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Knott's Soak City  
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summer season  
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## Harvey, Irma impact parks and zoos in Texas, Florida

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HOUSTON, Texas, and ORLANDO, Fla. — Two major U.S. Gulf Coast states, Texas and Florida, were left reeling from the one-two late-summer punch landed by hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

The storms, unleashing battering, 130-mph-plus gales and catastrophic flooding — particularly in Houston, the nation's fourth most populous city — killed at least 110 in the two states alone.

Damage estimates were still underway as *Amusement Today* went to press, but were expected to reach into the hundreds of billions. The long-range economic impact may be unprecedented.

Harvey's eyewall roared ashore Aug. 25 just north of Corpus Christi, Texas, as a Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale of 1-5, deluging the southern part of

the state with record rainfall that swelled rivers, breached levees, and flooded downtown Houston and surrounding areas.

Irma, which had grown to a monstrous Category 5 system as it churned west across the Caribbean, slammed through the Florida Keys on Sept. 10 at Category 4 strength after striking Cuba. Gradually weakening to a tropical storm, it continued northward along the western and central parts of Florida, leaving structural and landscape damage and causing major flooding in Jacksonville.

Throughout and following the dual tragedy, there were many acts of heroism, as well as a federal government response that appeared to work in effective synchronization with the efforts of local officials and first responders. As well, there were many acts of generosity from both inside and outside of the amusement industry. (See related editorial, page 4.)

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Skatetown, TX in Vidor saw Tropical Storm Harvey floodwaters several feet deep inundate its roller rink. COURTESY ROLLER SKATING FOUNDATION

## Water park industry enjoys big year; WWA projecting solid show turnout

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WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Hurricane Irma put many people in a high anxiety mode as it approached the coasts of Florida, not the least of which were those that had planned the World Waterpark Association's (WWA) Symposium and Trade Show set for Oct. 16-19, West Palm Beach, Fla.

It slammed into the Florida Keys on Sept. 10, but after the winds, rains, and floods swept through, all was still a go for the 37th WWA show being held at the Palm Beach Convention Center and the Hilton West Palm Beach. The WWA Registration Desk, the exhibit hall and most educational sessions will be located at the convention center while networking events will be held off site.

"We are incredibly grateful that our headquarters hotels, the convention center and Rapids Water Park will be ready and able to welcome our group in a few weeks," said Aleatha Ezra, director of park member development, in mid-September. "We hope that our members in the area will continue to receive the support that they need from local federal and government officials to recover and rebuild."

Ezra said WWA is very excited about taking the show back to West Palm Beach.

"However, being located in West Palm Beach this year, we were keenly aware of what



it might mean should the area take a direct hit from a Category 5 hurricane," Ezra said. "We are very fortunate that West Palm Beach and the surrounding communities were spared some of the worst damage."

Ezra said WWA staff stayed in close contact with the area Convention and Visitors Bureau, hotel contacts and the folks at Rapids Water Park, so they would know as soon as possible whether or not the WWA Show would be affected by Hurricane Irma.

The water park association has never had to cancel a show, and, fortunately, a precedent didn't have to be set this year.

The WWA staff set out this year to make the convention as convenient as possible for attendees. The newly built Hilton is connected to the Palm Beach Convention Center. Attendees will be able to easily access sessions, the trade show floor, shuttles to events, etc., all within a few steps of their room. The hotel also is within walking distance to food, evening entertainment and more.

In addition, the Hilton West Palm Beach will be filled with WWA attendees, so the chance for additional networking will be incredibly high.

"We have an amazing water park partner nearby to host our first night's party (Tuesday, Oct. 17)," Ezra said. "Rapids Water Park is powered by an outstanding group of industry leaders and we are lucky that we get to go inside the park, tour behind-the-scenes and then stick around for plenty of party fun."

The second night's party (Wed., Oct. 18) will be in the pool area of the Hilton West Palm Beach. Attendees will be able to walk from their rooms and join the party within a minute or two.

### Educational programs and training sessions

Ezra said the WWA staff is excited about the breadth of the educational program this year. Highlights are expected to include: "Leadership Matters – Inspiring Excellent Performance From Your Management Team," "Navigating The Social Media Maze," "Group Sales Rocks – Pillars For A Successful Sales Department," "Revitalizing Aging Waterparks for Sophisticated Patrons," "Waterpark & Resort Trends Across The Globe" and many others.

Customarily, the WWA convention planning staff schedules the certification and lifeguarding sessions to begin a couple of days before the actual start of the convention. This year, it is no different.

Scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14, are: the Aquatic Facility

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## ►HURRICANES

### Continued from page 1

While some in the amusement and attractions business have suffered losses, the industry overall appears to have fared well considering the vast areas raked by these storms. Following is a partial rundown of locations that saw varying degrees of impact.

#### In Harvey's wake

Hurricane Harvey's worst destruction stretched from Corpus Christi to Houston and all the way to the Texas / Louisiana border. The storm turned back toward the coast before reaching Greater San Antonio, causing temporary closures at attractions including **Morgan's Wonderland**, **San Antonio Zoo**, **SeaWorld San Antonio** and **Six Flags Fiesta Texas**, but sparing them damage.

**Schlitterbahn Waterparks** was the largest amusement operator in Texas with multiple properties touched by the storm. All saw operating schedule adjustments; the Galveston Island property, in addition, sustained minimal damage, and flooding in the vicinity created access problems.

**Schlitterbahn Riverpark and Resort** in Corpus Christi took the hardest hit — with only its resort, restaurant and golf course operating after the storm passed. Damage at its Riverpark was such that it remained closed for the remainder of September.

**Typhoon Texas Houston** water park in Katy had some flooding but no damage. The park closed for a week to clean up, reopening Sept. 3-4 with select attractions and discounted admission. The park donated a portion of the sale of souvenir cups sold that weekend to storm recovery efforts.

Just north of Houston, in Spring, **Wet 'n' Wild SplashTown** sustained minor damage. The park reopened Sept. 2, offering free tickets to first responders and discounts to all other park guests.

Several major shoreline amusement sites weathered

Harvey's onslaught. Most of the facilities at **Kemah Boardwalk** and **Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier** were reopened by Sept. 1, with no reports of significant damage. Although some of its outdoor attractions, including its zipline and ropes course, were closed temporarily or for the season, **Moody Gardens** on Galveston Island suffered few ill effects.

Just as residents and property were vulnerable to the storm's deluge, so was wildlife. Displaced creatures, ranging from entire fire ant colonies to alligators and venomous snakes, were adrift and seeking refuge. Animal attractions had to enact emergency measures of their own as Harvey advanced.

The non-profit **Texas State Aquarium** in Corpus Christi activated its hurricane preparedness plan, moving all of its animals indoors, where they were tended by a storm ride-out team. No animals had to be relocated offsite, and damage to the facility, which has its own generator, was minor. It resumed limited operations, and offered discount admission, until full power was restored.

Not as fortunate was **The Texas Zoo** in Victoria, near the coast between Corpus Christi and Houston. Its grounds were completely flooded by the cresting Guadalupe River, and its buildings, trees and exhibits also were damaged by the hurricane's winds. The 60-year-old organization received help rescuing and relocating its animals from the San Antonio Zoo, **SeaWorld San Antonio**, the **Dallas Zoo** and the **Fort Worth Zoo**. It is seeking recovery assistance through a GoFundMe page.

The **Downtown Aquarium** in Houston, similarly isolated by floodwaters but suffering less damage, also received help from the San Antonio Zoo and **SeaWorld San Antonio** — in addition to keeping staff stationed onsite to look after the animals. During the cleanup, the attraction posted on its Facebook page that its team also managed to

help feed 900 of the city's first responders.

Before the storm hit, the **Houston Zoo** secured its animals in their barns and night houses, where they could be more easily tended; the property sustained minor flooding and downed tree limbs.

At **Gator Country** in Beaumont, there was public concern that the sanctuary's approximately 350 reptiles would escape in the rising waters. But proprietor **Gary Saurage** patrolled the 15-acre property by boat to monitor the high fencing and even secured two 13-foot-long alligators, named Big Al and Big Tex, in trailers. Volunteers assisting with cleanup were compensated with lifetime passes to the preserve.

A number of family entertainment centers, bowling alleys, skating rinks and other facilities offering fun dealt with damage or closure. **Skatetown, TX** in Vidor, between Beaumont and the Louisiana border, had three and a half-feet of water in its building; the proprietor was unsure how long cleanup would take.

#### Irma's aftermath

With images of Harvey's devastation still fresh, millions heeded evacuation orders and took other precautions as Hurricane Irma neared the Sunshine State. Per the **Florida Attractions Association**, about 100 tourist sites closed before the storm's arrival.

Major theme park operators in the Orlando and Tampa areas, such as **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay**, posted operating schedule changes and hurricane policies with regard to pre-purchased tickets and hotel reservations. Several, including **Walt Disney World Resort** and **Universal Orlando Resort** — both of which, at most, suffered spot power outages, leaking roofs, downed trees and some cosmetic damage — kept accommodations (except camping areas) open to those fleeing coastal areas even as they made the rare decision to close their parks for a few days.

For Disney, it was only the sixth shutdown of the resort in its 46-year history.

**Legoland Florida Resort** in Winter Haven extended its theme park and water park closures beyond the initially announced dates of Sept. 9-11 due to a lingering power disruption at the property. The hotel was back open by Sept. 13, while the theme park and water park resumed normal operations on Sept. 14 and Sept. 16, respectively.

Other amusement centers and attractions emerged from Irma's wrath mostly unscathed. Some did not.

The **Fun Spot America** parks

in Orlando and Kissimmee, closed Sept. 10-11, had only minimal damage. **Old Town** in Kissimmee reported similar negligible storm effects and also reopened Sept. 12.

The famous underwater-performing "mermaids" at **Weeki Wachee Springs State Park** found safe haven. But the 70-year-old property itself was facing closure for possibly several weeks to deal with fallen trees and debris, plus a damaged perimeter fence. River kayaking and boat rides were discontinued until water levels returned to normal.

**Sun Splash Family Waterpark** in Cape Coral, north of Naples, had power supply problems and needed a health department inspection before it could reopen. It was scheduled to close for the season at the end of September.

Zoological facilities and aquariums worked fervently to shelter and ensure the safety of their animals before, during and after the hurricane.

Like its sister park in Texas, **SeaWorld Orlando** stepped up in a major way. Aside from securing its own animals, the park offered refuge to five Atlantic bottlenose dolphins transported from **Dolphin Connection**, a marine mammal education and conservation facility owned by **Hawks Cay Resort** in Duck Key. Staff from Dolphin Connection traveled with the dolphins to SeaWorld to monitor them.

The **SeaWorld Orlando Rescue** team, typically busy responding to reports of stranded or injured animals under normal circumstances, went into overdrive during the week after Irma rolled through. Rescues included six manatees found stranded in Melbourne by the unusually high tides, an abandoned manatee calf in Southwest Florida and several birds.

At **Gatorland** in Orlando, employees lowered water levels in alligator and crocodile pens ahead of Irma to reduce the chance of overflow. Other reptiles and mammals at the park were secured in crates inside a conference room within a sturdy concrete building.

While the animals at the non-profit **Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo** pulled through just fine and the facility itself sustained only minor damage, on the opposite coast, the **Palm Beach Zoo** in West Palm Beach lost three small animals to "storm-related stress" and saw significant tree damage.

Other zoos up and down the state took a more severe hit.

The **Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens** had flooding along the Trout River, which damaged its concrete dock; additionally, the Butterfly Hollow and



**SeaWorld Orlando Rescue retrieved and rehabbed a baby manatee stranded by Hurricane Irma.**

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Campground Critters exhibits needed repairs. However, all of the attraction's animals are safe. The **Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens** suffered many damaged historic trees and some flooded exhibits, as well as two animal deaths; the facility was seeking community support in order to rebuild and reopen.

Among Miami's animal attractions, **Jungle Island** appears to have fared the worst. Although all 600 of its animals were okay, the park faced weeks of work to clean up fallen trees and repair damage expected to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. There was much better news from Florida's southernmost tip, Key West: the historic, solid-limestone **Hemingway Home Museum** and the resident descendants of the famous late author's beloved six-toed cat were unharmed.

Industry observers expected resorts and attractions — including cruise lines operating out of three major ports — to tally collective financial losses in the hundreds of millions as Florida cleans up and tourism gets back up to speed. Visitors spent \$109 billion in the state last year.

That uncertainty didn't stop some attractions, such as **Rapids Water Park** in Riviera Beach and **Grapeland Water Park** in Miami, from temporarily offering discount or free admission to residents and visitors who were waiting for their air conditioning to return.

"Of course, we all are focused most on the human toll that this year has taken on our friends and neighbors," said **Rick Root**, president of the **World Waterpark Association**. "But there are many ways that the industry will feel the impacts of this season far beyond the end of 2017."

—Additional reporting by  
Courtney Rayburn,  
Pam Sherborne

## Six Flags evaluates impact from Mexico earthquake

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** (NYSE: SIX), noting the serious earthquake near Mexico City, provided this update about the company's two parks in Mexico. Most importantly, the company is thankful that all of its employees in Mexico appeared to be safe. **Six Flags Mexico** and **Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Oaxtepec** were closed at the time of the earthquake.

The earthquake struck in the State of Puebla, south of Mexico City, which is about 50 miles from the company's new water park in Oaxtepec. A preliminary investigation indicated damage to a number of the structures in the water park, and the company was assessing its extent. After a careful evaluation, the company will be in a better position to understand the extent of the damage, develop a remediation plan and assess when the park will reopen. Damage to the theme park in Mexico City appeared to be minimal. Both parks were to remain closed until further notice.





# NEWTALK

**EDITORIAL:** Dean Lamanna, [dlamanna@amusementtoday.com](mailto:dlamanna@amusementtoday.com)

## Uniting in a time of crisis



Lamanna

The ravages of hurricanes Harvey and Irma, it has been heartening to see, have inspired acts of kindness from all quarters — sports, entertainment, media, business and government, as well as from the amusement industry and zoological organizations.

The Walt Disney Co., owner of an ABC-TV affiliate in hard-hit Houston, Texas, made an initial \$1 million donation to the American Red Cross for Harvey recovery; by mid-September, it had raised \$16 million. In Florida, where the Walt Disney World Resort is the top tourist draw, Disney committed another \$2.5 million to aid humanitarian relief statewide, in the Caribbean and in other Irma-devastated areas.

Local heroes emerged, too.

The San Antonio Zoo coordinated with SeaWorld San Antonio and other zoos to rescue animals at several flooded facilities, including the Downtown Aquarium in Houston and The Texas Zoo in Victoria. Volunteers answered calls for cleanup assistance from Gator Country in Beaumont and the Skatetown, TX rink in Vidor. SeaWorld Orlando sheltered five dolphins from a resort in the Florida Keys; after Irma's rampage, the park's rescue team retrieved displaced wildlife far and wide.

Operators that escaped major hurricane damage did their part.

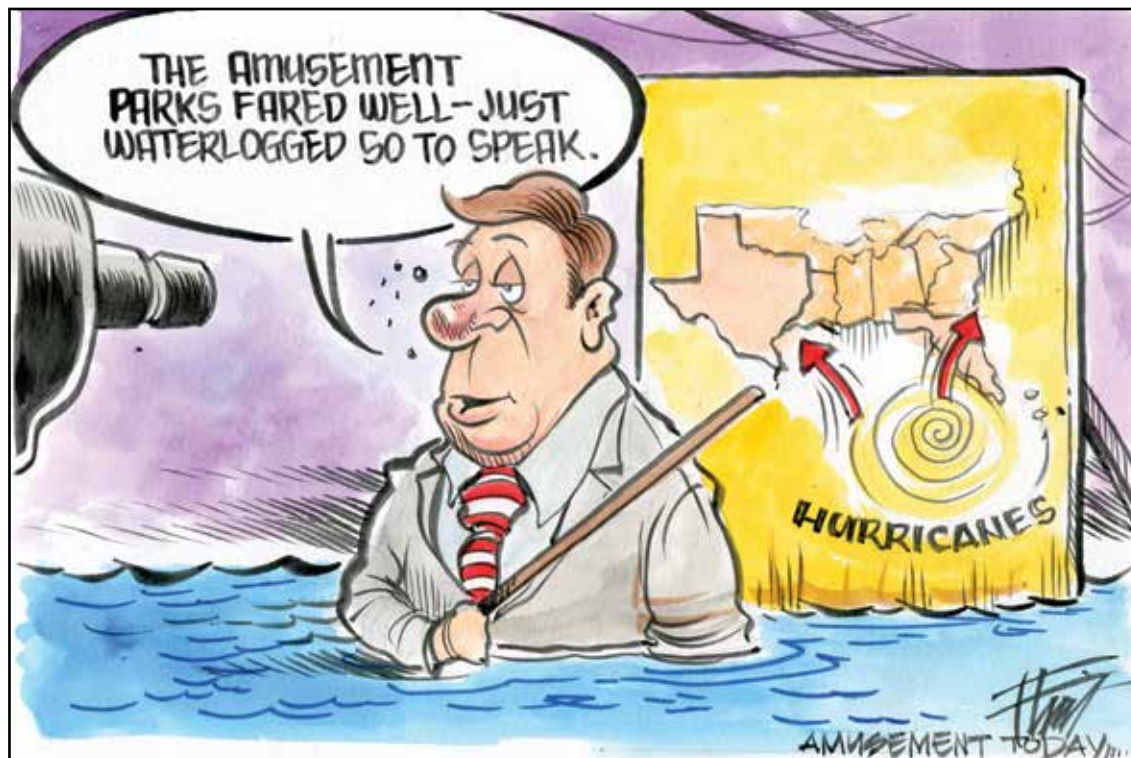
Dallas-based Main Event Entertainment sponsored a Labor Day weekend collection of essential supplies at its centers. The same weekend, Splashway Waterpark in Sheridan, Texas — already housing evacuees at its campground and cabins — decided to keep its water park open an additional weekend in order to donate admission profits. Schlitterbahn sold "Texas Strong" tickets to its parks, with all proceeds going to Harvey relief. Kiddie Park and Trader's Village, both in San Antonio, donated percentages and collected donations.

Many parks and attractions temporarily cut ticket prices for storm-weary residents and visitors. And relief workers were not forgotten: WonderWorks in Orlando and Wild Adventures Theme Park in Valdosta, Ga., offered free admission to first responders.

The generosity extended all the way to (and from) Coney Island, where memories of Superstorm Sandy's punishing 2012 blow hadn't faded. Deno's Wonder Wheel Park donated all Sept. 9 admission proceeds to Harvey relief, while Luna Park donated 10 percent of its Sept. 10 sales to the J.J. Watt Foundation's Houston Flood Relief Fund, launched by the Houston Texans football star.

To all, in a grateful word: Bravo!

**FLINT'S VIEW:** Bubba Flint



**INDUSTRY OPINION:** Andrew Mellor, [amellor@amusementtoday.com](mailto:amellor@amusementtoday.com)

## Immersive vs. themed!

Among the many different rides and attractions we see in our parks today one type that has become popular over the past few years has been what we refer to as the immersive attraction.

However, before this particular genre came to the fore we would more likely talk about themed attractions. So what exactly is the difference and where do we cross the line from a themed attraction to an immersive one? Or are they one and the same?

I guess it's a discussion that could go on for some time, but perhaps one way of looking at it would be based on the depth of the theming in a ride and the small details that can so often make all the difference in an experience — to make it truly immersive.

Take the new *Star Trek: Operation Enterprise* roller coaster that opened this summer at Movie Park Germany, for example. I have written about the attraction for AT and it strikes me that although some may feel this is a themed attraction, which it is of course, it actually transcends those boundaries to become an immersive attraction. The experience begins way



Mellor

before guests reach the ride itself with areas including a holodeck, two transporter rooms and a true-to-original replica of the U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701-D bridge, as seen in the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* series. These are great recreations and what the park has done in conjunction with licensor CBS Consumer Products to immerse visitors in the storyline is excellent.

Talking about the attraction, the park's marketing department and the park manager use the words "immersed" and "themed" to describe the experience, so perhaps that confuses things even more, but having said that, it is a themed ride which carefully recreates a story and setting in considerable detail and which as a result immerses guests in the experience.

The answer to me must be that a heavily themed attraction which really goes to town on the detail and genuinely involves guests in a specific storyline, is an immersive attraction, while something with a lesser amount of theming and no particular storyline, is simply a themed attraction.

Or is it?



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**NEWSTALK****EDITORIAL:** Gary Slade, [gslade@amusementtoday.com](mailto:gslade@amusementtoday.com)

# Six Flags failed its very name

When my phone blew up on Aug. 18 with the news that Six Flags Over Texas (SFOT) in Arlington had lowered five of the six different historical flags at its gate and would be flying only U.S. flags, I became ill — as did hundreds of others, including former Six Flags employees (of which I am one), who called each other to find out if it was indeed true or just a bad dream.

