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WWA expects big turnout for its 2015 Symposium and Trade Show

Association celebrates 35 years serving the water park industry

AT: Pam Sherborne
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PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Early indicators, mainly a sold-out trade show, have organizers of the 2015 World Waterpark Association (WWA) Symposium and Trade Show, set for Oct. 20-23 here, anticipating a highly successful event.

This is WWA's 35th year of serving the water leisure industry. WWA continues to focus on evolving the annual show offerings to better assist members to safely grow their business and enhance their guests' experience.

It has been eight years since WWA held its annual event in Palm Springs. All sessions, workshops, and the trade show will be held in the Palm Springs Convention Center and the attached Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel.

"We are excited to be celebrating this milestone with our members in Palm Springs," said Rick Root, WWA president. "Last year, Las Vegas was a great host venue, but there's nothing like being in an intimate location like Palm Springs, where quality face-to-face conversations can take place at every level."

The trade show will

offer 100,000 square feet of some of the newest, most innovative water park related goods and services. Special product segments include park and resort design, theming, shade structures, safety consulting, swimwear and accessories, pool and sidewalk, rock work, new technology, waterslides, filtration, insurance, furniture, wave pools, and tubes, mats and rafts.

"The water park industry continues to expand around the globe with the driving factor being continued innovation — in design, theming and guest service amenities," Root said. "Our sold-out exhibit hall is just one more great reason to be in Palm Springs, because you get to see the newest products in person."

The trade show will be open from 12:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 21, and 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22.

WWA programs, events

Although the Symposium and Trade Show is set to run Oct. 20-23, there are several WWA-sponsored programs that run prior to that. Starting Sunday, Oct. 18, the first day of the two-day Aquatic Facility Operation Certification Course has been set. The second day of this course is Monday, Oct. 19.

The two-day Certified

Wet 'n' Wild Palm Springs hosts WWA party



On Thursday, Oct. 22, Wet 'n' Wild Palm Springs will host the climactic evening party of WWA Show 2015, the water leisure industry's marketplace — taking place in Palm Springs, Calif., Oct. 20-23 and featuring a world-class education program built for and by water park professionals. The trade show will be preceded by two days of park operation / safety, certification and licensing courses. For more on Wet 'n' Wild, see page 13. COURTESY WET 'N' WILD PALM SPRINGS

Pool Operator Certificate Course starts Sunday, Oct. 18 and concludes the next day.

The Ellis Lifeguard Instructor Licensing Program runs three days, Sunday (18), Monday (19) and Tuesday (20). Ken Ellis, president, Aquatic Development Group, is also excited about the return to Palm Springs this year.

"We're excited to be going back to Palm Springs, California," Ellis said, in late August. "It's a great location for conducting business in a setting that

keeps attendees connected throughout the show experience."

The American Red Cross Lifeguarding Instructor Course runs two days, Monday (19) and Tuesday (20).

Among other scheduled offerings set for WWA Symposium and Trade Show on opening day, Tuesday, Oct. 20, is one new addition to WWA University courses, "In-Park Revenue School." This all-day course will give attendees a chance to learn what they can do to improve revenues in areas

including food and beverage, retail, rentals, add-on attractions and unique special events.

Another session sure to be a highlight this year is the updated Developing and Enhancing Your Marketing Plan, an all-day course set for Tuesday, Oct. 20. This interactive session will look at ways marketing planning has changed in recent times and will offer a fresh take on how operators can take advantage of new and old marketing techniques.

► See WWA, page 6

NEWSPAPER

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NEWSTALK

EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

No signs of slowing



Slade

Can you name one thing that is a sure bet? Our water park industry is in full swing mode — with no signs of slowing down. All across the globe new water park facilities continue to be built, re-branded or expanded from a city-operated pool or a full-size aquatic center.

Our industry suppliers are enjoying a steady stream of orders, thus keeping the manufacturing side in full production mode.

With parks now making their 2016 slide announcements and developers revealing plans for new resorts and facilities in 2016 and beyond, all appears good for years to come.

Here is a quick look at the key 2015 water park openings worldwide, courtesy of WWA:

- **Vana Nava Water Jungle**, Hua Hin, Thailand
- **Lotte World Waterpark**, Gimhae, South Korea
- **Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark**, Pocono Mountains, Pa.
- **Splashworld**, d'Avignon, France
- **Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center**, Pocono Mountains, Pa.
- **Go! Wet Waterpark**, Bekasi, Indonesia
- **Aquacolors**, Porec, Croatia
- **Yinji Kaifeng Water World**, Kaifeng, China
- **Aquafan at Parque de la Costa**, Buenos Aires, Argentina

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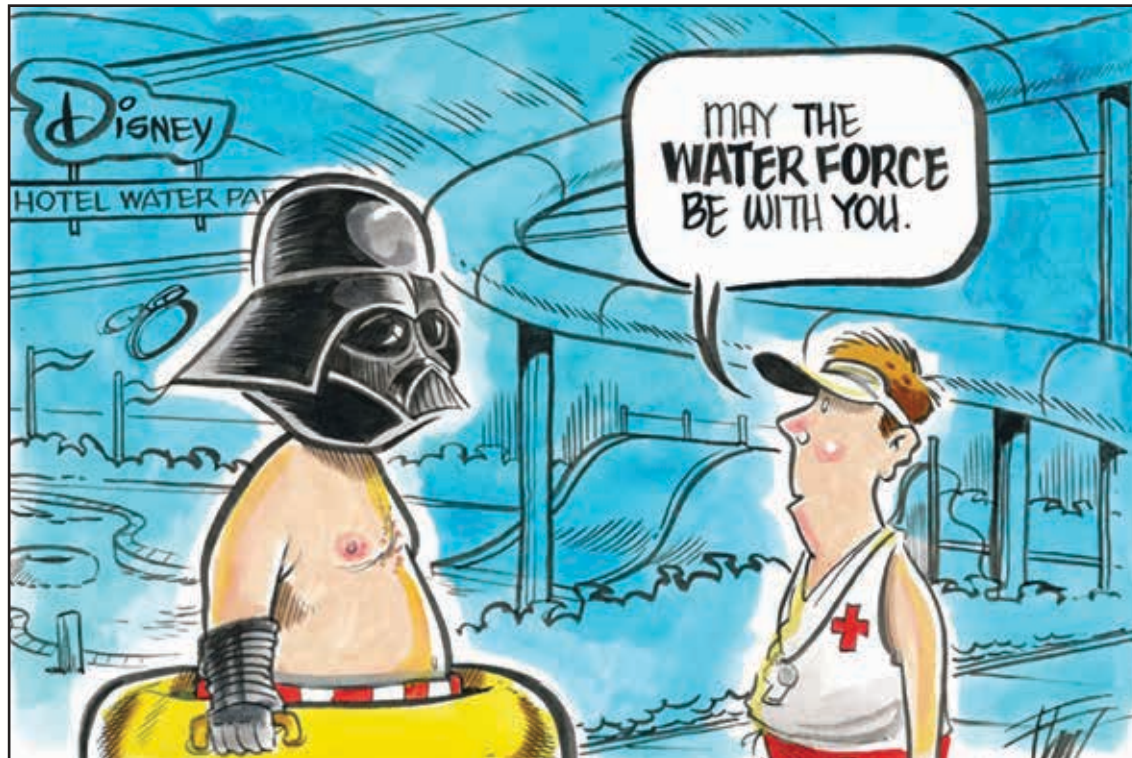
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Have further questions? Call Sammy Piccola at (817) 460-7220 x1.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Andrew Mellor, amellor@amusementtoday.com

It's show time!

The month of October sees the beginning of the main run of trade shows for our business, with the Euro Attractions Show (EAS) and the World Waterpark Association show kicking things off, closely followed a few weeks later by the key IAAPA Expo, in November.

Other exhibitions to follow in subsequent months include ATRAX in Turkey in December, various Chinese shows during the spring time, the DEAL show in Dubai in April and then the Asian Attractions Expo, usually held in June, to name some of the key events.

These trade shows have all grown over the years and continue to do so. The IAAPA Expo in Orlando next month, for example, has developed beyond all recognition from the first one I attended back in 1980 (wow that makes me feel old!) in New Orleans, when as a fledgling journalist I covered my first show for the U.K. industry newspaper *World's Fair*.

But perhaps the one that is growing and developing the most at the present time is the EAS. Without question the number of exhibiting



Mellor

companies increases year on year and although visitor numbers may currently only slightly improve each time around, there is still growth on that side too. But it's an event that has also grown in stature and importance and is now very much a must attend for European park owners and operators who are able to view products and services on offer from

a plethora of manufacturers and suppliers, as well as take advantage of a wide ranging educational program and a variety of networking events.

Indeed, with many of the major ride manufacturers in attendance and increasing participation from those headquartered in the U.S. too, it's not surprisingly become a genuine alternative to attending the Orlando event for many. The latter is still very important to go to for all that it offers, but it's maybe not one Europeans nowadays feel they have to be at year in year out with EAS being so strong.

Whichever events you choose to attend, I know you'll enjoy and take much from them. Maybe I'll see you at one or two.



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2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

Jeff Bailey, Seabreeze Amusement and Water Park

For Jeff Bailey, his long and storied tenure at Seabreeze started during the summer of 1980 when he worked as a "grill man" at the popular upstate New York amusement park. He soon found himself learning and loving the business and trying his hand in several departments such as group sales, maintenance, human resources and games before settling into his current position as marketing manager. Jeff enjoys a good comic book and a good movie; plus he counts traveling, spending time with his family and spoiling his grandson right up there on his list of life's greatest pleasures.



Jeff Bailey, Seabreeze Amusement and Water Park

Title
Marketing Manager

Number of years with Seabreeze?
32+!

Best thing about the industry...
Never having to grow old

Favorite amusement ride...
The Jack Rabbit ... followed by the Haunted Mansion.

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

Biggest challenge facing our industry...
Reminding ourselves that we are doing what we love; we are where we are by choice

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is...
The thrill of knowing you are having a great day and handling the challenges that go with it

Choose one: tea or coffee?
Tea ... Irish, if you please

The best beach I have ever visited is...
Santa Monica Pier

When I say football season, you say...
This is Cleveland's year (The Browns)

It's October ... my all-time favorite Halloween candy is...
Candy Corn



Bailey

The most breathtaking scenery I have ever seen would have to be...
My wife

My favorite feel-good song is...
"Surf City" by Jan and Dean

It is 7 a.m. What are you typically doing?
Eating breakfast and reading the newspaper

The one piece of clothing I could never part with is...
My Calvin and Hobbes tie

My favorite weekend getaway location is...
A movie theater

For work purposes, I could not live without...
My imagination

Favorite fall activity...
Walking and taking in the changing colors

I get most of my news from...
The Internet ... it's all true, right?

If I had an extra day in the week, I would use it by...
Weeding through my collections of "stuff"

People usually use these three words to describe me...
Happy-Go-Lucky

In one word, my office is...
Cluttered!

During my commute to work, I...
Enjoy the view

I would really like front-row tickets to this concert...
The Monkees

What's your take on Donald Trump?
Hair today ... gone tomorrow

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

COMPILED: Richard Munch



OCTOBER

•**1896:** A major hurricane (today known as storm no. 5 of 1896) created havoc off the New England Coast on October 12. Portions of the summer resorts at **Coney Island** and **Rockaway Beach** were swept away. Damage at Coney Island's beaches reached an estimated at \$200,000 with heavy losses at other area beaches. Many of the smaller parks along the New England coast had similar damage, including a hotel that was pulled out to sea.

•**1906:** Construction began on a new park at 52nd Street and Halsted Street in Chicago, Illinois, in mid-October. Located on a former picnic grove the relatively small park would be named **Luna Park**, opening the following season with a Figure 8 and roller coaster, under the management of a Chicago investment group. Approached by trolley, the 10-acre park's attendance declined steadily over the next few years, with stiff competition from the larger and more elaborate parks in the Chicago area, that included **Riverview**, **White City**, **Forest** and **Sans Souci**. The park closed in 1911 and the property was eventually sold for residential housing in 1916.

•**1920:** What is considered a first, **Genevieve Grand** and **Lawrence Cogdell** were married on a roller coaster in mid-October. The 17-year-old couple said "I do" atop the Scenic Railway overlooking Lake Pontchartrain, at **Spanish Fort Amusement Park**, New Orleans, Louisiana, with three cameras catching the ceremony. The marketing event is considered the first documented marriage performed on a roller coaster. The couple would continue to live in New Orleans and have two children. Over a decade later, **Palisades Amusement Park** would resurrect the event, marrying several couples during the lean years of the 1930s. Today it is common to have marriages performed on rides, and several ministers continue to specialize in the practice.

•**1922:** The only traditional amusement park to ever open in Hawaii, debuted on October 22. **Aloha Park**, in Honolulu, would open with the medium sized Big Dipper, designed by **Fred Church**. Besides utilizing the work of **Prior and Church**, all the rides in the park were purchased from the mainland United States, including devices designed by **Harry Traver** and **Arthur Looff**. The five-acre park, created from a former swamp, was located adjacent to a military reservation, which for a time provided a constant stream of paying customers. Renamed **Waikiki Park**, the park would operate through the 1920s, then close in the early 1930s, a likely victim of the Great Depression and local opposition.

•**1985:** On October 5, the first Phoenix Phall Phun Phest event, at **Knoebels Amusement Resort**, in Elysburg, Pennsylvania, was enjoyed by some 200 park and coaster enthusiasts. The gathering celebrated the opening that season of the now legendary Phoenix roller coaster, which had been relocated from San Antonio, Texas. Many of the initial attendees, typically members of various coaster clubs, would appear in costume, some themed to the park and its new coaster. A flea market was created to sell related merchandise. Today the Halloween inspired event has grown with the park and its coaster line up, attracting larger crowds, including visitors from Europe and over 25 states. Held in conjunction with the Covered Bridge Festival, it has been a fan favorite for 30 years, typically making the end of the season for many, including a large bon fire....hot dogs included.

►WWA

Continued from page 1

Also back by popular demand, is WWA's full day waterpark maintenance workshop, Tuesday, Oct. 20, with all new content, featuring top industry experts presenting topics designed to help waterpark operators improve their periodic, routine and preventative maintenance.

"We are fortunate that so many of our key water leisure professionals are committed to benchmarking and sharing their best practices with others in the industry," said Aleatha Ezra, director of park member development. "We will be featuring some of the industry's most experienced operators, developers and suppliers, including representatives from: Wet 'n Wild Orlando, Disney's Waterparks, AECOM, Zoombezi Bay, Hurricane Alley Waterpark, Ascedia, Roaring Springs Waterpark, Schlitterbahn Waterparks, the Center for Work Ethic Development, Apex Parks Group, Great Wolf Lodge, Hotel & Leisure Advisors, NRH20 Family Water Park, Raging Waters-San Dimas, just to name a few."

The Women of Water Breakfast is sure to be another highlight, according to Ezra.

"With so many women leading the way in water parks all over the world, this is a great networking event," she said. "This special event for women (and men) will be hosted by Franceen Gonzalez with WhiteWater West, along with WWA Directors Kristie Moses, Tiffany Quilici and Jill White."

It also will feature Collette Carlson, founder of Speak Your Truth and one of the 2015 keynote speakers. She will speak on "3 Truths Female Leaders Need To Know" during the breakfast.

There will be two keynote sessions. Carlson will be first up on Wednesday, Oct. 21. She will help WWA attendees "create the focus, energy and mind-set necessary to make healthy choices in our 24/7 world," in her keynote address, "Stress Less: You Management vs. Time Management."



Josh Davies, CEO, Center for Work Ethic Development will share the seven core behaviors of work ethic that will help management teams find, train and motivate their employees more effectively in his address, Thursday, Oct. 22, "Work Ethic: The Key to Engagement, Retention and Sustained Performance."

"As part of our 35th anniversary, we were looking for ways to celebrate the leadership that continues to drive our industry forward," Ezra said. "Bringing back programs like the Women of Water Breakfast and coordinating keynotes that could deliver powerful messages of empowerment and professional development seemed like a great way to spur the industry into the next few years of success."

And, as always, there will be ample times for recreation with the WWA Annual Golf Tournament, set for Tuesday, Oct. 20; the WWA Annual Party, set for Wednesday, Oct. 21; and the Wet'n'Wild Palm Springs Party, scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 22.

2015 water park season, growing trends

Root and Ezra both saw the 2015 water park season starting out somewhat dubiously.

"For North American water park operators, the 2015 season got off to a weak, slow start across the board," Root said. "Fortunately, the season ended with more consistency and most operators saw a nice rebound as the weather dried out in July and August."

Ezra added: "In the U.S., the 2015 season was really a tale of two weather stories. On the one side, we had operators getting too much rain too often. On the other side, we had operators whose areas hadn't seen nearly enough rain."

"It's a testament to our industry that so many folks have stayed positive and focused on providing their guests and community with

a safe and fun leisure entertainment experience," Ezra said.

As far as trends seen this season, Root said for a number of years, attraction manufacturers have been leading the way with innovative new designs that feature interactive elements such as colors, sound and lights and high-thrill elements like launch boxes and looping slide paths. Many of these innovations have been perfected on signature slide paths and designs.

Now, attraction designers are finding ways to fuse these individually creative ride elements into a new hybrid design, one that would be completely unique to the park that installs it.

"Fusion rides have really taken over the global market," Root said. "We've seen them added to parks in the U.S., Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Australia and South America. These types of amazing rides are a result of our industry's commitment to innovation and enhancing the guest experience."

Other trends seen in 2015 include family rides and interactive rides that simulate a gaming experience.

"We are proud to be able to highlight and celebrate some of this year's best new rides and attractions with the Board of Directors' Leading Edge Awards," Root said.

Some great projects, he said, will be recognized in Palm Springs."

Root also said the water leisure industry will continue to focus on drowning prevention initiatives such as the World's Largest Swimming Lesson, which in the past six years has delivered the Swimming Lessons Save Lives message to more 350 million individuals through live events and media impressions.

