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Laser tag convention, educational day are highlights

Amusement Expo 2015 looks to 'get in the game' in Las Vegas

STORY: Dean Lamanna
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LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The 2015 edition of Amusement Expo, the annual conference and trade show of the coin-op and revenue-generating amusement, music and family entertainment center (FEC) industry, is rolling out at the Las Vegas Convention Center March 24-26.

Co-sponsored by the American Amusement Machine Association (AAMA) and the Amusement & Music Operators Association (AMOA), this year's expo will offer comprehensive industry education and a convention floor packed with more than 100 exhibitors. Vendors specializing in coin-op machines, electronics, go-kart equipment, laser games, photo booths, plush / novelties, redemption equipment / merchandise, sports games, tattoos, token dispensers, video games and more are participating.

A full day of educational sessions is scheduled on Tuesday, March 24, at the Westgate Resort & Casino, the expo's hotel headquarters. These informative, interactive and fun sessions, which together carry the theme "Get in the Game," will cover topics ranging from cashless transactions and operating cost management to finding a niche in corporate events at FECs.

Two full days of exhibit time follow on Wednesday and Thursday, March 25-26. Registration includes admission to two co-located events that are expected to increase the number of attending buyers: the National Bulk Vendors Association Show and the 2015 Laser Tag Convention (lasertagconvention.com). In addition, there is a one-day reciprocal admission policy between Amusement Expo and the adjacently-sited Pizza Expo.

Special marketing opportunities, including Show Specials and the Innovator Awards Program, also are expected to help generate buyer traffic at vendor booths.

Other Amusement Expo highlights:

2015 AAMCF Spring Charity Golf Outing (Monday, March 23): All trade show attendees are invited to enjoy a day of sun, golf and networking at The Las Vegas Country Club prior to the expo. Registration includes green fee, practice balls, a boxed lunch and two drink tickets. A portion of net proceeds benefit the American Amusement Machine Charitable Foundation.

Industry Gala Reception (Tuesday, March 24): This gathering will provide guests with an opportunity to mix and network with exhibitors and fellow operators.

► See EXPO, page 5



Amusement Expo 2015, co-sponsored by the American Amusement Machine Association and the Amusement & Music Operators Association, will include a day of comprehensive industry education sessions in addition to two full days of exhibits by vendors and support businesses. The Westgate Resort & Casino is the event's primary hotel host.

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NEWTALK

EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

Will DreamVision Mountain be a reality or a snow job?



Slade

The DreamVision Company, a privately owned, Fort Worth, Texas-based entertainment and media concern, announced plans on Feb. 9 in Fort Worth and Feb. 11 in Muscle Shoals, Ala., for two massive theme park resorts expected to open by 2020.

The Texas announcement, attended by *Amusement Today*, included local city leaders, special guests, a large media presence and the DreamVision team. The latter was led by CEO

Rick Silanskas, Theme Park Development President Dave Goodman, Chief Creative Officer Ron Logan and moneyman Bryan Robinson, CEO of Provident Global Capital, LLC.

The Texas property, announced as DreamVision Mountain, is a 5,000-acre resort. Designs revealed a theme park divided into sections surrounding a massive, iconic mountain, which will house an array of indoor ski slopes and feature a daily snowfall. The resort is also said to have a water park, hotels and a golf course, although none of those attraction details were highlighted during the conference.

The Alabama property, DreamVision Soundscape, is somewhat smaller at 1,400 acres. It, too, features a theme park (emphasizing music), a golf course, hotels and retail.

What has not been clear is the \$3.5 billion price tag: Is it for both properties or just for the Texas location?

The questions don't stop there. Take, for example, some of the hazy details related to the proposed Texas resort.

DreamVision never addressed whether the full \$3.5 billion had been secured and did not reveal if the land was secured or where it was located. The company's response on the site question was "West of town." Anyone who lives in North Texas can tell you that the available land north and west of Fort Worth has as many gas well storage tank sites (e.g., Barnett Shale) as fire ant mounds. Not exactly an ideal location for a sprawling resort.

DreamVision promoted nightly fireworks. Okay, that's fine — but how does one keep the high-flying fireworks (in Texas winds) from igniting the parched landscape? The state is now entering the fifth year of historic drought. It was an ironic development that, the same week of this media blitz, the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for North Texas — citing conditions ripe for wildfires.

DreamVision park renderings show massive water areas and waterfalls throughout the park grounds. Perhaps they don't know about the water conservation efforts that are ongoing in Texas — again due to the drought which shows no signs of improving.

DreamVision's primary backer, Bryan Robinson with Global Provident Capital, LLC, advertises 20 years of investments, yet the company was registered with the Alabama Secretary of State just weeks before the media event, on Feb. 3, 2015.

In the end, the media, and locals, were left with more questions than answers. Snow job or a reality? Time will tell.

► **RELATED STORY — PAGE 6**

► **RELATED VIDEO — amusementtoday.com (Video Track)**

CARTOON: Bubba Flint



EDITORIAL: Scott Rutherford, srutherford@amusementtoday.com

Long live the King



Rutherford

For me, the wooden roller coaster will always be the true King of the Midway. These roaring, clattering contraptions have been driving front gates and thrilling guests for over a century.