I hadn't witnessed this kind of depressed, emotional outpouring since the announcement that park founder Angus G. Wynne, Jr., had passed.

SFOT — the center of this unfortunate attention, thanks to a report by the gossip TMZ website — released an official statement about the company's decision: "At Six Flags Over Texas, we strive every single day to make people happy and to create a fun, thrilling and safe family-friendly experience for our guests. We always choose to focus on celebrating the things that unite us versus those that divide us. As such, we have changed the flag displays in our park to feature American flags."

That's a nicely crafted public relations sentiment, one clearly run up and down the corporate ladder for approval. Sadly, near the top of that ladder are folks not familiar enough with Texas or amusement industry history to understand the rich heritage of this theme park — one that, in fact, for years has not been accorded the respect its place and flagship status have earned.

What's also sad is that no one in the Six Flags corporate hierarchy, including the Wall Street-driven board of directors, stood up to fight for what was right: protecting the integrity of SFOT and the company's very name. It was easier to lower the five non-United States (1845-1861 and 1865 to present) flags (Spain 1519-1685 and 1690-1821; France 1685-1690; Mexico 1821-1836; Republic of Texas 1836-1845 and Confederacy 1861-1865) than to seize this as a teachable moment and issue a news release informing the public once again why the flags were there in the first place.

History isn't perfect. Sometimes it's inconvenient; appalling, even. But that's no excuse for not knowing it, and certainly no excuse to go around ripping down long-existing symbols without reasonable consideration or discussion about how they might be handled. With the management at SFOT and the theme park chain that grew from it having been a revolving door for too long, no one has been around long enough to know what steps could have been taken to head off or quell this



The six flags flying at Six Flags Over Texas' Star Mall in 1961 are, from left: U.S.A., Texas, Confederate, Mexico, France and Spain. AT FILE/SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS

manufactured "controversy."

A similar debate over whether to lower SFOT's Confederate states flag (the park has never flown the so-called Rebel flag) came up in the mid-1990s, when protesters — led by Dallas city leader and African-American civil rights activist John Wiley Price — lined Six Flags' Arlington property, calling for its removal. The late great PR guru Bruce Neal brokered a deal with Price that would see the park no longer use the word "Confederate" on any of its printed promotional materials, or as a section name. The park agreed to rename the Confederate section the Old South, and in return, the Confederate (states) flag would continue to fly (as an educational tool) at the Star Mall entry plaza just as it had since opening day in 1961.

The Six Flags top brass and board of directors can correct their decision, but it's unknown if they have the will and drive to do so. As Errol McKoy, retired CEO of the State Fair of Texas and an early general manager for Six Flags parks, suggested to me during a phone interview (see his comments in sidebar), the company should leave the U.S. flags up for the rest of this operating season. During the coming off-season, the three original Six Flags parks (Texas, Georgia and St. Louis) could announce the return of the original six flags along with the restoration of the parks' historically themed sections for the benefit of public education and understanding.

It would require a much thought-out long-term heavy investment plan, but it can and should be done. Look no further than what Cedar Fair has accomplished across its chain in restoring and rebuilding legacy attractions key to park theming — particularly at Knott's Berry Farm, which has been enjoying upticks in attendance year after year. It's time to treat the three original Wynne-built parks with the honor and respect they deserve.

Six Flags, the eyes of Texas are upon you.

## Industry opinions on Six Flags Confederate flag removal

"Of the small pushback I've had on the comments I've made thus far, it seems they were all from people either not from Texas or did not know the significance of the six flags and why the sections in the park are themed to those flags and the educational opportunities associated with the park's original design. Yes the sections have been lost, overtaken by cartoon, super heroes and villains, but the fact is the three original parks [Texas, Georgia, and St. Louis] were designed to honor the history of that state and/or region with the countries that flew their flags over this land. That's history, you can't change it, but you continue to learn from it. Once you have taken something down (Confederate statues or flags) you take away a learning opportunity. And now in the case of the three original parks, and the company's name, you failed to protect your very name. It's clear the corporate decision was one that was rushed into place by people not familiar with Texas and American history, all in an effort to avoid confrontation and that's very sad. The easy way out is not always the best path. Sometimes you have to stand up and defend your honor."

—**Shannon Wynne, son of Six Flags Over Texas founder Angus G. Wynne, Jr., Dallas, Texas**

"The Confederate flag is a part of Texas history and became a part of the Six Flags (park) history. The park themes were originally historically and architecturally accurate in their day. As a result of Six Flags once being a true historical theme park, it is my belief it was a mistake to remove the themed country flags in favor of flying all U.S. American flags. This sends the wrong signal, that with all the history, the Texas history of the six countries to fly their flag over this land, it's now okay to scrub it out of the park as a teaching and learning tool. What's next — our history books? This is not what the majority of Texans want. This current move has diminished the brand and tarnished what was once a proud name in this industry: SIX FLAGS. It's not too late to listen to the public and do the right thing by returning the six country flags to the Six Flags parks."

—**Errol McKoy, retired Six Flags executive, Dallas, Texas**

"My dad was Barton Thompson and worked directly for Angus G. Wynne, III and the Great Southwest Corporation from 1960-70, thus he predated the opening of Six Flags Over Texas theme park. He was a person who was a huge history buff — history of all kinds, not just Texas history — collecting rare coins, letters, autographs and anything he could find. There is no question my dad would be disappointed by the news that Six Flags Over Texas has abandoned the flag theme that the park was named for and designed around. When the park opened on Aug. 5, 1961 what a history of Texas the theme park told. Teaching Texas history, while having fun, was what the park was (and still should be) all about. The fact is that the Confederacy was just a small part of the rich Texas history, but it was a part. Lowering the flags will not change that."

—**Bart Thompson, Arlington, Texas**

"I think the current PC culture is continuing to spiral out of control to the point we ask where and when does it stop? Our culture and history are reflected in memorials all across the U.S. So do the Jefferson, Lincoln and Washington monuments all come down now? My two-cents on the Six Flags Confederate flag debate is I would have told TMZ the Six Flags will remain. It's the living history lesson the park was designed for. It's history. We don't need to be the new Syria where history is defaced, beheaded, removed and destroyed. We are better than that, and I'm sure the proud Texans will all agree, that they don't need a sensationalized California television program telling them what flag they should fly in Texas or in their parks."

—**Dennis Speigel, ITPS, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio**



# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Roller Coaster Museum

AT: Richard Munch

## OCTOBER

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

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

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



## CHARACTER CORNER

### King Troll, Magic Mountain

When Magic Mountain opened in 1971 it had acquired the rights to use the Looney Tunes characters. That deal, however was short-lived and in 1972 Magic Mountain introduced its own characters in the form of a wizard and his three trolls — Bloop, Bleep and Blop.

Blop was the leader of the trolls and was also known as King Blop or King Troll, always wearing a crown on his head.

At the front of the park a statue of Bloop riding a horse proclaimed him the founder. The dress-wearing Bleep was a lady troll. The characters roamed the park, greeting guests. The trolls lasted until the end of the 1984 season.

In 1985, Six Flags rethemed the former Children's World as Bugs Bunny world, bringing an end to the era of the trolls.

CARTOON BUBBA FLINT;  
HISTORY JEFFREY SEIFERT



# 2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow



Jody Kneupper stands before Wet 'n' Wild Splashtown's newest slide, Alien Chaser.  
AT/TIM BALDWIN

## Jody Kneupper, Wet'n'Wild Splashtown

**Jody Kneupper** began his career in the amusement industry as a lifeguard at **Schlitterbahn** in New Braunfels, Texas, and hasn't looked back since. After working various positions at water parks around the country, Jody has settled in as general manager of **Wet'n'Wild Splashtown** in Houston. Those who know Jody well describe him as self-motivated and competitive with a real sense of family. When not working, he enjoys playing soccer and spending time with his wife and three children.

**Title:** General Manager.

**Number of years in the industry:** 28 years.

**Best thing about the industry:** It's an industry centered around families having fun.

**Favorite amusement ride:**  
When I visit other water parks, I find I spend a lot of time just floating around the lazy river.

**If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be ...** Working somewhere in an accounting or finance field since that was my major at the University of Texas. Hook'em Horns!

**Biggest challenge facing our industry:**  
I would say one of the challenges is the problem of the rising costs to operate a facility, which leads to rising ticket prices and now we begin to price ourselves out of the volume we need. Someone is bound to be doing a seminar on this.

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

**I could eat this every day and never tire from it:**  
I love tacos for breakfast, lunch or dinner!

**Finish this sentence: YouTube is ...**  
An addictive and entertaining waste of time.

**Something I say I'll do, but never do is ...**  
Ask my wife, I'm sure she could give a large list.

**I am in the best mood when ...**  
I get to spend time with my three kids, Reagan, Austin and Logan.

**All-time favorite meal ...**  
Torchy's Tacos right now is my favorite. Did I mention I like tacos?!

**Are you a Coke or Pepsi kind of guy?**  
My park is Pepsi, so I'm a Pepsi guy.

**If I could do anything when coming home from work, it would be ...**

Find a few minutes to myself to just decompress and relax.

**What is your definition of fun?**

I enjoy playing soccer with my soccer club. It's good exercise and helps work off the job stress.

**If you could have a home with the most beautiful view in the world, where would it be?**

I haven't travelled around much, but I think somewhere in Colorado with a river and a mountain view would be a pretty good start.

**The last time I was really surprised was ...**

Every Christmas. My wife is a really good gift giver. She actually listens to things I say throughout the year.

**I feel most comfortable wearing:** Running gear.

**I know I need a vacation when ...**

It's the end of water park season. It's one of the nice things about the job ... everyone else goes back to work and school in the fall, and we (my family) take a vacation.

**The celebrity I am most tired hearing about would have to be ...** Brad Pitt. Does anyone even know how many tabloid covers he has been on? He has to have the record for that.

**What would you rather be around: someone funny or someone smart?** Funny for sure, too much work to be around someone smart.

**If I wrote a book, the topic would be ...**  
Boring, repetitive, over-detailed, and not on any type of best-seller or even ever-bought list, and I would think it's the Greatest. Book. Ever.

**I do most of my heavy thinking in this spot ...**  
In the office, sitting at my desk behind the computer. Fortunately I have a job that is outside.

**Something real that I wish was make-believe ...**  
Cancer. Thinking of and crossing my fingers for all those that are fighting!

**When I look out my front door at home, I see ...**  
Nice tall Houston Pine trees and then I go back inside to the A/C.

**Favorite TV show:** *Game of Thrones*.



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IAAPA

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## ►WWA

### Continued from page 1

Operator Instructor Workshop, day one of two; the Certified Pool Operator Course, day one of two, and the Ellis Lifeguard Instructor Licensing Program, day one of three.

The second day of all the above workshops and courses will be held on Sunday, Oct. 15. Added to that schedule is the American Red Cross Lifeguarding Instructor Crossover, day one of two. The Certified Pool Operator Course on this day is blended with the NSPF Certified Pool/Spa Operator Certification program.

Monday, Oct. 15, will wrap up the Ellis Lifeguarding Instructor Workshop as well as the American Red Cross program. Also on Monday is the WWA Advanced Water Quality Course Certification, the Starfish Aquatics Institute (SAI) StarGuard Lifeguard Instructor Workshop and the day-long WWA University. The WWA University includes topics important to the first-time water park operator such as: water park design, development and expansion; maintenance; in-park revenues, and navigating social media.

For those attendees not involved in the day-long workshops and certification courses, they may find themselves at the WWA Annual Golf Tournament and Luncheon set for the Madison Green Country Club, West Palm Beach. Tee time is 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday morning kicks off with a variety of education sessions such as avoiding recreational water illness, digital marketing, resilience training, and creating a successful municipal water park.

These sessions will run until 11:30 a.m., when the Opening General Session begins. During this session, which kicks off the

opening of the exhibit hall, updates from the WWA Board of Directors will be presented, the announcement of Hall of Fame inductees will be made and the Board Award winners will be presented.

The opening session is set to last one hour, after which the trade show will open and lunch will be served. Trade show hours on Tuesday are 12:30-6 p.m. and lunch is 12:30-2:30 p.m. on the trade show floor.

The Welcome Reception will be held later in the afternoon from 5-6 p.m. on the trade show floor. The Annual Reunion Party from 7-10 p.m. will be at the Rapids Water Park.

Educational sessions, workshops and roundtable discussions also kick off the next morning, Wed., Oct. 18. The Keynote Session will run from 10-11 a.m.

"Considering what we've all experienced over the past few weeks, we are especially pleased to be bringing in Chris Nelson with FleishmanHillard as our keynote speaker on Oct. 18," said Rick Root, president, WWA. "Chris, who is the crisis management lead for FleishmanHillard for The Americas, will share best practices on how water park operators can better prepare for and recover from a crisis situation. This topic is timely for a number of reasons and we think our attendees will take away some useful ideas and concepts that will help their teams in the future."

At the close of the trade show that afternoon, the educational programming continues.

That evening is the party at the Hilton and it will run 7:30-10:30 p.m. Food, drinks and music will be offered.

Thursday, Oct. 19, kicks off with a morning keynote session, followed by sessions ranging from 50 money-making ideas and revitalizing guest service

culture to addressing the needs of transgender guests and staff.

A roundtable discussion later in the afternoon will explore some of the new technology available to water park operators.

Day one of two of the Aquatic Facility Certification Course will be held this day. It will conclude on Friday, Oct. 20.

### WWA launches new website for WLSL

This year has been a busy one for the WWA.

"We are always working on delivering an outstanding WWA Show experience each October, but we've also been continuing to focus on our goals for the World's Largest Swimming Lesson event (WLSL)," Ezra said.

In 2017, the WWA launched a completely redesigned WLSL.org website with a translation feature to allow host locations to find event materials and register easily. The newly designed site also was a fresh way to promote this water safety event to international media.

"We believe that the new website has had an extremely positive impact on the global event," she said. "Our 2017 event welcomed 41,000-plus participants to live WLSL events in 26 countries, both of which are increases over 2016."

In addition, the event generated more than 300 million media impressions in support of the Swimming Lessons Save Lives message. All totaled, the WWA came very close to achieving its goal of one billion media impressions before the 10th year anniversary event in 2019.

The WLSL has made a difference. Research released from WLSL supporting organizations, CPSC's Pool Safety Campaign and USA Swimming Foundation, which also initiated water safety awareness programs in 2010, have indicated a decrease in childhood drownings and an increase in swimming skills. The CPSC's Pool Safety campaign showed a 17 percent decrease in fatal drownings in pools among children younger than five since 2010.

And, the USA Swimming Foundation study found a five to 10 percent improvement in overall swimming ability from its previous findings in 2010.

"But, we know that more work is needed," Ezra said. "In 2014, the American Red Cross, another WLSL supporter, found more than half of all Americans (54 percent) either can't swim or don't have the basic necessary swimming skills."

In addition to WWA's work



**The WWA Symposium and Trade Show offers an array of topics within its educational programming conducted by industry professionals. Some of the anticipated highlights this year include "Leadership Matters – Inspiring Excellent Performance From Your Management Team," "Navigating The Social Media Maze," "Group Sales Rocks – Pillars For A Successful Sales Department," and "Revitalizing Aging Waterparks for Sophisticated Patrons. AT/PAM SHERBORNE**

on the WLSL event, the association has been focused on being a strong supporter and participant in the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) revision and comment process. Of the 180 change requests submitted in 2017, water parks were the largest "constituency" to submit revisions that would make the next edition of the MAHC a stronger tool for aquatic operations.

Also, more than a dozen WWA members are serving on CMAHC's Technical Review Committee and the technical subcommittees to help draft revisions to the code.

Association members also have been participating in the ASTM review and balloting process for new standards within the water leisure industry.

### Industry Growth Trends

The WWA membership has been excited to see that new development projects are coming back full force with large-scale, mixed-use development taking place all over the world in the last few years, according to reports that the WWA has gathered.

New water park projects are coming online within North America, a trend that has been noted. From Typhoon Texas in Houston, which opened in 2016, to projects in 2017 such as H20BX Waterpark in The Outer Banks, North Carolina; Universal's Volcano Bay in Orlando, Fla., and Hurricane Harbor at Six Flags in Oaxtepec, Mexico, these water parks are making an immediate impact in their markets.

While water park resorts have been growing for a number of years, the size and scope of development within this segment continues to impress, Ezra said. More and more water park resorts are coming online because they offer a longer vaca-

tion experience, which means more business and steadier business for those people who develop them.

In addition, regions such as Latin America and Asia are continuing to welcome a number of new developments, thanks in part to climate conditions in Latin America and economic factors at play in many areas of Asia, especially China.

"It's noteworthy that three out of the top 20 water parks in the world are located within Latin America," Ezra said.

Another trend worth noting involves the use of established intellectual property to create unique and fully integrated theming throughout a facility.

Theming, in general, has really stepped up its level of importance as more and more operations use theming in ride development, signage, marketing elements, etc. Strong theming allows guests to experience memorable interactions within the park, which can lead to stronger brand attachments and repeat visits.

Parks that were developed before theming became as prevalent are now using refurbishment projects as ways to integrate a more coherent theme.

"People are much more focused on story-telling now than they might have been a decade or two ago," Ezra said.

Another important trend that has been noted is the focus on accessibility within park operations and guest services. Water park operators are trying to address the needs of more guests and they are spending more time implementing procedures that accommodate guests with various physical and cognitive disabilities.

New attractions are being created that enable higher quality interaction for guests with different abilities.



**The World Waterpark Association's (WWA) Symposium and Trade Show runs Oct. 16-19 at the Palm Beach Convention Center, West Palm Beach, Fla., and the Hilton West Palm Beach. The WWA trade show, held in the convention center Oct. 17-18, encompasses 100,000 square-feet of the newest and most innovative products from water leisure entertainment manufacturers around the world. AT/PAM SHERBORNE**



# World Waterpark Association 2017 Symposium and Trade Show

## EXHIBITOR LISTING October 16-19, 2017 West Palm Beach, Fla.

1RISK	1023			Ramuc Pool Paint	411
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AllChem Performance Products	447			Recreation Management	925
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Aluvii Waterpark Software	741			RenoSys Corporation	810
American Locker	1144			RHINO Diversion Segura	1005
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<b>Amusement Today</b>	<b>826</b>			Rocken Graphics	128 - 130
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# INTERNATIONAL

► Premier Rides Hype coaster opens at Särkänniemi, Finland — Page 12

## Historic U.K. site to become home to new indoor water park

AT: Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

COVENTRY, England – A new indoor waterpark is to be built in the city of Coventry in central England – just yards from the historic site of an 800-year-old church tower and spire, creating what water ride supplier Polin Waterparks has described as a once-in-several-lifetimes event.

The challenges of situating the new Coventry City Centre Leisure Park in Coventry, West Midlands, was one that required unusual respect and specialized considerations but FaulknerBrowns Architects fulfilled the requirements of the historic £36.7m (\$41.26m) undertaking. Other key contributors to the project include the main supplier and construction firm Buckingham Group Contracting Ltd. and consultant Neuman Aqua Ltd., both U.K.-based.

Set to open in late 2018 or early 2019, the project has been called a “game-changer” by architect Bilge Pakis, Design Manager at Polin Waterparks, who said: “It is a game-changer in its distinctive design, required to fit the facility into a very tight footprint on a site where Franciscan monks originally constructed a cruciform-shaped church in the early 1200s. Over the years, the site’s space became smaller and smaller as history left its marks.”

Polin Waterparks’ Senior Architect Zeynep Canbaz said: “The floorplan ultimately put the waterslides on the third floor, an especially unusual proposal. That meant Polin needed to specially adapt its rides to fit within the specific limitations of the building’s mostly round layout and its



constricting ceiling height.”

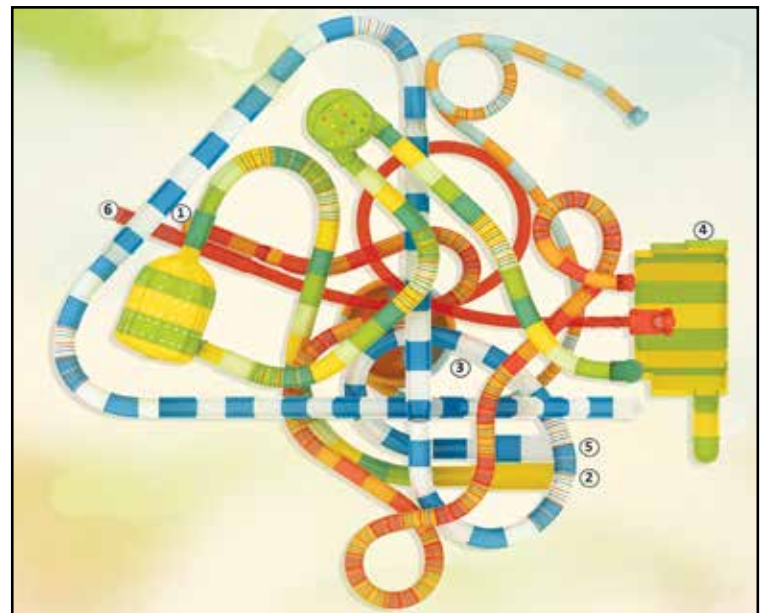
Accommodating six slides into such a tight space required delicate design skills. For example, the bowl of one ride — Polin’s Space Hole — sits smack in the middle of the building and exits riders into a plunge pool on the floor below. The other slides also exit on the second floor and a spiral ramp helps guests navigate back to the third level.