"Our waterpark attendees are laser focused on providing guests with the safest, cleanest and most fun place to enjoy water recreation as a family," Root said. "As an industry, we are all driven by the joy we see in those that visit our parks. That drive will continue to push us forward into a new era of water leisure entertainment."

WWA looks to great things for water park industry

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Mark Moore, Gulf Islands Water Park, Gulfport, Miss., will enter his second year as the World Waterpark Association (WWA) chair when the associations meets later this month for its annual symposium.

The annual meet is set for Oct. 20-23, in Palm Springs, Calif.

Moore, who has focused on communicating with his peers for the last year, feels the association has reached a period of worldwide stability in its growth.

Here, Moore spends some time with AT.

In your opinion, what have been some of the most significant events for the water park industry in the past year?

The water park industry is enjoying a period of stability and consistent growth across the global market, thanks in part to new innovations in rides and theming, as well as an increased focus on family leisure entertainment across all inhabited continents.

This was reflected in the latest Global Attractions Attendance Report released by TEA & AECOM, which reported attendance increases in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific.

In addition, the industry continues to pursue new safety standards as seen in the United States with the release of the first Model Aquatic Health Code and throughout the rest of the world with the ASTM harmonization efforts that are taking place in Canada and a half dozen other countries.

Are there any early indications as to what might be seen over the next years in the industry? Any specific trends pointing to areas of growth? What about rides? What might be in store for the industry in that realm?

All signs point to the global industry continuing its forward momentum. Likely, over the next five to 10 years, we will see new, impressive projects opening up in a myriad of regions like China, UAE and the United States.

We also will continue to see water parks partnered with other attraction venues, such as resorts, zoos, cruise ships, family entertainment centers, theme parks, etc.

In terms of specific ride trends, things like fusion rides, surf parks, family raft rides, interactive gaming rides — all of these innovations will help drive the industry forward in meaningful ways over the next few years.

What have been the most significant things from a personal perspective over the last year?

Some of my key focuses as WWA chair are meeting with my peers at WWA events and speaking with them one-to-one whenever possible to gauge how we can continue to meet their needs from an association perspective.

Also, I personally find it gratifying that our industry's No. 1 focus after safety is delivering smiles and laughter to millions and millions of kids and families who visit any of our member facilities across the globe.

—Pam Sherborne



The World Waterpark Association is expecting another bustling trade show floor for its annual convention, taking place Oct. 20-23 in Palm Springs. COURTESY WWA

World Waterpark Association 2015 Symposium and Trade Show

EXHIBITOR LISTING

October 20-23, 2015

Palm Springs, California

1RISK	726	FreeStyle Slides	630 - 631	PPG Architectural Coatings	1006
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INTERNATIONAL

► Wiegand-Maelzer supplies five slides — Page 11 / Australia's Adventure World adds huge slide — Page 12

Gardaland announces new themed hotel for 2016

AT: Andrew Mellor

amellor@amusementtoday.com

GARDA, Italy — Gardaland in Italy has announced that it is to build a second, themed hotel to join the existing Gardaland Hotel and expand the resort's hospitality and catering offer for visitors.

Representing an investment figure of €25 million (U.S. \$28.3 million), the new Gardaland Adventure Hotel will welcome its first guests in June 2016 and will be made up of two individual pavilions. One will be devoted to guest rooms while the second will incorporate the restaurant and additional rooms. The two buildings will be complemented by a structure featuring a scenic reception area.

All the rooms in the new hotel will be themed, with settings inspired by the different worlds of adventure present inside the park. There will be 100 spacious rooms, inspired by four different themes to keep the feeling of adventure alive even when guests are back at the hotel relaxing. Jungle Adventure, Wild West Adventure, Arctic Adventure and



The new 100-room Gardaland hotel is currently under construction and has a planned opening date of June 2016.

COURTESY GARDALAND RESORT

Arabian Adventure will be the themes guests will experience, maintaining the same themed adventure areas to be found within the park.

The Tutankhamun Restaurant will also provide a special experience, with décor narrating the history of Ancient Egypt and providing guests with the opportunity to dine



among the ruins of an old temple, immersed in a captivating Egyptian adventure that will accompany them during their dinner.

Gardaland Adventure Hotel will cater to an increasing number of tourists, from Italy and further afield, to both the park itself and the surrounding Garda Lake area who choose

the area for a short holiday destination or a long weekend.

"Day-long visits still represent 70 percent of the entries to the park, but our desire is to become a touristic destination for short stays, increasing the number of hotel bookings" — affirms Aldo Maria Vigevani, CEO of Gardaland. "And for this reason we have decided

to expand our hotel offer with new accommodations, with the aim of intercepting new public.

"The current size of the park and of Gardaland Sea Life Aquarium and the fantastic experiences that the whole resort offers are an open invitation to stay for a few days in an area that also offers a mild climate and relaxing natural scenery."



Construction underway on Intamin launch coaster at Germany's Phantasialand

Currently under construction at Germany's Phantasialand is Taron, a new LSM multi-launch steel roller coaster opening at the Bruhl theme park next spring. Designed and supplied by Intamin, Taron will anchor a new section of the park dubbed Klugheim, which replaces the former Silver City area. The photo shows the coaster's steel track wrapped in a protective covering as construction workers complete the extensive basalt rock-themed structure through which Taron will tunnel into numerous times. When it opens, Taron will be Europe's fastest multi-launch steel coaster.

COURTESY PHANTASIALAND

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INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Singapore Tourism Board launches fund

SINGAPORE — The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) is launching a new S\$10 million Experience Step-Up Fund (ESF) under its Tourism Product Development Scheme. The fund aims to encourage businesses to develop new tourism experiences that will enhance overall visitor experience and satisfaction in Singapore. In conjunction with the launch of the new fund, the board is also calling for proposals for tour development and technology initiatives. Singapore Registered Businesses can submit their proposals for tour development and technology initiatives from now until February 5, 2016. For more information visit: www.stb.gov.sg.

Egypt earmarks \$68 million to promote tourism

CAIRO, Egypt — Tourism is beginning to pick up in Egypt. To encourage greater and faster growth, the country is awarding a \$68 million, three-year contract to New York advertising agency J. Walter Thompson Co. (JWT) to run a public relations campaign in 27 markets around the world.

The Egyptian Ministry of Tourism announced the contract on Aug. 23. JWT had promoted Egypt before the outbreak of the revolution in January 2009. Since then, the country has been relying on the ministry's offices for promotion.

Dreamworld extends contract with accesso

LONDON — London-based accesso Technology Group plc (AIM: ACSO), has signed a 5-year contract extension with Dreamworld, one of Australia's premier theme parks, to continue providing accesso LoQueue virtual queuing solutions.

Dreamworld will utilize both the smartphone-powered Qsmart and the patented Qbot virtual queuing device to provide flexible options for guests using the service. Known as "Q4U" at Dreamworld, accesso's award-winning solutions allow users to wait for their ride without having to stand in line. Instead, they reserve their place in a queue electronically and are notified when it's their turn to ride.

"Accesso's technology is wildly popular with our Dreamworld guests and has helped improve our guest service scores, as well as drive significant incremental revenue for us," said Craig Davidson, Dreamworld CEO.

"Dreamworld was the first theme park in Australia to embrace Accesso LoQueue technology and this contract extension is another important vote of confidence in the value and capability of our technology", said Tom Burnet, accesso CEO.

Picsolve acquires Maxifoto, inks Efteling deal

LONDON — London-based Picsolve, recently announced its acquisition of Maxifoto International B.V., a Netherlands-based ride and event photography supplier.

As market leaders in both the digital and retail dimensions of attractions photography experiences, this acquisition is an important step in accelerating Picsolve's global expansion and increasing its share across Europe. Acquiring Maxifoto also allows Picsolve to add an impressive eight new sites to its ever-expanding portfolio, including Europe's 3rd largest park, Efteling. These sites will have Picsolve service an additional footfall of 7.5 million guests per year.

Jeff Kelisky, CEO, Picsolve, commented: "The leisure industry is going through a massive transformation where parks and their guests are demanding more from photography in this increasingly digital world. We are incredibly excited about this transaction as it helps us delight millions more guests for our customers in the parks and attractions marketplace. As the demands of 'tech-savvy' guests soar, the opportunity to blend Maxifoto's rich industry knowledge with our expertise in online and digital was an obvious choice.

Also commenting on the acquisition, Coen Bertens, director of Operations, Efteling, said: "The demand for technology that enhances the visitor experience is increasing and it's vital for European theme parks to recognize how important this can be to their offering. We're excited to be working with the Picsolve team who have the best digital image capture technology and retail skills in the industry and we are confident that the partnership will have a very positive effect on both guest satisfaction and revenue to the park."



Ireland's Tayto Park has opened a new Simworx 5D cinema for the 2015 season. The theater shows two films: *Lost World* and *Wild West Mine Ride*.
COURTESY SIMWORX

Ireland's Tayto Park opens new Simworx 5D cinema for 2015 season

KINGSWINFORD, West Midlands, England — U.K.-based Simworx, a leading supplier of media based dynamic simulation attractions, has installed a new 5D special effects cinema at Tayto Park in Co. Meath, Ireland, for the start of the 2015 season.

The new attraction, housed in a brand new building, is the only 5D cinema in Ireland and features 48 seats and a 3 DOF (degrees of freedom) motion base, providing left, right, forward and backward motion. A range of special effects are also included to truly immerse visitors in the experience and include water spray, air blasts, leg ticklers, bubbles and special effects lighting. A Christie digital projection system is also utilized.

Tayto Park will initially run two different films in the cinema, providing a choice of five or 10 minute movies. These will be the *Lost World*, a comic, fast-paced dinosaur themed adventure, and *Wild West Mine Ride*, an action-packed ride which sees a

sheriff and his trusty steed chasing a ruthless bank robber through the wild west.

The new 5D cinema is one of many new attractions being added to Tayto Park in 2015. Commenting on its installation, General Manager Charles Coyle said: "We chose to add a 5D cinema because we were looking for a ride that would be enjoyed by the whole family and could be refreshed year on year with a new movie. It is in a new area of the park that has just opened, in a purpose-built building.

"We chose Simworx as we felt they offered the best value for money and also had the best quality product. We also took advice from other people in the industry and Simworx was highly recommended. When we met with them we found they were a perfect fit for us. They have been efficient and professional throughout and have delivered a world class product."

For Simworx, Managing Director Terry Monkton said: "We are delighted to be working with Tayto

Park and to have installed a 5D cinema at the venue. The park is developing rapidly and has invested in many new attractions this year so I am very happy that Simworx has been able to contribute to this exciting growth. I'm sure the new cinema will be popular with visitors and that it will help contribute to the park's continued success in the future."

Simworx is recognized as a world leader in the supply of media based dynamic simulation attractions — including its 4D effects cinemas and Immersive Tunnel — for the worldwide entertainment, education and corporate markets. Its capabilities extend from full turnkey solutions, custom attractions, product development, manufacturing and service support, to film content and complete themed attractions. Clients also have access to a vast film library with hugely varied subject content suitable for the wide variety of venue types the company works with.

Wiegand-Maelzer supplies five new waterslides to Center Parcs

MORTON, France — On July 10, 2015, the latest Center Parcs facility, Le Bois aux Daims, opened in Morton, France with a unique waterworld. The guests of the indoor water park can enjoy a total of five water slides with up to 14 meter starting height in the midst of a natural paradise. Among the attractions is the world's first covered stainless steel Boomerang, usable all year round. All water attractions including the Boomerang, a body waterslide, one speed slide with a free-fall start, Family Twister slide with daylight effects and a wide tumble wave slide for the little guests were supplied by the Wiegand-Maelzer GmbH. Three of the slides are of stainless steel material.

• wiegand-maelzer.de



Wiegand-Maelzer has supplied five slides to the newly opened Le Bois aux Daims in Morton, France. Three of the slides are of stainless steel construction, including this enclosed Boomerang slide. COURTESY WIEGAND-MAELZER GMBH



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Adventure World adds huge new ProSlide waterslide

AT: Andrew Mellor
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PERTH, Western Australia — Adventure World in Australia was due to open what it is calling the world's biggest waterslide this October.

Supplied by Canadian company ProSlide, the new attraction is one of the manufacturer's Tornado 60 slides and is the longest, steepest and tallest such slide in the world, dropping 30 meters (98 feet) along its total length of 260 meters (853 feet).

Winner of the prestigious IAAPA Impact and Best New Water Park ride awards in 2013, the Tornado 60 is widely recognized as one of the world's favorite and iconic water rides. According to the park, the Adventure World ride will be like no other ever built, with the four-person rafts first negotiating over 15 meters (49 feet) of dark twists and turns, including a major drop and a 360 degree twist,

before reaching the finale of the huge 18.5 meters (60 feet) funnel — about the height of a six story building.

At this point on the attraction riders can reach speeds of up to 6.7 meters (22 feet) per second as they experience moments of zero gravity alternating with intense drops before they move into the dark outrun flume and on into the landing pool.

Another unique element of the ride is that instead of a starting tower, the slide will follow the contours of the chair lift hill down to the base next to Adventure World's other slide exits. Up to 600 riders per hour will be able to enjoy the attraction.

It is the second time in three years that the park has invested in a world-class attraction and CEO Mark Shaw commented: "People tell us they think Abyss is the best roller coaster in Australia and I think there is a very good



This month, Australia's Adventure World is opening a ProSlide Tornado 60 waterslide, as shown in this rendering
COURTESY ADVENTURE WORLD

chance they will soon be telling us the new slide is the best water slide in Australia, which I think is great for Western Australia and reflects our status as a premier theme park enjoyed by locals and tourists alike.

"The great thing about the

Tornado is that it can take four people at a time which means much shorter queues and a great shared experience, either with mates or mum, dad and the kids. The ride also has a relatively low height restriction at 120 centimeters which caters for the average height of

a seven year old."

Adventure World has also opted for a Neptune Benson ultra-fine filtration system as opposed to a conventional sand system which will reduce water consumption by around half a million litres per season.

Polin's worldwide installations catering to varying leisure sectors

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

INSTABUL, Turkey — Polin Waterslides continues to open a wide range of waterslide and attractions at parks and other venues around the world with two of the company's most recent projects involving campgrounds and holiday parks.

At France's biggest waterpark, Aqua'Ardèche at Le Pommier Camping Park (also known as Domaine Le Pommier), near Villeneuve-de-Berg, more slides have been added this year which follow the installation of a Tsunami and a Space Boat from Polin at the resort three years ago. Based on the success of those attractions, the luxury camping facility decided to expand its offer with the recent addition of Polin's Family Rafting Slide and a Looping Rocket.

The Family Rafting Slide is the first and only RTM-manufactured family slide in the industry and offers a perfectly shiny finish on both sides. The unique ride makes it possible for guests to share the entertainment and excitement of a ride as a group. They can experience twists, turns and drops in a 6- to 8-passenger circular in-



flatable raft, with a conveyor system delivering the boats quickly and safely to the start platform.

The Looping Rocket is a high-adrenaline ride providing one of the steepest drops guests will ever experience. The slide is available in both Magic Shine and Magic Shine translucent colors.

Polin has also recently completed a new project in Australia, at Tweed Billabong in New South Wales,

part of the BIG4 Caravan Park franchise which comprises 180 holiday parks across the country.

Several BIG4 sites have previously partnered with two key industry players in the water park industry to add water features to their parks. Working with Swim-plex Aquatics (Australia) and Polin Waterparks the sites have added waterslides and other attractions to their offerings and now Tweed



Tweed Billabong's latest water attractions from Polin (left) add more entertainment for younger guests, providing a number of slides from which to choose. The Looping Rocket ride at Aqua'Ardèche at Le Pommier Camping Park (above) provides a high-adrenaline experience.

COURTESY POLIN

Billabong has followed suit, with the recent addition of its water playground for kids which opened in June. The overall water park is themed as "Australia's Green Cauldron Water Playground" and is based on the local terrain, an ancient, extinct shield volcano, and now encompasses Wollumbin-Mount Warning, the surrounding World Heritage-listed national parks, natural beaches and headlands of unusual volcanic rock formations.

The water park has three different areas aimed at different age groups and park owner Andrew Tribe said this latest addition adds even more value for guests because it provides children with both an active and educational experience.

"Kids are stuck on their personal devices or computers too much at home and school," he observed. "Their holidays need to be an active and fun time spent reconnecting with their parents."



WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► Aqua Rocket blasts off in San Dimas — Page 14 / Cowabunga Bay debuts unique slide — Page 21

Southern California park set to party for WWA Show 2015

Rebranding, promotions pump up Wet 'n' Wild Palm Springs

AT: Dean Lamanna

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PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — The very promise of this Southern California city's oasis-like name makes it a great place for a water park. Especially one carrying the Wet 'n' Wild moniker.

Operating since 1986 but now wrapping only its second season under the venerable water amusement brand, Wet 'n' Wild Palm Springs appeals to every desire a family (or spring breaker) seeking a cool desert escape could harbor: boogie boarding, body surfing, lazy tubing, daredevil speed sliding and more — all framed by jaw-dropping desert mountain views and more than 200 mature palm trees. And the park looks forward to sharing its charms when Wet 'n' Wild hosts WWA Show 2015's climactic networking party on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

"The park is very picturesque," said David Andrews, Jr., general manager, while touring the property in late August with *Amusement Today*. "Once people come in here off the main road, between the vista and privacy, they can relax and really feel like they're on vacation. We like to say it has almost a boutique feel; it has real character."

The 21-acre location, previously known as Oasis Water Park (1986-2001) and Knott's Soak City (2002-2013), was sold by Cedar Fair in mid-2013 to CNL Lifestyle Properties, a division of Orlando, Fla.-based private investment and commercial real estate company CNL Financial Group. CNL then negotiated North American rights

► See PALM SPRINGS, page 15



Sporting a revamped entrance and logo with a new aquamarine color scheme (above), among other upgrades, Wet 'n' Wild Palm Springs is redefining "cool" in the desert. General Manager David Andrews, Jr. (right) happily gets soaked at Kahuna's Beach House, while guests plunge into the fun on the FlowRider (below) and seven-story Tidal Wave Tower dual speed slide.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA (ABOVE AND RIGHT); COURTESY WET 'N' WILD PALM SPRINGS



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First hydromagnetic water coaster in California

Aqua Rocket thrill slide blasts off at Raging Waters San Dimas

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

SAN DIMAS, Calif. — Guests at Raging Waters, the Golden State's largest water park, enjoyed an added blast all summer long — thanks to Aqua Rocket.