Despite its obvious popularity, there have been challenges to the wooden coaster's reign. The ride's appeal seems to cycle in recurring waves. Following the glory of the 1920's Golden Age when a phenomenal number of amazing designs were realized, the Great Depression and the onset of World War II spelled the end for literally thousands of wooden coasters. Inspired by Disneyland (1955), the theme park industry began to flourish, and with it a ramp-up of wooden coaster construction. This occurred in conjunction with a proliferation of steel coaster technology that many thought would actually usurp the wooden coaster. But not so. Daring designers like Bill Cobb and Curt Summers followed by Custom Coasters and Great Coasters spawned a sensational new crop of wooden rides inspired by legends

of the past.

Then, in 2001 something came out of left field that no one expected: the prefabricated wooden track coaster pioneered by Intamin that featured laser-cut rails and polyurethane-coated wheels. Traditional coaster fans felt these rides were slowly erasing the classic coaster experience. Rocky Mountain Construction emerged in 2011 with products that would even further blur the lines between wood and steel coasters by offering new and modified hybrids capable of inversions and other maverick maneuvers.

While all these acrobatics do indeed make for a unique experience, these rides are a far cry from a true wooden coaster. But that's OK; there's room for all. Companies like Great Coasters, The Gravity Group and Martin & Vleminkx are still building rides the old-fashioned way (with a few tricks up their sleeves). Similarly, the past is being honored and preserved by all those parks realizing the historical importance of maintaining their classic wooden coasters.

Long may the wooden roller coaster in all its incarnations endure. Long live the King.

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Earliest cases traced to Disneyland Resort in Calif.

Measles outbreak has amusement industry, nation on alert

STORY: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ATLANTA, Ga. — A significant outbreak of measles that began late last year and had grown to more than 121 cases across 17 states by early February was being monitored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) here.

Measles is a highly contagious, airborne disease that typically begins with fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes, and within a few days, a rash appears — usually first on the face and then spreading. The disease affects all

of 12 months — I would recommend that those children are not taken to places like Disneyland today.”

Chavez later expanded his remarks to include “any place where large numbers of people congregate,” such as malls and airline terminals.

In response to Chavez’s statements, Suzi Brown, director of media relations and external communications for the Disneyland Resort, said, “We agree with what Dr. Chavez said that it is absolutely safe to visit Disneyland if you have been immunized.”

Attendance at the resort,

Hymel, chief medical officer for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, proactive and preventative steps have been taken within the company.

“We have 27,000 cast members, and a very small number of them tested positive [for measles],” Hymel said in statement posted on Disney’s public affairs website. “In a relatively short period of time, they have been medically cleared to return to work. In addition, cast members who may have come in contact with those who tested positive are being tested for immunity to the virus. While awaiting results, they have been put on paid leave until medically cleared to return to work.”

“We are actively providing free vaccinations to all of our cast members and are actively encouraging them to receive a vaccination.”

According to a mid-February report by the Associated Press, Disney — concerned that the outbreak would be incorrectly viewed as a lapse of responsibility on the resort’s part — asked public health officials to emphasize that the parks were safe to visit along with the importance of getting vaccinated. There was nothing to suggest in email documents obtained by AP through a public records request that the company tried to downplay the outbreak; indeed, statements released by the company indicate an open and proactive approach to public concerns.

Even as the issue of parental choice in vaccinations has become politicized and several movements against inoculations based on questionable science have become entrenched, many national organizations — including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) — are joining CDC, CDPH and other government agencies in urging that measles vaccinations be administered to protect public health.

“According to a number of public health officials, getting the MMR vaccine is the key to avoiding measles,” said Colleen Mangone, director of

media relations for IAAPA, in a statement provided to *Amusement Today*. “They have also stated that it is absolute-

ly safe to visit public places, including theme parks, if people are vaccinated.”

•www.cdc.gov/vaccines

Measles Cases and Outbreaks

January 1 to February 6, 2015*

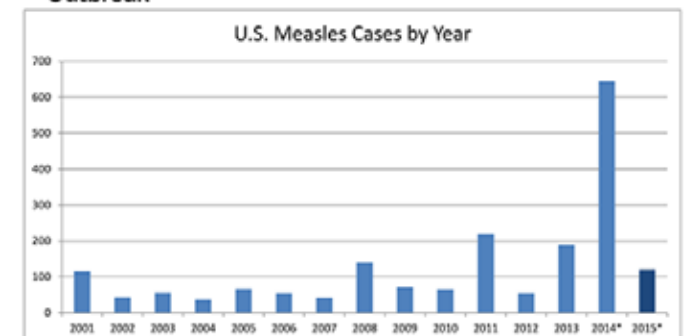
121
Cases

reported in 17 states and Washington DC: Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington

1

representing 85% of reported cases this year

Outbreak



*Provisional data reported to CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases



“We are actively providing free vaccinations to all of our cast members and are actively encouraging them to receive a vaccination.”

—Dr. Pamela Hymel
chief medical officer for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts

bodily organs and sometimes causes life-threatening complications in children, including pneumonia and encephalitis.

As of the third week of January, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), based in Sacramento, had confirmed a total of 59 cases of measles in the state since the end of December. Of those, 42 cases were linked to initial exposure at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Calif.

The confirmed cases included six Disney employees.

An additional nine cases traced to the resort were reported in Mexico (one), Utah (three) and Washington (two), with one each reported in Arizona, Colorado and Oregon.

In late January, Dr. Gil Chavez, deputy director of CDPH’s Center for Infectious Diseases, told the media that those who had received measles immunization should not be wary of amusement parks.

“But if you are unvaccinated, I would worry about it,” Chavez said. “And if you have [minors] that cannot be vaccinated — under the age

Brown also noted, had not been impacted by news of CDPH’s findings.