Polin needed to incorporate the building’s unique considerations into its slide designs. This meant specially designing several of the water-slides, with the specific attrac-

tions the company adapted for the waterpark including a Tunnel Bodyslide (family slide) with Slide’n Roll special effects, a Sphere-Space Shuttle Combo, Space Hole, Mini Tsunami, Navigator and Looping Rocket.

**Coventry City Centre Leisure Park will open in late 2018/early 2019. The new indoor waterpark will feature all Polin-made attractions including a Tunnel Bodyslide, a Sphere-Space Shuttle Combo and a Looping Rocket.**

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# Movie Park's new coaster takes guest to another universe

AT: Andrew Mellor  
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**B O T T R O P - KIRCHHELLEN**, Germany – Movie Park Germany has opened its latest major attraction in the shape of the new *Star Trek: Operation Enterprise* triple launch coaster.

Situated adjacent to the park's main entrance and accessed through the new Federation Plaza themed area via an entirely *Star Trek*-themed building that covers an area of more than 1000-square-meter (10,764-square-foot), the coaster has been built by Mack Rides. Key track elements include a twisted halfpipe with a 40-meter (131-foot) elevation that is one of a kind in Europe, along with a 10.5 ton transfer track system.

The track has a total length of 720-meters (2,362-feet) and riders are taken to a maximum speed of 90km/h (56 mph). Two, 20-seater trains are used and hourly capacity is approximately 1,000 riders. The launch acceleration force is 1G, while guests also experience up to 4.2G elsewhere on the attraction.

Other elements that make up the ride experience are a 30-meter top hat, an Immelmann loop, a heartline roll, a 100-degree dive, three airtime humps, a helix and a zero G roll.



Theming, design and production was carried out by the TAA Group of Madrid and guests are immersed in the storyline with areas including a holodeck, two transporter rooms and a true-to-original replica of the *U.S.S. Enterprise* NCC-1701-D bridge, as seen in the *Star Trek: The Next Generation* series.

"We're incredibly proud of our new themed attraction. It's a roller coaster that gives guests an adrenalin rush and much more, because it takes them right into the heart of the *Star Trek* universe before the ride even begins, making them part of the story," says the park's General Manager Thorsten Backhaus.

"We're the only theme park to have secured an official *Star Trek* coaster license," he continued. "Movie Park Germany collaborated closely with licensor CBS Consumer Products in the USA to get this project off the ground and it's a real milestone for both partners."

"The collaboration with CBS Consumer Products and



Movie Park Germany collaborated closely with licensor CBS Consumer Products in the USA to create its latest major attraction. The design and theming on *Star Trek: Operation Enterprise* immerses guests in the storyline from the moment they enter the attraction. COURTESY MOVIE PARK GERMANY



Two, 20-seater trains are used on Movie Park Germany's new coaster and hourly capacity is approximately 1,000 riders. COURTESY MOVIE PARK GERMANY



# Premier Rides Hype coaster opens at Särkänniemi, Finland

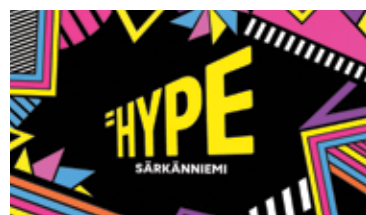
AT: Andrew Mellor  
amellor@amusementtoday.com

TAMPERE, Finland – The first high-tech, triple-launch coaster to open in the Nordic region made its debut in June at Särkänniemi in Finland.

Supplied by U.S. company Premier Rides, Hype was completed ahead of schedule following a year of engineering, manufacturing and the shipping of the custom-designed attraction to the park.

Representing the largest investment in the venue's history, the ride is based on the award-winning Superman Ultimate Flight located at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in California and utilizes the most current launch system technology available in the industry. With the exception of the coaster train itself, there are virtually no moving parts on the ride which makes the attraction very reliable and maintenance friendly.

The experience begins



with riders being shot out of the station up to a height of 15-meters (49-feet). Gravity then pulls them rapidly back into the station where they are launched backwards up to a height of 30-meters (98-feet). Again gravity takes control and once more brings the train back into the station where the final launch is energized and the riders shoot up a vertical twisting track to the highest point on the ride, where a tantalizing slow roll places the guests upside down approximately 50 meters (164 feet) in the air – a record for the Nordic region.

After executing the roll, guests enter a face-first vertical drop, ending in a twisting loop where they experience exciting Gs. The riders then drop



Finnish Pop star Robin and fans celebrate the grand opening of the new Hype coaster at Särkänniemi Amusement Park. COURTESY SÄRKÄNNIEMI



Särkänniemi's new Hype roller coaster was designed and manufactured by Baltimore-based Premier Rides. Hype reaches a top speed of 100 km/h (62mph) along its 260-meter (853-foot-long) track. COURTESY SÄRKÄNNIEMI

towards ground level where the train once more shoots through the station and is then smoothly braked using magnetic technology as it comes to a stop in the station.

Hype reaches a top speed of 100 km/h (62 mph) along its 260-meters (853-foot) long track. Ride time is 55 seconds and the minimum rider height is

140 centimeters (4.6 feet).

"By selecting Premier Rides, we had a smooth and totally successful co-operation for the Hype project," Särkänniemi Managing Director Miikka Seppälä said. "Construction was managed excellently, the Premier Rides team was by far the best to work with and our marketing campaign has been the

most successful ever. Our Hype-based videos have attracted nearly 2.5 million viewers. In a country with a population of 5.5 million, that is really something!"

And he added that the new coaster "helps make Särkänniemi a true destination theme park and the ride an icon in the city of Tampere."







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# Work on largest expansion ever in Toverland officially started

Next year, Theme Park Toverland opens a new entrance and a new theme area. Work on this expansion has officially started this week. A milestone that is celebrated with the launch of the website 2018.toverland.com where those who are interested can closely follow the latest news about this expansion.

## CORRECTION

In the July 2017 issue of AT we published an article on Ferrari Land at Port Aventura World in Spain. In this we stated that the Flying Dreams immersive attraction had been supplied by U.K. company Simworx, which was incorrect. The ride was in fact supplied to the park by Taiwan based Brogent, it being one of the company's i-Rides.

AT regrets the error and any confusion caused.

In the past few months all necessary planning permissions have been granted and the land has been prepared for construction. "We can really start building now," says Technical Director Paul Oomen. "At the moment you can see the outlines of the buildings by looking at the pickets in the ground." In the summer of 2018 the new areas will open to the public.

"This is our biggest expansion yet", says Oomen. "We can imagine that people are very curious about our plans and that's why we have developed a special website." The website 2018.toverland.com shows a little preview of next year by means of storytelling, photos, video and sound clips. To gain access to this exclusive information, the visitor must register first.

Theme park Toverland becomes one and a half times bigger in 2018. Across an area of seven hectares



L to R: Jean Gelissen, general director, Gelissen Group; Caroline Kortooms, general director, Toverland; and Paul Oomen, technical director, Toverland, pose for a photograph at the construction site of the new themed area. COURTESY TOVERLAND

a new entrance and a new theme area, will be realized. Inside the theme area two large attractions are the cen-

terpiece: a sensational B&M wing coaster and a magical boat ride. More details about the theme area will be

revealed in the weeks ahead. This expansion involves an investment of 30 million euros.

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# WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► Knott's Soak City brightens park — Pages 18-19 / Volcano Bay debuts — Pages 24 & 25

## Waldameer's Battle of Lake Erie play structure has community tie

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ERIE, Pa. — Paul Nelson, CEO and owner of Waldameer and Water World, has long-range plans. The very active 83 year old has been at the helm of the park at 1965 and gained full ownership in 1978. Having actually started at the park since age 11, Nelson can remember a great deal of the park's history which includes many additions and expansions. With all this growth, Nelson also has a strong sense of the park's place in the community.

In 2015, expansion of Waldameer and Water World started a three-year phase of the water park. The first was the arrival of a gigantic wave pool that, having a dividing peninsula in the center, has the ability to operate half of the pool on very slow days, but also allows lifeguards closer access to the pool's center. Last season, Kidz Zone offered eight smaller slides for the youngest visitors along with 30 splashing water jets and fountains.

The three-year project was master planned with all the pumps, plumbing and filtration installed from the start. The third phase was always expected to be a tipping bucket



play fortress, but as the phases began to materialize, so did a better idea.

"The Battle of Lake Erie was Paul's vision. I'd say he came up with it last summer," said Steve Gorman, general manager. "I think it is super creative. The tipping bucket play structure is common in a lot of parks, but they all seem to have a tropical or pirate theme. Paul coming up with this twist on it was a fantastic

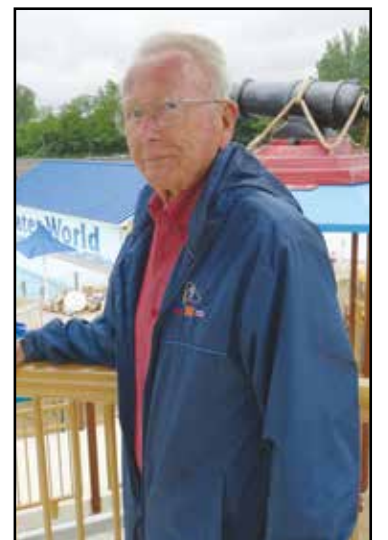
twist. It's great."

"We have a museum here [in Erie]" said Nelson. "We have the Niagara. My wife's family ancestors were involved in the War of 1812. I thought: Why don't we do something for the museum. I think we could help make them more successful. I thought they could draw more tourism."

The ubiquitous tipping bucket has taken on the form of the city's historic ship, the U.S. Brig Niagara. Holding 400 gallons, the ship features the spilling action that makes these complexes incredibly popular. In all, the play structure features seven new slides, 103 water activities, and the tipping ship positioned 40-feet high atop the attraction. It was manufactured by ProSlide, whom the park management enjoys a great relationship.

"The number of spray features — it still surprises me,"

Paul Nelson (right) conceived the idea of developing Waldameer's new family water play structure around a local theme: The Battle of Lake Erie. He hoped it would bolster tourism to the city's maritime museum. COURTESY WALDAMEER; AT/TIM BALDWIN



said Gorman. "There is water spraying everywhere."

Walkways feature hands-on props and historical references to the Battle of Lake Erie and the city's role in the War of 1812.

"Paul's forethought to involve the Maritime Museum in town and have references to it... people can come into town and learn about it. We didn't have to do that, but Paul has a sense of community," Gorman told *Amusement Today*. "I embrace that and glad he has that type of think-

ing. Waldameer is the community's amusement park; he just happens to be the one running it."

"I got the three best radio stations in the area to co-sponsor an event where people could get discount tickets here at the park to go to the

► See ERIE, page 16

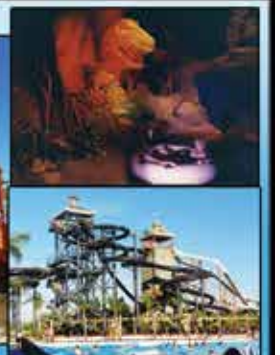
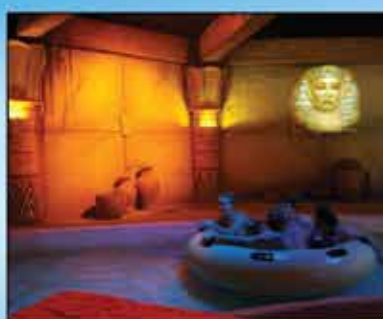
### Waldameer announces two rides for 2018

Waldameer has announced new additions for the next year — one will be in the amusement park and one in the water park. A Zamperla Samba Balloon Ride features eight colorful baskets that riders can spin as the ride lifts and rotates. Water World, the water park, will also continue to expand with a ProSlide Cannonbowl 30. The new attraction sends riders two to a tube into a bowl where they bank high on the sides and circle the walls of the bowl before losing momentum and plunging into a hole in the center into an escape chute. The park did not mention specific name choices for the new attractions.

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## Polin completes design, development of Ujevara Resort in Ferizaj, Kosovo

FERIZAJ, Kosovo — The Ujevara Resort, which opened in June, offers a mix of attractions for all ages at what is now the largest water park resort in this relatively new country.

Encompassing 20,000 square-meters (215,278 square-feet), the aqua park at Ujevara Resort is part of a growing trend in the Balkans. The number of water parks in the region remains small compared to other parts of the world — nearby Serbia boasts less than half a dozen, and Albania has few to speak of. But Polin Waterparks of Turkey has dedicated wide resources to developing the area. In addition to being the designer and developer of the Ujevara Resort, Polin Waterparks has led water park projects in Macedonia, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Slovenia.

Kubilay Alpdogan, director of sales and design of Polin Waterparks, says that the area is rich with opportunity. “We’ve been working in the Mediter-

anean for many years with successful projects in Spain, Italy, France, Greece, Egypt and smaller countries. So it’s good to see the number of water parks beginning to open in the Balkans specifically. We’re focusing on helping developers in these areas create oases that blend relaxation and recreation.”

Polin Waterparks provided a variety of attractions for guests of all ages. Adults will enjoy Polin’s Multislide, Black Hole, Body Slide, Space Hole, Aquatube, Kamikaze, Freefall, Rafting Slide and Wave Slide. Kids will delight in the company’s smaller versions of the Multi Slide, Aquatube and Compact Slide, along with a Mini Pirate Ship, Baby Octopus Slide, Rabbit Slide, Frog Slide, Mushroom and Octopus Slide.

Afrim Hoxha, partner of the Ujevara resort, says guests have provided a lot of positive feedback from their visits. “I’ve heard comments ranging from ‘Just amazing’ and ‘Wonderful’

to ‘Fantastic,’ along with general compliments about our facility. Working with the team at Polin Waterparks allowed us to create a resort that people love. We’re very pleased with the entire experience.”

Kosovo gained independence from Serbia in February 2008 and is recognized as a sovereign state by the 111 United Nations member states.

Kosovo has a lower-middle-income economy but has experienced solid economic growth over the last decade by international financial institutions, and has experienced growth every year since declaring its independence in 2008.

The country serves as a link between central and south Europe and has good potential for tourism growth with a number of quality resources including mountains, artificial lakes, canyons and rivers. The *New York Times* included Kosovo on the list of 41 Places to go in 2011.

—Jeffrey Seifert

## ERIE

**Continued from page 15**

museum,” Nelson said. “The museum spent a ton of money and it’s really interesting, but we don’t have enough local people to keep going to it. We’ve never done anything else like this where we gave someone else [publicity.]”

“Although we missed our target opening date, we know this attraction will be very popular for many years,” said Gorman. “Even on a cool opening day, our guests were lined up, anxious to play in the new Battle of Lake Erie water-play complex. Young parents were happy to be able to play with their children in the same attraction.”

As the park makes long-range plans, Waldameer has ideas on new rides and another coaster, but water park development is still at the forefront.

“Even with Lake Erie right near us — there are 13 miles of beaches right down at Presque Isle — water is still king,” said Gorman, alluding to the drawing power of the water park. “We think that water is the way for us in the way to grow.”

More lounge chairs and lockers have been added to the water park, as well as additional cabanas and umbrellas for rent.

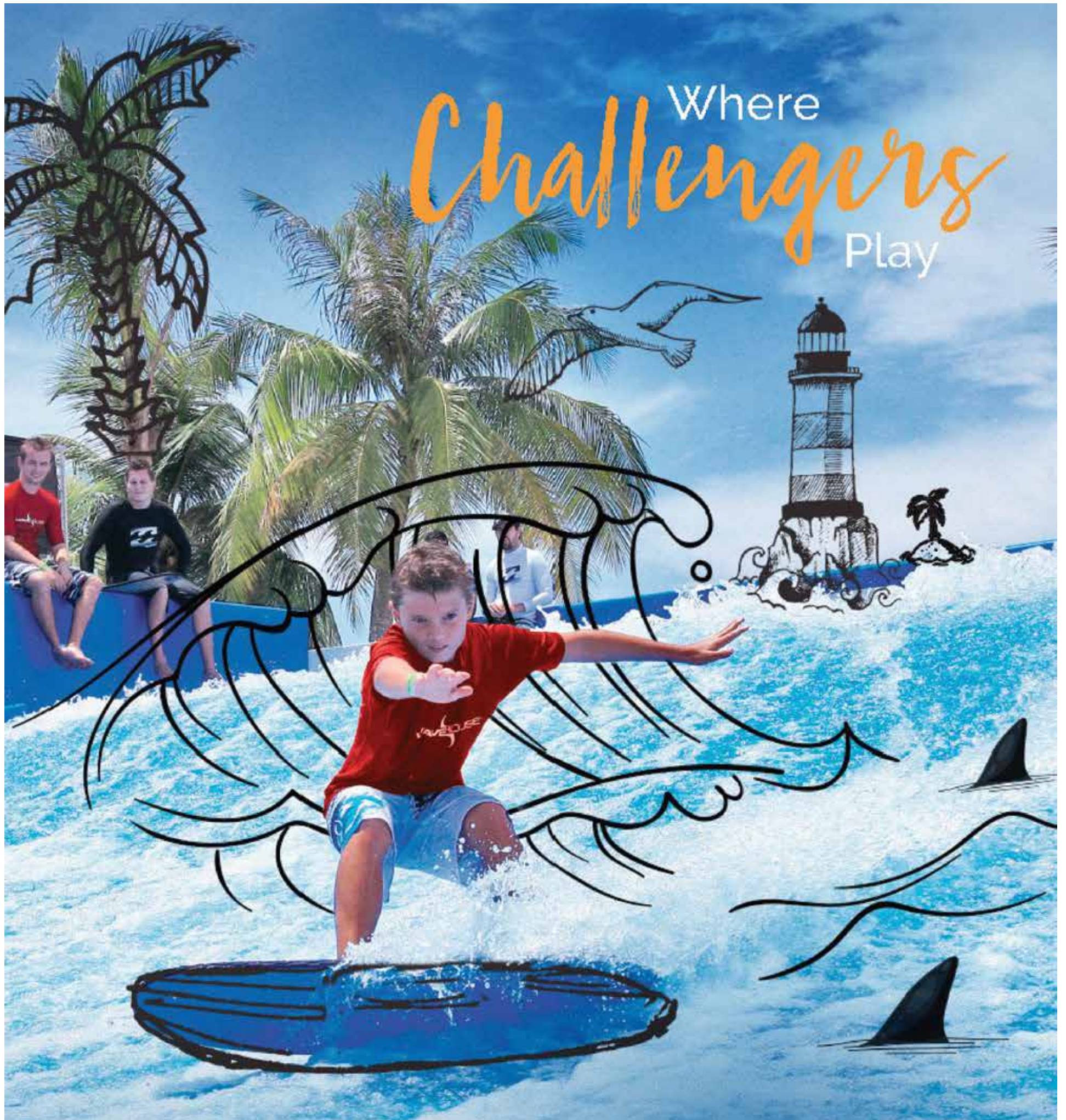
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WhiteWater West, Baynum Painting contribute to revamp

# Knott's Soak City wraps 2017 season with bolder thrills, colors

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

BUENA PARK, Calif. — After an extended run of major investment in new rides, enhanced legacy attractions and general upgrades at **Knott's Berry Farm**, operator **Cedar Fair Entertainment Co.** shifted its main focus just east across Beach Boulevard to **Knott's Soak City** for the 2017 summer season.

It was past time to give the 18-year-old attraction, billed as Orange County's largest outdoor water park, some needed attention, especially with the recent opening of a sprawling **Great Wolf Lodge** indoor water park resort just a few miles away in Garden Grove.



Knott's Soak City has undergone a multimillion-dollar expansion — its first since 2006 — and been given an overall spiffing up. The big reveal took place during a grand reopening ceremony on May 20.

"We've refreshed this entire park, and we're so very proud of it," said **Jon Storbeck**, vice president and general manager of Knott's. "I want to thank all of the Knott's Berry Farm maintenance and



construction crew, and everybody who was involved with this expansion — and all of the contractors who helped us as part of the expansion, as well."

The now 15-acre park, having grown over the winter by nearly two acres that were previously used for parking, unveiled seven new waterslides supplied by **WhiteWater West** of Richmond, B.C., Canada, along with several brightly repainted existing ones.

Delivering new speed-driven thrills and more family-oriented fun are two themed towers: **Shore Break** and **The Wedge**.

The seven-story-tall **Shore Break** complex features four slides capped with **Aqua-Launch** chambers, each of which accommodates a single rider. The chambers' floors drop out, releasing riders into a high-speed, 20-second plunge through translucent, S-curved tubes. The tower additionally offers two dueling slides.