The hydromagnetic water coaster from Ontario, Canada-based ProSlide Technology, Inc., is the first attraction of its type in California. It debuted on Memorial Day weekend to rave reviews at the suburban Los Angeles park, one of three Raging Waters properties in the state owned and operated by Newport Beach-based Palace Entertainment.

"It's just a great ride," said Chris Thomas, park general manager, during a late-season visit from *Amusement Today*. "Raging Waters hadn't done a major expansion in quite some time, so Palace was looking for something that would draw attention and give guests another reason to keep coming back. With the new technology available, it was time to put in a ride like this."

Aqua Rocket packs plenty



of action into its two-minute, 900-foot-plus-long course, which stretches across two acres on a promontory bordering a creek. Carrying four-passenger, bobsled-style rafts to a height of about 60 feet on an inclined conveyor, the partially tunneled ride sends guests around tight curves and through three rapid dips / uphill "blasts" at a maximum speed of 30 mph without pause — effectively blurring the line between *whoosh* and "Weeee!"

Thomas, who came to Raging Waters in March from Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Kansas City, Kan., and has worked in the water parks business for almost 25 years, said this latest generation of water coaster reflects two decades of evolution and provides a superior thrill ride experience.

"What ProSlide has done so well with Aqua Rocket is that they've made it a lot smoother," he pointed out. "This ride maintains its momentum and the transitions are really 'seamless,' and that's what sets it a bit apart." Linear induction motor (LIM) propulsion, working with metal plates in the rafts, gets the credit for both this and an impressive hourly capacity of 700.

Indeed, like a modern roller coaster, all of Aqua Rockets systems are computerized — ensuring both efficiency and passenger safety.

"Once somebody is in the ride, another boat will not launch until the first has left," Thomas said. "The conveyor will stop if anything is sensed. We have a couple of lifeguards positioned along the course to keep an eye on the passengers, too, and they can stop the conveyor if necessary." Any raft already launched will settle to the nearest low point in the course if the ride is stopped; each low point is accessed by easy evacuation stairs just a few steps above the ground.

The lift system, Thomas added, also is an improvement — doing away with the



The new Aqua Rocket, from Ontario, Canada-based ProSlide, is the 50th attraction for Raging Waters San Dimas, California's largest water park. It represents the state of the art in hydromagnetic water coaster technology. COURTESY RAGING WATERS SAN DIMAS

need for guests to ascend a tower. "As you're going up on the conveyor, you can see over the trees to the mountains. It's one of the most fun parts of the ride."

The fun of Aqua Rocket actually begins just outside the attraction, as guests approach and then enter the queue.

The aerospace theme is effectively displayed by the ride's own working tanks and other equipment, which have been made over with clever paint jobs and signs warning of "Danger" and flammable rocket fuel. In addition, spare and unused park equipment, including a golf cart and old pool filters, were pressed into service as "set dressing."

"We didn't have a huge budget to work with," said veteran theming expert Rick Bastrup, president of Anaheim-based R&R Creative

Amusement Designs, who was part of the park's original early-1980s design team and has done many recent projects for Palace Entertainment. "But it just made us be more creative in working with existing details and salvaging materials in the park, and repainting things."

Complementing the design work is a custom aural environment for Aqua Rocket. The queue area, loading platform and lift feature a sometimes-humorous "mission control"-themed spiel that — through multiple voice and sound effects — conveys safety, height and raft weight limit information, as well as a sense of impending launch.

The queue also incorporates two scales: one at the beginning so that a group can check their total weight, and another at the loading platform

so that a group's weight can be verified by staff. The weight limit per raft is 700 pounds; for an individual, it is 300.

Chris Thomas has enjoyed seeing guests' reaction to the attraction.

"It's been great, especially from kids," he said. "They'll look at it and be a little intimidated at first, because they see it dropping and then going back uphill, but once they ride it, they want to get right back on. Because it looks like a coaster, it's also a little deceiving: You don't think you're going to get wet. But it's very similar to a log flume. When you come down on the last drop, you get wet as the raft splash-lands in the pool."

Aqua Rocket was the most significant of the improvements at the 59-acre park this season, which concluded at the end of September.

"We replaced almost every awning — some of them were from the original Wet 'n' Wild in Las Vegas!" Thomas said. "We've also refreshed the paint throughout the park, paying more attention to matching and combining colors within different areas."

He added that Raging Waters' 50 attractions are just part of the overall entertainment package.

"It's not just about offering great slides and rides — we're always striving for cleanliness and showing the care and detail we put into the park. That's the great thing about working for Palace Entertainment: They want to do it right."

•ragingwaters.com

FAST FACTS

Name/Park

Aqua Rocket
Raging Waters
San Dimas, Calif.

Type

Hydromagnetic
water coaster

Height/Angle of First Drop/Maximum Speed

60 feet/45 degrees/
30 mph

Slide Length/Duration

900-plus feet/2 minutes

Unique Features

Conveyor-style lift hill,
three LIM-propelled inclines

Ride Vehicles/Supplier

Five rafts, each seating
four riders bobsled-style/
Zebec Water Sports

Capacity/Height Limit

700 pph/42 inches

Opened

May 23, 2015

Manufacturer

ProSlide Technology, Inc.,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



Rick Bastrup, president of R&R Creative Amusement Designs of Anaheim, Calif., poses with some of the old Raging Waters park equipment his company dusted off and cleverly repurposed into theming elements for Aqua Rocket's queue entrance. AT/DEAN LAMANNA

►PALM SPRINGS Continued from page 13

to the Wet 'n' Wild name from Australia-based Village Roadshow Theme Parks (majority owner of the non-CNL-affiliated Wet 'n' Wild Las Vegas) — applying it to the Palm Springs park and other water parks it already owned or had recently purchased in Phoenix, Ariz., Kapolei, Hawaii and Houston, Texas.

The operation of Wet 'n' Wild Palm Springs was turned over to Premier Parks, which manages all of the aforementioned water parks and a few others, plus several amusement parks, for CNL. And over the past two seasons, Premier has undertaken a number of improvements and promotions that have raised the property's profile in a market that can be somewhat tricky for amusements — one wherein the summer season, with temperatures typically reaching triple digits, is considered the "off season" and some businesses even shut down for several months until fall.

Andrews, an 18-year industry veteran who got his start as a lifeguard at Ocean Breeze Waterpark in Virginia Beach, Va., feels the sometimes-extreme environment has unique benefits.

"We have an advantage in that this is a longer season than most water parks get," he said, noting that the park remains open on weekends in the fall until the second week of October. "We almost have two seasons per year — spring break season in March, and then summer. And it's almost like two different crowds, because you have spring breakers coming in from Washington, Oregon, Canada and, of course, Los Angeles, and then when we get into summer, when it's our local folks and patrons from Palm Springs and the surrounding area. Dad can go golfing while mom and the kids can come here and play in the park."

Among Premier's initial decisions for the park in 2014, its first full year as Wet 'n' Wild, was closing a separate-entry, year-round health club on the property between the parking lot and the park and turning it into an easily partitioned event space. A FlowRider standing wave machine from Aquatic Development Group was installed between the former club and the Pacific Spin funnel slide (a circa-2006 ProSlide Tornado) — creating a dynamic, flexible

new area that serves either as a private party spot or an extension of the park.

"We've turned some of the health club building into office space, and some of it into an indoor catering facility," Andrews said. "The club had an indoor-outdoor pool for its exclusive use, and that's now been incorporated into the park. The FlowRider has been a great addition — it's just as much fun to watch as it is to ride."

Extending operating hours into the evening in mid-summer (when desert temperatures

often remain in the 90s), offering free parking to season pass holders and bringing back free, weekly Dive-In Movies poolside during July (this year's featured films included *Annie*, *Big Hero 6* and *Maleficent*) increased attendance and season pass sales in 2015. A new 21-plus July promotion called Wet 'n' Wild Wednesdays added to the bump.

"Our adults-only event provided a great midweek outlet for relaxing and enjoying the park in the evening, when it has a gorgeous look," said An-

draws. "It was more of a pool party than a total park experience, utilizing our new special event area, and we drew around 150-200 guests each week."

The combination of added attractions, enhanced services and targeted promotions has drawn new attention to Wet 'n' Wild from the Coachella Valley business sector, Andrews added.

"Previously, group sales were not a particular local focus of this park. But since becoming a Wet 'n' Wild property, we've added a sales rep position be-

cause our increased options for group events have been very well received. It was a completely untapped market for us before last year. We're now attracting group and corporate events that may not want to rent out the entire park."

In fact, customers across the board appear to be very happy with the changes Wet 'n' Wild has made thus far.

"I love this atmosphere," Andrews said. "You come to work and people are having a good time. Can't beat that!"

• wetnwildpalm Springs.com



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Valleyfair Soak City guests enjoying expanded offerings

WhiteWater West provides slide thrills while Neuman pools delivers splash pad

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
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SHAKOPEE, Minn. — Guests to Valleyfair, the well-known amusement park in Minnesota, are able to enjoy two properties for the price of one. Admission to Valleyfair's Soak City Waterpark is included with every ticket type — and has been ever since the first waterslide was introduced to the park in 1983.

For the 2015 season, park guests had even more reason to appreciate the combined offerings. A new, 65-foot tower complex, featuring six thrilling water slides from WhiteWater West, upped the thrill factor this past summer.

Breakers Pipeline features four tube slides with an AquaLaunch capsule. This exciting combination of water slides begins at the peak of the 65-foot tower. Guests step into one of four AquaLaunch capsules. Once the door is closed a countdown begins, the floor drops out, and riders plunge into a straight drop, or a sidewinder element depending on the slide chosen. The capsules to the extreme left or right plunge into a clockwise or counter-clockwise sidewinder that has thrill seekers riding the sides of the translucent red or yellow slide as they careen through the element. After negotiating the sidewinder element guests enter a short opaque section for surprise darkness just before landing in the splash pool.

The remaining two trap door capsules drop straight into a short tunnel then transition into an open channel that continues straight down into the splash pool below.

Guests who venture up another flight of stairs, can challenge Breakers Plunge — two body speed slides that drop riders down a straight 90-foot chute, achieving incredible speeds. There are no drop capsules here — riders lay on their back and once given the all clear, must nudge themselves forward to the edge of the slide to begin their plummet straight down. The approach is unnerving, since from the rider's perspective the fiberglass slide

disappears over the edge just in front of them.

The 2015 Soak City expansion caters to family members as well. Barefoot Beach, an interactive splash pad from Neuman Pools, that spans nearly an acre, offers fun ways to get wet without having to plummet 65 feet.

The new water-play structure is perfect for those not yet ready for the excitement of the big slides. Small slides, and plenty of interactive water elements were designed to appeal to families with younger children, while the thrill seekers challenge the Breakers slide complex.

A tipping bucket at the center of the zero-depth splash pad is sure to soak patrons on the play structure below. But avoiding the tipping bucket does not guarantee that participants will stay dry. Aim and spray water shooters and jets of streaming water assure that everyone entering the new area will have a splashing good time.

Comfortable seating surrounds the new area along with new cabanas. Shade structures are plentiful and the colorful shade sails even extend into the water play area to keep the sun's blazing rays off little tykes' tender skin.

Valleyfair is owned and operated by Cedar Fair, LLC. The park, which opened in 1976, was created by two local businessmen. In 1978 it became the first amusement park acquired by Cedar Point which resulted in the formation of the Cedar Fair Limited Partnership.

Cedar Fair now owns and operates 14 parks and all of the company's amusement parks feature adjoining water parks or water play areas.


In addition to Cedar Fair's investments into dry rides, the company has continued to expand its water park offerings.

Dorney Park's Wildwater Kingdom was expanded in 2014, and Canada's Wonderland and Kings Dominion received expansions this year. Kings Island and Carowinds have both announced water park expansions for the 2016 season.



Guests at Valleyfair's Soak city water park were greeted with two new attractions this summer season. Above, the younger set was able to enjoy Barefoot Beach, a splash pad from Neuman Pools. Below, thrill-seekers had two sets of WhiteWater West slides to choose from. Breakers Pipeline features four slides with an AquaLaunch capsule while Breakers Plunge features two speed slides with a 90 foot drop. COURTESY VALLEYFAIR





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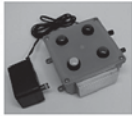
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This new six slide, 65-foot-tall waterslide complex from WhiteWater West will greet thrill-seekers at Kings Island's Soak City in 2016. COURTESY KINGS ISLAND

Seven-story WhiteWater slide complex, new toll plaza announced for Kings Island

MASON, Ohio — Kings Island announced a major expansion to its Soak City Waterpark for the 2016 season with the addition of Tropical Plunge, a complex of six different water slide experiences towering nearly seven stories. The slide complex is from WhiteWater West.

Three of the slides on the 65-foot tall complex will start with guests climbing inside an Aqua-Launch chamber where they will wait anxiously for the floor to drop out from underneath their feet, sending them into a high-speed, almost vertical free fall through a series of flat loops and S-curves in a translucent flume.

Tropical Plunge also features a slide that will send riders twisting and spiraling through an enclosed chute featuring four intense 360-degree loops across 449 feet of slide before they're released out into a pool of water and dueling 337-foot long tube slides



that zip riders through an enchanting series of drops and turns.

"This will be a high-adrenaline attraction that will increase the thrill factor for our park guests," Kings Island's Vice President and General Manager Greg Scheid said. "They have been asking for new and more thrilling water park attractions they are able to enjoy with family members and we think this answers their feedback plus brings another element of fun to the overall experience of Kings Island."

Tropical Plunge will ex-

pand the size of Kings Island's water park to 35 acres. Once the attraction has been built, Soak City Waterpark will have a total of 36 slides; two wave pools; two coves; a lagoon and an action river plus children's play areas among its more than 50 water activities.

Construction on Tropical Plunge is expected to begin this fall and will be ready by Memorial Day 2016, the start of the water park's 27th season.

Improved traffic flow

In addition to the new water slide complex, in conjunction with the City of Mason's renovation of Kings Island Drive, a grander more welcoming park entrance with 13 new entrance lanes will be built on the north end of the parking lot, creating a much-improved traffic flow. The new entrance will replace the current north and south toll plazas.



Visitors coming to Kings Island in 2016 should see improved traffic flow as the City of Mason is renovating Kings Island Drive. Once on property, 13 new toll plaza entrance lanes will help move vehicles through the entry lanes at a faster pace. COURTESY KINGS ISLAND

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Carowinds expanding water park into Carolina Harbor

AT: Scott Rutherford

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. — As summer was winding down, Carowinds officials finally confirmed during a late-August press conference that its long-awaited water park expansion will indeed take place in 2016. The existing Boomerang Bay is slated to be enlarged and fitted with a new name and theme — Carolina Harbor. The water park's current Australian theme will fade away with virtually all of the existing slides and attractions being renamed to reflect the Carolina Harbor motif, which will celebrate the rich heritage of the beach and coastal culture that both Carolinas share due east on the Atlantic Ocean.



The expansion is the second part of an ambitious \$50 million improvement plan that began this season with the opening of the wildly popular Fury 325 B&M steel coaster along with a vastly improved guest arrival experience that included new toll gates, additional parking spaces and a re-imagined main gate area.

When asked what prompted this latest round of improvements, Carowinds Vice President and General Manager Mike Fehnel made it clear that he and his team were paying close attention to their customers. "We listened to our guests and have made a promise to bring them more family-friendly attractions," explained Fehnel. "And we're happy to be delivering on our promise with the addition of Carolina Harbor — a guaranteed ultimate water park experience. Carowinds is growing by leaps and bounds and continues to put the park on the map as the premier entertainment destination of the Carolinas."

The enlargement of the water park to make room for Carolina Harbor was made



Above, Carowinds Boomerang Bay water park will undergo a dramatic transformation into Carolina Harbor in 2016. The new expansion will bring many new Carolina coastal experiences including Blackbeard's Revenge, below left, a six-story-tall water slide complex; an interactive two-acre family area; a sprawling new wave pool; and a host of other new amenities. WhiteWater West is providing waterslides and play structures, below right, while Neuman Group and Water Technologies Inc. will supply the wave pools and related equipment. COURTESY CAROWINDS



possible by the removal of one of the park's original rides, Thunder Road, a wooden racing roller coaster that had seen declining ridership in recent years.

Opening next May, Carolina Harbor's new attractions will include:

- **Blackbeard's Revenge** a sixty-foot-tall waterslide complex that features a total of six slides: Pirate's Plank, Cannonball Drop and Captain's Curse.

- **Surf Club Harbor**, a new wave pool capable of producing six-foot waves in 12 different patterns.

- **Seaside Splashworks**, a multi-level children's water spray ground with more than 80 play elements and a 423-gallon tipping bucket.

- **Kiddy Hawk Cove** and **Myrtle Turtle Beach**, a toddler

play area.

Carowinds selected three major vendors for the Carolina Harbor project. They include WhiteWater West (slides and play structures; Neuman Group (pools) and Water Technologies Inc. (wave-generating equipment).

Also part of the water park expansion are a host of new amenities and enhancements such as:

- **Harbor House**, a new restaurant featuring two 2,400-square-foot outdoor patios serving Carolina BBQ and seafood

- **Schooners**, a full-service bar.

- **Volleyball Courts**, pro-style sand volleyball courts.

In addition, the wave pools will be equipped with 40 new cabanas as well as 1,100 lounge chairs. Fam-



ily changing areas will be upgraded with rest room facilities and a spacious bathhouse.

Elsewhere in the park guest will find a 3,000-square-foot Starbucks with a capacity for 100 guests at the park's main entrance while Cirque Imagine, a live 30-minute Cirque du Soleil-style show, will debut next June at the Carowinds Theater.

