating polystyrene cups.

As of now, plastic straws and plastic bags will be offered only by request, and lids for adult cold beverages will no longer be offered. For guests with disabilities who need to use straws or lids, alternative options will be provided as necessary; the Services for Guests with Disabilities team will be available to assist before and during a visit.

"Eliminating plastic straws and other plastic items are meaningful steps in our long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship," said Bob Chapek, chairman, Disney Parks, Experiences and Consumer Products. "These new global efforts help reduce our environmental footprint and advance our long-term sustainability goals."

–Dean Lamanna





CALENDAR 2018

IAAPA Operators Forum 2018, Oct. 2-4 Six Flags The Great Escape & Splashwater Kingdom Lake George, N.Y. Contact: Liderby Gladden, Manager Global Education IAAPA www.iaapa.org or email: lgladden@iaapa.org

ASTM F-24 Meeting on Amusement Rides and Devices

Oct. 10-13, San Diego, Calif. www.astm.org/meetings

2018 Skycoaster Owners Meeting and Safety Symposium

Oct. 12 & 13, Lake Compounce, Bristol, Conn. (Oct. 12: Hands on workshops and Haunted Graveyard tour in evening Oct. 13: Site Controller testing in the morning and close-up look and flight experience of the new Sky Sled harness system in the afternoon) (410) 643-9300 x304 • www.rideentertainment.com

World Waterpark Assn., Oct. 23-26 Trade Show: Oct. 24 & 25

Las Vegas, Nev. • (913) 599-0300 • www.waterparks.org

Parks and Carnivals Education (PACE) **Amusement Ride Safety Seminar**

Oct. 29-Nov. 1, York, Pa. (Classroom training location TBA Hands-on training at Majestic Midways Winter Quarters, Dover, Pa.) www.paceseminar.com/index.html

Pennsylvania Amusement Ride Safety Seminar

Nov. 6-8, Red Lion Hotel, Harrisburg, Pa. Joe Filoramo, (717) 215-4316 Phil Slaggert, (561) 758-3266 www.paridesafety.com

IAAPA Attractions Expo, Nov. 12-16

Conference: Nov. 12-16 Trade Show: Nov. 13-16 Orlando, Fla. • (703) 836-4800 •www.iaapa.org

IAFE Annual Convention, Nov. 25-28 San Antonio, Texas

(417) 862-5771 • iafeconvention.com

2019

AIMS International 2019 Safety Seminar

Jan. 13-18, 2019 San Luis Resort and Hilton Hotel (Classes at Galveston Convention Center) Galveston, Texas • (714) 425-5747 www.aimsinlt.org

IAAPA FEC Summit 2019

Jan. 27-29, 2019 • Austin, Texas **Hyatt Regency Lost Pines** www.iaapa.org

NAARSO 2019 Safety Fourm

Jan. 27 - Feb. 1, 2019 Myrtle Beach, S.C. Kings Plantation Hilton, Myrtle Beach Hands on ride training at Broadway at the Beach (813) 661-2779 • email: naarsoinfo@aol.com www.naarso.com

IISF Trade Show

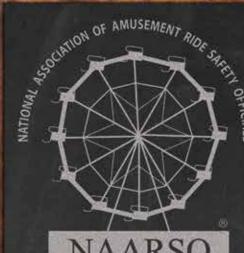
February 5-8, 2019 Riverview, Fla. • (813) 677-9377 www.gibtownshowmensclub.com

IRT/iROC Operations Safety Training School

Feb. 5-8, 2019 • Foley, Ala. The Park at OWA

(615) 545-8109 • cindee@ridetraining.com Hands on ride operations training at The Park at OWA

Have a Calender listing you want to share? Email it to: editorial@amusementtoday.com



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- · Offering Limited Specialty and Train the Trainer classes on Sal. & Sun., Jan. 26 & 27, for \$100.
- · Annual membership meeting will be on Sunday, Jan. 27 (Kingston Plantation Hilton) at 1:30 p.m. Full brochure will be posted later in 2018!

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