The **Wedge**, which occupies the former locations of the **Pacific Spin** raft ride and parking area, is a high-capacity raft



ride that sweeps families or groups of up to six along an open-air flume with sharply banked twists and surprise drops.

The new installations bring the park's total number of waterslides to 23.

Several of the popular established slides at Knott's Soak City were showing the effects of years under the Southern California sun and needed restoration. Cedar Fair assigned this very substantial task to **Baynum Painting, Inc.**, of Newport, Ky., which has completed more than 200 large-scale amusement industry jobs since its very first — The **Beast** wooden roller at **Kings Island** in Ohio — in 1986.

**Chris Baynum**, founder and president, told *Amusement Today* that he was "thrilled to collaborate with Knott's" on the water park project.

"Aesthetically speaking, restoring a vibrant color scheme to an aged fiberglass slide exterior can give an existing ride a whole new look and feel," he said. "And from a functional standpoint, resurfacing a slide can actually expand its life cycle by improving the overall structural integrity."

Baynum resurfaced four of the park's slide complexes: **Beach House Slides** (exterior repaint and interior gelcoat), **Laguna Storm Watch Tower** (exterior repaint), **Malibu Run**



New at Knott's Soak City last summer was **Shore Break**, a seven-story tower featuring four S-curved speed slides capped with **Aqua-Launch** chambers (above), and **The Wedge** (below), which offers a swift, open-flume rafting experience with banked curves and surprise drops.

COURTESY KNOTT'S SOAK CITY



The **Wedge**, one of two major new waterslide structures at Knott's Soak City supplied by **WhiteWater West**, is a high-capacity, family-oriented ride. COURTESY KNOTT'S SOAK CITY



► See KNOTT'S, page 19



## ►KNOTT'S

Continued from page 18

(exterior repaint and interior gelcoat) and Old Man Falls (exterior repaint and interior gelcoat). The crew began work in mid-December and completed the job in mid-February.

Considerable planning went into the project before any on-site prep work or coating application began, explained Baynum.

"Each surface in a water park refurb project requires hundreds of gallons of specially formulated coatings designed to withstand the many variables unique to that environment," he said. "Factored into our coating specifications are items like UV exposure; chlorinated water resistance; ambient and surface temperatures; anticipated wear and tear; mil thickness [coating thickness measured in thousandths of an inch]; and of course, expected color and gloss levels."

"A lot of science and technical engineering goes into these projects from start to finish, and it's all well worth it when you see such beautiful



end results."

Cedar Fair's design team had already decided on a color palette for the different slides when it brought the company in. "They had this awesome concept ready, and we loved working with them to make it happen," Baynum said.

Cedar Fair left room in its budget for improvements to other areas and aspects of Knott's Soak City.

Longboard's Grill returned this season after a complete remodeling and expansion that doubled its size. The menu also grew — offering items such as chicken

tenders, fish and chips, and assorted wraps along with traditional favorites like grilled burgers and hot dogs. A shaded outdoor seating area was built at the restaurant's entrance.

Additional cabanas and seating areas were added across from the new Shore Break tower. Also contributing to the park's newfound "cool" are green areas that offer relief from once-unbroken stretches of concrete, as well as new and enhanced landscaping throughout the property.

• [knotts.com/play/soak-city](http://knotts.com/play/soak-city)



Baynum Painting handled the restoration of several of the park's existing waterslides. The company repainted and applied gelcoat to Old Man Falls (above); it also restored the Beach House Slides, located on the same tower as Old Man Falls (below left) and the Laguna Storm Watch Tower (below right). COURTESY BAYNUM PAINTING, INC.





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# Water fun complex beats the heat at Circus Circus Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — With desert temperatures soaring to the usual triple-digit highs this past summer, **Circus Circus Las Vegas** had an appealing new message for its guests: *Everyone into the cool!*

The hotel and casino, famous for offering the world's largest permanent circus and Sin City's only major indoor amusement park, opened a water attractions-based expansion of its pool area on Memorial Day weekend.

Called Splash Zone, the waterslide and play complex — designed and supplied by **WhiteWater West** of Richmond, B.C., Canada — includes three slides and a variety of water features.

The slides, descending

from a 50-foot tower, are (by their WhiteWater product names) a four-lane Mat Racer, an Aqua Tube and a Speed Slide. All carry height restrictions.

The adjacent, family-friendly water playground features interactive components including water cannons, spill buckets, waterfalls and water jets.

Shade and relaxation also have been enhanced, with sun-shielding structures, umbrellas and lounge chairs added throughout the area. Nineteen gazebo-style cabanas are available for full or half-day rentals.

A mobile food truck, Splash Snacks, carries a selection of casual food offerings.

Additionally, the proper-



ty's two existing pool decks received a refresh with a refurbished snack bar, new restrooms and showers, as well as a pool area dedicated to guests 18 and older.

Splash Zone is available only to Circus hotel guests.

—Dean Lamanna

The new **Splash Zone** pool area at **Circus Circus Las Vegas**, designed and supplied by **WhiteWater West**, includes three different waterslides plus a splash pad with family-friendly water features.

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# Morgan's Wonderland opens all-accessible water park

WhiteWater West  
supplies attractions

AT: Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Morgan's Wonderland opened its doors in 2010. The all-inclusive park was inspired when Gordon Hartman noticed while on vacation that other children did not wish to interact with his daughter — Morgan, the namesake of the park — because she had special needs. He was determined to build a place where people of all abilities could play together.

While the park has grown and has welcomed guests from around the world, one thing to which any San Antonio resident can attest is that Texas can be very hot in the summer. A water play park would be great, but to make it all-accessible would take planning. This summer, Morgan's Inspiration Island debuted as a fantastic water-focused expansion of the park.

"Six major elements comprise tropically-themed Morgan's Inspiration Island — the River Boat Adventure ride and five colorful splash pads that have all sorts of ways to get guests wet," said Bob McCullough, communications director. "In addition to all the splashy stuff, Morgan's Inspiration Island has the Rusty Anchor Galley Grub and Little Italy Bistro food outlets for snack



Morgan's Inspiration Island is filled with a sense of whimsy. Different themes range from pirates to jungles to the tropics.  
AT/TIM BALDWIN

foods and beverages, and the Surf Shack Gifts and Gear sundries shop for souvenirs, water shoes, sunscreen, swim diapers and other items that come in handy in an aquatic environment. The focal point of Morgan's Inspiration Island is a seven-story lighthouse with a rotating beacon on top that can be easily seen from I-35 a half-mile away."

The new water park attractions were supplied by WhiteWater West of Richmond, B.C., Canada.

"It's a level of dedication

that has touched everyone involved in this project and has motivated our team to meet their ingenuity and enthusiasm," said Paul Chutter, chief business development officer, WhiteWater West. "When you talk to the folks here at WhiteWater who have worked on Morgan's, they all talk about how honored and fortunate they feel to be a part of something so worthy and special. I think it's a feeling shared by our entire organization."

Rainbow Reef is a warmed-water splash pad. Most people may be unaware that certain medical conditions can cause muscle pain when an individual comes in contact with non-heated water. This area is a welcome oasis to all. The area is adorned with a sextet of squirting sea horses and other sea life, such as a starfish, a sea turtle and a giant, friendly octopus.

Melody comes into play at Calypso Cove. Guests can interact with instruments in this music garden splash pad. Frogs and butterflies help theme the area that includes two mushroom rain trees.

Hang Ten Harbor features numerous opportunities to dart in and out of arches of water. The surf-themed splash pad sports a continuous, 20-foot diameter water wave.

Monkeys, tropical birds and jungle theming accent Harvey's Hideaway Bay. Custom water features are incor-

porated into a water fort, bubbling geysers and squirting palm trees.

No water play area would be complete without a large, tipping bucket. Shipwreck Island includes an accessible pirate ship, slides and four cannons where fun seekers can take aim.

"No detail has been too big or too small," Chutter told *Amusement Today*. "From adding a specially-designed spiral graphic to tipping buckets so that hearing-impaired guests will know when to wait for the downpour of water to sourcing three types of waterproof wheelchairs for guests to use free of charge, it's been inspiring to see how much care and consideration the people at Morgan's has put into this park."

Of particular note is the River Boat Adventure. On the line of a theme park attraction, this five-minute ride twists and turns through a jungle setting, complete with bird and animal sounds in the background. Boats can also easily accommodate passengers in wheelchairs.

"We've been supplying the industry with water [boat] rides for more than four years," said Chutter. "In fact, we've made accessible boat rides before, but this was a completely new loading/off-loading design, specifically for Morgan's. It was important to Gordon Hartman that there be no separation between typical and special-needs guests. With past accessible boat

rides, guests in wheelchairs had to wait in a separate line and board the boat via a specially-made ramp, where they would ride alone.

"With our design, all guests can queue together and the boats can be boarded from anywhere on the platform by simply wheeling straight on and off. Guests in wheelchairs can ride with family, friends, and care-givers in the same boat, allowing them to share the experience. Modifying the station elevation also allows guests with ambulatory challenges to step in and out of the boat, instead of over the sides. It's not just about accessibility, it's about inclusion."

Waterproof wheelchairs are provided at the park on a first-come, first-served basis free of charge.

"We refer to Morgan's Inspiration Island as ultra-accessible," said Hartman. "By that, we want to ensure that every guest can fully experience all the splashy fun we have to offer. This certainly includes guests who rely on expensive, battery-powered wheelchairs for mobility and who can't afford to get them wet. So, we reached out to Dr. Rory Cooper and his team at the University of Pittsburgh's Human Engineering Research Laboratories. The result was the PneuChair, a revolutionary waterproof wheelchair propelled entirely

► See MORGAN'S, page 23



The new expansion is a perfect way for all guests to cool off in the Texas heat. AT/TIM BALDWIN



## ►MORGAN'S

Continued from page 22

by compressed air. It weighs much less than traditional wheelchairs, it takes just 10 minutes to recharge and it's easier to maintain and repair."

"I think we take for granted our ease of access to the world and how something as simple as splashing around on a hot day isn't an indulgence everyone gets to experience," added Chutter. "It's hard not to be moved by Morgan's and their mandate to ensure that every single one of their guests is able to fully enjoy their parks."

"Inclusion and accessibility are two of the most important words in our vocabulary," said Hartman. "I truly believe our inclusivity and accessibility inspire special-needs guests to do things previously thought not to be in their range of capabilities. My dream is for everyone who enters Morgan's Wonderland and Morgan's Inspiration Island to be treated to an outstanding guest experience that



The park's iconic lighthouse (left) can be seen from the highway half a mile from the park. All splashing elements are themed to inspire imagination. AT/TIM BALDWIN



exceeds their expectations and lifts their spirits."

With the addition of Morgan's Inspiration Island, Morgan's Wonderland isn't content to rest on its laurels just yet.

"Now that Morgan's Inspiration Island is open, my focus will be on roller coasters — virtual roller coaster rides to be precise," said Ron Morander, general manager. "At Morgan's Wonderland and Morgan's Inspiration Island, we have adopted a policy that if a guest in a wheelchair can-

not do it, we don't do it.

"Virtual is our focus for two reasons. First, we don't have enough land for a traditional roller coaster, and second, we've found no way for a guest in a wheelchair to stay in their wheelchair and ride a coaster. There have been rides in which the guest can transfer to an accessible seat, but not all of our guests can transfer, thus excluding them. Therefore, Morgan's Wonderland is looking for different options, and I'm definitely open to input."

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# Volcano Bay dazzles as Orlando's newest park

AT: Tim Baldwin

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ORLANDO, Fla. — Central Florida, being the theme park mecca that it is, is no stranger to the ever-evolving growth of parks, but each time a new park does materialize, it is undoubtedly something special.

In the past two decades, Universal has aimed high at creating a full vacation experience by expanding on the original park that opened in 1990. The resort acquired Wet 'n' Wild in 1998 to offer more for guests and to keep them close by, but the opening of Islands of Adventure in 1999 and the inclusion of City Walk and on-site hotels made for a more fleshed-out vacation destination. The addition of Harry Potter themed lands further solidified the resort's presence. In time, the Universal team could see that just maintaining an aging water park — historic that it was [see AT Nov II 2016] — was not quite in the vision of what the resort hoped to accomplish. Once Wet 'n' Wild closed its doors last New Year's Eve, the world watched as its replacement started to rise.

When asked why Wet 'n' Wild no longer seemed a viable product, Jeff Polk, vice president — water parks, Universal Orlando Resort, told *Amusement Today*: "As we continued to add more immersive experiences to our first two theme parks and Universal's CityWalk, the concept to create an entirely new water theme park never left our minds. Wet 'n' Wild was a wonderful addition to our destination for many years but we wanted to

creatively challenge ourselves in spanning beyond the traditional water park model with next-generation experiences and innovative technology."

Volcano Bay premiered on May 25, 2017.

Its goals were ambitious. Minimal wait times, no carrying rafts, no overcrowding. Combine all that in a lush, themed environment, and the 25-acre water park was on track to be Orlando's newest wow.

Utilizing space available, visitors park in Universal Orlando's massive parking garages and are then transported to the entrance of the water park. The winding path takes guests to a grand entrance. Upon entry, they come in contact with the park's most notable innovation: the TapuTapu bracelet. Each guest receives one upon entering the park, and the high-tech system provides many services. TapuTapu reserves rides for guests, opens lockers, initiates interactive play elements, and can even be used for payment if the guest links a credit card to the system.

"The vision for Universal's Volcano Bay was to create a new water theme park experience for our guests — providing an entirely new level of freedom and fun with their friends and family," said Polk.

Each of the major rides has a reservation totem that allows guests to tap in for their ride time. From there, they are instructed to "go play." Once their reservation is held, guests can relax lounging at the beach, enjoy something to eat, play in the park's beautiful wave pool or enter either of two rivers.



**The dramatic presence of Volcano Bay's mountainous centerpiece is iconic. The water park's attractions (right) are large ProSlide installations built for capacity.**  
AT/TIM BALDWIN

High tech and innovative as it is, the TapuTapu system is one of the key components the park has continued to refine. Universal wants the experience to be precise, giving guests a visit like no other they've had at other parks.

The theming, however, sets the stage for that. The 200-foot volcano stands centerpiece. With cascading waterfalls and a large lagoon at its base, the setting couldn't be more photogenic.

"The inspiration behind the theming of Volcano Bay came from the tropical islands



of the South Pacific," said Polk. "Our Universal Creative team travelled to many different islands, each with diverse cultures, and wanted to combine all of this beauty into their creation — their own tropical paradise. They implemented the same creative effort and amount of detail into Volcano Bay as they did The Wizard-

ing World of Harry Potter and beyond. To them, every detail in the park was important in order to remain true to the cultures they sought to represent inside of Volcano Bay. This commitment to immersive authenticity has brought millions of guests to Universal Orlando Resort and what continues to bring guests to Universal's Volcano Bay as well."

Among the sand, tropical foliage and themed buildings, there is a large assortment of waterslides. For the ride product, Universal turned to ProSlide.

"Volcano Bay was (and is) a pure labor of love for ProSlide. We knew it was going to be something very special in the world of water parks, and we worked very hard to ensure that every ride in this world-leading park was a ProSlide ride," said John Collins, marketing creative director for ProSlide Technology.

"The world has never seen a water theme park like Vol-

► See VOLCANO, page 25



**The park's Honu (left) sends riders up and down two Wave walls to deliver weightlessness. At right, two-story cabanas are not only beautiful but incredibly popular.** AT/TIM BALDWIN





## ►VOLCANO

Continued from page 24

no Bay, and the entire ProSlide Team is thrilled that we are able to be a part of it," said Rick Hunter, president and CEO of ProSlide.

There is a wide selection of waterslides and the majority of the offerings deliver high capacity.

"They did indeed have an emphasis toward high-capacity family attractions with multiple riders," said Collins. "At Volcano Bay, we've included several five-person raft rides, a multi-lane headfirst mat racer with four lanes, two-person tubing rides with rapid dispatch, and of course the rivers and waves, which are natural high-volume 'people eaters' as they are known."

Collins sites several reasons big parks are turning to multi-passenger product: "Family rides are highly entertaining. When your whole group can get in one raft and sit facing each other ready to take on whatever the ride throws at you, it becomes a real shared experience, a family experience that brings you together for excitement and fun. Overall capacity is of course a driving need for parks. They are businesses, after all, and as in many businesses, volume of customers is a key consideration," he said.

"Universal wanted to be on the cutting edge of water rides, and this being a water theme park and not considered a traditional water park meant that the attractions needed to be a step and level above what was currently in the marketplace, as well as being innovative and ground breaking all at once," said Andreas Tanzer, research design, ProSlide. "Both these aspects required that these waterslides be of the highest capacity possible, but also keeping them unique in the marketplace."

ProSlide confirmed that Volcano Bay boasts three world's firsts:

•**Honu** is an all-new ProSlide Double TornadoWave, a never-before-seen thriller that sweeps riders up one massive wall and then into a breathtaking drop before entering a second zero gravity wall experience – giving guests double the near-vertical zero-gravity sensation in one ride.

•**Maku** is the world's first ProSlide FlyingSaucer 60, a high-speed, high-adrenaline



Runamukka Reef (above left) is a very popular kids' play area. Thrillseekers enjoy Krakatau Aqua Coaster (above right) featuring seven up-and-down hills. Below, all of the structures on property sport an exotic Pacific theme. AT/TIM BALDWIN

rush that banks riders along the massive saucer, sticking tight to the wall as the five-to-six-person rafts drop and dive.

•**Puihi** is the debut of the first-ever six-person ProSlide Tornado 32, a unique funnel-based journey alternating between weightless hang time and intense G-forces.

ProSlide also supplied several of their favorites as well. The Krakatau Aqua Coaster is possibly the park's most popular ride. At more than 1,580-feet, the course has four-passenger, inline boats travel up and down seven hills (more than any other water coaster) using the company's magnetic HydroMagnetic Rocket technology. It also features the highest drop of this genre of ride.

Three drop capsule slides, all within the upper caverns of the volcano, plummet riders from staggering heights. Ko'okiri Body Plunge is the world's tallest at 125-feet.

Runamukka Reef is a massive next-generation ProSlide WaterKingdom play structure with kids' versions of popular rides.

"The extensive theming at Volcano Bay presented several opportunities, and of course some challenges along the way," Collins told AT. "We worked hand-in-hand with Universal's world-class creative team in the design and engineering phase of the project, collaborating closely to ensure tight interactivity and integration with all elements of the park, from the rides to the theming to the services and amenities and more."

Tanzer added, "Universal pulled together a great team of people to work with. Our designers, engineers, and project teams worked tightly in collaboration with their teams to ensure that clearances were met as closely as possible. There are some areas where the collabo-

ration needed to be maintained very tight such that the water rides would maintain a level of clearance for the riding patrons and accessibility for their technical services personnel."

"The integration was intensive, and the scheduling was a massive challenge that energized everyone at ProSlide and pushed us to do what is arguably among our best work to date. We absolutely loved the precise coordination required as several trades were on site at the same time, all working feverishly to ensure that deadlines were met and expectations exceeded," Collins said.

Among the amenities of the park, Volcano Bay features multiple themed dining outlets, a bar, changing facilities, several lounging areas — the largest being on a sandy beach. There are concierge stations around the park to help guests with questions and to address any technical issues with bracelets. Walkways are kept sprayed to keep surfaces comfortable to the feet. Upon opening, dining options had a tropical flair, with exotic flavors and dishes from South Pacific cultures. In the past months, the park has addressed guest requests for more typical fare.

"Volcano Bay is a brand new water theme park and it's natural for us to refine and adjust some of the details as we go," said Polk. "This includes our restaurant menus."

Like many attractions in Orlando, Volcano Bay comes with its own storyline and legend. As it goes, the Watari people were destined to follow a golden fish across the seas to a new home. The island paradise was formed by the fiery god, Krakatau. Trying to separate his daughter from her true love for a native youth, he caused her great unhappiness and formed the volcano letting the sky and land meet after his



daughter's tears had formed the sea.

The vast majority of guests will never hear this story or see it conveyed. But, it matters not. They have found themselves in a one-of-a-kind oasis that is truly iconic in the world of water parks. The Universal Creative team and the partners involved have pushed the envelope.

"The sense of camaraderie and teamwork that was fos-

tered during this entire project among all the trades was remarkable. We all knew that the park was absolutely opening when it was scheduled to open, and despite the challenges inherent in an exercise involving so many moving parts, the collective team of ProSlide, Universal, and the myriad trades involved in the theming and overall construction pulled together and got it done," said Collins.



Despite the park being new, the landscaping is lush and beautiful. AT/TIM BALDWIN



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**Seven Seas Waterpark** in the Philippines plans to open in October, despite civil unrest within the country. **Elpidio Paras**, owner of the Seven Seas Waterpark in Northern Mindanao, said he initially planned to open the park at the end of the year when martial law was scheduled to end. To ensure the security of guests at the water park, Paras said the facility will have its own security manager who will oversee security concerns.