And next season, one of the most requested new attributes will come in the form a separate gate offering access to Carolina Harbor without requiring a trek across the entire park from either the North or South gate entrances.

According to John Taylor, Carowinds marketing director, "The new entrance, Carowinds third gate, will make it much easier for water park guests to travel to and

from their cars. In addition, a new intersection associated with the third gate will greatly improve traffic flow, especially at the end of busy days when visitors are all trying to leave at the same time. It's really about improving the guest experience, and this is just one more way we're working to make that happen."

Carowinds has even more up its collective sleeve for 2016. Near the conclusion of the media event, Taylor playfully teased yet another new attraction opening next year with the cryptic phrase "Get ready to soil your plants." Interestingly, this is the same slogan used for a popular video game entitled "Plants versus Zombies."

Full details for this mysterious attraction will be released in October.

Cowabunga Bay Las Vegas brings Polin's Surf Safari to U.S.

Second season finds water park in full 'flume'

AT: Dean Lamanna
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HENDERSON, Nev. — After a successful, if late-coming, grand opening last year, Cowabunga Bay cranked up the cool for its 2015 season — and further established itself as a major player in the Greater Las Vegas amusement market — by introducing two new waterslides.

One model is making its first appearance in America.

A product of Istanbul, Turkey-based Polin Waterparks, which has supplied most of the attractions at Cowabunga Bay, the Surf Safari slide has been described by its maker as the world's largest manmade parabolic "wave." Named Wild Surf by the Nevada park, and designed exclusively for it by Polin, the imposing yet gracefully shaped slide is part of a colorful and towering structure that also incorporates Beach Blanket Banzai — a Polin Family Rafting Slide.

Sending four-person rafts on a 195-foot-long trip, Wild Surf features a daring, 40-degree sloped entrance at the end of a gushing, fully enclosed dark flume that descends from a height of 60 feet. Passengers experience several unexpected changes in momentum and then some "hang time" as they shoot through the crest of the wave (made from 31 tons of fiberglass).

Within the wave structure, drenched by water cascading over the wave's lip, the rafts slide from side to side, forward and backward, before finally splashing into the exit chute.

Shane Huish, general manager of Cowabunga Bay, liked the idea of having some bragging rights with a U.S. attraction "first" but was also impressed by the slide's design.

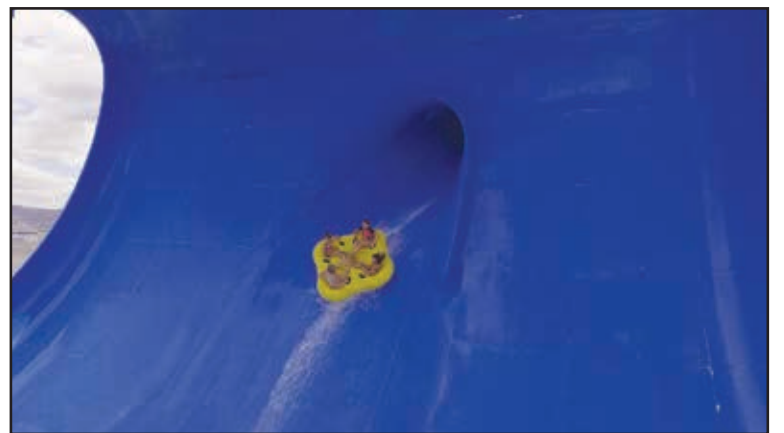
"It's unlike any other waterslide we'd ever seen," Huish said. "Not only does Wild Surf give guests a longer ride than other slides with similar features, but it has super-creative extras. And it all starts from the moment guests reach the top of the slide tower, which

► See COWABUNGA, page 23



Wild Surf, the first Surf Safari "wave" slide by Polin Waterparks to be installed in the U.S., debuted at Cowabunga Bay near Las Vegas this season along with the adjacent Beach Blanket Banzai (multicolored trough) — a Polin Family Rafting Slide.

COURTESY COWABUNGA BAY



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Six Flags White Water takes slides to new heights

AT: Tim Baldwin
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ATLANTA, Ga. — What do park officials do when they feel their tallest water-slide isn't tall enough? Make it bigger, of course. One minor trend in the water park industry — and one that deserves further introspection — is to take an existing attraction and turn it into a newer, more dramatic, more marketable showpiece. To say there is a cost savings in doing so is just adding business savvy to the decision. A handful of parks have not only done this, but have seen amazing results. Schlitterbahn pulled off two amazing award-winning attractions by doing transformations in the past several years.

"Other parks have installed the drop capsule ride," says Trevor Leonard, park director for Six Flags White Water. "They've all been received very well. When Six Flags Hurricane Harbor in

Arlington, Texas installed it two years ago it was such a home run that we knew we needed to bring that here to our park."

For the 2015 season, Six Flags White Water debuted Dive Bomber on June 1 and ever since has noticed not only the visual impact it has made upon the park, but also a new dynamic in their guest experiences.

"One of the coolest things about Dive Bomber that we've noticed was that the previous attraction, Cliffhanger, was that maximum thrill attraction that not everyone had the courage to go up and do, but with Dive Bomber we have the same rider profile per se, but it is now a spectator ride," says Gene Petriello, communications manager. "People can watch their friends come straight down at 40 mph and give them the high five. It's like 'Congratulations. You conquered it.' As staff members, we really



Six Flags White Water increased the height of its 80-foot-tall Cliffhanger slide by 20 feet, added a trap door and renamed the attraction Dive Bomber — making it a must-do for park thrill-seekers. COURTESY SIX FLAGS WHITE WATER

enjoy standing at the bottom and watching the reaction. It's really rewarding."

From the ground, spectators can now see their family members as they enter the capsule, as well as their entire journey of falling 100 feet from the sky. "Once you hear that sound of the floor dropping, everyone's eyes go right to the top of the slide," Petriello laughs.

Pulling off this makeover might not be as easy as it sounds. The previous Cliffhanger slide was already the tallest in the park at 80 feet high, so some specific engineering work was involved in getting it to go up near the 100-foot mark. Six Flags White Water credits the original construction as being built so well that few challenges were encountered in the new installation.

According to the park, it took three months to build the capsule. After it was shipped, it then took another 45 days to install it, build the platform and extend the slide with extra length. The tower was originally built in 1998. Unlike the entrance to Cliffhanger, which was just "over the edge" as the name implies, a complete platform that would have room to completely surround the capsule had to be installed. The park reports that the upper addition placed on the tower went relatively easily. Today, it is now more than 140 steps

to the top of the 10-story attraction.

"In retrofits there are additional considerations — primarily concerning the start deck," says Chelsea Ogilvie, marketing coordinator for ProSlide Technology, Inc. "Since Skybox mechanical is in front of the entry capsule, the top deck must be extended to accommodate the new start."

"We have a great relationship with ProSlide," says Petriello. "Several of our slides at both Six Flags Over Georgia's Hurricane Harbor and Six Flags White Water are from ProSlide." The Six Flags chain of parks as a whole has, in fact, had a long history of enjoying successful installations from ProSlide at each of the water park properties. Tsunami Surge at sister park Six Flags Over Georgia was a tremendous hit in 2014. It won a first place award from IAAPA.

Now perched at 100 feet, the bright blue of the Dive Bomber addition is a new visual icon. AT asked Six Flags White Water why they didn't make the entire slide blue in the transformation process. "Inside the park, we wanted the ride to stand out," states Petriello. "We looked at all the slides at White Water to see which ones may not be getting the same attention as others. Cliffhanger was identified as the first slide that was not getting as much at-

tention. It was just too high of a thrill for too many people to experience together. We decided to refurbish the ride, give it a fresh look and make those new top parts stand out more. That bright blue of Dive Bomber is staring you down; Cliffhanger was just not that way."

People who climb the tower to take on Dive Bomber, or the juxtaposed Runaway River, can see riders as they plunge downward the steep slide and hear their screams. Thrill-seekers will know when to scream because once inside the drop capsule, an audio countdown is heard within to help heighten the anticipation.

"On media day when we officially launched the slide to the media and our bloggers, a lot of people were watching their fellow family members from the bottom," says Petriello. "We had several guests say 'I'm too scared...I'm nervous...I'm shaking...I'm not sure I want to do this.' I told one guest in particular, 'You can do this; you got it!' and she went up to the top of the slide, did Dive Bomber, got to the bottom and immediately put her hands in the air saying, 'I did it! I conquered the tallest slide at Six Flags White Water! I feel amazing. Let's do it again.' That story stands out to me ever since that day because it really showed why we did what we did with Dive Bomber."

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The imposing, parabolic structure of Wild Surf rising up from the desert floor southeast of Las Vegas is a new and striking landmark for Cowabunga Bay. The slide's four-person rafts rise and fall on the curving wall before slipping into the exit chute. COURTESY COWABUNGA BAY

►COWABUNGA

Continued from page 21

offers a bird's-eye view of what's ahead. Passengers can look down into the funnel and see the dizzying ride below. And when they hit splash-down? All we hear is, 'Wow! I've gotta do that again!'"

A celebrity cavalcade, including the Chippendales dancers and entertainer Pia Zadora, helped celebrate Wild Surf's mid-July grand opening.

Along with (and alongside) Wild Surf, and sharing a raft conveyor system, Beach Blanket Banzai opened at the very start of the summer season. The product represents the first and only resin transfer molded (RTM)-manufactured family slide in the industry. Guests in four-person rafts splash along a nine-degree slope at 8.5 miles per second, sliding through more than 600

feet of twists, turns and wild "S" curves — experiencing an overall 60-foot change in elevation.

The 23-acre Cowabunga Bay offers over 25 attractions sporting a nostalgic beach theme and employs more than 300. It offers free tubes, heated pools, an abundance of seating and picnic areas, and cabana rentals (alcohol available) to ensure an enjoyable guest experience.

"Safety, cleanliness and customer service are priorities with our team," Huish said. "We are committed to providing excellent quality product and hospitality to the community and tourists."

•cowabungabay.com/lasvegas

Louisiana water park eyes new attractions

AT: Dean Lamanna
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BATON ROUGE, La. — Cresting a high wave of attendance that made the summer of 2015 its second-best operating season, Liberty Lagoon Water Park now is poised to crank open the thrill faucet.

The Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC), which oversees the 3.5-acre fun spot, is eyeing the addition of several new attractions totaling above \$1 million.

FlowRider, the dynamic, boogie board-buffeting wave simulator, will be a separate-fee attraction at Liberty Lagoon also available for rent to groups and special events. The first water ride of its kind in Louisiana, it will be positioned in a space now occupied by a volleyball court.

Two new waterslides also are planned: a speed slide and a slide with an enclosed, angled loop.

Installation of the new attractions is expected to be completed following the 2016 season. Other improvements intended to increase the capacity at the popular park include additional pavilions, a second food outlet and an alternate entrance.

FlowRider is a division of Vancouver, Canada-based



The 3.5-acre Liberty Lagoon Water Park in Baton Rouge, already home to several attractions supplied by WhiteWater of Vancouver, Canada, is planning to add a FlowRider and two additional slides as part of a \$1 million-plus improvement project. Completion is expected in latter 2016. COURTESY WHITEWATER

WhiteWater, the primary attractions supplier for Liberty Lagoon. Among the company's current amusement products at the park are the 205-foot-long enclosed AquaTube slide (called Yellow Lunge), 195-foot-long Poolsider slide (called Purple Plunge), SpaceBowl slide / bowl spin (called Gator Bowl, after the park's mascot) and AquaPlay AP300 (interactive wet playground with a large water dumping bucket, climbing mesh, three small slides, and over 50 spray jets

and geysers).

The complex also has a 430-foot-long lazy river and 600-square-foot splash play area.

Liberty Lagoon, which cost \$7 million-plus to build and was funded by local taxpayers, opened in 2011. Nearly 80,000 guests sought recreation and relief from the southern heat and humidity at the park this year. It is one of more than 180 public parks and recreational facilities maintained by BREC.

•libertylagoon.com

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Darien Lake delivers a double punch from ProSlide and Larson

Brain Drain freefall slide, Rolling Thunder Giant Loop combine to boost attendance

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

DARIEN CENTER, N.Y. — Since 1964, Darien Lake has continued to grow and evolve from its simple campground origins to a sprawling resort complex that includes a theme park, water park and 20,000-seat performing arts center. Keeping momentum going, Darien Lake has added two new attractions this year. One addresses the wet side of the business in the water park, while the other gives thrills and chills among the hard rides in the amusement park. “One wet and one wild” is the promotional tagline used for the 2015 additions.

Brain Drain is the name chosen for the new ProSlide installation in Splashtown, the resort’s water park. Towering 70 feet and offering views of both the resort’s parks, two separate slides offer the popular “trap door” adrenaline craze. The freefall launch is done simultaneously on both slides. Riders drop into a darkened tunnel encountering a 333-foot, 38-feet-per-second experience. The journey combines back-to-back sideways spirals in opposite directions before a splashing runout.

“Technically it is a dark slide,” says Chris Thorpe, general manager. “You fall into the black hole, if you

will, because of the sky box launch system. “You hear the heartbeat of the sound system, then it’s the launch into the abyss. It has a sense of anticipation because you don’t know what’s coming.”

“It has really delivered on guest expectation,” adds Amber Ciesiulka, public relations manager. “It’s equal parts anticipation and excitement. When people get to the bottom, it’s great to watch their expressions. It’s a complete shock; it’s such a natural reaction that they have to this ride because it is unique to the rides at this park and to the whole area.”

When AT asked Ciesiulka what her reaction was when riding it the first time, she laughs, “Exactly that! I was very nervous. But when I got off, I wanted to do it again. It’s very smooth.”

While the layouts of the two slides are mirror images, each slide offers its own pair of color schemes: one is magenta and navy; the other is green and aqua blue. No rides were removed to make space for this installation. According to management, the park developed a master plan when they began expanding the water park in 2010 and foresight in regard to future attractions was incorporated into that decision. Brain Drain fit a specific site in the park that didn’t require any adjust-



Brain Drain, a pair of trap door freefall launch drop slides from ProSlide has Darien Lake water park visitors lined up for an adrenaline craze.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

ments or changes to previously-built attractions.

When speaking with Thorpe about the skyrocketing popularity resurgence of the Super Loops/Ring of Fire thrill ride from the 1970s making an amazing modern comeback, he says, “I think the Loop is unique in its footprint; you can put it in an area



where you have a smaller footprint.” Rolling Thunder, the name for the looping thriller manufactured by Larson, was located on the spot of an older UFO flat ride. “It is a ride that you can fit into an area of the park that would be vacant of that experience,” Thorpe says.

Loaded in coaster-like seats with over-the-shoulder restraints, 24 riders at a time can experience Rolling Thunder. The train rocks back and forth within the circle until the powered momentum propels it up and over the top for three revolutions until reversing and doing more loops in the opposite direction.

Like most of the recent Larson loop installations, the attraction has an eye-popping cool factor at night. “It has a dynamic light package that changes the profile of your

vista. The light package just gleams out to the parking lot that says ‘Come ride me!’” chuckles Thorpe.

Those with a fondness for industry trivia might find it ironic that the Larson loops installed at sister CNL Lifestyle Properties Frontier City and Elitch Gardens utilized the name Brain Drain. At Darien Lake it was used for the waterslide addition, rather than the loop.

Both the water park and amusement park are accessible to guests under a single park admission.

“With the addition of these two trend-setting thrill rides, we have cemented our position as the best entertainment value in Western New York,” says Thorpe. “Both of them have delivered on the expectations we set for the market.”



Rolling Thunder, a Larson Giant Loop, is the second thrilling part of Darien Lake's 2015 marketing campaign, One wet, one wild, that promotes the park's two newest rides.

AT/TIM BALDWIN





NEWS SPLASH

COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

Three tractor-trailers were at **Quassy Amusement & Waterpark** in Middlebury, Conn., at the end of August delivering the five new waterslides that will make up Slide City at **Splash Away Bay** next year. Construction of the project was scheduled to begin mid-September. All of the components were provided by **ProSlide Technology** of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

•
Jon Foreman, lead singer of the band **Switchfoot**, was at **Schlitterbahn Galveston Island** on Sunday, August 30. Foreman, in addition to being a gifted musician, is an avid surfer and brought those talents to the Galveston Boogie Bahn for an event that Schlitterbahn dubbed Boogie Bahn with Jon!

Radio station KSBJ and sister station NGEN offered four lucky radio winners a unique opportunity to get surfing tips from Foreman during his visit at the park. Foreman is well known not just for surfing, but for his surfing tournaments that benefit homeless kids.

•
United Parks, a leading amusement park operator headed by CEO **Jack Falfas** acquired a third property in August. The sale of **Daytona Lagoon** was approved by the Volusia County Council on August 20. The 10-year old park features a year-round FEC and a water park which operates March to October.

United Parks has committed to investing \$2 million in improvements over the next two years.

United Parks has revitalized Missouri's **Hydro Adventures** (formerly **Bluff Falls Water Park**) since taking ownership in 2014, and was recently awarded the operation contract for the historic **Playland** in Rye, New York.

•
Hasunuma Water Garden in Japan will be home to the very first triple Fusion Waterslide in the world. **WhiteWater West** is supplying the unique combination of a Constrictor + Rattler + Boomerango that will send guests into high-banking turns, crazy oscillations, exciting drops and into gravity-defying wall climbs, all in one ride.

"We spent months working back and forth trying to fit the impossibly large into an impossibly small space. After pouring through endless CAD files and iterative designs with our client, we flew to Japan to ensure the glove fit. We spent hours on-site visualizing every detail of the world's first triple Fusion Waterslide from meticulous measurements to rider viewpoints," commented **Emily Colombo**, slide path designer, WhiteWater.

The new water slide is being introduced to celebrate the water park's 40th anniversary, where WhiteWater manufactured and supplied a yellow and red Constrictor alongside a translucent Flatline Loop in 2013.