It is believed that the outbreak started when an infected individual, likely from outside of the U.S., visited the Disney property in mid-December.

The California measles patients range in age from seven months to 70 years. Vaccination status was documented for 34 of the 59 cases; of these, 28 were unvaccinated, one had received one dose and five had received two or more doses of measles, mumps and rubella, or MMR, vaccine.

Two doses of the vaccine are more than 99 percent effective in preventing measles. Measles vaccines have been available in the U.S. since 1963, and two doses have been recommended since 1989.

Measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000. However, in recent years, large outbreaks have occurred in many countries, including locations in western Europe, Pakistan, Vietnam and the Philippines.

According to Dr. Pamela

Disneyland readies for 60th anniversary

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Disneyland Resort is preparing to celebrate six decades of founder Walt Disney’s genius with a year-long series of festivities commencing May 22.

The Disneyland Resort Diamond Celebration will see special enhancements made to Sleeping Beauty Castle at Disneyland Park and the Carthay Circle Theatre at Disney California Adventure Park, as well as the addition of three nighttime spectaculars:

Paint the Night — Mickey Mouse mixes his vivid imagination with Tinker Bell’s magical pixie dust, creating a very special paint. With a dip of his brush and a wave of his hand, Mickey conjures up classic Disney visions. This state-of-the art parade along Main Street, U.S.A., will feature more than 1.5 million LED lights.

Disneyland Forever — This immersive, pyrotechnics-driven extravaganza will transport guests through Disney tales, whether flying above the London skyline from *Peter Pan* or dancing with King Louie from *The Jungle Book*. Two new songs written by Disney legend Richard Sherman will be featured.

World of Color — Celebrate! The Wonderful World of Walt Disney — A special edition of the nightly showcase in Disney California Adventure Park will present a symphony of animation, live-action footage, lasers, fountains, special effects and music to tell the story of the man who dared to dream big.

In other Disneyland Resort news:

•The property has received the Governor’s Environmental and Economic Leadership Award for its waste reduction efforts. The Disneyland Resort has doubled the amount of waste diverted from landfills over the past decade as it aims to achieve a “zero waste” designation.

•Following two years of operation, the technical glitch-prone Luigi’s Flying Tires ride in the Cars Land section of Disney California Adventure Park was scheduled to close Feb. 16. It will be replaced with a new attraction in 2016.

—Dean Lamanna

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

COMPILED: Richard Munch



MARCH

•**1909:** A March 20 article in *Billboard* magazine noted that Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania had eight parks operating over the last few years, but that rich history of amusement parks had slowly dwindled to three, with only **Kennywood**, **West View** and possibly **Southern Park** still in operation. The author listed the parks that had been closed: **Calhoun Park**, now building lots; **Oakwood Park** in Crafton, abandoned; **Coney Island** on Neville Island, closed a year ago; **Dream City** in Wilkinsburg closed due to the latest depression and **Luna Park** eliminated by lack of profit. Meanwhile **T.M. Harton**, of **West View Park**, announced the building of the largest roller coaster in the country, the **Dip the Dips**. While this was not true, it did apparently have the largest drop on any roller coaster in Pennsylvania at 50 feet.

•**1914:** In late March, **Rudy Uzzell**, the prominent ride vendor for the **Novelty Machine Company** in New York, New York, had completed an 11-week tour of the eastern United States. A former colleague of **Harry Traver**, Uzzell visited over 30 parks during the long trip, and was apparently successful in selling many units of the company's newest ride, the **Frolics**. While Uzzell would not divulge which parks had bought the ride, *Billboard* discovered that **Coney Island**, outside Cincinnati, which had bought a **Circle Swing** from Uzzell a decade earlier, had purchased a Frolic for its 1914 season. The firm of **Uzzell and Ely** also produced their first transportable ride for the fair circuit, with the first model going to the **Kline Shows** in Omaha, Nebraska that year.

•**1925:** In early March **Dayton Fun House**, of Dayton, Ohio, delivered the machinery and cars for the new wood roller coaster that was under construction at **Geauga Lake Park**, Aurora, Ohio. With the park under new ownership, the **Sky Rocket** would open that summer in a newly planned park with an up-to-date midway. Designed by **John A. Miller**, the 2,640 foot long coaster would become the signature attraction at the park until the introduction of steel coasters in the late 1970s. The Sky Rocket still stands today as the **Big Dipper**, last operated in September 2006. It is the only ride left after Geauga Lake Park closed and one of only 10 Miller coasters remaining in the world.

•**1940:** **Neptune Beach Park** (1917-1939), in Alameda, California would be auctioned off on March 25-26. The auction proved to be a failure for the owners who had hoped to recoup some of the loss in patronage during the Depression. With all the rides and devices going to the highest bidder, including the opportunity to buy a roller coaster ("cheap"), the crowds that showed up purchased only small items. It was noted in the *Oakland Tribune* that many had come to say goodbye to a place that had been part of their lives for more than 20 seasons.

•**2000:** Based on the popularity of **Medusa** (later Bizarro), a 1999 steel floorless roller coaster at **Six Flags Great Adventure**, in Jackson, N.J., the **Six Flags** corporation would purchase an additional three models for their properties in 2000. Based on the New Jersey prototype, **Fiesta Texas** outside San Antonio, Texas, would open **Superman Krypton Coaster** on March 11, as part of a major park expansion. Designed by **Bolliger & Mabillard**, the ride included six inversions and was designed to interact with the quarry wall. —Compiled by Richard Munch, NRCMA historian

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2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

Walt Bowser, Millennium Elastomers

Walt Bowser worked in various capacities with Six Flags for two decades before joining Millennium Elastomers in 2013. Today, Walt is enjoying the manufacturing side of the amusement industry by working for one of the largest urethane processors in North America with clients including companies such as Disney, Cedar Fair, Toyota and John Deere. With a focus on quality, engineering and service, Millennium Elastomers has been a success story, and Walt's energy, drive and passion certainly contribute to that. In his down time, Walt enjoys everything from running and golf to hanging out with friends and family ... and he knows no stranger!