Martial law was imposed by the Philippine House of Representatives after Islamic militants seized control of the nearby city of Marawi in May in an attempt to create an Islamic caliphate in the predominantly Muslim city.

"The problem in Marawi is diminishing, there has been no effect in the business here in Cagayan de Oro, that is why we're pushing for its opening," Paras said.

The pirate-themed, 17-acre water park was modeled after various water parks abroad and includes 20 different slides and a variety of other attractions. Future plans call for the addition of a hotel.

In an attempt to pay down debt and free up capital, **Village Roadshow Ltd.** plans to sell and lease back its Gold Coast site that houses **Warner Bros. Movie World** and **Wet 'n' Wild Gold Coast**. The site also includes **Paradise Country**, **Australian Outback Spectacular** and **Village Roadshow Studios**.

"This sale and leaseback will unlock value in these land assets, allowing VRL to pay down debt and free up capital for growth initiatives such as Topgolf," said **Clark Kirby**, chief executive of the theme park division. "We expect interest from institutions, trusts and high net wealth individuals worldwide, and we are expecting offers in the region of \$100 million."

The lease agreement includes rent of AU\$6.2 million the first year rising 3% each subsequent year for an initial term of 30 years. The purchaser could potentially double the investment purchase over the 30-year term.

**Premier Parks** plans to construct a water park in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on city land near Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. Plans show a lazy river, wave pool, family raft ride, mat racer and a tower complex with four major **ProSlide** waterslides possibly to include a saucer slide, bowl slide and tornado. The park will also offer a kids area specially designed for children age seven and younger. CEO **Kieran Burke** promised the park will have state-of-the-art attractions and a resort feel with cabanas, restaurants, bars and other amenities. City commissioners have already agreed to the plan but specific terms of the deal such as rent to the city and profit-sharing will be negotiated in the coming months. If the process continues unabated, the park plans to open in 2019.

The **Big Pineapple**, a once-popular tourist attraction in Queensland, Australia, is a step closer to a major transformation. In September, a master plan redevelopment was submitted to the Sunshine Coast Council for approval. Plans call for a multi-million dollar overhaul with a water park, resort, RV park, ropes course and zip lines. The Big Pineapple is part of the Big Things icons that dot the landscape throughout Australia. It opened on the former Sunshine Plantation in the 1960s and has become one of the most widely recognized Big Thing in Queensland.



## NEWSPLASH

AT: Jeffery L. Seifert  
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In addition to the 52-foot Big Pineapple structure, the complex includes retail and restaurant spaces, a train and Nutmobile ride, demonstration crops, rainforest, macadamia nut factory, greenhouses, a farm show, wildlife gardens, and animal nursery. It represents an early attempt at agri-tourism in Queensland. The attraction went into receivership in 2009 and closed in 2010. **Brad Rankin** and **Peter Kendall**, both from the Sunshine Coast construction industry, purchased the attraction in January with the hopes of restoring tourism to the area.

A Canadian developer intends to go ahead with his plans to build a \$20 million, 40,000-square-foot indoor water park in downtown Niagara Falls, N.Y. **Michael DiCenzo** is proposing a 200-suite addition to the existing **Sheraton at the Falls Hotel** on third street, near the **Seneca Niagara Casino**, along with the addition of the indoor water park.

DiCenzo has sought assistance from the state of New York, but the state is already backing a water park as part of the Wonder Falls project. That project, proposed by key donors to the current governor, was announced three years ago but has yet to get off the ground. DiCenzo may be able to take advantage of a new program from **NY State Senator Robert Ort** that helps entrepreneurs build attractions in the vicinity of the casino. "We put our application in for that, and I understand we may be heard in a months' time," DiCenzo said. DiCenzo's family also owns the nearby Days Inn, and six successful hotels in Niagara Falls, Ont., including the **Sheraton at the Falls** and **Fallsview** indoor water park.

The city of Calgary, Alta., is making three of the city's spray parks more accessible by adding waterproof wheelchairs. The chairs are waterproof and wick moisture away, ensuring users can dry off and those grabbing the chair after it has already been in the water won't have to sit on a wet seat. Adjustable straps, head rests and brakes make the chairs as customizable as possible and allows for children to either play independently, or with help. The **Children's Charity of Alberta** (Variety Alberta) an organization that supports children with disabilities, helped advocate for the chairs, but the project is a city initiative.

**Larry Horeczy**, managing director and project director for Variety, said the organization's experience with the park they helped build in South Glenmore proves accessibility is important. "Everything that we've seen completely reinforces what we heard, which was, if you build it to be fully inclusive, all children are going to enjoy it and all children want to come here," he said.

**Polin Waterparks** has opened its first Splash Cabin, the industry's first interactive water-powered game. Introduced at the 2016 IAAPA Expo last November, Splash Cabin opened in September at Turkey's **Aquafantasy Waterpark**. The game allows two players to engage in a water-filled battle with animated competitors using an interactive screen. Guests score points by hitting moving targets while trying to avoid being hit themselves by water jets shooting from screen-embedded noz-

zles. At the end of the session, the loser of the game gets doused with water. To create Splash Cabin, Polin partnered with **Lagotronics** of the Netherlands. It is a wet version of Lagotronics GameCABIN. The game is adjustable with a maximum time of two minutes. After the game is over, guests can share their experiences through social media integration with the attraction.

**Great Wolf Resorts, Inc.**, looking to expand into Northern Calif., has been working with the city of Gilroy as a potential location for a new **Great Wolf Lodge** resort and water park. Great Wolf had been working with the city of Brentwood, Calif. from mid-2016 into 2017. An announcement at the end of August that Gilroy had entered a 60-day exclusivity period with Great Wolf Resorts, shattered the hopes of officials in Brentwood. However, the director of media communications for Great Wolf Lodge, issued a statement from the development team indicating that Brentwood is still in the running, despite the announcement.

The proposed resort would include up to 700 family suites, shops, restaurants, conference facilities, and the requisite indoor water park for which Great Wolf Lodge has become famous.

A location in Gilroy has the potential to draw visitors from the San Francisco Bay area, Silicon Valley, Central Valley, San Jose and the Central Coast region. Brentwood, which is farther north could draw from Sacramento as well as the San Francisco area. The site in Gilroy is adjacent to the existing Gilroy Gardens theme park. If either city and GWRI reach an agreement, construction could begin as early as December 2019.

**Coral Reef Waterworld** in Bracknell, England, reopened its doors in September following a £13m (\$17 million) transformation and installation of five new state-of-the-art waterslides. The waterslides feature sound and lasers and LED light shows as well as 360-degree video projections. The five new slides replace three body flumes that had outlived their usefulness. The Cannon, a body speed slide with drop capsule, features an audible countdown and contains speed sensors. A large LED screen will display each rider's speed at the conclusion of the ride. Storm Chaser utilizes a multi-passenger raft and riders can choose one of eight different adventures for their ride. Each adventure features a different combination of colors and sound effects. Families with young children can ride together on Aqua Splash with its tranquil colors and gentler sounds. Fifteen touch pads illuminate inside the tube and riders score points during the journey, by touching the pad. Each pad reacts with color and sound. Poseidon's Peril features 20 individual light rings that change color and rotate, giving riders the sensation of swirling and increasing speed.

Coral Reef is located east of London and is accessible by rail or car.

Attendance at the recently opened **Six Flags Hurricane Harbor** in Oaxtepec, Mexico, has exceeded expectations to the point that Six Flags is already considering expansion. Currently only 67 acres of the nearly 300-acre site are developed, leaving plenty of opportunity for expansion. Six Flags opened the water park in June following two years of planning and reconstruction. The property is leased from the Mexican Social Security Institute and dates back to the 1940s when the Mexican government built a competition pool using fresh water from the local lakes.



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# PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Quassy adds two new rides —Page 32 / FAIRS — Pages 37-42

## Gillian's adds two thrill rides: ARM drop tower and Moser thrill ride

AT: B. Derek Shaw  
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OCEAN CITY, N.J. — Gillian's Wonderland Pier increased its ride count by two for this season with the addition of an ARM/Larson Super Shot Tower and a Moser Rides Flipping Action Arm. One takes residence on the upper deck while the other found a spot on the lower deck.

The 130-foot-tall Drop Tower gives riders a breathtaking experience as they accelerate towards the ground at speeds reaching 47 mph that also affords great aerial views of Ocean City. The car glides to a stop using a magnetic braking system. The drop tower opened in late July.

"Jay Gillian has been really great to work with," related Jeff Novotny, president, Larson International, Inc. "The install went real well — they were well prepared," said Novotny of the five day operation in July that also included load testing. This installation has a guy cable system on it for hurricane forecasts, an extra procedure in areas that are prone to this type of weather activity.

Upper deck visitors will find a Moser thrill ride in the park renamed Super Flipping Arm. The ride takes 12 guests in three gondolas 39-feet over Gillian's Wonderland Pier on a rotating arm. With a footprint of 33-feet by 20-feet, the attraction turns passengers upside-down while spinning around the gondola axis. Additionally the seats make a complete free loop given by the



rotational gravity force. The passenger safety bar is pneumatically operated. According to manufacturer documentation, the ride can accommodate up to 720 passengers per hour.

Gillian's Wonderland Pier was founded in 1929 by David Gillian.

The Super Flipping Arm (above) from Moser Rides is a similar installation to the one that is thrilling guests along Gillian's upper deck. Meanwhile, ARM's 130 foot Drop Tower (right, below) has taken up residence on the facility's lower deck. COURTESY INTERMARK; ARM



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## Quassy adds two new rides, sweet shoppe

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MIDDLEBURY, Conn. — For its 109th season Quassy Amusement Park added two new rides along with a combination sweet shoppe/pizzeria. An SBF/VISA Pirate Jet and Zamperla Samba Balloon ride are now part of the 38-ride arsenal at the family park. These interactive rides that adults can ride with their children are located in Lakeside Kid-land adjacent to Splash Away Bay Waterpark and the Quassy Beach entrance. In total, the park has added seven new rides since 2010.

Ron Gustafson, director of marketing and public relations, explained the selection process. "We spend a lot of time internally researching rides and attractions we feel are appropriate for our family atmosphere here at Quassy. The SBF/VISA Pirate Jet, which we named Skipper's Clippers has numerous interactive components such as push buttons that prompt a variety of short songs and sayings. Joy-sticks raise the lower each ship individually and there are also steering wheels for each rider. The Zamperla Samba Balloon, named Up, Up & Away, is a ride Quassy has long wanted to acquire because of its unique ride action and interactivity. Each balloon basket spins. They have been ideal fits for Quassy."

Crowd reaction has been fantastic, "Parents are riding with their youngsters on both rides — as anticipated — and we repeatedly hear positive comments," said Gustafson. This is the third year in a row Quassy has introduced new rides within the park.

The park also opened a 1,400-square-foot candy store featuring a restored 1920s salt water taffy-making machine. Bella & Bessie's Sweet Shoppe & Pizzeria is located on the site of the former popcorn stand in the heart of the property. This is the first season Quassy has made its own taffy. Other sweets include cotton candy and candy apples along with popcorn. Also home-made pizzas with a variety of toppings are made in the new structure.

"The family (owners) really gave it some thought when it came to naming the new building," said Eric Anderson, park president. The building is

named after two women involved early on during the 80-year family involvement that began in 1937.

Also for this season the Quassy Quest Laser Maze received a major update with the addition of a Beam Buster program from developer Funovation of Longmont, Colo. "This will add another dimension to our popular laser maze," Anderson said of the upgrade of the 2012 addition in the redemption arcade. "Beam Buster is exactly as it sounds: you try to break as many beams of light as possible during the allotted time. The more you break, the better your score."



**Skipper's Clippers**  
(above) the SBF/Visa  
Mini Pirate Jet, from  
Rides 4U and Up,  
Up & Away (right),  
a Zamperla Samba  
Balloon, are new  
family rides on  
the lakefront  
this season at  
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# Silver Dollar City and Mack Rides announce Time Traveler

**Biggest investment in park history has 'world's first' records**

**AT:** Tim Baldwin  
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BRANSON, Mo. — Because of the park's hilly terrain, Silver Dollar City has developed a reputation for iconic, one-of-a-kind rides. On August 16, park management blew the lid off that concept with the announcement of the park's biggest investment ever: Time Traveler.

Designed and manufactured by Mack Rides, Time Traveler will debut with many "world's first" attributes when the coaster opens next spring. Mack Rides has developed various types of spinning coasters before — some are free spinning and some are controlled — but this new installation will be the first on the planet to feature a dual launch, three inversions and a 100-foot vertical drop.

Trains of four cars, with each car seating pairs of riders back to back, will plunge 90-degrees into a 100-foot vertical drop right from the station. Throughout the course, riders will be twisted through three upside-down inversions: a dive loop, a 95-foot-tall vertical loop and a zero-G roll. The two launches differ as the first begins from a total stop and then propels riders 0 to 47 mph in just three seconds. The second launch will use the train's momentum to go from 30 mph to a launched speed of 45. In all, the

twisted configuration will cause the coaster's track to cross over and under itself 14 times in just slightly more than 3,000-feet of track.

Time Traveler comes with a storyline, and in turn, a great message. As the tale is spun, one of Silver Dollar City's residents is a young scientist and inventor who, with his daughter, is inspired by the works of Jules Verne and is determined to build a time machine. The message the father instills in his daughter's devotion is that dreaming is important, but you must do something with those dreams to make a difference. Thus, their mantra — and that of Time Traveler — is "Dream Big. Do Good."

"Several years ago, we started incorporating messages in addition to our attractions," Brad Thomas, park president, told *Amusement Today*. "We did so with Outlaw Run and we paid tribute to our law enforcement and their families; with Fireman's Landing, we told the story of firefighters that work in these rural fire departments; 70 percent of firefighters in America don't receive pay for their work in firefighting. So that story of communities across America and what they need to make their communities better is a story we can tell. As we talk about our attractions, we feel it is important to have a deeper message."

In the past two years, the park management began looking at what might be available



**The first drop of Time Traveler will be a 90-degree, 100-foot vertical plunge from the station. AT/TIM BALDWIN**

for the next big project. They had decided upon a roller coaster and started looking at options. They wanted something novel and unique, but would still fit into the look and feel of Silver Dollar City. A visit to Europa-Park two years ago began discussions of the possibility of the launched spinning coaster. The first experience involved a

test vehicle with no control in regard to the spin. Thomas said the experience was too extreme for the park's audience. This led Mack Rides to develop a governed spin on the vehicle, which was then deemed the right fit for what the Herschend team was looking for.

"After some test runs, like Silver Dollar City, we were concerned the spinning may be too high," said Dennis Gordt, engineer, Mack Rides. "It was very important to create a ride that was appealing to a broad audience. It was our idea to design an onboard magnet and steel fin to interact with each other. If the spinning becomes too much, then the magnetic force will make it reduced. It will be self-controlled and never spin too much. This ride is a big milestone for us. It's one of the biggest rides we have built in the States and we are very excited about it."

"Mack is state-of-the-art engineering and state-of-the-art manufacturing," said Thomas, who was elated to work with Mack Rides. "They are a class company."

The new project comes in at \$26 million. This investment is more than double of any previous investment in park history.

"We had in our strategic plan that 2018 would be a significant investment into Silver Dollar City. Our park performance has been solid over the last decade. We believe that Silver Dollar City could get a return on this level of investment," said Thomas.

As with Outlaw Run in 2013, the park will be introducing a flavor of ice cream based on the new attraction.

"We enjoy building experiences that are really holistic. There is emotion — we are hitting the senses of the guests while they are here at Silver Dollar City. I am hopeful they recognize that through the aromas and the sight and sounds and sensory experiences as they walk through the streets of Silver Dollar City," said Thomas. "We have a willing partner, a local dairy Hiland Dairy, who works with us. Outlaw Run (flavor) was supposed to be a three-month run in the summer of 2013, but it is still available in local markets four years later. We will sell Time Traveler flavor throughout the surrounding area as well as Silver Dollar City. It's actually the one flavor in our shoppe that we don't actually make."

No attractions were removed to add Time Traveler. The park has undergone extensive groundwork due to the hilly and rocky mountainous terrain upon which the new roller coaster is being constructed. It is this unique terrain that allows the 100-foot drop directly from the station.

In addition to the construction going on for Time Traveler, the park's Christmas festival this season is getting a major influx of capital. Christmas in Midtown is a \$1.5 million investment for the park. An additional 1.5 million LED lights will be added to the park's already award-winning Christmas displays and festival. It will bring the cumulative total of lights at the park to 6.5 million.

Thomas truly feels energized not only about the future of Silver Dollar City, but also that of Branson and the surrounding community. "In fulfilling the core foundation of who we are as a company and as a park, it makes sense to promote messages that are more than just a ride. With the character we've introduced with Time Traveler, we want to tell that story of dreaming big, doing good and making a difference," he said.



**With construction underway, the ride's inversions already are in place. Time Traveler will be the only spinning coaster in the world to feature a vertical loop (right). AT/TIM BALDWIN**



## Heavy emphasis on roller coasters, thrill rides

# Cedar Fair invests in lineup of big-ticket attractions for 2018

AT: Dean Lamanna

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SANDUSKY, Ohio — Reporting 2017 net revenues of \$1 billion through Labor Day — down less than one percent compared to last year's record total for the same period — regional theme park and water park operator **Cedar Fair Entertainment Co.** is looking to maintain and improve its results in 2018 by adding major rides in several markets.

With attendance (20.3 million guests), average in-park per capita guest spending and out-of-park revenues also on par with the same period in 2016, Cedar Fair CEO **Matt Ouimet** was optimistic.

"We are pleased with the guest response to our 2017 capital programs," Ouimet said in a season-to-date statement. "Mystic Timbers, our world-class roller coaster at **Kings Island**, and our water park transformations at **Knott's Berry Farm** and **Cedar Point Shores** have delivered attendance above our expectations."

Cedar Fair's 2018 capital investment lineup — announced on National Roller Coaster Day, Aug. 16 — includes four completely new or hybridized roller coasters and expanded family attractions.

### Records on a roll

The company's flagship park, **Cedar Point**, will be a focal point for much of the excitement. The rabid speculation over the transformation of the wooden roller coaster formerly known as Mean Streak was halted at last with the revelation of its new identity, **Steel Vengeance** — a "hyper-hybrid" coaster engineered by **Rocky Mountain Construction** (RMC) of Hayden, Idaho.

The revamped Frontier-Town attraction boasts a dozen or so records and firsts for its type, such as tallest (205-feet), fastest (74 mph), longest (5,740-feet) and number of inversions (four). With a 90-degree first drop, the ride incorporates extreme banking, copious airtime (27.2 seconds) and an entirely new element, the Twisted Snake Dive, which sends the train upside-down briefly and then back in the direction of travel, not completing a full roll.

"This is another roller coaster that only Cedar Point could build," said **Jason McClure**, park vice president and general manager. "There are so many unexpected moments on Steel Vengeance, it's just plain twisted."

It additionally marks the fourth classification of roller coaster introduced by the park to define its ever-higher and more intense rides.

Coaster news also is



**Knott's Berry Farm** in Buena Park, Calif., is jumping back into the thrill coaster game in a major way with next year's arrival of **HangTime**, a dive coaster from Gerstlauer that is the first of its type on the West Coast. It will tower 15 stories, and twist and soar and somersault, over the Boardwalk section of the park. COURTESY CEDAR FAIR

breaking big at Cedar Fair properties in California.

After recently winning city approval for a new master plan, **California's Great America** in Santa Clara is launching an extended period of expansion with **RailBlazer** — a first-of-its-kind single-rail steel coaster from RMC.

The ride features a 106-foot-tall, 90-degree first drop, three inversions and, most strikingly, an eight-person, single-file trains straddling the rail. The unusual seating configuration creates a low center of gravity that amplifies turns, maneuvers and airtime taken at up to 52 mph.

"RailBlazer is a revolutionary roller coaster concept that will be an intense and exhilarating ride experience," said **Raul Rehnberg**, park vice president and general manager. "It kicks off our multi-year transformation into a world-class destination for everyone in the [San Francisco] Bay Area and beyond."

Downstate in Buena Park, **Knott's Berry Farm** has been readying its Boardwalk area for the arrival of **HangTime** — the first dive coaster on the West Coast, an Infinity model from German manufacturer **Gerstlauer Amusement Rides, GmbH**. The ride will send guests 15 stories up a vertical lift to the top of a 96-degree drop; there, the 16-person train pauses momentarily before plunging into 2,198-feet of pretzel-like track with five inversions, including a rare negative-G stall loop.

The coaster's nighttime presentation looks to be as sensational as the ride's design, with multihued LED track lighting "chasing" the trains at up to 57 mph along the undulating course.

"People who crave that adrenaline rush will want to ride this coaster again and again," said **Jon Storbeck**, vice president and general manager of Knott's. "Introducing a coaster like **HangTime** firmly positions us as a must-see attraction among Southern California theme parks."