•
Groundbreaking took place in Grand Prairie, Texas on October 17, 2015, on an epic new water park and recreation hub dubbed **The Epic**. Voters in that city, located midway between Dallas and Fort Worth, voted to approve the continuation of one-quarter cent sales tax to fund the project.

The \$75 million recreation center will include an indoor 70,000-square-foot water park with a retractable roof and 3.5 acres of outdoor space.

Other parts of the complex include a large indoor play area, amphitheater, fitness center, library, cafe, art studios, teen rooms, and exercise rooms.

HKS, Inc., an international architectural firm headquartered in Dallas was awarded the architectural and engineering contract for the project. HKS is noted for projects all over the world — including the nearby **AT&T Stadium (Dallas Cowboys)** in Arlington.

•
Plans for the proposed **Hawaiian Falls** water park in Howe, Texas, north of Dallas, have been put on hold. The city is unable to supply 20 acres of land and come up with the \$14 to \$18 million needed to fund the water park. Although city council agreed that the benefits to Howe would be substantial, they feel now is not the right time. They hope that as the city continues to expand, future growth may provide additional funds needed for a water park.

To date, Hawaiian Falls has partnered with seven cities in Texas to bring successful, family-friendly parks to that community.

•
The **Polynesian Resort Hotel**, the indoor water park that started the water park/resort craze in Wisconsin Dells, Wis. is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation. Opened in 1989, the Polynesian was one the first properties in the U.S. to build an indoor water park, adding it to the property in 1994. Since that time indoor water parks have become commonplace all over the world. The Dells area has seen the addition of multiple water park/resort hotels, each trying to outdo each other.

The historic Polynesian is being revitalized and transformed into a luxury vacation resort by **Capital Resorts Group**, which acquired the property in 2014. More than \$3 million has already been spent on the recently completed phase one of a total \$12 million renovation.

•
A different kind of water park has opened in the Caribbean. **Splash Island Water Park** at the **Bay Gardens Beach & Resort** in St. Lucia is a floating, inflatable waterpark.

Set just off the beach of the resort, in the beautiful blue waters of the Caribbean, the park features over a dozen attractions, including a climbing wall, hurdles, wiggle bridge, spinners and rockers.

The park is open to everyone, but guests of the Bay Gardens Beach resort get a 10 percent discount off the standard rate of \$10 per hour. The resort also offers package deals that include water park passes.

Bay Gardens Resorts director, **Julianna Ward-Destang**, conceptualized the idea out of a desire to bring a novel, safe and fun attraction to the beach.

Opened in August of this year, the attraction brought in 1,300 visitors its first week. The inflatables were manufactured by **Wibit Sports GmbH** a German watersports company who has been producing commercial grade inflatable water sports products for over 18 years.

AllWorld Networks's Turkey100 honors Polin during awards gala

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Polin Waterparks was recently identified as one of The Turkey100, a prestigious list of "game-changing entrepreneurs" identified by AllWorld Network. AllWorld cited Polin among the businesses it referred to as

one of Turkey's fastest-growing companies that "are pioneering solutions in old and new industries." The organization noted that the distinguished firms had collectively created 11,000 jobs in three years.

This is the second time that Polin has been privileged with an appearance on the list, as one of the 100 fastest growing companies in Turkey. It was included for the first time in 2013. In total, only 16 companies have received the honor more than once.

Polin is one of the world's leading firms in the design, engineering, manufacturing and installation of water parks, water slides and water-play attractions. Specifically, Polin has been a pioneer in the advancement and application of closed-molded manufacturing technology in water slide development. Polin's signature rides, like King Cobra, Sphere, Space Shuttle and Turbolance and its forward-thinking innovation in manufacturing technologies have led to the firm expanding its operations throughout Asia to Europe, China, Canada, Australia, the United States and beyond in 93 countries under the Polin brand.

The list of honorees was announced during the All-World Turkey100 Awards Gala, which took place in Cıragan Palace Kempinski on August 10. The event was opened by the president of TOBB Rifat Hisarciklioğlu and the president of TEPAV Ozan Acar. It was hosted by All-World Network, the Ministry of Commerce, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey.

Hisarciklioğlu said the total combined turnover of all the companies on the list was \$2.7 billion, with an average of \$25 million. Specifically, for the 2011-2013 period, the average growth rate was 358 percent - 15 times faster than the entire economy's growth rate.

In total, the companies on the list employ nearly 18,000 people, with an average number per company of 185 - an increase of 88 percent between 2011 and 2013. "These companies provided jobs for more than 8,000 people during this period," Hisarciklioğlu said.

Baris Pakis, president of Polin, and Sohret Pakis, director of Marketing and Communication of Polin, attended the awards ceremony. Baris Pakis said his company was honored to be among the top 100. "Polin strives to stay at the forefront of technology, as well as providing the highest quality of service to our clients and partners," he added. "It is truly a privilege to receive this commendation, and we are humbled to be named alongside some of the most-well-respected business leaders in our country."

Fifteen companies offering information technology services topped the list. That number was followed by foodstuffs manufacturers (eight); computer programming, consulting and related activities along with "other manufactures" (seven each); textile-product manufacturing (six); "machine and equipment manufacturing — not elsewhere classified" (six); and human healthcare services (four).





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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

▶ Cedar Fair's 2016 plans — Pages 32 & 34 / Star Wars coming to Disney — Page 36 / Fairs — Pages 38-42

Land of Make Believe adds new SBF/Rides-4U Drop 'N Twist

AT: B. Derek Shaw

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HOPE, N.J. — For the 2015 season, the Land of Make Believe added a Drop 'N Twist, from SBF Rides, Italy, through their American ride representative, Rides-4U, Inc., Somerville, N.J. This pneumatic family drop tower, stands 27 feet tall and seats eight. Top speed of this bounce and turn tower ride is 7 rpm, with an hourly capacity of 390 passengers. Ride length can vary

between 45 seconds to 90 seconds depending on which of the four programs is being used. A trailer mount version is also available.

"Parents love it," said Chris Maier, owner of the 61 year old children's amusement park in northwest New Jersey. He continued, "People can ride with their children. Being a family park, that's critical. It is a very popular ride".

"As long as they can sit in

the seat, they can ride," said Len Soled, president of Rides-4U when asked about who can ride. Soled went on to say that SBF is very accommodating with ride options and colors, to satisfy every customer. Land of Make Believe had a similar ride, however the previous one was not pneumatic. Also the old ride only featured a drop. The Drop 'N Twist offers an observation aspect along with a drop as well.



This new SBF Drop 'N Twist is popular with all age groups at Land of Make Believe. The ride's manufacturer is represented in North America by N.J.-based Rides-4U. COURTESY LAND OF MAKE BELIEVE

Several older attractions to be scrapped

Universal Orlando paves way for Fast & Furious ride in 2017



As suggested by this pre-show rendering, Fast & Furious: Supercharged — now in the preconstruction phase at Universal Studios Florida — will recreate the high-octane appeal of the eponymous feature film series as an immersive thrill ride experience.

COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Universal Studios continues to cash in on its 14-year-old *Fast & Furious* film franchise, the most recent installment of which, *Furious 7*, raced to a worldwide box office win of \$1.5 billion earlier this year.

Fast & Furious: Supercharged, a new thrill ride combining cutting-edge film and motion simulator technology, will fire up its engines at Universal Studios Florida (USF) in 2017. It promises to deliver everything fans love about the films — popular characters, exhilarating environments, nonstop action and, of course, high-speed cars.

The USF concept appears to be an expanded, stand-alone variation on the identically named attraction that debuted at Universal Studios

Hollywood in June as the new climax of that park's famous Studio Tour.

Featuring *Fast & Furious* series cast members Vin Diesel (Dom Toretto), Dwayne Johnson (Hobbs), Michelle Rodriguez (Letty) and Tyrese Gibson (Roman), Fast & Furious: Supercharged will be a new "sequel" of sorts. It will immerse guests in the high-stakes underground world of street racing showcased in the movies.

Guests will be able to explore the headquarters of Toretto and his team and even get to check out some of the supercharged cars they have come to recognize on the big screen. Then, they will board specially-designed vehicles and hitch an adrenaline-pumping ride with the films' stars.

Fast & Furious: Supercharged will replace Disas-

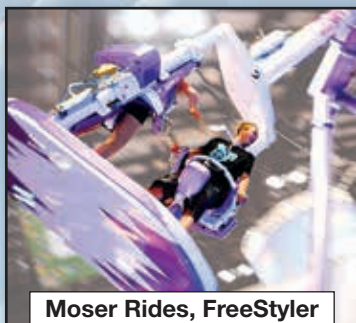
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►UNIVERSAL

Continued from page 28

ter: A Major Motion Picture Starring You!, which USF closed in early September, and the Beetlejuice Graveyard Revue, which will be shuttered by the end of this year.

Fast & Furious is Universal Pictures' highest-grossing film franchise. Since the release of the first film in 2001, all seven installments have grossed nearly \$3.9 billion at the global box office.

•universalorlando.com



Toy Story Land confirmed for Disney's Hollywood Studios

The upcoming re-imagining of Disney's Hollywood Studios will include a new 11-acre Toy Story Land based on the Disney-Pixar Toy Story film franchise. Toy Story Land will feature two new rides and see a third track added to the existing Toy Story Mania 3D attraction.

COURTESY WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — In addition to a completely new name, the impending re-imagining of Disney's Hollywood Studios will take guests to infinity and beyond, allowing them to step into the worlds of their favorite films, starting with the 11-acre Toy Story Land. This major new addition will transport guests into the adventurous outdoors of Andy's backyard.

Guests will think they've been shrunk to the size of Woody and Buzz as they are surrounded by oversized toys that Andy has assembled using his vivid imagination. Using toys like building blocks, plastic buckets and shovels, and game board pieces, Andy has designed the perfect setting for this land, which will include two attractions new to any Disney park and one expanded favorite. These will include:

•**Family-friendly roller coaster:** All on the back of Slinky Dog, this steel roller coaster will zip and plunge as it takes guests on a fun, toy-filled adventure throughout the new land.

•**Alien saucers attraction:** The famous little green aliens from the movie will take guests around for a spin in their very own flying saucers. The music, lighting and sound effects add to the flurry of action, while "The Claw" looms over.

•**Toy Story Mania!:** The expansion brings a much-needed third track to this popular attraction where guests glide into the Toy Story Midway Games Play Set and take aim at 3D objects in a variety of fast-paced games.

According to Imagineer Kathy Mangum, Toy Story Land was inspired by the overwhelming guest response to Cars Land at Disney California Adventure park at the Disneyland Resort. "We've been quite successful with taking immersive experiences to a whole new level as we did with Cars Land. In fact, one of our favorite stories from opening day is that we overheard a little boy asking his mom, 'Is this where they filmed the Cars movie?'" said Mangum. "That's exactly how we want people to feel — like they've stepped onto the set of their favorite film ... like the quaint town of Radiator Springs or, in the case of *Toy Story*, the wild and adventurous outdoors of Andy's backyard."

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Three Cedar Fair parks adding family, teen thrillers

Two flight rides set for Canada's Wonderland Mondial Revolution to add thrills at Kings Dominion

VAUGHAN, Ontario, Canada — Canada's Wonderland is taking guests to new heights for 2016 with the addition of two new rides that will capture the imagination of both families, and thrill-seekers, as they take flight in an interactive flying experience.

Skyhawk, the first ride of its kind in North America from Germany's Gerstlauer, will take riders to a new level of adventure when the park opens for its 35th season in 2016. Riders will take control of their own cockpit, showcasing their flying abilities as they maneuver through 360 degree turns, and challenge themselves to engage in multiple inversions at 135 feet (41 meters) in the air.

Flying Eagles, Larson Intl. Flying Scooters, will thrill little pilots and quickly become a family favorite for parents and children alike. These two-person planes will glide 28 feet (8.5 meters) above the ground and allow each rider to control their flight and ride experience.

"We are always looking to enhance the guest experience with new and exciting attractions. With the introduction of Skyhawk and Flying Eagles, thrill-seekers of all ages will enjoy the flying sensation on these interactive rides that are truly unique to our Park." Norm Pirtovshek, general manager, Canada's Wonderland.



Two rides will take flight at Canada's Wonderland in 2016. Above, the Skyhawk is a Gerstlauer Sky Roller. It will take flyers 135 feet in the air. For guests wanting to fly at a shorter height, the Flying Eagles (below) are the popular Flying Scooters from Larson International. COURTESY CANADA'S WONDERLAND



DOSWELL, Va. — Thrillseekers headed to Kings Dominion next year will find yet another way to defy gravity in the form of a unique new flat ride. Supplied by Mondial of the Netherlands, the new ride is one of that company's popular Revolution attractions. Sporting the appropriate name of Delirium, it will be located in the Candy Apple Grove section of the park and is set to open in the spring of 2016.

Delirium is a spinning pendulum on which 40 riders will be securely locked into their seats, facing outward on a giant ring. As their feet dangle, they begin slowly swinging back and forth while the ring starts to rotate. Once in full motion, guests will soar to a height of 115 feet at a maximum arc angle of 120 degrees.

Florida-based Leisure Labs LLC's Bob Dean who represents Mondial in North America told AT they were looking forward to the Kings Dominion project: "We are very pleased that Cedar Fair has again trusted Mondial with one of their headliner rides. The [Mondial] Revolution has been rock solid at Canada's Wonderland for many years, and now we look forward to the same success at Kings Dominion. Cedar Fair has an eye for higher-end ride systems, and we are all super excited about the Revolution for the 2016 season at Kings Dominion."



Kings Dominion has announced that its new-for-2016 attraction will be a Mondial Revolution ride dubbed Delirium. COURTESY KINGS DOMINION

Worlds of Fun adding five family rides to a newly expanded Planet Snoopy

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Families can glide, fly and launch into 2016 at Worlds of Fun with the addition of five new family rides coming to Planet Snoopy next season.

The recently announced ride package, four from Zamperla, one from Larson International, include:

- **Woodstock Gliders:** Young guests control their own flight with movable stationary wings.
- **Flying Ace:** Get your aviator glasses ready for a high-flying adventure with Snoopy.
- **Snoopy Space Buggies:** Defy gravity and bounce to the moon and back.
- **Linus Launcher:** Experience the sensation of weightlessness through flight with feet dangling.
- **Snoopy Junction:** All aboard! Snoopy the conductor leads kids on a railroad adventure.

"Thrills come in all sizes," says Vice President and General Manager Frank Wilburn. "It's important that we continue to create the best family environment for our guests and what better place to do that than right here at Planet Snoopy where we create memories that last a lifetime."

Planet Snoopy was added to Worlds of Fun in 2011 and will now feature 21 family style rides at the Kansas City theme.



Worlds of Fun has announced that it is adding five new rides to an expanded Planet Snoopy for the 2016 season. Four rides are being supplied by Zamperla and one from Larson International. COURTESY WORLDS OF FUN



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Cedar Point opening record-breaking B&M Dive Coaster in 2016

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Cedar Point will once more have its name added to the record books when it introduces Valraven (val-rey-vuhn), the world's tallest, fastest and longest dive coaster, in 2016. Valraven is the regal king of birds, swooping in to conquer all other dive coasters on the planet. Valraven is being marketed as Cedar Point's 18th coaster.

Riders on Valraven are carried more than 20 stories up to the top of the coaster's 223-foot-tall first hill. Once there, the train is held over the edge of the first drop for approximately four seconds, giving anxious guests unparalleled views of the park before free-falling a record 214 feet at a completely vertical, 90-degree angle, reaching a top speed of 75 mph.

Valraven then flips its passengers upside-down through a 165-foot-tall Immelmann half loop, then a half roll before traveling in the opposite direction. The train then approach-



Next spring Cedar point will unleash Valraven, the world's tallest, fastest and longest Dive Coaster. To be supplied by Bolliger & Mabillard, Valraven will stand 223 feet tall and feature two 90-degree freefall drops as well as three inversions along its 3,415-foot-long course at speeds of 75 mph. COURTESY CEDAR POINT

es another drop zone – but there's no stopping this time as riders plunge 125 feet down at a near-90-degree angle once again, twisting and turning upside-down two more times, once through a dive loop and then through a 270-degree roll before completing its journey over 3,415 feet of tarnished

copper and silver track.

Valraven will help Cedar Point to attain 10 roller coaster bragging rights when it debuts next summer, including:

Tallest Dive Coaster (223 feet); fastest Dive Coaster (75 mph); longest Dive Coaster (3,415 feet); most inversions on a Dive Coaster (three); longest

drop on a Dive Coaster (214 feet); highest inversion on a Dive Coaster (165 feet); most roller coasters taller than 200 feet at one amusement park (5); most rides at one amusement park (72); most steel roller coaster track at one amusement park (52,125 feet/9.9 miles) and most roller coaster track at one amusement park (60,110 feet/11.4 miles).

Valraven is also the signature 100th roller coaster designed by the innovative minds at Bolliger & Mabillard in Monthey, Switzerland. It will feature ride vehicles never before seen on a dive coaster. Riders will sit eight-across on one of three, 24-passenger floorless trains, featuring tiered seating with over-the-shoulder restraints and interlocking seatbelts, much like those on the park's GateKeeper wing coaster. Valraven will accommodate approximately 1,200 riders per hour.

Cedar Point is also making history as the first amusement park ever to utilize 3D virtual

reality to introduce a new roller coaster. Guests can experience Valraven in 360-degree virtual reality by downloading the Cedar Point VR app onto their smart phones and inserting them into the Valraven VR Viewer. The app is now available in the App Store and Google Play store. To take full advantage of the virtual reality simulation, Valraven VR Viewers can be purchased by visiting cedarpoint.com/Valraven.

"The introduction of Valraven is a first for the amusement park industry on many fronts, including the exciting virtual reality experience," said Jason McClure, vice president and general manager of Cedar Point. "For the first time ever, guests are able to take an immersive ride on Valraven before it opens next summer – and the actual experience will be unmatched with the tallest lift hill, fastest speed, longest track and most inversions on a dive coaster, right here at Cedar Point, The Roller Coaster Capital of the World."