Title

Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

Number of years in the industry

23 years.

Best thing about the industry

The fantastic people.

Favorite amusement ride

X2 at Six Flags Magic Mountain.

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

Most likely own a business that relates to fitness, outdoor or sports.

Biggest challenge facing our industry

The depleting pool of quality technical personnel (skills gap) and aging infrastructures.

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

The excitement and energy of both the employees and guests.

The last time I ate fast food was ...

In January. It was at Wendy's; I ate chili (lots of sauce) for lunch.

My all-time best vacation was ...

Perdido Key in Florida ... every year!

My hidden talent is ...

Bringing people together both socially and professionally.

Favorite flavor of ice cream

Vanilla Bean.

For me, the worst outdoor chore is ...

Pulling weeds!



Walt Bowser celebrates last May after completing the 100-mile charity bike ride from Austin to Shiner, Texas. The popular Texas brewer sponsors the charity event each year.

On a typical Sunday morning, you can find me ...

At church, then running or playing golf or in my chair watching sports.

The one thing I always seem to put off is ...

Yard work and doing expense reports.

Favorite Super Hero

Under Dog.

My "must-see" television show is ...

The Weather Channel, ESPN and episodes of Seinfeld.

I would best describe my kitchen as ...

Spicy ... and the busiest room in the house.

Three things I would pack on a camping trip

A lighter, rope and a cooler full of beer!

The book I would recommend everyone reading would have to be ...

"Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom.

If I was to join the circus, I would hands-down be ...

A circus clown, of course!

The song that reminds me most of my life is ...

"The Road Less Traveled" by George Strait.

Favorite sports team

Philadelphia Eagles and the San Antonio Spurs.

The most adventurous thing I have done lately is ...

Competing in the Half Iron Man Triathlon.

I really love my ...

Friends, family and life.

The best part of living in Texas is ...

The great people, wonderful places and down-to-earth way of living.



Amusement Expo 2015

Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV

Conference: Tuesday, March 24 • Trade Show: Wednesday & Thursday, March 25-26

► EXPO

Continued from page 1

Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and live entertainment provided.

AMOA Breakfast & Membership Meeting (Thursday, March 26): The 2015 Annual Meeting of AMOA will be conducted at this event. Attendees will receive an update on current association business affairs and enjoy a presentation of service and industry awards.

Wayne E. Hesch Memorial Scholarship Raffle (Thursday, March 26): This fundraiser is the primary source of scholarship monies raised. All attendees are encouraged to stop by the Hesch booth, purchase raffle tickets and qualify for a chance to win the grand prize, a new Ford Mustang, and some great merchandise while supporting the industry's longest-

running charitable program.

Registration is available in the convention center's Hall N1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25; and 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26.

The Exhibit Hall is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, and Thursday, March 26.

Along with the Westgate Resort & Casino, official accommodations are being provided by Hilton Grand Vacations and the SpringHill Suites Marriott—both within walking distance of the convention center.

For the full schedule of events, a complete list of exhibitors, and further information on associated activities and accommodations, please visit the Amusement Expo website.

• www.amusementexpo.org

The Atlanta Botanical Gardens selects Gateway Ticketing Systems

GILBERTSVILLE, Pa. — Gateway Ticketing Systems recently announced its selection by The Atlanta Botanical Garden as the venue's new ticketing and access control provider. The Garden will join other landmark Atlanta venues, in implementing Gateway's flagship point of sale and admission control solution, Galaxy.

The Garden's more than 400,000 annual guests will have the option to purchase tickets onsite at the venue or online ahead of time using the venue's eGalaxy Web Store. In addition to front gate and online sales, the venue will also employ Galaxy for group sales, resource management and access control. Hand-held point of sale units will be used for mobile ticketing.

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DreamVision unveils plans for parks in Texas, Alabama

Texas press announcement leaves more questions than answers for proposed \$3.5 billion resorts, to open by 2020, on 5,000 and 1,400 acres

STORY: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

FORT WORTH, Texas — The DreamVision Company, a Fort Worth-based privately owned entertainment and media enterprise, announced plans for two, multi-billion dollar theme parks to be built simultaneously.

Located in Fort Worth's metroplex region and slated to open in 2020, DreamVision Mountain/DreamScape, Texas, promises to transport guests through multiple themed lands and attractions.

Rising up in the center of the park will be the iconic DreamVision Mountain, a towering winter wonderland and one of the largest indoor winter snow experiences in the world, featuring winter sports like skiing, snowboarding and bobsledding. The realistic winter landscape, inspired by the artwork of Thomas Kinkade, will be created by technology developed by Malcolm Clulow, the foremost expert in indoor snowmaking. Themed lands, including Dreamscape Tinsel Town, Nadia's Storybook Land and Dreamscape Metropolis, will surround DreamVision Mountain, each offering unique attractions, rides and adventures.