On the opposite coast, **Kings Dominion** in Doswell, Va., will open **Twisted Timbers**, an RMC hybridization of the former **Hurler** wooden coaster. Located in the Candy Apple Grove section, the ride packs a lot of elements into 3,351 of track, including a 109-foot-tall barrel roll drop, three loops, three overbanked turns and 20 airtime moments at a peak speed of 54 mph.

"Twisted Timbers raises the bar for Kings Dominion's high thrill level," said **Gary Chadwick**, park vice president and general manager. "Adrenaline junkies everywhere will crave experiencing its astonishing twists and revolutions."

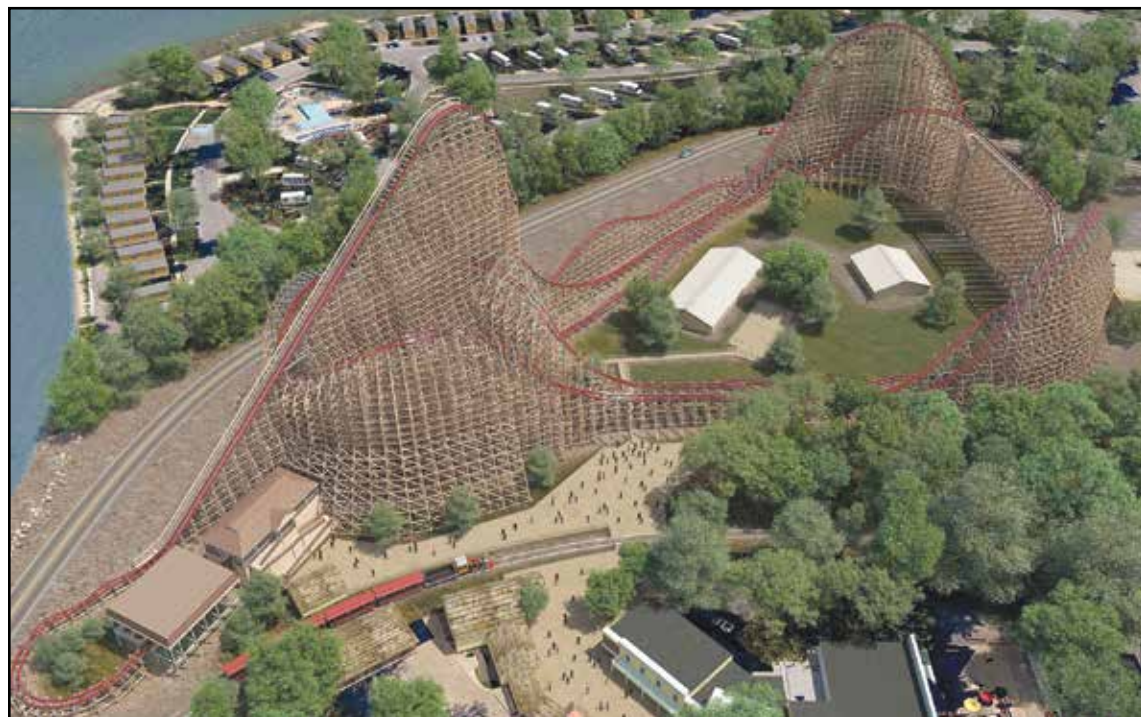
In 2018, **Kings Dominion** also will introduce its own version of **WinterFest**, the elaborate, light-and-music-filled holiday celebration that has proven popular at several other Cedar Fair parks.

### Family fun and more

Catering to a wider age range, **Delirious**, a 70-foot-tall, 360-degree freestanding thrill ride, is headed to **Valleyfair** in Shakopee, Minn.

The attraction, a Giant Loop model from **Larson International** of Plainview, Texas, features a 24-person train that rocks back and forth as it gains momentum on the track. The train then slows to hold riders suspend-

► See CEDAR FAIR, page 35



Cedar Point's once-imposing **Mean Streak** wooden roller coaster is returning with a **Steel Vengeance** next year, thanks to a "hyper-hybrid"-ization by **Rocky Mountain Construction**. The revamped, multi-element marvel will set a number of records for its kind, including tallest (205-feet), fastest (74 mph) and longest (5,740-feet). COURTESY CEDAR FAIR





in the **Splash Works** water park, as well as adding spray features.

Said **Norm Pirtovshek**, park vice president and general manager: "Each year, we are dedicated to providing our guests with new world-class thrills and family entertainment."

Other Cedar Fair parks also are expanding family offerings.

**Worlds of Fun** in Kansas City, Mo., will introduce **Nordic Chaser**, an alternately themed version of the aforementioned **Flying Canoes**, in its Scandinavia area. And **Carowinds** in Charlotte, N.C., will debut an enlarged and enhanced kids' section, **Camp Snoopy**, formerly known as **Planet Snoopy**.

**Camp Snoopy's** features are extensive, with five new Peanuts-themed kiddie rides and an 8,000-square-foot climbing and playing area called **Beagle Scout Acres**. Playground structures, slides and activities will be available for toddlers. Upgrades are being made to the child care facility and **Snack Shack** restaurant, as well.

The growing Peanuts presence at **Carowinds** is an indication of greater family fun to come from Cedar Fair, which announced in mid-September that it had renewed its license agreement to showcase the iconic characters with **Peanuts Worldwide**, a subsidiary controlled by **DHX Media, Ltd.**, and the family of **Charles M. Schulz**, to 2025. The Peanuts characters were first featured in 1983 at **Knott's Berry Farm**, acquired by Cedar Fair in 1997. (See full story, page 43.)

Cedar Fair's Matt Ouimet



Two Cedar fair parks are adding spin next season: **Canada's Wonderland** is installing a family ride called **Flying Canoes** (above), while **Valleyfair** in Shakopee, Minn., is getting **Delirious**, a **Giant Loop** from **Larson International** (below). COURTESY CEDAR FAIR



All trails are leading toward innovation at California's **Great America**: in 2018, the Santa Clara park will introduce **Rail-Blazer**, a first-of-its-kind, single-rail steel coaster with equally unusual single-file train seating. The ride tops out at 106-feet, with a 90-degree first drop. COURTESY CEDAR FAIR

## ►CEDAR FAIR

Continued from page 34

ed upside down before rapidly reversing direction.

**Delirious** joins other improvements in the nostalgia-themed **Route 76** area, such as new shade structures, improved lighting, and enhanced seating and gathering locations.

"**Delirious** is a great addition to the retro family road trip feel of **Route 76**," said **Brad Marcy**, park general manager. "The atmospheric enhancements will allow our Twin Cities neighbors to not only relive memories of visits to **Valleyfair**, but to create new family traditions and

enjoy the 'best day' experience that we strive to give everyone."

**Canada's Wonderland** in Vaughan, Ont., near Toronto, will be throwing its guests for a loop, too, via **Lumberjack** — a thrill ride that swings riders to a height of 75-feet aboard two axe-themed pendulums, finally propelling them 360 degrees.

Also new at the park is **Flying Canoes**, an interactive family attraction with two-person vehicles that can be raised and lowered with manual controls as the ride rotates. Additionally, **Canada's Wonderland** is doubling the size of the children's pool at **Splash Island**, located

is looking forward to the new year with all of these improvements and additional ones, such as high-capacity dining venues and increased resort offerings, planned across the company's 11-park chain.

"We continue to build upon our regional brands

by giving our guests unique entertainment experiences each time they visit our parks," the CEO said. "We are confident that our capital lineup will make 2018 another great year for Cedar Fair."

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\* "Restaurants & Institutions" magazine



# North American fairs report successful events in 2017

**AT:** Pam Sherborne

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Even though weather has been somewhat unpredictable so far in this 2017 fair season, particularly in the southern portion of the U.S., many fair officials are reporting successful events.

The following are recaps of some of those fairs that have taken place.

## Orange County Fair Costa Mesa, Calif.

**2017 date:** July 14-Aug. 13

**2018 date:** July 13-Aug. 12

**2017 attendance:** 1,334,753

**2016 attendance:** 1,344,966

**Midway provider:**

**Ray Cammack Shows**

Attendance at the 2017 Orange County Fair may have been slightly down this year compared to last, but fair officials still feel the fair was a great success.

"The 127th annual OC Fair was a tremendous success in so many ways," said OC Fair CEO Kathy Kramer. "We increased our overall guest enjoyment rating, scoring 4.65 out five according to our 10-day patron survey. I also am very proud of our community give-back programs and was happy to add a new one this year, the OC Fair Kids Club, which provided 952 children from Title 1 programs with a free fair experience."

The results of the patron survey was up from 4.45 out of a five-point rating that was reported last year. Of those surveyed, 28 percent were first-time fairgoers and 48 percent were Orange County residents.

Gross revenue was up approximately two percent this year over 2016.

There were 25,556 guests that took advantage of the fair's Super Pass. That was a 42 percent increase over last year.

Ray Cammack Shows provided the midway with over 65 rides. The top ride this year was the new La Grande Wheel XL, designed and manufactured by Ronald Bussink of Professional Rides AG. The carnival took delivery of the 50-meter-high portable wheel in April.

There were 4,219 exhibitors who submitted 23,000 entries this year, which is a 20 percent increase in exhibitors over last year and a 112 percent increase in entries. Nearly \$90,000 was awarded in prize money and nearly 10,000 prize ribbons were handed out.

The Junior Livestock Auction sold 299 animals for a total of \$275,533.



**Ray Cammack Shows provided the midway this year for the Orange County Fair, Costa Mesa, Calif., held July 14-Aug. 13. The carnival brought in over 65 rides including its new 50-meter-high La Grande Wheel XL, designed and manufactured by Ronald Bussink of Professional Rides AG. The 2017 fair drew 1,334,753 fairgoers this year.**

COURTESY ORANGE COUNTY FAIR

For the foodie: Bacon A Fair sold 4,900 "Unicorn" Pork Legs and fairgoers bought 20,000 pounds of bacon; Chicken Charlie's sold 6,000 Fried Peanut Butter Meatballs, 4,000 Krispy Kreme Ice Cream Chicken Sandwiches, 4,500 Funnel Cake Burritos, 15,000 Pupu Wings and 6,000 Luau Chimichangas; and Juicy's sold 40,005 turkey legs.

Ray Cammack Shows' food vendors mixed and fried over one ton of funnel cake batter, sold 12,000-feet of churros and 22,500 pounds of fries. They also fried an entire semi-trailer full of Oreos and sold four semi-trailers worth of cotton candy, not to mention the truckload of Flamin' Hot Cheetos, two entire fields of corn, 2,200 pounds of fresh strawberries, 10,000 pounds of cane sugar, 7,000 pounds of ribs and 1,200 pounds of popcorn seed that were used on the midway.

## Wisconsin State Fair West Allis, Wisc.

**2017 date:** Aug. 3-13

**2018 date:** Aug. 2-12

**2017 attendance:** 1,028,049

**2016 attendance:** 1,015,815

**Midway provider:**

**Independent midway**

Except for some rain on opening day, the Wisconsin State Fair enjoyed great weather for the remaining 10 days of the event.

The fair also celebrated its 166th birthday and 125 years at its current location.

There were approximately 50 midway rides and attractions this year including the new WonderFair Wheel, a Lamberink wheel owned by Michael Wood and Frank Zaitshik, owner, Wade Shows. The new wheel, which stands 45-meters tall, gave almost 82,000 rides during the fair. The two owners took delivery of the wheel in February of this year.

Food facts for this year include: Catalano's squeez-

## FAIR ROUNDUP

ing more than 42,000 lemons to make lemonade; Albanese's Roadhouse selling just short of 10,000 spaghetti and meatballs mozzarella sticks, which, not coincidentally, was this year's Sporkies champion (the fair's food competition); and 408,000 cream puffs were eaten.

There were nearly 3,700 exhibitors at the this year's fair taking part in contests in art, agriculture, cooking, horticulture and more.

## Iowa State Fair Des Moines, Iowa

**2017 date:** Aug. 10-20

**2018 date:** Aug. 9-19

**2017 attendance:** 1,130,071

**2016 attendance:** 1,031,278

**Midway provider:**

**Independent midway**

An attendance record was set this year at the Iowa State Fair with 1,130,071 visitors. The fair first topped the million mark in 2002. In 2008, attendance reached 1,109,150, which remained the top figure until 2015 when it drew 1,117,398 that shattered the 2008 record. The 2017 number now has overtaken that record.

One of the biggest changes for this year's fair was seen on the midway. Belle City Amusements' contract as midway provider was up in 2016 so Gary Slater, fair CEO, decided to try an independent midway. The fair booked in about 60 rides from 20 different operators.

In addition, there were three ride sections, Thrill Ville, Thrill Town (the kiddie section), and Thrill Zone, the location of the larger rides.

The new ride locations provided more open pathways, better lighting and easy access for law enforcement.

Other changes to the fairgrounds this year included

eight new shuttle trams and a new road that connects to 20 acres of parking.

The Iowa Foundation for Agricultural Advancement (IFAA) raised \$352,600 for the 16 exhibitors of 4-H and FFA Grand and Reserve Champion livestock in the Sale of Champions Saturday at the 2017 Iowa State Fair.

Three champion records were broken during the 2017 Sale. The Grand Champion FFA Market Hog stole the show bringing an all-time record for any species with \$54,000, selling for \$1,000 more than the record in 2016. The Grand Champion 4-H Meat Goat sold for \$19,000 and the Grand Champion FFA Meat Goat sold for \$16,000, which both set new record prices for each species.

## Pacific National Exposition Vancouver, B.C., Canada

**2017 date:** Aug. 19-Sept. 5

**2018 date:** Aug. 18-Sept. 3

**2017 attendance:** 722,466

**2016 attendance:** 712,367

**Midway provider:** West Coast Amusements

A total of 722,466 people

walked through the gates this year at the PNE, an increase over 2016's figure as well as the 2015 attendance of 678,193.

Sunny skies and strong programming are being attributed for the strong numbers. Officials also feel the strong entertainment mix helped boost attendance as well. Some of the entertainment this year included the largest ever traveling exhibit of the Hockey Hall of Fame, Toytopia: an exhibition about the history of toys, Northern Light Sky (a new nightly drone show), and a number of Canadian-themed shows and programs throughout each day.

New attractions complemented traditional favorites such as Superdogs, the extensive agricultural displays including the Kids Discovery Farm, the PNE Prize Home program, and Dueling Pianos.

West Coast Amusements provided the midway with 54 rides.

Some fun food facts from this year's 75 vendors at the event include: 25,000 pounds of dough used to make mini doughnuts at Those Little Donuts stand; 150,000 crickets served in burgers, fries at the Gourmet Burgers stand; 360 kilograms of cheese used at Reel Mac and Cheese; 12,000 pounds of potatoes used at Jimmy's Lunch; 6,000 pounds of onions used at Jimmy's Lunch; and 750 gallons of gravy used at The Fry Guys.

## Indiana State Fair Indianapolis, Ind.

**2017 date:** Aug. 4-20

**2018 date:** Aug. 3-19

**2017 attendance:** 906,732

**2016 attendance:** 731,543

**Midway Provider:** North American Midway Entertainment (NAME)

► See **ROUNDUP**, page 38



**West Coast Amusements provided the midway this year for the PNE, Vancouver, B.C., which was held Aug. 4-20. The midway, as well as all of the other variety of entertainment attributed to this year's success. The fair drew 722,466 fairgoers this year. COURTESY GINA GUGLIELMI**



## ►ROUNDUP

Continued from page 37

The 2017 Indiana State Fair, themed "The Wonderful World of Food," welcomed a total of 906,732 fairgoers through its gates over a 17-day run this year marking an increase over 2016 of 24 percent.

Fair officials attributed the success this year to several factors including fantastic weather, new attractions, a variety of food offerings and free entertainment.

"Celebrating 'The Wonderful World of Food' gave us the opportunity to highlight Indiana agriculture and promote it to hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers throughout the state," said Cindy Hoye, executive director, Indiana State Fair.

Twelve food vendors entered the 2017 Taste of the Fair contest in hopes of winning the titles of "Grand Champion," which was awarded to Deep Fried BBQ Bacon, created by reigning champs Goodwin Family Products. This is the third straight year Goodwin has won.

Fairgoers cast their votes for the best Taste of the Fair entry through the Indiana State Fair App and at the fair's information booths.

Among this year's entries were: Peanut Butter Pineapple Pork Burger by Indiana Pork Producers; The Mouse Trap by Dairy Bar; Corn Dog Split by

Gobble Gobble; Dirty Tots, Red Frazier Bison; and Mini Funnel Cake Strawberry Shortcake, Urick's Concessions LLC.

### Kentucky State Fair Louisville, Ky.

2017 date: Aug. 17-27

2018 date: Aug. 16-26

2017 attendance: 609,555

2016 attendance: 564,937

Midway provider:  
North American Midway Entertainment (NAME)

The 113th Kentucky State Fair drew 44,618 more fairgoers this year than last. Fair officials attributed the success to great weather, new features and events, and promotional discount days.

"The Kentucky State Fair is a tradition for generations of families across the commonwealth," said Jason Rittenberry, CEO and president of Kentucky Venues. "We want to preserve the fair's heritage, while also introducing exciting new events, foods, music, entertainment and features to make the fairgoer's experience better every year."

The 2017 fair established a strong social media presence, resulting in record-breaking online traffic. Between Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, there were over 13 million impressions, 30,000 engagements and a 100.9 percent increase in fans. More than 230,000 individuals visited the website during the fair.

Nearly 14,000 people



**Like so many other U.S. fairs held in the past couple of months, the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis, Aug. 3-19, reported an increase of attendance over 2016 of 24 percent. The fair drew 906,732 fairgoers this year. NAME provided the midway. COURTESY INDIANA STATE FAIR**

downloaded the new fair App, which was available free on Google Play and the App Store. Popular features included the map, what's happening, schedule creator, entertainment and concessions.

Also introduced this year were express lanes that helped speed visitors with pre-paid tickets through the gates.

The first annual FAIRenheit festival was held in Cardinal Stadium, celebrating all things local: the talent, entertainment, food, craft breweries and distilleries that have made Louisville famous.

### New York State Fair Syracuse, N.Y.

2017 date: Aug. 23-Sept. 4

2018 date: Aug. 22-Sept. 3

2017 attendance: 1,161,912

2016 attendance: 1,117,630

Midway provider:

Wade Shows

The 2017 Great New York State Fair concluded a successful year by breaking two records on its final day. Labor Day attendance of 124,819 not only set the record for the most people to come to the fair on a single day, it also drove the fair to an all-time annual attendance record of 1,161,912.

The fair set a total of four daily attendance records, including breaking the record for the largest single-day audience ever twice, as well as the annual attendance record.

"The fair is a great New York tradition that is enjoying a renaissance thanks to our investments in the grounds and the strength of its programming," New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said. "These investments are paying off in growing numbers of people, which in turn will continue to help Central New York's econo-

my continue to rise."

The fair also set records for sales of its two signature food items — baked potatoes and milk. Through day 12, which was Sunday, Sept. 3, the Great Baked Potato Booth sold 59,946 white and sweet potatoes with all the fixings, eclipsing a two-year-old record.

And the Milk Bar, operated for the first time directly by the fair, sold more than 420,000 cups of white and chocolate milk by midday on Sunday, a record amount for the year.

This is the second fair since the implementation of Cuomo's \$50 million plan to revitalize the nation's oldest state fair.

The fairgrounds received a beautiful new main gate, a RV park that supports both the fair and its year-round facilities rental business, and large, open spaces that allow for expanded fair programming and larger events on the grounds year-round.

The second, \$70 million phase of renovations, to begin later this year, involves building a 133,000-square-foot expo center that can host many types

of major events.

Wades Shows provided approximately 65 rides at this year's fair.

### Erie County Fair Hamburg, N.Y.

2017 date: Aug. 9-20

2018 date: Aug. 8-19

2017 attendance: 1,193,279

2016 attendance: 985,642

Midway provider:

Strates Shows

One month to the day after an EF-2 tornado hit the Erie County Fairgrounds, the 178th Erie County Fair in Hamburg concluded its 12-day run. Final attendance for 2017 is 1,193,279. This is a 21 percent increase from 2016 and is the second highest attended fair in the Erie County Fair's history. The all-time attendance record was achieved in 2014, with 1,220,101 fairgoers.

Five hundred food items were available at over 125 food stands year. The fair debuted a culinary arts center called the "Erie County Fair Cooks! Kitchen & Shoppe," with a "primary mission...is to highlight regionally sourced and grown products, promote easy to cook at home meal options and to expose fairgoers to Western New York's dynamic culinary scene," said Dennis Lang, Erie County Fair CEO and manager.

Fair officials had scheduled about 60 demonstrations at the new area.

An annual food event is the New Food Showdown. The winner this year was Crab Stuffed Pierogi by Babcici's Pierogi. Some of the other entries included: Nuttella by Pizza Amore; Death by Chocolate, Taylor's DoughBoy; Stuffed Hot Mac & Cheese, Mineo & Sapio; and Balsamic Bruschetta on Rustic Flatbread, Salvatore's Pizza.