S&S Worldwide LSM launch coaster rising on New Jersey shore

LOGAN, Utah — The design team at S&S Worldwide (a subsidiary of Sansei Technologies) has been selected by Playland's Castaway Cove in Ocean City, N.J. to build what will be one of two linear synchronous motor (LSM) launched coasters to open in the Northeast region of the U.S.

S&S has teamed up with Scott Simpson of S&T Amusements (owner of Playland's Castaway Cove) to create a new design for the Gale Force coaster, combining some elements of the S&S El Loco coaster with three LSM launches. This all-new coaster concept is planned to open on the New Jersey coast in the spring of 2016.

The S&S LSM triple launch coaster will offer visitors to the New Jersey shore an exciting, high-powered ride experience that does not exist anywhere else in the world. The design of the three launches (one forward, one backward, and a final forward launch at 64 mph) should provide an intense ride experience on a coaster that has a very small footprint. S&S has packed the ride design with an un-



S&S Worldwide worked in conjunction with the team at Playland's Castaway Cove to bring a new LSM triple launch steel coaster to the New Jersey shore in 2016 to be called Gale Force. COURTESY S&S WORLDWIDE

believable number of exciting elements, including a 125-foot crest, the rush of a 100-degree first drop at 59 mph, a 180-degree twisting climb, an off-camber dive drop, a corked roll, a top hat twist and a raven dive.

"Scott Simpson wanted to build an exciting family coaster and bring something new and different to the New Jersey shore,

and S&S was excited to be able to offer our new LSM triple launch coaster," said Tim Timco, vice president of sales and marketing for S&S. "It has been a pleasure to work with Simpson and his team in planning an extraordinary new ride for his facility. By listening to our customer and seeking to understand their needs, we have been able to design yet

another thrilling coaster that is perfect for the family-centered amusement park (Gale Force's height restriction is 48 inches tall). S&S sincerely appreciates the confidence Scott Simpson and his team have placed in us with this coaster project."

"After 56 years on the Ocean City boardwalk, we have chosen S&S to build a compact thrilling coaster to

entertain our visitors. Having enjoyed a long, successful experience with our S&S Double Shot ride, we are adding the next level of attraction to the park," said Simpson. "Our Gale Force coaster will feature acceleration from beginning to end, providing non-stop excitement for the entire ride."

Discussing the process of working with S&S on this new coaster design, Simpson continued, "We have spent three years with S&S in planning and design, in order to achieve a one-of-a-kind coaster that would utilize a small footprint. We are all very excited to open the ride next spring."

Timco, who enjoyed spending summers in Ocean City while growing up, added, "This project is very special to me, as well. Being able to partner with a long-time friend in the creation of our new LSM triple launch coaster is a tremendous opportunity — and the coaster is yet another example of the caliber of our world-class engineering team at S&S. We're looking forward to the grand opening of this new coaster at Playland's Castaway Cove next spring."

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Major announcements emerge at D23 Expo 2015

'Star Wars' lands coming to Disney parks in Anaheim, Orlando

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Three years after its acquisition of San Francisco-based Lucasfilm Ltd. in a \$4 billion-plus deal, The Walt Disney Company finally has announced plans to bring the fantasy film creations of George Lucas to its parks in a big way.

News that *Star Wars*-themed lands will be coming to Disney's domestic parks was the biggest of several revelations rolled out here in mid-August at D23 Expo 2015. Disney Chairman and CEO Bob Iger told an audience of more than 7,500 fans that the 14-acre lands — the company's largest single themed land expansions ever — at Disneyland park in Anaheim and Disney's Hollywood Studios at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., will allow *Star Wars* fans to step into the stories from a galaxy far, far away. Ground-breaking is expected by the end of 2015.

"We are creating a jaw-dropping new world..." Iger said. "These new lands at Disneyland and Walt Disney World will transport guests to a whole new *Star Wars* planet, including an epic *Star Wars* adventure that puts you in the middle of a climactic battle between the First Order and the Resistance."

Iger also unveiled concept drawings of the new lands, which will have two signature attractions. Along with the thrilling battle experience, another attraction will put guests behind the controls of one of the most recognizable ships in the galaxy, the Millennium Falcon, as they take on a customized secret mission.

Iger was joined at D23 by Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Bob Chapek, several Imagineers working on these projects, and filmmakers James Cameron and Jon Landau, who shared new details about Pandora — The World of Avatar, now under construction at Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando. Harrison Ford, who played Han Solo in the early *Star Wars* films, made a surprise appearance. Fans

also got a chance to see Marvel Comics legend Stan Lee, who himself posed as an unsuspecting fan during Iron Man's dramatic entrance at the event.

The latter setup introduced a preview of Iron Man Experience, the first Marvel attraction at any Disney park, set to open at Hong Kong Disneyland next year. It promises to take guests on an epic adventure in the sky above Hong Kong as they board an Iron Wing to battle Hydra alongside Iron Man, a favorite among Avenger fans.

The *Star Wars* announcement, of course, represents the most potentially lucrative of Disney's subsidiary endeavors. The partnership between Disney and Lucasfilm dates to 1987, when the successful *Star Tours* attraction, inspired by the *Star Wars* film series, opened at Disneyland. The simulator ride was then redesigned, returning as *Star Tours — The Adventures Continue* in 2011 and featuring more than 50 different story outcomes unfolding on five different planets.

As "warm-up acts" to its more ambitious, real estate-intensive future incarnations of The Force, Disney's California and Florida parks will be introducing a number of *Star Wars*-themed experiences in the coming months, including:

• **Star Tours — The Adventures Continue:** Later this year, *Star Tours* will include a new adventure featuring locations and characters from the upcoming feature film *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

• **Star Wars Launch Bay:** This interactive experience will take guests into *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* with special exhibits and peeks behind-the-scenes, including opportunities to visit with new and classic *Star Wars* characters, special merchandise and food offerings. *Star Wars Launch Bay* will be located in the Animation Courtyard at Disney's Hollywood Studios and in Tomorrowland at Disneyland. Also at Disneyland, *Star*

► See DISNEY, page 37



At D23 Expo 2015 in Anaheim, Disney Chairman and CEO Bob Iger described the 14-acre, *Star Wars*-themed expansions coming to the company's California and Florida parks. Each will offer an immersive version of the *Star Wars* milieu along with signature attractions, including a Millennium Falcon ride that allows guests to control the ship (above). COURTESY THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY



Star Wars Launch Bay, to be located in Tomorrowland at Disneyland in Anaheim and in the Animation Courtyard at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando, is an interactive experience taking guests into the world of the upcoming *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* feature film — with moviemaking exhibits, special merchandise and food offerings. COURTESY THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

"We are creating a jaw-dropping world. These new lands at Disneyland and Walt Disney World will transport guests to a new *Star Wars* planet."

—Bob Iger, Chairman & CEO,
The Walt Disney Company

►DISNEY

Continued from page 36

Wars Launch Bay will share the space with the reimagined Super Hero HQ, offering opportunities to meet and take photos with super heroes like Captain America and Thor, as well as experience the returning Iron Man Tech Presented by Stark Industries.

•**Jedi Training Academy:** A favorite of younger fans is reimagined with a new experience that includes new characters and a new villain to battle from the popular Disney XD series "Star Wars Rebels."

•**Season of the Force:** This new seasonal event, beginning in early 2016, brings new experiences to both coasts. In Tomorrowland at Disneyland park, guests will explore the *Star Wars* galaxy with special entertainment throughout the land, themed food locations and more. Guests also will have the opportunity to climb aboard Hyperspace Mountain, a reimagining of the classic Space Mountain attraction, in which they will join an X-wing Starfighter battle. At Disney's Hollywood Studios, weekend nights will conclude with a new fire-

works spectacular set to the iconic score of the *Star Wars* movies.

Bob Chapek also shared at D23 that *Soarin' Around the World* will make its U.S. film debut in 2016 at the existing Soarin' attraction locations at Epcot in Orlando and Disney California Adventure, taking guests on a journey to far-flung lands and flying above some of the world's most unique natural landscapes and man-made wonders. In addition, the revamping of Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando will continue with the 11-acre Toy Story Land, which will allow guests into the child character Andy's backyard and "shrink" them to the size of his animated playthings Woody and Buzz Lightyear (see story, page 30).

"From Disneyland's 60th anniversary celebration to the anticipation of Shanghai Disney Resort [in China], we're in the midst of unprecedented growth and expansion around the globe," Chapek said. "With these new announcements, we continue our legacy in creating innovative attractions, worldwide entertainment and magical lands that take our guests into the worlds of stories they love."



Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Bob Chapek, joined by 92-year-old Marvel Comics legend Stan Lee, previewed the new Iron Man Experience attraction coming to Hong Kong Disneyland at D23 Expo 2015.

COURTESY RICHARD HARBAUGH/THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY



FASTTRACK

COMPILED: Scott Rutherford
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• **Quassy Amusement Park** officials have confirmed that its beloved Trabant will take its final spins in early October. Supplied by **Chance Rides**, the Trabant has been in continuous operation since 1965 and has entertained more than one million guests. "It's been a great ride for us – a real workhorse," said Quassy's **George Frantzis II**. "I used to operate it years ago while working various roles in our family business." To provide a proper farewell to the amusement device that has thrilled several generations of Quassy guests, the park will offer free rides on the Trabant Oct. 3 and 4.

• A rescued rough-toothed dolphin has been found to be deaf after **SeaWorld Orlando** zoological experts worked with specialists to perform a hearing test on the animal. The SeaWorld team has been working around the clock to care for the animal and determine the cause of its stranding. All previous tests, ranging from radiographs to blood tests, showed normal results, leading SeaWorld to believe the dolphin might be suffering from hearing loss. The hearing test allowed the experts at SeaWorld and the **National Marine Mammal Foundation** to prove that the animal has a significant degree of hearing loss, which was likely the cause for his stranding. Since the dolphin has been at SeaWorld, he has shown signs of improvement and is now floating on its own, swimming without support from the park's animal care experts, and actively seeking food. SeaWorld Orlando will continue to work closely with **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** (NOAA) on the next steps for the dolphin's rehabilitation and care.

• Dallas-based **Main Event Entertainment** will bring its distinct **Eat.Bowl.Play.** experience to four new states east of its Texas headquarters. The company has selected sites for Main Event Entertainment centers in Louisville, Kentucky; Memphis, Tennessee; West Chester, Ohio; and Independence, Missouri. All four centers are slated to open by summer 2016. "Main Event is growing at a rapid pace, and 2016 is shaping up to be a milestone year," said Main Event CEO **Charlie Keegan**. "Not only will we open a record number of our centers, we will also double the number of states where we do business as we bring Main Event's unique blend of active entertainment and upscale food and beverage options to new markets."

• **Morey's Piers** will host its Boardwalk Bunk-Down, an outdoor sleepover on the pier that combines the thrill and excitement of an amusement park with all the "sleeping under the stars" fun of camping on October 3, 2015. At night, families and friends can huddle together under the Great White roller coaster for a movie under the stars and complimentary popcorn, or visit Morey's S'mores Bar to toast marshmallows and indulge in the ultimate camping snack. A variety of popular boardwalk games will also be open at night. The next morning, a complimentary continental breakfast station will help awaken the senses.

• **Universal Studios Orlando** has closed "Lucy – A Tribute," one of the theme park's original attractions. It will be replaced by a new *Hello Kitty* interactive retail experience that will open later this year. The Lucy attraction focused on actress **Lucille Ball** and showcased props, costumes, scripts and other memorabilia from the 1950s classic TV comedy *I Love Lucy*.

• **Malibu Castle** in San Antonio, Texas has officially closed. The decision was made to close the park in lieu of renewing the lease on the land where the park sits. Since 1978, **Malibu Grand Prix & Castle** has provided affordable family fun to residents of San Antonio. The last day of operation was September 7, 2015. **Gregg Borman**, Sr. V.P. of Operations for **Apex Parks Group**, owners, said, "It was not an easy decision to close this park, but the economics of the day swayed us to not renew the lease on the property. We really appreciate all of the hard work and dedication from our team in San Antonio. They have always been committed to making our guest experiences positive and memorable."

• **Holiday World's** new Thunderbird roller coaster recently helped launch the new **Travel Channel** show, *Thrill Factor*. Former *Myth-Busters* stars **Kari Byron** and **Tory Belleci** each gathered a team of "lab rats" to test Thunderbird's forces with them. Thunderbird is America's first launched wing roller coaster, which takes riders from 0 to 60 mph in 3.5 seconds. Holiday World President **Matt Eckert** was one of the lab rats. "I have to admit we were all star struck to ride Thunderbird with Kari and Tory," he said. "We wore monitors to test which gender best handles Thunderbird's thrill factor."

• More than 30 vehicles were on display at **Diggerland USA**, New Jersey's construction-themed adventure park, for their first-ever-Touch-a-Truck event, September 12, 2015. The free community event was co-hosted by the **SAMBULANCE**, a 501(c) 3 that promotes safety education in the special needs community. The event began with a sensory-friendly hour to accommodate individuals with special needs who may be sensitive to horns and lights. Children and their families had the opportunity to touch, sit-in and explore real vehicles from a number of different industries.

• Show Your Disney Side, a new photo transformation app, allows **Disney Parks** fans to magically transform into their favorite Disney Parks characters. Now available for iPhone and iPod touch, the Show Your Disney Side app lets users pick a Disney Parks character, take a selfie and then tap and swipe to watch their Disney Side come to life with special effects. The Show Your Disney Side app was created by **Tyffon**, an entertainment app developer and one of the participants of the 2014 Disney Accelerator, a highly selective, immersive mentorship and investment program for technology-enabled startups in the media and entertainment space.

Fairs faring well as 2015 editions for many of the nation's largest wrap up

AT: Pam Sherborne

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FAIR ROUNDUP

A sampling of some of the largest North American fairs that have come and gone for the 2015 season show that fairgoers are showing up to their regional events and are spending money.

So far, for these fairs, weather has not been a problem for many.

Following is a fair sampling.

Iowa State Fair

Des Moines, Aug. 13-23

The Iowa State Fair drew 1,117,398 people this year, setting a record number for the fair. The previous record was set in 2008 with an attendance of 1,109,150.

Officials weren't exactly sure to what to attribute the increase but Gary Slater, fair CEO, felt the appearances of the U.S. presidential candidates helped. He also pointed to the school start agreement, signed by the Iowa governor in April of this year, that mandated districts begin the academic year no earlier than August 23, certainly helped.

Last year, Slater was quoted as saying that 336 out of the 338 schools in the state got a waiver to start sooner than September 1 and most started before the fair ended.

Belle City Amusements provided the midway with almost 40 amusement rides.

Illinois State Fair

Indianapolis, Aug. 11-21

Near perfect weather conditions and an array of top names for the grandstand line-up top the headlines of the 2015 Illinois State Fair.

A total of 411,547 fairgoers passed through the gates this year, bringing in \$1,356,500 in gate and parking revenue. Despite fewer people attending the 2015 fair, organizers were able to bring in just \$55,000 short of 2014's gate and parking revenue.

Fair Manager Patrick Buchen, in his first year, used a different formula to calculate fair

attendance this year. Buchen is the former chair of the Exhibition and Events Industry Audit Commission (EEIAC) for the International Association of Fairs and Expositions.

The methodology counts anyone who comes to an event and contributes to the commerce of that event.

The attendance reported last year was 845,000.

Grandstand entertainment was certainly a highlight for fairgoers this year, grossing \$1.9 million in revenue, the second-highest in the fair's history.

N.A.M.E. provided the midway.

Wilson County Fair

Lebanon, Tenn., Aug. 14-22

The 2015 Wilson County Fair drew 557,702 in its nine-day run. This year's attendance was more than 73,000 ahead of 2014, when the fair drew more than 484,000.

Both Saturdays of the fair drew more than 100,000 attendees.

A new daredevil act, Galaxy Girl, who performs 127 feet in the air, and several new rides were popular this year, according to fair coordinator Helen McPeak.

Amusements of America provided the midway with 50 rides. New rides included the Kamikaze, by Fabbri; Pharoah Fury, by Chance; Kid Eli Wheel, Eli Bridge Co., and the Kid Scrambler, Eli Bridge.

Erie County Fair

Hamburg, N.Y., Aug. 12-23

The Erie County Fair drew 1,172,635 fairgoers this year, a slight dip from 2014 when the fair was celebrating its 175th anniversary.

Jessica Underberg, the assistant fair manager, said a rainy Thursday certainly made an impact on the fair attendance. That foul weather resulted in the cancellation of the Little Big Town



Left, the 2015 Indiana State Fair, which ran Aug. 13-23, drew 1,117,398 fairgoers. Belle City Amusements provided the midway. Above, the Wilson County Fair drew 557,702 during its nine day run. Amusement of America provided the midway. COURTESY IOWA STATE FAIR AND WILSON COUNTY FAIR

and Meghan Trainor concerts.

James E. Strates Shows provided the midway.

Ohio State Fair

Columbus, July 29-Aug. 9

Nearly a million people attended this year's Ohio State Fair, setting a record for the third year in a row.

Fair Manager Virgil Strickler said 982,305 people attended the 12-day event, a 7.2 percent jump from last year's record-breaking attendance of 916,724.

"We are just so delighted," Strickler was quoted as saying in a local news report. "I can't wait to see what happens next year."

Attendance has been on the upswing for six years, feeding not just the coffers of the Ohio Expo Center but also the pocket-books of food vendors and carnival-ride owners.

Strickler said concession-stand spending was up at least 15 percent, and spending on rides was up 12 percent.

The record attendance and spending came despite the statewide cancellation of poultry shows, which normally bring about 2,000 contestants to the fair. The shows were canceled because of the highly contagious avian flu that has killed millions

of birds nationwide this year.

Tom Price, chairman of the Ohio Expo Center board, credited the nearly perfect weather for the attendance jump. Rain fell only one day, and temperatures were mostly in the 80-degree range for the second week of the fair.

A constant line of people looped out of the Dairy Building throughout the fair as people waited to see the latest butter sculptures, which honored the Ohio State University football team's national-championship win.