The second 1,400-acre park, DreamVision Soundscape, planned for Muscle Shoals, Alabama, plans to pay homage to the history and folklore of the Shoals. DreamVision promises to feature musically themed "neighborhoods" showcasing country, pop, gospel, jazz and more with unique all-age rides, such as Soundscape Singing River; Breaches, an extreme roller coaster; Slide Guitar, a drop ride; and Oceanica, a domed water playground along with various performance venues. The destination will also include golf courses, hotels, retail and more.

An impressive dream to be sure.

Equally impressive, at least on the surface, is the team assembled to bring this dream to reality. Heavy on ex-Walt Disney people, current executives once held

notable positions such as executive vice president of Walt Disney Entertainment Worldwide, production manager for Walt Disney World's Creative Entertainment division, vice president and executive producer of entertainment for The Walt Disney Company as well as production and stage manager for *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Add to the mix an extensive partnership with The Thomas Kinkade Company, which mass marketed printed reproductions of artist Thomas Kinkade's pastoral and idealistic winter landscape paintings.

However, the elaborate presentation held on the outskirts of downtown Fort Worth seemed to raise more questions than it answered.

Noticeably absent from the presentation was an announcement of the actual location for this dream. "West of town" was about as specific as anyone would get. Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, who was present for the announcement, believes the company has looked at several locations, including southwest Tarrant County. In a brief interview with *Amusement Today*, Dave Goodman, DreamVision president of theme parks and development, confirmed that although the location will not yet be revealed, the property has been secured. The site of the proposed Alabama park remains equally elusive.

The presenters assured those in attendance and those viewing via live streaming, that financing is already in place. Bryan Robinson, CEO of Provident Global Capital was introduced as a partner in the parks.

AT research shows that Robinson registered Provident Global Capital, LLC with the Alabama Secretary of State on Feb. 3, 2015, just days before the conference. Robinson listed a post office box in Killen, Alabama, for the business. He appears to have a residence in Killen and an investment business, Robinson Capital Investments LLC, in nearby Florence, Alabama. The Provident website home page mentions they are cel-

► See related editorial...page 2

► See DreamVision video at www.amusementtoday.com



At right: the Dream Vision team (l to r): Rick Silanskas, CEO DreamVision; Bryan Robinson, CEO Provident Capital LLC; Dave Goodman, president theme park & development and Ron Logan, chief creative officer. Above and below, two released images of the DreamVision theme park.
COURTESY DREAMVISION;
AT/GARY SLADE



brating 20 years of "investing outside the numbers," yet the site was also registered on February 3, 2015, listing Robinson as the registrant with yet another address in the city of Province, Alabama. If anything else is on the website it is unclear, as navigating beyond the home page requires a password with no instructions on how to request one.

Goodman told AT that the project has not sought any government bonds or requested any tax abatements and is instead relying solely on private funding. Other than introducing Robinson as a partner, sources of the funding were not mentioned during the presentation.

When questioned about the water and energy requirements for such a large undertaking, Goodman assured AT that this would be a green project, with an environmentalist on staff to make certain the resort is efficient, clean and green. That may not be enough to appease



neighboring Texans who have faced landscape-watering restrictions from an ongoing drought that is now entering its fifth year, along with occasional rolling blackouts due to shortages of available power. One does not need an energy expert to surmise that making snow during 100-degree Texas summers is going to require a lot of resources already in short supply.

Although DreamVision bills itself is an entertainment and media enterprise focused on developing emotionally driven and technologically-advanced family attractions and entertainment, its only

claim to fame is a short, animated video titled *Hooked*. Although well done, it was uploaded to the video-sharing site, Vimeo, more than four years ago. A second video short *Unsung Hero* was debuted at the February 9 press conference.

DreamVision Mountain/DreamScape is scheduled to open in 2020 and DreamVision Soundscape is scheduled for 2019. Time will tell if DreamVision's dreams and visions will come true, or if North Texas and Alabama are looking at yet another pipe dream.

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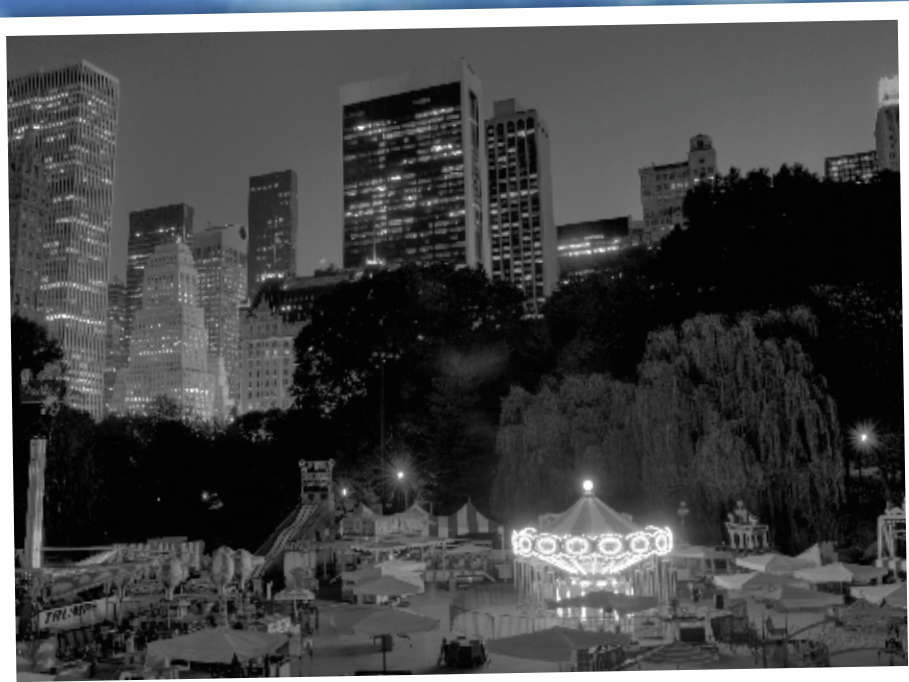
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INTERNATIONAL

► Goddard Group enjoying multiple China projects — Page 11 / Disneyland Hong Kong adding hotel — Page 12

PortAventura signs five year deal with Cirque du Soleil

STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

COSTA DORADA, Spain — PortAventura Resort has signed an agreement with Cirque du Soleil to establish a summer touring base for the world famous Canadian entertainment company at the resort.