Strates Shows, which has been providing the midway since 1924, provided 70 rides and 100 games this year.



**This year was a record-breaker for the New York State Fair, Syracuse, Aug. 23-Aug. 4. The fair shattered overall attendance figures drawing 1,161,912 fairgoers as well as set four new daily attendance figures. A mix of entertainment including amusement rides, musical talent and grounds entertainment such as this stilt walker (left) helped attribute to the success. Above, an overview shows the size of the grounds that are currently undergoing a massive renovation over the next few years.**

COURTESY NEW YORK STATE FAIR



**One month to the day after an EF-2 tornado hit the Erie County Fairgrounds, the 178th Erie County Fair in Hamburg, held Aug. 9-20, concluded its 12-day run. Final attendance for 2017 is 1,193,279, a 21 percent over 2016. Strates Shows provided the midway. COURTESY ERIE COUNTY FAIR**





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A promotional graphic for the Wave Rider ride. It features a man surfing on a large wave. The text "WAVE RIDER" is at the top in large, blue, outlined letters. Below it, "PATENT PENDING" is written in smaller white letters. The SBF logo is in the bottom left, and the Visa Group logo is at the bottom. The phrase "Wish You Were Here!" is written in a stylized, yellow, cursive font across the bottom right of the graphic.

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## MIDWAYLIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

The **2017 Big E**, West Springfield, Mass., Sept. 15-Oct. 1, will just be wrapping up when this issue of AT is published.

Fair officials were hoping for another big event, but no matter what the outcome, they know fairgoers will be met with great fair food.

Some new foods announced this year are: Amy's Sweet Treats Belgian Waffle Sandwich with two thin waffles served hot and fresh with Neapolitan Hard Ice Cream in the middle; Porky's BBQ Brisket Sundae; and Hofbrau Joe's Burger Bomb, a five-ounce burger patty topped with cheese, bacon, onions and sauerkraut before being wrapped in a pastry dough, deep fried and served in a pool of goulash, and fried Shrimp Tacos with diced onions, tomatoes, lettuce, cheese and chipotle mayo served in a soft corn tortilla shell.

The **West Springfield Lions Club** added a Flatliner Burger with two layers of a cheeseburger and chili, topped with French fries, cheese sauce and bacon.

Also new this year: Sweet Pepper Bacon at the Burgundy Brook Café; Waffle Chicken Bites from The Deep South Company; Deluca's new Chicken Parmigiana Sandwich; and Pop 'N Fresh's new Pumpkin Pie Funnel Cake and Coffee Break's Deep Fried Holy Cannoli served with chocolate chip ice cream, hot fudge, caramel, cinnamon, sugar and whipped cream.

In the offseason this past year, the **Kansas State Fair**, Hutchinson, which was held Sept. 8-18, upgraded to an electronic ticketing system, allowing fairgoers the chance to buy tickets in advance.

Ticket purchasers received a code in their e-mail, which was then scanned by people at the gate.

For those without smart phones, tickets were still sold at the gate. Visitors had to get a print-out code instead of the standard cardboard tickets the fair used to use.

The **New Mexico State Fair**, Albuquerque, Sept. 7-17, featured a new area this year for children and adults with special needs. Called the Sensory Station, it provided a safe space for sensory sensitive guests, including those who are autistic.

It was set up in the Youth Hall on the grounds and stayed open until 6 p.m. every evening of the fair.

Fair officials said this was a step toward inclusion at the fair, making sure everyone gets to enjoy it. There also were regular visits from therapy dogs and meet-and-greets with the state fair queen.

Officials of the **State Fair of Texas**, Dallas, set for Sept. 29-Oct. 22 this year, have agreed to pay the full cost of police overtime, which has been estimated to cost \$1 million.

According to a story in the *Dallas Morning News*, the Dallas City Council voted on the agreement last month. The story stated that fair officials and the City of Dallas have been working on the agreement for months.

The story stated: "For years, the state fair paid the city a flat fee of \$550,000 to reimburse police overtime expenses. Last year police estimated that the overtime cost exceeded \$1 million, meaning taxpayers picked up about half of the tab."

"State Fair spokeswoman **Karissa Condoianis** said state fair officials weren't aware that the overtime costs had far outpaced the reimbursement because Dallas police ran the whole security operation and only requested the \$550,000."

This year, the fair will use a combination of

off-duty Dallas police and other area officers in its security efforts.

Officials with the **Wyoming State Fair**, Douglas, which ran Aug. 12-19, planned numerous statewide community meetings for September and October to gather input from citizens about the annual event.

These "listening sessions" have been designed to hear the thoughts, concerns, and ideas from interested citizens regarding the future of the Wyoming State Fair.

During these sessions, members of the Wyoming State Fair staff and representatives from both the **Wyoming Board of Agriculture** and the **Wyoming State Fair Advisory Board** are attending in order to facilitate the discussions.

With the budget challenges the Wyoming State Fair currently faces, the goal of these sessions is to visit with citizens across the state to better understand their priorities for the fair in these difficult financial times.

An accident at the **Dyer County Fair**, Dyersburg, Tenn., which ran Sept. 4-9, resulted in at least 10 injuries, with two of those injured ultimately airlifted to a hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Early reports from the Dyersburg Police Department stated a golf cart belonging to the **Dyer County Fair Association** and being driven by a fair employee went in reverse and into a crowd of people.

According to a story in the *Dyersburg State Gazette*, an eyewitness to the incident was standing in line at a food concession with her aunt. She said she saw a golf cart backing up towards them at a fast speed. She tried to pull her aunt out of the way when she realized it wasn't stopping, but it was too late and it ran into everyone standing there.

According to the DPD, 10 people ages 11-80 were injured during the accident. No reason for the accident had been released at press time.

The 115-year anniversary of the **Eastern Idaho State Fair**, Blackfoot, which ran Sept. 1-10, set an attendance record. Over 239,103 visitors, up from the 2016 record of 231,023, showed up to enjoy to the event. Some of the individual days broke record attendance, contributing to this record number.

The theme this year was Bigger is Better in honor of the additional day added this year.

Attributing factors to the record attendance this year included great weather throughout the run, the grandstand entertainment, and the Gem State Classic Pro Rodeo, which broke attendance records on two days during the 2017 event. New this year was the Monster Truck Insanity, which proved to be very popular.

For the sixth year in a row, concessionaires competed in the Best New Fair Food and the Fairest of Them All contests. The winner of the Fairest of Them All was Sweet Temptations with its Toffee Tumbler. Best New Fair Food in the Sweets category went to Creamy Creations with its Manna Banana Coconut Cone. Las Casita took the honors of Best New Fair Food-Entrée with their Carne Asada Bacon Nachos.

The People's Choice allows the people to vote on their favorite food award and Mexican Crazy Corn from El Elote Loco took home the win for the second time in three years.

**Butler Amusements** provided about 33 rides and attractions on the midway.



# Gibtown Showmen's Club rolls out museum fundraiser

GIBSONTOWN, Fla. —The International Independent Showmen's Carnival Museum Foundation announced last month that it is rolling out a capital campaign to fund an expansion that would enable the museum to build a structure for the wagons, generators and old trailer rides that are now located outside on the grounds.

The museum, an effort of the International Independent

## INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT SHOWMEN'S MUSEUM

Preserving The Colorful History of Traveling Shows In America

Showmen's Association (IISA), opened in 2012 with about 200 donated exhibits including a 1950 carousel and an early Ferris Wheel, as well as a variety of other memorabilia telling the history of the American traveling shows.

Over the years, donations to the 52,000-sq.-ft. mu-

seum have grown significantly. Among other items featured are cars from early amusement rides, wagons, historical documents, and a number of display cases containing thousands of photos, newspaper clippings and vintage redemption items.

Visitors have the chance to view burlesque performer

Gypsy Rose Lee's slinky black beaded costumes and the outfit worn by the "Viking Giant" himself, Johann K. Petursson. He stood nearly nine-feet tall and weighed 425 pounds. Also on display are the boots he wore daily, which were the size of a small child's boot, and one of the rings he wore that a half

dollar coin could fit through.

Hopes are to raise enough funds to build a structure large enough to house the outdoor exhibits to further preserve them. The new structure also will provide more space for more donations.

Further information may be found by going to [www.gibtownshowmensclub.com](http://www.gibtownshowmensclub.com) or emailing [showmenshistory@gmail.com](mailto:showmenshistory@gmail.com).

## N.C. State Fair offers beer and wine sales for first time

RALEIGH, N.C. — For the first time, visitors to the North Carolina State Fair, set for Oct. 12-22, will be able to purchase beer and wine.

The beverages will be available in the new Our State Public House in Heritage Circle. Sponsored by Our State magazine, the Public House will showcase 40 breweries and 40 wineries from across North Carolina.

Daily offerings will include several different styles of craft beer and wine, including award-winning examples of each.

"The Our State Public House is an opportunity to showcase North Carolina's growing beer and wine industries, which are significant contributors to our agricultural economy," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Visitors can also learn how these products are made."

Patrons of the Our State Public House will be able to choose from wine or beer. Each wine or beer tasting flight will contain four different samples.

Wine samples will be 1.5 ounces each, and each beer sample will be four ounces.

Tickets cost \$10 each and will be sold from noon to 8:30 p.m. There is a limit of one ticket per person.

The new attraction is a partnership with the N.C. Craft Brewers Guild and the N.C. Wine and Grape Council.

The guild will use a portion of the proceeds for research and marketing benefiting North Carolina's craft beer industry.

North Carolina is home to 215 craft breweries and 185 wineries.



**INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT SHOWMEN'S MUSEUM**  
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## Capital Campaign Building Fund

We are thrilled to be at the point that we need to expand the International Independent Showmen's Museum. We are rolling out our capital campaign to begin building the perfect structure to display wagons, generators, trailers, rides, etc. to preserve our rich and colorful history. As you may know these treasures have been housed outside and susceptible to the destructive rain, sun and harsh Florida weather. The building will keep the historical equipment protected and let us add future pieces as they become available. Visitors to the museum will be able to view these carnival artifacts from the railroad and truck shows of the past.

*All the money raised will go strictly towards this project.*

**The capital campaign has officially begun.**

**Contact: Doc Rivera at 813 765-7031 or by Email: [ShowmensHistory@gmail.com](mailto:ShowmensHistory@gmail.com)**

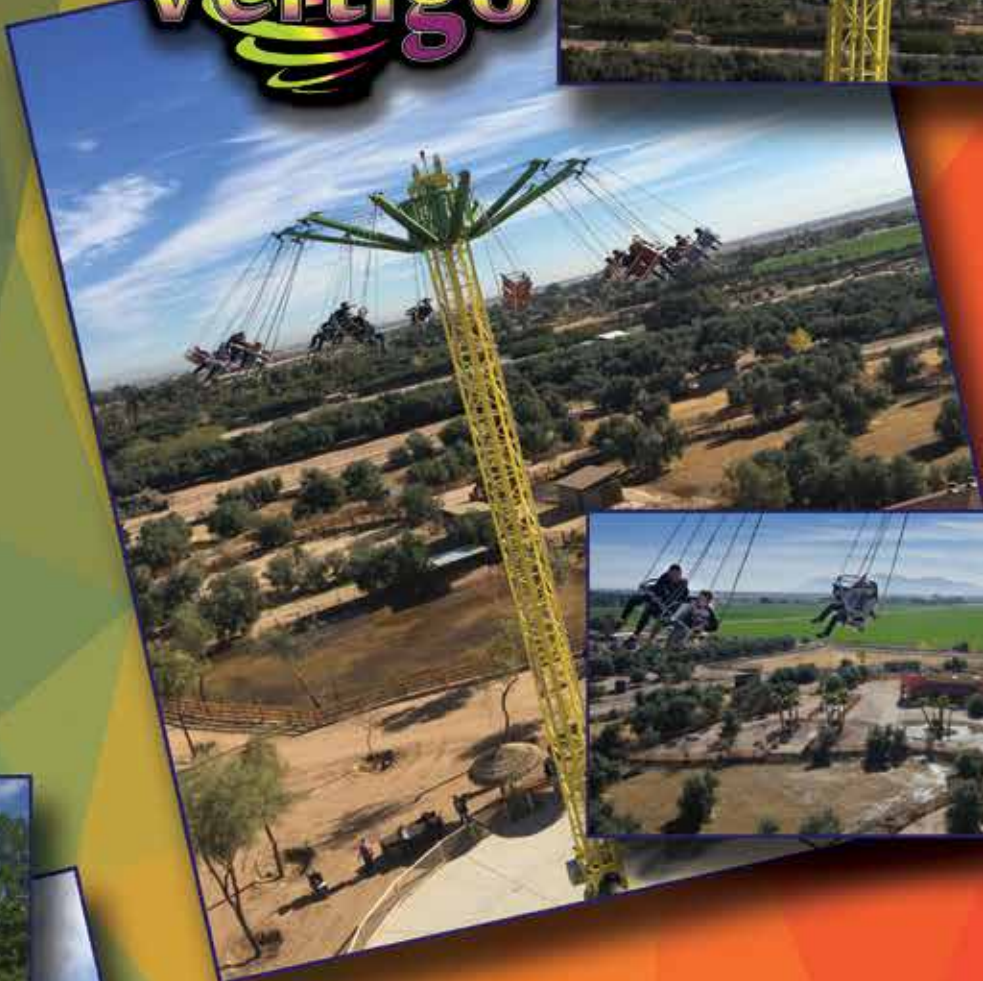
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# BUSINESS, SAFETY & CLASSIFIED

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## Six Flags Magic Mountain announces year-round operation

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** (NYSE: SIX), has announced plans to enter the destination travel market with its Southern California flagship property — **Six Flags Magic Mountain**, launching a 365-day operation on January 1, 2018. Located in Valencia the park is in the heart of one of the biggest U.S. travel markets with more than 47 million visitors annually and a noted theme park mecca.

"With the best collection of thrills in the world and the Six Flags brand expanding globally, this is the perfect time for one of our flagship properties to make the business transition to a 365-day operating schedule in order to maximize travel industry opportunities. Six Flags will now provide a thrilling vacation option to both international and domestic visitors coming to enjoy



**Twisted Colossus, the world's longest hybrid coaster, can be found at Six Flags Magic Mountain. Beginning in January 2018, the Valencia, Calif.-based park launches 365-day operation.** COURTESY SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN

Southern California," stated **Jim Reid-Anderson**, chairman, president and CEO of Six Flags Entertainment Corporation. "We can also now further leverage our thrill brand to the population base of 24-million

Southern Californians and take advantage of new shoulder season business growth."

The theme park first opened in 1971, and in 2005, became the state's first multi-gated entertainment complex

with the opening of **Hurricane Harbor** water park. Since then, both parks have operated limited schedules, with Magic Mountain running year round on weekends and holidays in the off season, and daily throughout the spring and summer months. The park boasts a record-breaking 19 coasters, and more than 100 rides, shows, and attractions.

"I can wholeheartedly say there's never been a better time to discover Los Angeles, as our endlessly entertaining destinations like Six Flags Magic Mountain continue to mesmerize 47 million annual visitors," said **Ernest Wooden Jr.**, president and CEO of the **Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board**. "As the undisputed Entertainment Capital of the World, we invite travelers from across the globe to immerse themselves in our thriving culinary scene, rich cultural life

and world-class attractions."

"This is great news for Los Angeles. By opening the park all year round, Six Flags is significantly enhancing the tourism and travel industry, creating jobs and spurring economic growth for the entire region," said **Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger**.

In addition to tourism-related opportunities, the new 365-day expanded calendar will also create new opportunities for many market segments that visit during the off-season, including school groups, especially the emerging "rite of passage" event for graduating high school seniors who come for Six Flags Grad Nites from across the western states. New convention business, extended stays and business travel is expected throughout the year, helping to bolster the economy of local Southern California communities.

## Cedar Fair and Peanuts Worldwide extend licensing agreement

*Cements longstanding relationship between the two companies*

SANDUSKY, Ohio — **Cedar Fair, L.P.** (NYSE: FUN), and active entertainment, **Peanuts Worldwide**, a subsidiary controlled by **DHX Media, Ltd.** (TSX: DHX.A, DHX.B; NASDAQ: DHXM), and the family of **Charles M. Schulz** have renewed the license agreement to showcase the iconic Peanuts characters, created by Schulz, throughout Cedar Fair's 11 amusement park locations. The agreement covers Cedar Fair's North American exclusive use of Peanuts in the company's at-

tractions, entertainment and sports, food and beverage, lodging and retail operations. The new agreement extends the relationship to 2025.

Cedar Fair Chief Executive Officer **Matt Ouimet** said, "The renewed relationship between Cedar Fair and Peanuts Worldwide allows both companies to develop and extend their brands, creating a more immersive experience for guests through meet-and-greets, live entertainment, merchandise and themed areas throughout the parks. The value Peanuts brings to our parks is demonstrated in many ways; for example, our Peanuts themed Planet Snoopy children's area at **Kings Is-**



**A park guest and Snoopy ham it up at Cedar Fair's Kings Island near Cincinnati, Ohio.** COURTESY CEDAR FAIR

land near Cincinnati was just named "Best Kid's Area" for

the 17th year by *Amusement Today*, the leading industry news source. With more than half of our parks now offering a free pre-K season pass for children, our continued showcasing of the beloved Peanuts characters underscores our commitment to entertaining young families."

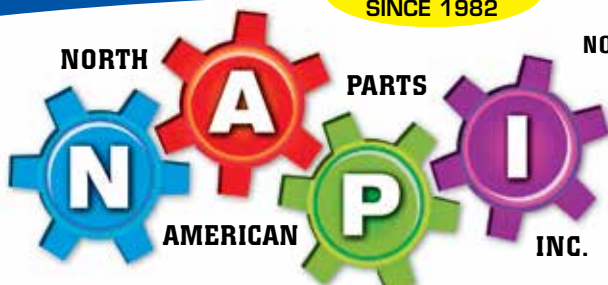
"Cedar Fair has been a long-standing and cherished partner to Peanuts, dating back many years to when Camp Snoopy first opened at **Knott's Berry Farm** in 1983," said **Craig Schulz**, son of Charles M. Schulz and President and CEO of **Charles M. Schulz Creative Associates**. "On behalf of my entire family, I look forward to many more

years of bringing the joy of my father's characters to the fans in Cedar Fair's parks."

"On the heels of our recent acquisition of the Peanuts brand further cementing our relationship with Cedar Fair assures an extensive and continued North American presence in the amusement park area," stated **Dana Landry**, chief executive officer of DHX Media. "This agreement extension speaks to the enduring appeal of the Peanuts brand, and as a leader in children's content and brands, we value the opportunity to work with Cedar Fair to reach an all-family audience for Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the rest of the Peanuts gang."

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MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 09/15/17	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	32.29	35.09	23.33
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	440.10	537.50	422.5
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	64.62	72.56	56.23
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	36.93	42.18	30.02
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	98.52	116.10	90.31
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.79	1.67	0.73
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	72.16	81.00	65.50
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1184.00	1265.00	950.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.96	2.07	1.55
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	8.11	9.00	7.6
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	31.92	34.65	24.78
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	13.86	17.45	12
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	13.02	20.13	11.1
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	57.61	65.19	50.33
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	12.90	15	12.5
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	583.00	676.00	425.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	3.63	5.25	3.22

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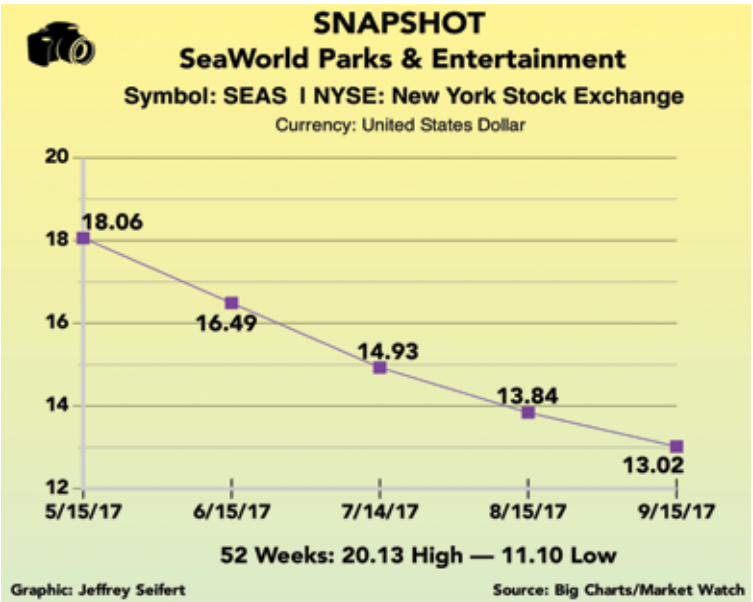
Worldwide Markets: **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock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

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Mountain	\$2.827	+\$0.338
West Coast	\$3.007	+\$0.454
California	\$3.179	+\$0.423

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1.2189	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

CEO Keegan to leave Main Event Entertainment

DALLAS, Texas — **Main Event Entertainment** announced on September 11, 2017 that **Charlie Keegan** has resigned as president and CEO of the company. Keegan will step away from his day-to-day duties on Nov. 24, and has agreed to remain available in a consulting capacity for an additional 12 months. Keegan has led Main Event since Oct. 2006, when the company was sold to **Macquarie Leisure Trust Group**. During his tenure, the concept was completely re-engineered and put on a steady growth track. Main Event is now the nation's fastest-growing bowling-anchored dining and entertainment destination, with 38 centers in 14 states, serving more than 20 million guests annually. A leading global search firm has been engaged to find a suitable successor to lead the business through its next phase of development.