Both Price and Strickler also gave credit to the fairgrounds' appearance. Strickler has pushed to add flowers and greenery, creating a more park-like setting. Landscapers grow most of the plants in greenhouses on the grounds.

Amusements of America provided the midway.

Indiana State Fair

Indianapolis, Aug. 7-23

The Indiana State Fair drew more than 900,000 visitors during the "Year of the Farmer."

The fair welcomed 907,342 fairgoers during its 17 days, good for the fifth highest attendance on record. Even with a few rainy days at the start and an earlier

start date for many schools, the fair still managed a record-breaking opening on Saturday and the best \$2 Tuesday in the fair's history. Four days saw attendance of more than 70,000.

This year's state fair featured 12,416 exhibitors and nearly 45,000 exhibits. The fair closed by honoring the achievements of youth competing in 4-H livestock, agriculture and other events. Twenty-four 4-H youth were recognized with monetary awards totaling nearly \$100,000.

North American Midway Entertainment provided the midway.

Orange County Fair

Costa Mesa, Calif.,

July 17-Aug. 16

It was "One Big Party" for the 2015 OC Fair, as it celebrated its 125th anniversary. The 2015 event drew 1,301,445 fairgoers to its 23-day run, fewer than last year, but fair officials felt it was a success nonetheless. It missed its 2014 mark of 1,337,167. The record for attendance was set in 2011 when there were 1,401,267.

The fair offers an array of free grounds entertainment, paid musical performances, and over 60 amusement rides and attractions provided by Ray Cammack Shows. There were agricultural events, an ice skating rink, action sports in the All Action Sports Arena, pig racing, a Kiddy Tractor Pull, as well as exhibits such as leather crafting, gardening and fruit growing.

And, there was lots and lots of fair food.

Kathy Kramer, OC Fair and Event CEO, who was appointed in January of this year, was excited with the results. She said: "From the Deep-Fried Slim Fast Bar to a cattle drive down Harbor

► See FAIRS, page 39

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► FAIRS

Continued from page 38

Boulevard to the cute piglets and beautiful competitive entries, the OC Fair is an amazing summer tradition that I am proud to have shared with more than one million guests and staff."

OC fair officials continued with a popular fair promotion called Taste of the Fair this year. From noon-4 p.m. every Friday, fairgoers paid \$2 for a food sample.

Some fair food facts from this year included: 15,000 Deep-Fried Coffee Balls consumed from Bacon A-Fair and its sister stand Mexican Funnel Cakes / Apple Fries; 38,000 pounds of freshly cut and fried-to-order Tasti Chips topped with more than 500 pounds of Parmesan cheese and 300 gallons of real cheese sauce; and 420,000 pieces of bacon, chicken-fried or wrapped around Wasabi Bombs, turkey legs or hot dogs were sold by Bacon A-Fair.

Chicken Charlie sold 10,000 Deep-Fried Oreos, 5,000 Deep-Fried Slim Fast Bars, 10,000 deep-fried avocados, 3,500 fried Frog Legs and 11,000 Krispy Kreme Triple Donut Cheeseburgers.

Kentucky State Fair Louisville, Aug. 20-30

The Kentucky State Fair drew over 601,000 people this year.

According to Rip Rippetoe, president and CEO of the fair board, this year's attendance was up 16 percent from 2014.

The fair offered agricultural events and competitions, as well as an array of free grounds entertainment and paid musical performances.

Traffic jams occurred early on, but, according to Rippetoe, that is not unusual. The local public bus transit system offered discounted fees this year in hopes more people would look to that means of transportation to help alleviate traffic congestion. Apparently, that was a success.

Other additions to the fair included Habitat for Humanity's presence as well as the Nickelodeon characters.

North American Midway Entertainment provided the midway.

New York State Fair Syracuse, Aug. 27-Sept. 7

The New York State Fair, Syracuse, saw a slight dip in attendance this year compared to 2014's event. The fair drew 908,147 fairgoers this year compared to the 965,147 last year. Record attendance was set in 2001 when 1,011,248 fairgoers at-

tended.

This is the second year of a 10-year contract for Wade Shows to provide the midway.

The carnival provided 62 rides, with new rides including: Comet II, manufactured by Schwarzkopf; Extreme, by Technical Park; Freak Out, KMG; Mega Drop, Fabbri; Space Roller, Mondial; Super Himalaya, Reverchon; Puppy Love, S.B.F.; Monster Trucks, Wisdom; Star Dancer Observation Tower, Larson International; Flying Bobs, Chance; Orient Express, Wisdom; and Up, Up and Away, Zamperla.

The first-ever "Taste of NY" Food Truck Competition was held this year with a grilled PB&J Lunch Box beating out all the other competitors in the Judges Choice.

Fairgoers weighed in as well, sampling the entries and casting a total of 3,186 votes in the People's Choice competition. When the numbers were tallied, Smokin Pete's Barbecue from Rochester won the crowd over and came in first place with 573 votes for its Loaded Pulled Pork Tater Tots.



The Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis, drew 907,342 fairgoers this year, the fifth highest attendance on record. North American Midway Entertainment provided the midway including this Tornado, manufactured by Wisdom Rides. COURTESY INDIANA STATE FAIR



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Bates Brothers Amusements refurbishes Eli wheel



Bates Brothers Amusements Co., based in Wintersville, Ohio, completely refurbished this Eagle Series 16-seat mobile wheel manufactured by Eli Bridge Company during its off season last year. The refurbishment, including



a new paint design on the cars, was completed for this 2015 season. The ride was seen here at the Lycoming County Fair, Hughesville, Pa., July 16-25, on Amy Bates' unit. Amy Bates is the daughter of Eric Bates. Her sister, Michelle Bates Dallman, along with her husband Brad Dallman, operator the company's other unit.

AT/SUE NICHOLS

N.A.M.E. carries on after acquisition

AT: Pam Sherborne
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FARMLAND, Ind. — It was business as usual for North American Midway Entertainment (N.A.M.E.), headquartered here, last month following the announcement by Townsquare Media Inc. of N.A.M.E.'s purchase in August.

In the announcement by Townsquare Media Inc. dated August 17, Townsquare acquired all of the issued and outstanding membership interests of N.A.M.E. from the shareholders of the Heartland Group LLC for a total consideration of \$75.5 million, \$5.5 million of which is Townsquare Class A stock issued to N.A.M.E.

N.A.M.E.'s co-chief executive officers Danny Huston and Jeff Blomness made sure to say by statements in several publications that this purchase would not interrupt or change the carnival's operations.

The carnival, formed in 2004 and boasts having the largest inventory of amusement rides, games, and food in the U.S., was, in August and September, playing scheduled fairs such as the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis, held Aug. 7-23; Illinois State Fair, Springfield, Aug. 11-21; Kentucky State Fair, Louisville, Aug. 20-30; Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, Aug. 21-Sept. 7; and over Labor Day Weekend, Michigan Peach Festival, Romeo, Sept. 3-7, and Walworth County Fair, Elkhorn, Wis., Sept. 2-7.

Huston also said that 100



**NORTH AMERICAN MIDWAY
ENTERTAINMENT**



percent of his company's team will stay intact.

"We are thrilled to be a part of Townsquare Media and partner with a company that can help us grow our marketing endeavors through their vast media resources," Huston said. "Our goal is to assist our fair associations and continue their growth as well — this acquisition is a win/win situation for all."

Townsquare's executives were also clear they had no intention of changing N.A.M.E.'s brand or business.

Townsquare Media Inc. is an integrated and diversified media and entertainment and digital marketing services company that owns and operates market leading radio stations, digital and social properties and live events in small and mid-sized markets across the United States. It delivers national scale expertise to the communities it serves on a local level.

"This acquisition furthers our efforts to diversity our product offerings and increase our non-advertising based revenue, allowing us to offer more multi-channel, cross platform content opportunities to our consumers and business clients," said Town-

square Chairman and CEO Steven Price.

"Nearly half of N.A.M.E.'s current events are within 100 miles of a Townsquare market and fit squarely within our core stated strategy of providing affordable, family-friendly entertainment content," Price said.

During the announcement in August, Huston said: "We believe this is a powerful combination: our experience and history as a leading provider of amusements in North America coupled with the additional products, services and resources of Townsquare," Huston said during the announcement.

Blomness added: "Our management team is delighted to join forces with Townsquare, and we look forward to continuing to provide best-in-class service and products to our customers for years to come."

Annually, N.A.M.E. plays 132 communities in 20 states and four Canadian provinces.

Townsquare entertains nearly one million people per year across a diverse set of approximately 500 live events, many of which are focused on affordable family friendly entertainment.

SunShine Shows plays first year at South Mountain Fair (Pa.)



The 93rd annual South Mountain Fair took place in Arendtsville, Adams County Pennsylvania. SunShine Shows, LLC had the ride midway for the second time, securing the spot that previously was held by Snyder's Amusements, Greencastle, Pa. The five day fair typically draws over 10,000, however a severe storm on Thursday shuttered the grounds this year. SunShine, out of Middleburg, Pa. had five majors and four kiddie rides along with food and game joints. Above photo, right: Jennifer Benner, co-owner (along with husband Troy "Joe") told AT, "It was a very good week in spite of the rain-out on Thursday. We're basically a carnival family making a living and trying to succeed." The rest of their 2015 year includes the Elizabethtown Fair, church fests and food stands at the Bloomsburg, Pa. Fair. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



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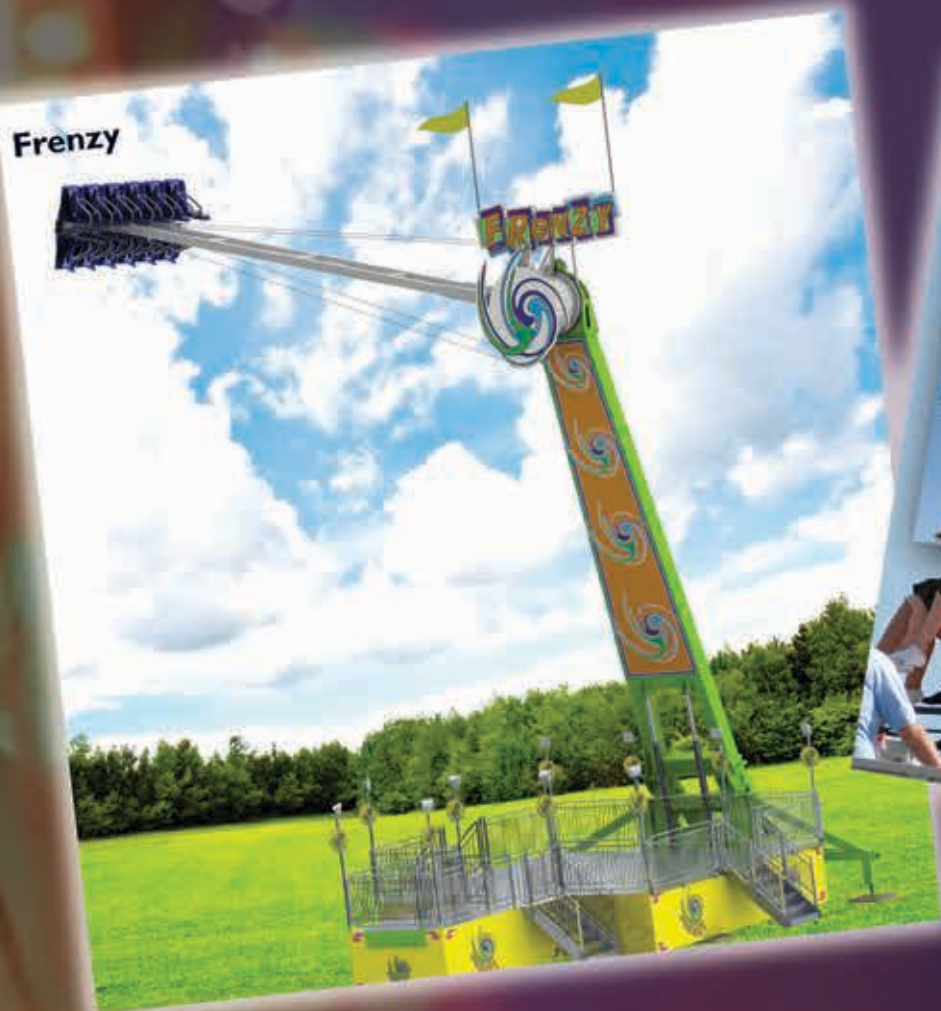
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All-new Mama's Pretzel Kitchen opens at SeaWorld Orlando

New dining location features pretzel creations and unique craft beers

ORLANDO, Fla. — Theme park snacks take a fun twist at the new Mama's Pretzel Kitchen now open inside SeaWorld Orlando.

Pretzel connoisseurs can now savor sweet and salty pretzel combinations while sipping on a variety of local and seasonal craft beers, frozen cocktails, wines and beverages.

The menu features a selection of both original and unusual soft pretzel creations, with mouth-watering options such as the:



Mama's Pretzel Kitchen is now open at SeaWorld Orlando. The new outdoor patio dining location, near Shamu Stadium, features pretzel creations and unique craft beers. COURTESY SEAWORLD ORLANDO

• **Mama's Meatball Pretzel Twist:** A SeaWorld Orlando exclusive, three juicy meatballs woven in pretzel dough, baked and topped with fresh mozzarella cheese;

• **Bacon Pretzel Twist:** two strips of cherry-wood-smoked bacon packed inside a soft, buttery pretzel;
• **Pepperoni Pizza Pretzel;**
• **Pretzel-wrapped Brat-**



wurst.
Guests also can enjoy a variety of specialty dipping sauces for their pretzels including beer-infused cheese and mustard, spicy mustard,

classic marinara and sweet cream cheese.

Mama's Pretzel Kitchen features a relaxing outdoor patio located near Shamu Stadium.

Pennsylvania's Dutch Wonderland goes to paid parking



Dutch Wonderland began charging for parking on July 27, following a summer long notice to park guests. The \$5 per car parking fee is being charged to help offset improvements made to the parking lot, which has also improved guest safety. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Premium parking has been an option for last five years

AT: B. Derek Shaw
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LANCASTER, Pa. — After nearly a year of planning a redesign of their main parking lot, Dutch Wonderland started paid parking operations on July 27. Premium parking has existed the past five years. A \$5 daily parking fee for all vehicles commenced that day. Dutch Wonderland Premium and Gold season pass holders and bus park for free.

"We wanted to improve the flow in the parking lot. It wasn't planned out very well in the beginning," said Rich Stammel, general manager of Dutch Wonderland. He continued, "We are park-

ing space starved." For years auto and pedestrian traffic all merged together — without a logical plan — creating less than perfect entrance and exit experiences. The park knew it had to increase safety, first and foremost.

The process started with the razing of the Wonderland Mini Golf course that was added in 2001. The last few years the putt-putt course was not performing well. That move created additional parking spaces for the large crowds the children's theme park has been experiencing. Next, the Wonderland 4 Cinema (that closed in 2005 when Hershey Entertainment and Resorts company took control of the property), was razed. The building was most recently used for storage. The cleared area left room for more parking spaces to bal-

► **See PARKING, page 44**

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Aerial view of Indiana Beach Amusement Resort today.

Indiana Beach is the newest member of Apex Parks Group

ALISO VIEJO, Calif. — California-based Apex Parks Group (Apex Parks) announced on Sept. 1, 2015 the acquisition of Indiana Beach Amusement Resort (Indiana Beach). This is the second significant addition to the company since its founding less than a year ago.

Indiana Beach is located on the banks of Lake Shafer in Monticello, Indiana. 2016 will mark the 90th anniversary of the park which has established itself as a true family vacation destination, spanning a total of 376 acres. The theme park boasts roller coasters, thrill rides, children's rides, zip lines, a water park, an arcade, miniature golf, traditional amusement park games and much more. Indiana Beach also offers more than 1200 accommodation alternatives, including 42 in-park motel rooms, 114 cabins, cottages & townhomes, over 1,180 campsites, and 100 boat docks.

Apex Parks Group CEO, Al Weber, Jr. explains: "Indiana Beach is a fabulous addition for us. We are pleased to work with the park team and local community to grow this jewel of a resort in mid-state Indiana. We look forward to building upon the 90 year heritage of this park and providing families with a life time of great memories."

The General Manager of Indiana Beach, John Collins, is optimistic about the future of the park. "This is a very big and meaningful step for Indiana Beach. In our 90-year history, Indiana Beach has developed a loyal following of family visitors. We believe the resources that Apex Parks brings to Indiana Beach will provide us opportunity for expansion and improved infrastructure. We're very confident that, as part of Apex Parks Group, we will take this great property and take it to the next level."

Al Weber adds, "Our management team and investor group led by Broad Sky Partners and the Edgewater Funds Group are committed to building Apex into a valuable out-of-home entertainment business. The addition of Indiana Beach is a leap toward achieving this goal."

• www.indianabeach.com

FAST FACTS

Apex Parks Group • apexparksgroup.com

Founded in 2014, Apex is a privately held company based in Aliso Viejo, California with 13 Family Entertainment Centers and 2 Water Parks in California, Texas, Florida, and New Jersey.

Broad Sky Partners • broadskypartners.com

Broad Sky Partners is a sector-focused, middle market private equity firm that invests in companies in the Media, Communications & Business Services (MCBS) and Consumer Products & Services sectors. Broad Sky partners with outstanding managers to create sustainable value in companies with strategic importance.

The Edgewater Funds • edgewaterfunds.com

The Edgewater Funds is a Chicago-based private equity firm with \$1.4 billion in committed capital. Edgewater partners with management to help accelerate growth in their businesses. Edgewater focuses on funding high quality middle market companies to add substantial value through capital and experience.

Allied Holdings to be acquired by XL Group

TREASURE ISLAND, Fla. — Allied International Holdings, Inc. announced in August the execution of an agreement to be acquired by XL Group plc (XL), listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol XL. Founded in 1983, Allied owns T.H.E. Insurance Company and Allied Specialty Insurance, Inc., through which it provides insurance coverage to clients in the amusement and entertainment industry, including carnivals, concessionaires, fairs, festivals, family entertainment centers, fireworks, waterparks, amusement parks, and other outdoor amusements of all types. Allied has built the most well-respected and recognizable brand in its specialty niche.