Situated an hour's drive from Barcelona in Spain, the popular theme park resort is one of Europe's largest such attractions, boasting a 105-acre theme park and water park, four 4-star themed hotels, three golf courses, a beach club and a convention

center. And now one of the most famous entertainment companies in the world will add to the visitor offering with its own unique blend of spectacular entertainment.

The deal will see Cirque du Soleil's big top staging a number of different touring productions, the first of which will be Amaluna, which arrives in Europe for the first time this year. The partnership began with Kooza in July and August 2014, making PortAventura the first European resort to host a Cirque du Soleil touring show. More than 100,000 spectators enjoyed Kooza at the resort and on

the back of its success the two companies began negotiations for future touring extended runs.

Commenting on the agreement, Fernando Aldecoa, general manager of operations and finance at PortAventura, said: "This partnership represents another step in our international strategy to position the resort as the best family destination in Europe, a model like Sentosa Island (Singapore) and Orlando (USA)."

Charles Décarie, COO at Cirque du Soleil, said: "Cirque du Soleil is very pleased to

► See CIRQUE, page 10



The Cirque du Soleil show Amaluna will be seen in Europe for the first time in 2015 at PortAventura Resort. COURTESY PORTAVENTURA RESORT

Triotech, FunLab Cevahir open Turkey's first interactive dark ride

MONTREAL, Canada — Officials at Triotech recently announced the installation of Turkey's first interactive dark ride attraction. The new ride, located in Istanbul, will be operated in partnership with FunLab Cevahir, Turkey's leader in FECs.

Ernest Yale, president and CEO of Triotech said: "We are very happy to open this interactive dark ride with a strong local partner. FunLab's expertise in the amusement and entertainment world is extremely strong."

For the new attraction, dubbed Zombi, Triotech designed and produced the animation and gaming system that allows guests to experience a 3D adventure enhanced with 4D effects and interactivity. The ride system was provided by Gosetto srl of Treviso in Italy.

On Zombi, guests ride aboard four-person police-themed vehicles and embark on a family-friendly adven-



Turkey's leading FEC operator, FunLab Cevahir, has announced the recent opening of Zombi, an interactive dark ride from Triotech. The ride features six, four-person police themed vehicles that travel a 216-foot long course featuring four interactive scenes and four non-interactive scenes. Triotech officials are excited about this new ride opening as it shows the industry that FEC owners can also afford to add a dark ride to their attraction mix. COURTESY TRIOTECH

ture. The ride features six cars with four interactive scenes and four non-interactive scenes. The 216-foot-long adventure blends media-based interactivity with 4D effects. Extensive physical décor and theming completes the immersion for riders.

"This installation highlights the flexibility and scalability inherent in our media based offering. Even an FEC can afford to invest in an in-

teractive dark ride. It's not just for large parks," added Gabi Salabi, vice president of business development for Triotech.

Triotech recently won two Brass Ring Awards for Best New Product in 2013 for FEC's and in 2014 for Major Theme/Attraction Parks as well as IAAPA's prestigious Impact Award for its Interactive Dark Ride at IAAPA's Expo last November.

"As the leading brand of

the amusement industry in Turkey, FunLab is well aware that continuous innovation is key to success in a competitive market. This new ride & our partnership with Triotech will not only keep us cutting-edge but also add value to the entire network of FEC's we operate," added Levent Baloglu, CEO of Balo-FunLab.

Since 1999, Triotech has been creating technologically advanced immersive

and interactive media-based attractions for both the entertainment and edutainment markets. Triotech attractions are installed in over 40 countries across all continents, and the company also operates its own studio to develop state-of-the-art custom content for its attractions. Triotech is a privately held company based in Canada with additional offices the U.S., U.K. and China.



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Legoland Germany adds new attractions and events for 2015 season

STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

GÜNZBURG, Germany — Legoland Germany Resort begins its 2015 season on March 28 and will unveil a variety of new attractions and events, along with a new accommodation offering for this year.

Among the new attractions will be the Lego City Police Station in the Imagination area of the park. Here guests young and old will be able to help the Lego policemen look for “dangerous robbers” as they walk through an unpredictable labyrinth full of obstacles which they must overcome, including a Mirror Maze and laser barriers, during a wild chase. There will also be a large play and building area where guests can play with Lego bricks and help to build up the Lego City. The Lego City Police Station is an interactive attraction for the whole family and is unique within the six Legoland parks around the world.