Cedar Fair reports attendance, revenues

SANDUSKY, Ohio — **Cedar Fair Entertainment Company** (NYSE: FUN), announced on September 9, 2017 that preliminary net revenues through Monday, September 4, 2017, were \$1.0 billion, down less than one percent when compared with the last year's record results for the same period. On a same-park basis, attendance through Labor Day was 20.3 million guests, average in-park guest per capita spending was \$47.08 and out-of-park revenues were \$115 million. All are comparable with the same time last year. Commenting on the 2017 season to-date, **Matt Ouimet**, Cedar Fair's chief executive officer, stated, "We are pleased with the guest response to our 2017 capital programs. Mystic Timbers, our world-class roller coaster at Kings Island, and our water park transformations at Knott's Berry Farm and Cedar Point Shores have delivered attendance above our expectations. However, we have experienced more than a few instances of unfavorable weather on some of our traditionally peak attendance days – including the recent Labor Day weekend - and it has proven difficult to fully recover these attendance shortfalls up to this point in time. We are optimistic about the growth opportunities ahead of us for the remainder of 2017, as well as over the long term."

Mary T. Barra elected to Disney Co. BOD

BURBANK, Calif. — **The Walt Disney Company** (NYSE: DIS) Board of Directors has elected **Mary T. Barra**, chairman and CEO of **General Motors Co.**, as a director, effective immediately. Barra's election brings Disney's total board membership to 12. "Beyond being an incredibly respected leader of a major U.S. company, Mary is recognized as an agent of change with a relentless focus on quality, safety and, most importantly, consumers," said **Robert A. Iger**, chairman and CEO, The Walt Disney Company. "Her ability to adapt to a changing technological and consumer-focused landscape makes her uniquely suited for the Disney Board."

In brief...

- TORONTO, Canada — **Cineplex Inc.** (TSX:CGX) announced on August 21, 2017 its cash dividend of \$0.140 per share for the month of August 2017 payable on September 29, 2017 to shareholders of record on August 31, 2017.
- GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** (NYSE: SIX) announced on August 17, 2017 that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.64 per share of common stock payable to shareholders of record as of August 31, 2017. The dividend was payable September 11, 2017.
- BRADFORD, Yorkshire, U.K. — **Coretronic Corporation** (Coretronic), Taiwan has completed the acquisition of **Calibre**, a privately held British image processing technology manufacturer based in Bradford, Yorkshire, U.K. Coretronic manufactures the largest number of DLP projectors in the world, and is the ODM supplier to the majority of the world's Tier 1 DLP projector brands. The acquisition of Calibre expands Coretronic's technology capability by the addition of Calibre's compelling range of class leading HQUltra image processing technology and in-house R&D capabilities.

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**PEOPLE****SeaWorld gets new chairman and lead independent director**

ORLANDO, Fla. — **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.** (NYSE: SEAS) announced on Sept. 13 that its board of directors has elected **Yoshikazu Maruyama** as chairman, succeeding **David F. D'Alessandro** effective Oct. 9. The company also has elected **Donald C. Robinson** as lead independent director, effective Oct. 9.

"I am honored to succeed David and want to express my deepest appreciation to him for his years of dedication to SeaWorld," Maruyama said. "I am excited to bring a fresh perspective to the board and deeply committed to working with the management team to deliver memorable guest experiences, extend SeaWorld's iconic brands to global audiences, improve business performance, and enhance value for shareholders and all our important stakeholders."

Maruyama, a SeaWorld director since June 2017, is President of **Zhonghong Group's** American operation and represents the perspective of a significant, long-term shareholder. He brings over 20 years of global theme park and family entertainment industry experience and helped to lead the early turnaround of **Universal Studios Japan**, which was recently acquired by **Comcast NBCUniversal**.

Robinson, a SeaWorld director since June 2016, was formerly the executive vice president of **Hong Kong Disneyland**. He has extensive operations expertise, as well as over 30 years of executive and management positions in global theme park, retail, restaurant, resort, and entertainment businesses.

"Our board is committed to continuing to advance its governance standards and independence, and we believe that by establishing these two complementary roles with clear responsibilities, we can enhance the rigorous and independent oversight of the company and the board," Robinson said. "Yoshi and I intend to work closely with the other directors and the management team to advance the company's progress on behalf of all its shareholders and other stakeholders."

The company also announced that **D'Alessandro**, **Judith A. McHale**, and **Ellen O. Tauscher** will step down from the board of directors, effective October 9, 2017.

**OBITUARIES****Imagineer Francis Xavier Atencio, a Disney Legend, dies at 98**

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Disney Legend **Francis Xavier "X" Atencio**, a former Imagineer and animator at **The Walt Disney Co.**, passed away Sept. 10 at age 98.

**Atencio**

Atencio was responsible for helping bring to life a number of beloved Disney Parks attractions, including **Pirates of the Caribbean** and **Haunted Mansion**, as well as such animated feature classics as *Pinocchio* and *Fantasia*.

Born in Walsenburg, Colo., in 1919, Atencio, whose friends shortened his name from Francis Xavier to simply "X," moved to Los Angeles in 1937 to attend the Chouinard Art Institute. Although he thought his dream job of working for **Walt Disney** was out of reach, the then-18-year-old artist's instructors prodded him to submit his portfolio. He landed

work as an animator at Disney's original Hyperion Avenue studio in 1938.

Atencio first saw his efforts on screen at the 1940 premiere of *Pinocchio*, and as he watched, he was incredibly moved by the audience's reaction. That year, he was promoted to assistant animator for *Fantasia* but left temporarily to join the Army Air Corps.

Returning to the studio in 1945, he worked for the next eight years on animated short subjects. His first on-screen credit was for *Toot, Whistle, Plunk and Boom* in 1953, an Oscar-winning film that took audiences through the history of music.

Other films to which Atencio contributed included *Noah's Ark* (1959) and *A Symposium on Popular Songs* (1962), both Academy Award nominees. He also created the stop-motion sequences for the Disney films *The Parent Trap* (1961), *Babes in Toyland* (1961) and *Mary Poppins* (1964).

In 1965, at Walt Disney's request,

Atencio transferred to **WED Enterprises** (later **Walt Disney Imagineering**) to work on the **Primeval World** diorama for **Disneyland**. He cemented his legacy at **WED**, playing a key role in the development of music and dialogue for the park's **Pirates of the Caribbean** attraction — cowriting the iconic song "Yo Ho (A Pirate's Life for Me)." For the **Haunted Mansion**, he wrote the dialogue and cowrote the song "Grim Grinning Ghosts."

For **Walt Disney World**, he contributed to **If You Had Wings** and **Space Mountain** in the **Magic Kingdom**, as well as to **Spaceship Earth**, **World of Motion** and the **Mexican pavilion** at **Epcot**.

After retiring from Disney in 1984, Atencio continued working as an Imagineering consultant for many years. He was inducted as a Disney Legend in 1996.

Atencio is survived by his wife, **Maureen**, three children, three stepchildren and nine grandchildren.

**NJAA's John Maurer passes at 50**

WHITEHOUSE STATION, N.J. — **John Joseph Maurer**, 50, from **Whitehouse Station**, N.J., and longtime amusement industry member, passed away August 8.

**Maurer**

Born in **Tarrytown, N.Y.**, he was raised in **Metuchen, N.J.**, before moving to **High Bridge** where he resided for six years. For the last 16 years of his life he lived in **Whitehouse Station**.

Maurer was an entrepreneur who at one time sold memory for computers. He was an owner and operator of a gameroom called **Bev & Wally's** for 22 years on the **Ke-**

**ansburg Boardwalk**. After that venture, he began designing crane machines for arcades. He also owned several other businesses.

Maurer was a member of the **New Jersey Amusement Association (NJAA)** for 25 years. He served as president for four years and was on the **NJAA** board of directors for 14 years.

His friends and family said he loved antique cars, pinball machines, computers, **NASCAR**, and spending quality time with his family.

He is survived by his parents, **Mary and Robert Maurer**, **Metuchen, N.J.**; his wife of 24 years, **Kimberly**; two sons, **Andrew and Christopher**, **White-**

**house Station, N.J.**; sister, **Laura** and husband **Jeffrey Reeves**, **Edison, N.J.**; two brothers, **Robert "Bob"** and wife **Susan "Sue"**, **Washington, N.J.**, and **Michael** and wife **Dawn**, **Flemington, N.J.**; his loyal dog, **Rocket**; and many adored nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held August 11 at the **Branchburg (N.J.) Funeral Home**.

A prayer service was held at the funeral home on August 12, followed by interment at **St. Bernard Cemetery** in **Bridgewater, N.J.**

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**, 136 Mountain Boulevard, **Basking Ridge, N.J. 07920**.

**Belle City Amusements' Mary Panacek dies at 92**

ENTERPRISE, Fla. — **Mary John Panacek**, 92, **Belle City Amusements**, passed away August 30 at her home in **Enterprise, Fla.**

Panacek was born in **Huntingdon, Tenn.**, on July 31, 1925. Her husband, **Charles Panacek Sr.**, who predeceased her, began **Belle City Amusements** while living in **Wisconsin**. He incorporated the business in 1948.

**Panacek**

The two operated the show for many years together. Even after her husband's death, she continued operating and traveling with the show along with her son, **Charles Panacek Jr.**, and his family. She retired four years ago at the age of 88.

She is survived by her son **Charles** and his wife **Sheri**, grandchildren **Zach**, **Leann**, **Charlotte**, **Jesse**, **Tristany**, **Joleea** and **Joseph** along with her great-grandchildren **Zachary**, **Logan** and **Ava**. Mary also leaves behind many friends who will miss her dearly.

A visitation was held on Sept. 1 at **Baldwin-Fairchild Oaklawn Chapel** in **Sanford, Fla.** A funeral service was held there Sept. 2.

**John Waterman, water park legend dies, at 77**

SANIBEL ISLAND, Fla. — **Andrew John "Turk" Waterman**, 77, passed away June 29, 2017, with his loving wife, **Judy** by his side in **Florida**, after a courageous battle with cancer and diabetes. Turk was born on July 14, 1939. He went through the **Wisconsin Dells** school system, and was the starting center on the high school football team.

**Waterman**

Shortly after graduation, he enlisted in the **U.S. Navy**. Trained in guided missile repair, he spent the better part of three years on active duty on

the **U.S.S. Galveston**. After an honorable discharge, he played football for **UW-Eau Claire** for one year. The following year his former football coach, **Duane Counsel**, who had taken a job as head coach at **UW-Stevens Point**, convinced him to transfer. The tough college football training regimen was not conducive to Turk's pre-med intentions. While attaining the degree became elusive, he still considered his time at college "the best nine years of my life."

In addition to family, a number of successful businesses were developed throughout the years. Most notable included **Noah's Ark Waterpark**, **Great Wolf Lodge**, **Knucklehead's**

**Family Entertainment Center**, **Buffalo Phil's Restaurant**, **Timber Falls Amusement Park**, among others. Many lifelong partners and treasured friends resulted from these ventures.

Some of Turk's many honors which he was proud of included having the **Poppy Waterman Ice Arena** hockey facility named after his father and also being one of the founding members of the **World Waterpark Association** and being named to its **Hall of Fame** in 2000. However, the honor he felt most humbled by was receiving the **Wisconsin Dells Visitor and Convention Bureau's** Lifetime Achievement Award from his peers in 2013.





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**SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION****IAAPA Member Alert:  
China special inspection of rides**

ORLANDO, Fla. — In April 2017, **China Special Equipment Inspection and Research Institute** (CSEI) posted on their website a Notice on Manufacturers' Inspection in the Identification and Control of Potential Safety Risks of Large Recreation Facilities for 2017. The CSEI notice requires inspection of all amusement rides and devices operating in China, and completion of forms by both the operators and the original manufacturers of rides operating in China, certifying ride safety by August 31, 2017.

In June at the **Asia Attractions Expo**, IAAPA learned of the CSEI notice from a number of IAAPA members. IAAPA immediately engaged resources to gain greater understanding and clarity on the requirements of the CSEI Notice. This process culminated with an in-person meeting between IAAPA and CSEI on August 23, 2017.

At this meeting, CSEI made clear its interest in working closely with IAAPA on amusement ride safety in China. The special inspection is in response to accidents in China and upcoming government events. There was no indication in the meeting the CSEI Notice would be anything more than the current one-time requirement. Although there was no change in the deadline, CSEI pledged to work directly with IAAPA members on the completion of the inspection forms.

IAAPA strongly urges members who have not completed the inspection and forms to make direct contact with CSEI as soon as possible. That contact is **Frank Zheng**, assistant to chief of amusement device section. His email address is: ylbpaicha@126.com.

As a result of the meeting, IAAPA and CSEI pledged to on-going dialogue and strengthening the relationship and communication. IAAPA will continue to keep members updated on any new information as it is received.

If IAAPA can be of further assistance on this topic, please contact **Doug Stagner**, COO, at dstagner@IAAPA.org.

**Maintaining Disneyland's unique  
animated figures requires special care**

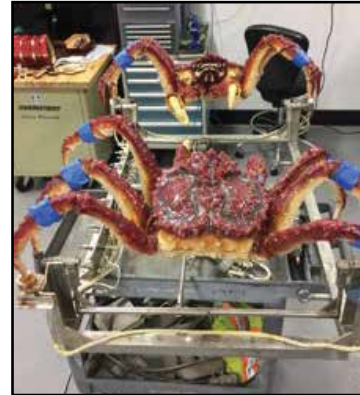
ANAHEIM, Calif. — Animated figures both physical and projected populate several attractions at **Disneyland**. But none are more susceptible to wear than moving models that operate underwater.

The mechanical crabs among the array of artificial subsea wonders on the **Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage** in Tomorrowland are a case in point.

The "performing" crustaceans recently were removed from the ride's chemically treated water to undergo a rebuild cycle — involving an inspection and assessment of their stainless-steel structures approximately every six months to a year.

The crabs that came in for service stand adjacent to each other in the attraction. The mechanisms' bushings are essential to propelling the figures in a manner that suggests interaction.

The bushings are made from a polymer, **Vesconite Hilube**, that does not require lubrication, does not swell and resists corrosion — making it ideal for wet-environment applications.



These performing crustaceans from Disneyland's **Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage** recently underwent a complete inspection and bushing replacement. The mechanisms receive maintenance "checkups" every six months to a year.

COURTESY VESCONITE

The bushings typically last three rebuild cycles. Each time the bushing is examined, it is rotated 120 degrees in order to distribute wear evenly.

Having completed three cycles at the time of this inspection, the crabs' bushings were replaced before they were returned to their task of delighting park visitors.

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### Har Kupers receives 2017 AIMS International Safety Award

BRISTOL, Conn. - **Vekoma Rides'** Har Kupers was presented with the **2017 AIMS International Safety Award** during the Golden Ticket Awards held Saturday, September 9, at Lake Compounce in Bristol, Connecticut. The award, presented to Kupers by AIMS International board member, **Jim Seay**, and AIMS Executive Director, **Karen Oertley**, recognizes a person or organization that has made a significant impact or contribution in improving safety in the amusement industry by demonstrating leadership, innovation, and foresight.

In presenting the award, Karen Oertley remarked, "As we all know, safety is of utmost importance to the vitality of the amusement industry. We received many nominations for individuals deserving of this important award and are thrilled so many individuals are dedicated to improving safety for both guests and employees. The AIMS board of directors has selected one of the industry's finest to receive the 2017 AIMS International Safety Award."

In presenting the award to Kupers, Jim Seay commented, "Har is well known to the amusement industry for his thousands of hours of work in development and support of EN, ISO, and ASTM Safety Standards. He was instrumental in bringing

the ASTM International standards development work into the EN Task Group harmonization effort and has worked for almost twenty years on an international amusement design standard as a contributor, facilitator and ambassador between EN, ISO and ASTM International.

"Har is also renowned for his amusement ride design and engineering expertise and is one of the foremost authorities on ride dynamics and guest safety. In addition to standards development, Har's long support and dedication to AIMS International has been influential in promoting global safety training, and certification."

In accepting the award, Har Kupers said that he felt very honored to receive this award from AIMS, a very important organization promoting safety in our industry.

He expressed his gratitude to Vekoma and its owner **Henk Roodenburg** for giving him the opportunity to do this work, both inside and outside his job. He also mentioned that he is very proud to be the second in line, after **Harold Hudson**, to receive this prestigious award.

Har further thanked all the individuals and organizations in the industry that support the work to improve amusement industry safety worldwide.



Jim Seay (left) and Karen Oertley (right) present the 2017 AIMS International Safety Award to Har Kupers during the 2017 Golden Ticket Awards.  
AT/DAN FEICHT

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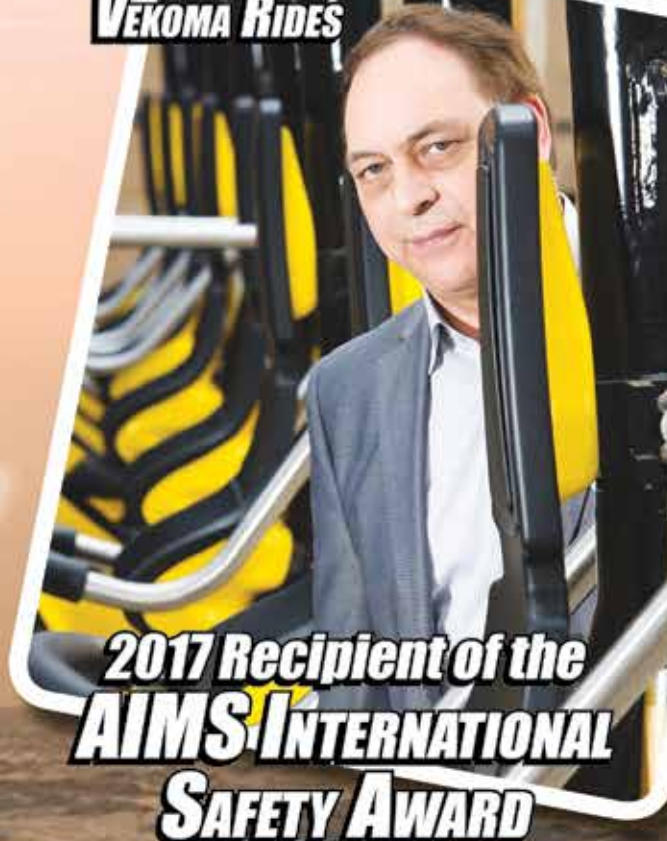
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## SAFETY, MAINTENANCE &amp; EDUCATION

# Merlin chooses Infor software for predictive ride maintenance

POOLE, U.K. — **Merlin Entertainments** has selected software created by **Infor**, a leading provider of specialized industry business applications built for the cloud, to drive enhanced ride availability and greater guest satisfaction at its attractions worldwide.

Infor CloudSuite Facilities Management supports a consolidated approach to enterprise asset management (EAM). The application will be deployed globally following an initial pilot phase at Legoland Japan.

Infor's software will be used to support all equipment maintenance requirements including predictive maintenance, daily and weekly ride checks, as well as routine and reactive works.

Merlin chose the software as part of a strategy to standardize asset management and maintenance compliance reporting across the group. Through leveraging greater visibility and analysis of data, the group anticipates enhanced efficiency and ride availability to support its vision to become the worldwide leader in branded, location-based family entertainment.

"In order to consistently create memorable experiences for our customers, ride availability and guest satisfaction are paramount," said **Dawn Elson**, group engineering director at Merlin. "Infor CloudSuite Facilities Management is core to our asset management strategy, ensuring ride availability and delivering the visibility to enable us to centralize oversight and employ consistent and common standards across our global portfolio."

"Infor's expertise, experience and support in delivering the solution within ambitious timescales was

second to none, and we have absolute confidence that we have the optimum system to support our global asset management going forward."

"For Merlin, unplanned ride maintenance can have a significant knock-on effect on queue times and the overall efficiency of the attraction,

guest satisfaction and reputation," said **Kevin Price**, technical product evangelist for Infor EAM. "Through supporting all scheduled maintenance, service level agreements and preventative maintenance, as well as delivering reports tailored to specific requirements, Infor helps deliver all-important

visibility required to anticipate and mitigate issues before they occur."

Infor builds business software for specific industries in the cloud. The company, headquartered in New York City, has over 90,000 customers in more than 170 countries.

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