"This exciting partnership positions Allied for the next chapter in its life as the insurer of choice for the outdoor amusement industry," said Mary Chris Smith, chairman and president of Allied Specialty Insurance, Inc. "We know that XL Catlin will reinforce our ability to meet the risk management needs of our valued customers. XL Catlin's global scale and deep expertise in underwriting complex risks ensures that we will serve our clients in a more comprehensive and superior manner."

"This acquisition of a leader in a niche specialty risk business with deep, long-standing client relationships and strong customer loyalty, is perfectly aligned with the complex underwriting expertise of XL Catlin," commented Mike McGavick, CEO of XL. "Now as part of the XL Catlin team, together, we look forward to new opportunities to further grow the business and build upon Allied's and T.H.E Insurance's exceptional customer service and solid underwriting performance."

The transaction is expected to close no later than the first quarter of 2016 quarter, pending receipt of anti-trust and regulatory approvals and the satisfaction of customary closing conditions.

Allied's executive and senior leadership teams will remain in place and will continue to operate from its headquarters in Treasure Island, Fla.

About Allied

Allied is the leading provider of property and casualty insurance coverage for the amusement and entertainment industry through its specialty insurance company, T.H.E. Insurance Company, its specialty insurance agency, Allied Specialty Insurance, Inc. and its independent brokerage channel. The company's 3,000 clients include carnivals, concessionaires, amusement parks, water parks, fairs and festivals, firework events and family entertainment centers.

About XL Catlin

XL Catlin is the global brand used by XL Group plc's insurance and reinsurance companies which provide property, casualty, professional and specialty products to industrial, commercial and professional firms, insurance companies and other enterprises throughout the world.



This new park perimeter road at Dutch Wonderland helps move park traffic off U.S. Highway 30 quicker, then divides cars into three toll plaza lanes: two for preferred and general parking and one for preferred, general, group and bus parking. COURTESY DUTCH WONDERLAND

► PARKING

Continued from page 43

ance the loss of space with the newly created perimeter road. The new entrance road gets park traffic off an already busy U.S. Hwy. 30 and onto Dutch Wonderland property to queue. The road is two feet wider with the removal of a curb in the middle.

When asked about the project that has been in the works for a year, Stammel replied, "It grew into something much bigger than we

ever thought." After mid-September effort continues on another phase of the project which includes storm water management work. The plan also calls for a new exit road on the north side of the razed buildings along the park perimeter. When completed, (before the Winter Wonderland event) the previous entrance to Dutch Wonderland will become the new exit.

The final and third phase of the project will continue into 2016 and includes: lighting, re-stripe lot, a raised pe-

destrian walkway, fencing, guard rails and signage.

The paid parking was to have commenced Memorial Day weekend, however park patrons were given a seven week reprieve. Customers were notified all season long, via numerous methods. When asked about the change Stammel mentioned that it was mostly a non-event as adequate notice was provided. "We appreciate guests' patience. We have tried to make this as painless as possible for everyone."

MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 09/16/15	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	35.74	44.43	26.56
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	382.70	473.30	329.004
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	55.79	60.64	42.75
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	58.46	64.99	49.33
	CMCSK	NASDAQ	58.80	64.69	49.26
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	104.20	122.08	78.54
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1071.00	1318.00	975.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	2255HK	SEHK	1.46	2.13	1.07
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	9.64	12.90	8.22
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	20.96	23.72	16.84
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	18.03	22.68	15.11
Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town Co., Ltd. (OCT)	000069	SZSE	7.27	14.78	5.12
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	46.24	51.09	31.77
Skyocean International	00593HK	SEHK	10.88	12.46	3.96
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	3826.00	4000.00	2941.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	6.64	7.47	5.08

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

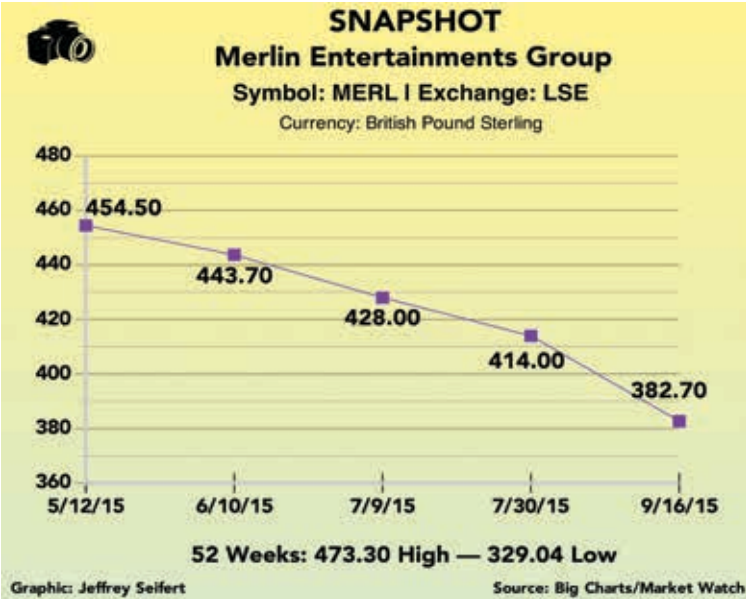
Worldwide Markets: **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock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

DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 09/14/15	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.575	- \$1.250
Midwest	\$2.471	- \$1.272
Gulf Coast	\$2.361	- \$1.344
Mountain	\$2.554	- \$1.304
West Coast	\$2.571	- \$1.396
California	\$2.863	- \$1.199

CURRENCY

On 09/17/15 \$1 USD =	
0.8868	EURO
0.6489	GBP (British Pound)
120.42	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9719	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3964	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3217	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

Cedar Fair posts results through Sept. 7

SANDUSKY, Ohio — **Cedar Fair Entertainment Company** (NYSE: FUN) announced on Sept. 10, 2015 that preliminary net revenues through September 7, 2015, increased 7 percent to a record \$1.02 billion. As such, the company expects 2015 to be its sixth consecutive year of record results.

The company stated year-to-date net revenues through September 7, 2015, increased 7 percent, or \$69 million, to \$1.02 billion compared with \$950 million a year ago. This year-over-year growth was driven by a 5 percent, or 1.0 million-visit, increase in attendance to 20.3 million visits.

"We are extremely pleased with the continued growth we are experiencing across all areas of our business," said **Matt Ouimet**, Cedar Fair's president and chief executive officer. "Our strategy of encouraging guests to visit our parks early and often has exceeded our expectations. This approach has resulted in higher season pass sales, higher season pass visits and more general admission visitors, while at the same time also generating higher guest spending."
—PR Newswire

Haichang Ocean Park net profit up

HONG KONG — **Haichang Ocean Park Holdings Ltd.** (HK.02255), a leading developer and operator of theme parks and ancillary commercial properties in China, announced on August 24, 2015 a net profit of RMB 65.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014, representing an increase of 20.6 percent. During the period, revenue from park operations increased 18 percent to RMB 425.2 million. —PR Newswire

Closing Bell:

•ORLANDO, Fla. — The board of directors of **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.** (NYSE: SEAS) declared a cash dividend on Sept. 16, 2015 of \$0.21 per share of common stock. The dividend is payable on October 6, 2015 to shareholders of record at the close of business on September 29, 2015.

Also, SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. announced on Aug. 14, 2015 that it will host a webcast on November 9, 2015. The webcast will include comments from the company's President and Chief Executive Officer, **Joel Manby**, on the company's strategic vision and long-term goals. The company has changed the date of the webcast from its previously announced date due to scheduling conflicts with other industry events.

The live webcast and corresponding presentation materials will be available on the investor relations portion of the company's website at www.seaworldentertainment.com. Additional details about the live webcast will be provided closer to the date of the event. For those unable to participate in the live webcast, a replay will be available following completion of the event on the company's website. —PR Newswire

•GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** (NYSE: SIX) announced on August 20, 2015, that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.52 per share of common stock payable to shareholders of record as of September 3, 2015. The dividend was paid September 14, 2015. —PR Newswire

CORRECTION

In the *Amusement Today* September Golden Ticket Awards issue, a Publisher's Pick headline on page 28 was misspelled. It should have read: Huck Finn's Playland wins Renaissance Award. On page 30, Valhalla was listed as having won a Golden Ticket in 2002, it should have been listed as 2003 and 2005.

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OBITUARY

Carnival owner, Woody Benner dies at 81

MIDDLEBURG, Pa. — **Elwood Eugene 'Woody' Benner**, 81, Middleburg, Pa., died on July 29, at his home following an extended illness.

He was born Jan. 18, 1934, in Middleburg, a son of the late Ammon E. and Frona K. (Moyer) Benner. A member of St. Paul's (Erdley's) Lutheran Church, Middleburg, Pa., where he served as an usher, Woody was married to his high school sweetheart, Lorraine T. Keister in 1951, beginning a loving union that lasted 64 years.



Benner

In 1972, he and his oldest son, Kenneth, created Benner's Amusements, which served fairs and carnivals throughout central and north central Pennsylvania.

He later created a second operation, Mid-Valley Amusements. That company became the basis for the development of two additional family-operated amusement businesses: Penn Valley Shows, owned by Kerry and Christina Benner, and SunShine Shows owned by Troy (Joe) and Jennifer Benner.

In addition to his business endeavors, Woody volunteered for many years as an ambulance driver for the Reliance Hose Co., Middleburg, and also served as a Boy Scout leader.

Known for an ability to strike up a conversation with anyone, Woody mentored a number of young people over the years and was always willing to help someone in need. When he could travel, he was always on the go and loved to visit Florida. Woody also was a member of the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three sons and daughters-in-law, Kenneth E. and Kay Betzer Benner, of Celebration, Fla., Kerry E. and Christina Fritz Benner and Troy A. and Jennifer Beard Benner, all of Middleburg; three daughters and sons-in-law, Trudy D. and William E. Swanger, of Mechanicsburg, Kay E. and Kenneth E. Roush, of Middleburg, and Teresa M. and Ronnie Beaver, of Selinsgrove; 14 grandchildren, Michael, Stacey, Chase, Alycia, Chance, Amanda, Ella and Abby Benner, Nathan and Rebecca Swanger, Philip Roush, Dana Haile, Katrina Heddings, and Shane Beaver; four great-grandchildren; five stepgrandchildren; three stepgreat-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Sara L. Walter, of Middleburg.

Friends and family were received on Monday, July 31, at St. Paul's (Erdley's) Lutheran Church, Erdley Church and Smalsh Barrick roads, Middleburg. A funeral followed. Interment was at the Glendale Cemetery, Middleburg. Contributions in Elwood's memory may be made to St. Paul's (Erdley's) Lutheran Church, 2337 Erdley Church Road, Middleburg, Pa. 17842.

PEOPLE WATCH

Pete Barto joins S&S sales team

LOGAN, Utah — S&S Worldwide recently announced that **Pete Barto** has joined the company as the director of sales for North America and Europe. For more than a decade, Barto has called the amusement and attractions industry home, having gained unique experience working for a park, a manufacturer and the association that represents the industry.



Barto

Although always a lover of the amusement and attractions industry, Barto officially entered the industry with the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) where he worked his way up to vice president of Exhibitions, Conferences and Sales and was responsible for operations and revenue generation for all three IAAPA trade shows, as well as advertising sales for *FunWorld* magazine.

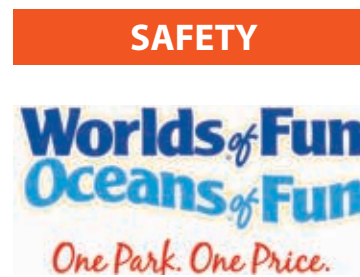
He first transitioned to the manufacturer's side of the business as the Director of Sales for Premier Rides and has worked more recently on the park side of the business for Hershey-Entertainment & Resorts. There he managed the group sales team responsible for increasing admissions and picnic revenue for Hersheypark.

Newly appointed Executive Director of Sales, **Gerald Ryan**, said, "We are excited to have Pete as part of our team. He brings with him the enthusiasm and industry knowledge that will make a great asset to our company."

Worlds of Fun to receive designation from National Weather Service

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Worlds of Fun's safety department keeps an eye on the sky so guests can soar through it without a care. A new designation from the National Weather Service means the park is even more prepared to take action when severe weather strikes.

Worlds of Fun is now recognized as a StormReady site, meaning it meets an extensive set of criteria to prepare for all weather situations, which can ultimately save lives. "Being StormReady doesn't mean storm proof," Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Kansas City Andy Bailey



said, "StormReady means you are taking the necessary steps to be prepared."

"Worlds of Fun is very proud to be awarded this honor by the National Weather Service," Director of Safety and Security Bridgette Bywater said. "The StormReady designation demonstrates Worlds of Fun's commitment to providing our guests and

employees with advanced severe weather warnings."

The process took nearly two years to complete and required input from the local emergency management agency as well as a final review from the National Weather Service StormReady Advisory Board. A key aspect of the StormReady program is the creation of a weather safety plan which is used to proactively protect employees and guests from the types of hazardous weather this part of the country experiences.

For more information on the National Weather Service StormReady program, visit stormready.noaa.gov.

Proposed ASTM International standard will support zip line safety, operations

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — As the popularity of zip line attractions continues to increase, an ASTM task group is revising a key standard to help ensure safety. After two years of collaboration, the group has reorganized content and made technical updates to standard ASTM F2959, Practice for Special Requirements for Aerial Adventure Courses.

The group is recommending that the standard be more comprehensive and tailored to the zip line attraction industry, with fewer references to other ASTM standards. This change would help ensure greater consistency in how



zip line businesses interpret the standard. Proposed revisions relate to both engineering and operations.

The task group will present the revised standard at the next meeting of Subcommittee F24.61

on Adventure Attractions, Oct. 15-17 in San Diego, California. The standard could be sent for balloting shortly thereafter.

"Zip line attractions have grown in popularity throughout the world," says Jared Krupa, who chairs the task group committee. "We want to do everything we can to ensure this standard reflects the latest technical expertise, helping foster a culture of safety."

Anyone interested in this area is welcome to join ASTM, attend the meeting, and become involved in the process. Become a member at www.astm.org/JOIN.

Neptune Benson launches new automated controller for Defender Regenerative Media Filter

COVENTRY, R.I. — Neptune Benson has announced the release of the new Defender RMF System Controller, an advanced graphical interface for operating the Defender Regenerative Media Filter.

The Defender is an award winning water filtration system that utilizes perlite for filtration. Capable of filtering down to 1 micron and requiring no backwash, the Defender has rapidly replaced traditional sand filters as the



premier choice for water filtration in a variety of applications. The Defender offers distinct advantages over sand filtration, including:

- Less water consumption;
- Significant space savings;
- Energy savings, and
- Less fuel and chemicals.

The new RMF System

Controller provides advanced control of bump and precoat cycles, pneumatic valves, recirculation pumps, vacuum transfer system, heater cool down delay, data logging and maintenance reminders. It also features the unique ability to remotely manage operations. Remote monitoring/operation can be done through any web browser or smart phone.

• neptunebenson.com



NEWS & NOTES

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AIMS Safety Seminar update; BOD meeting held

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Oertley

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The **AIMS Safety Seminar** offers a wide selection of aquatics specific classes from basic to complex issues facing the aquatics industry today. There's also a large selection of classes covering topics essential for individuals in water park maintenance, operations and instruction. Certified Pool Operator (CPO) and Water Park Certificates are offered at the seminar as well as certification testing for AIMS Certified Aquatics Operations Technician – Level I. To learn more about the AIMS Seminar and for more information on the AIMS Aquatics track, please stop by **AIMS' booth #924** at the **World Waterparks Show** in Palm Springs, Calif., October 21-22.

Also calling all other amusement facilities!

If your job or that of your employees includes responsibility for the care and safety of amusement industry guests, attending the AIMS Safety

Seminar is a must. It is the No. 1 Safety Education Seminar for those working in the amusement industry, and it is held once a year. This year the seminar will be held January 10-15 in Orlando, Fla.

World renowned for its diverse curriculum and the quality of instructors, the AIMS Safety Seminar offers a wide range of safety training and education classes, all taught by industry experts. Certification testing will be offered for Maintenance Technician, Operations Technician, Aquatics Operations Technician, and Ride Inspector Certification. Registration for the 2016 AIMS Safety Seminar and a full list of classes is available on our website at: www.aimsintl.org.

AIMS annual board meeting held

The AIMS International board of directors held its annual meeting in New York City at the offices of **Six Flags Entertainment Corp.**, one day ahead of the **Golden Ticket Awards** weekend. The board is most appreciative of the hospitality extended by the Six Flags New York office and staff. A special thank you to past AIMS board member and president, **Patrick Hoffman**, Six Flags' corporate vice president of Safety, Security & Risk Management for making the arrangements. Thanks also

to New York-based Six Flags' **David McKillips, Sr.** VP, Corporate Alliances and Executive Assistant, **Kamisha ShimHue**, for hosting the AIMS board.

Following the meeting the board enjoyed attending **Amusement Today's Golden Ticket Awards** events, all sponsored by AIMS member and seminar sponsor, **Zamperla**. Congratulations to all GTA Award winners!

WANTED:

Silent Auction Items

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

It gives everyone a chance to bid on all kinds of fun items and helps support AIMS continuing effort to upgrade the seminar experience with state of the art A/V equipment for classes. Items from previous auctions have included amusement industry merchandise such as shirts, bags, hats, etc., as well as weekend stays at resorts, event tickets, and other amusement industry memorabilia. You can be as creative as you like! Please contact **Holly Coston** at h.coston@aimsintl.org for information on where to send your items. You can also bring items to the **AIMS booth # 5435** during the **IAAPA Attractions Expo** in Orlando.

Space for this AIMS page is provided courtesy of *Amusement Today* as a corporate partner of AIMS Intl. Content is provided by AT & AIMS.



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* "Restaurants & Institutions" magazine



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