Atlantis by Sea Life will



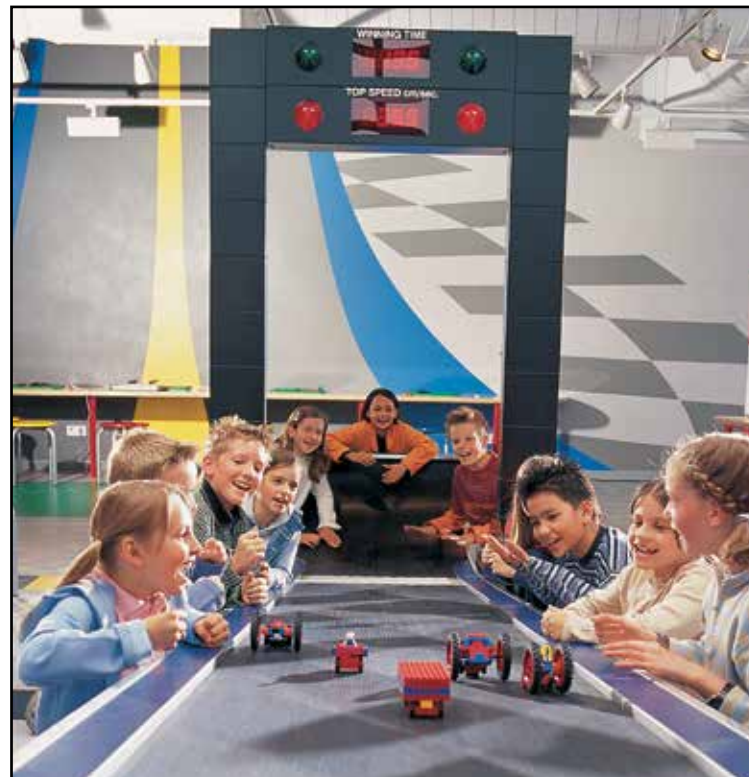
Legoland Germany will introduce a number of new attractions in 2015 while also offering a comprehensive events program throughout the season.
COURTESY LEGOLAND GERMANY

provide interesting encounters for visitors with over 2,000 fish, including bamboo sharks, along with rays and seahorses, all of which can be admired through a glass tunnel in a huge ocean tank.

A unique accommodation offering will also be available at the park in 2015 in the shape of rustic camping barrels, which will complement the existing King's and Knight's Castle, themed cot-

tages, camping and Knight's Tents. The 14 heated, four-person barrels feature a separate sleeping area and a small living compartment which can be converted into a children's bedroom. They are decorated in a pirate theme and expand the total accommodation capacity by 56 beds.

A wide range of events can also be enjoyed throughout the season at Legoland Germany, these beginning



The new Lego City Police Station at Legoland Germany is situated in the Imagination area of the park.
COURTESY LEGOLAND GERMANY

as soon as the park reopens. Among those taking place will be Large Lego building fun at Easter, an Action Day in May, a Mother's Day event, Lego Star Wars days and a Lego

Girls event in June, music and fireworks nights in July and August and Halloween fun in October. A season finale with fireworks will take place on November 8.

Innovative Leisure product range well received at VAE show

OADB, Leicester, U.K. — Innovative Leisure has reported a successful conclusion to the Visitor Attraction Expo (VAE) held in London January 13-15, with its popular range of products attracting a good flow of visitors from a wide variety of venues and facilities.

The company was promoting its full range of attractions at the event which was co-organized and officially supported by the U.K. parks trade association BALPPA and held at the Excel exhibition center alongside the established EAG show, which caters to the coin-operated amusements sector. Innovative Leisure's stand space was the largest within the VAE and featured a fully built-up mobile Climbing Tower and an operational DigiWall, both attractions creating much interest among visitors.

Other products being promoted by the company included its hugely success-



Pictured on the Innovative Leisure stand at the VAE show are (from left to right) Simon Baldwin from The Warehouse Climbing Center in Gloucester, and Innovative Leisure's Simon Cockerill, Emma Booth and Phil Pickersgill.
COURTESY INNOVATIVE LEISURE

ful range of Sky Trail High Ropes courses, which now incorporates the brand new Sky Trail Seeker kids only course, the Sky Tykes courses for younger children, the Water Wars water balloon game, the recently introduced Downpour Derby, the Coconut Tree Climb and mobile Zip Lines.

“The show turned out to be a very successful few days,” commented Innovative Leisure Managing Director Phil Pickersgill. “We wanted to support BALPPA

by bringing some attractions to the event and the presence of the Climbing Tower and DigiWall on our stand certainly helped to draw visitors. It was a good start for what is a new show and we were very pleased to see a lot of the more traditional BALPPA members present and a good number of indoor play and FEC operators. But we also had many new inquiries from visitors who came mainly for the EAG element of the show, which was pleasing.”

►CIRQUE Continued from page 9

confirm a five year agreement with PortAventura Resort and reinforces that Spain, its local public and Spanish fans remain central to our company's future.”

In other news from the Spanish resort, it has been confirmed that the first Ferrari branded theme park in

Europe, set to be built at PortAventura, will commence construction in around two months' time. To be located in one of the existing visitor parking areas, it will occupy an area of 75,000 square meters (807,293 square feet) and will include a five star hotel. The investment in this new part of the resort will be approximately €100 million (U.S. \$114 million).



Cirque du Soleil will add to the entertainment offering at PortAventura Resort over the next five years with its spectacular shows. COURTESY PORTAVENTURA RESORT

The Goddard Group helms impressive roster of China projects

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Gary Goddard, CEO/founder, the Goddard Group, recently released details on a number of new large-scale projects for a variety of clients across China. The Hollywood-based company is currently responsible for more theme parks and resorts, now open, or under construction, in China than any other themed design company in the world.

The Goddard Group's current high profile projects in China include:

Studio City Macau

Goddard revealed that client Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd., a developer, owner and operator of casino gaming and entertainment resort facilities in Asia, selected Gary Goddard Entertainment (a unit of the Goddard Group,) for the Concept Design, Master Planning and Architectural Design of the cinematically-themed gaming and leisure destination resort in Macau.

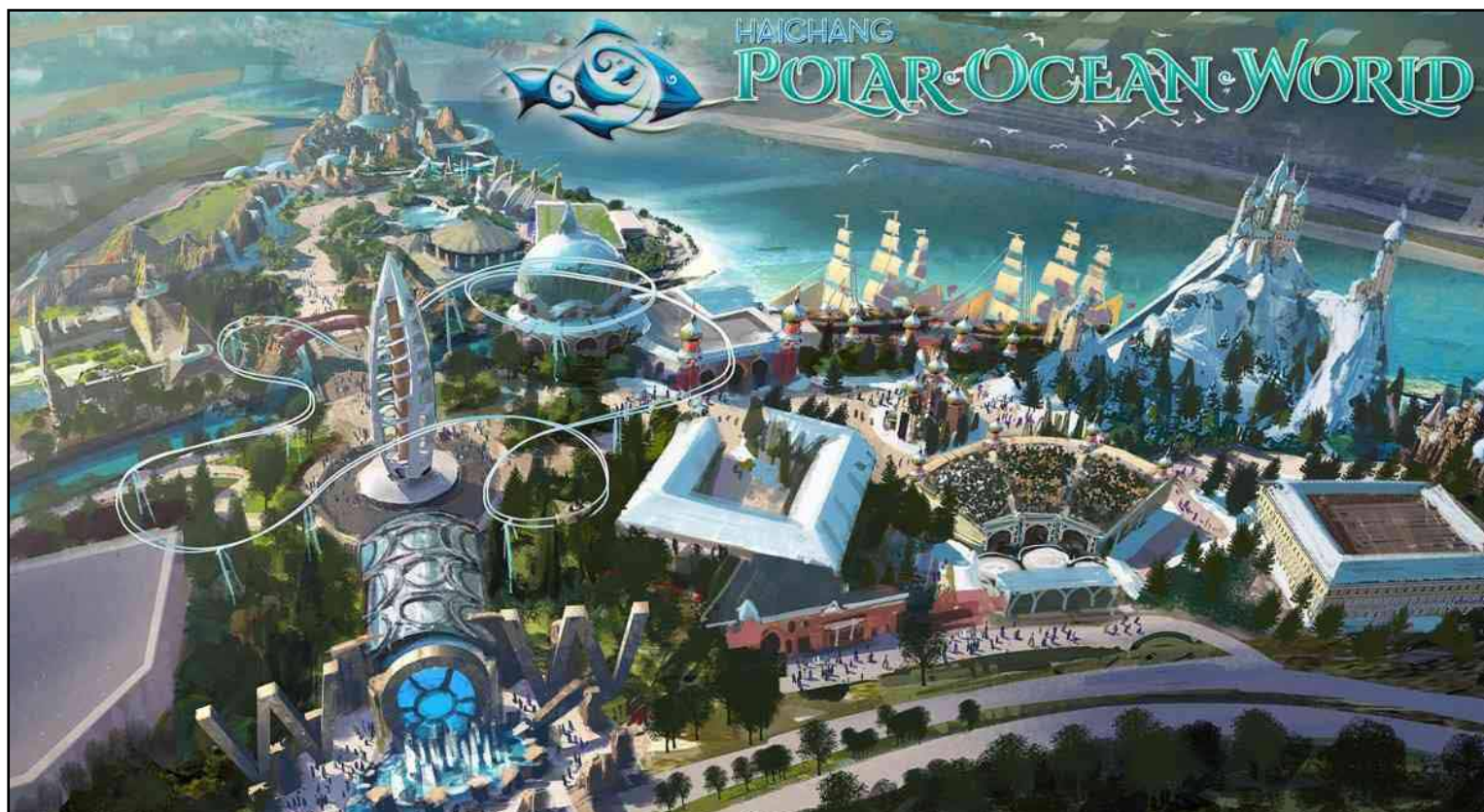
The \$3.2 billion, Hollywood-inspired Studio City Macau complex will transport the visitor into a stunning cinematic world with awe-inspiring attractions, positioning this new destination resort as Asia's newest entertainment capital.

"Because we share a unified vision when it comes to Hollywood and the world of motion pictures, our collaboration with Lawrence Ho, co-chairman and CEO of Melco Crown Entertainment, was highly productive, resulting in one of the most exciting, dynamic and architecturally stunning integrated resorts ever created, not only in Macau, but in the world," said Goddard.

When it opens in mid-2015, Melco Crown's Studio City will offer visitors a next generation of outstanding leisure destination experiences designed to enhance and establish the territory as a truly international tourism center. Ideally located on the Cotai Strip, close to the Lotus Bridge immigration point (which connects Hengqin Island with a future station for the Macau Light Rapid Transit) Studio City will deliver more world-class entertainment amenities than any other integrated resort in Macau.

Polar Ocean World Shanghai

The Goddard Group is currently designing, for client Hai-



The Goddard Group recently announced details on a number of new large-scale projects for a variety of clients across China. The Hollywood-based company is currently responsible for more theme parks and resorts, now open, or under construction, in China than any other themed design company in the world. The projects include: Polar Ocean World in Shanghai (above); Studio City in Macau (right) and Kingdom of Poseidon in Harbin (below right).

COURTESY

THE GODDARD GROUP

chang Holdings Group, a new themed-entertainment destination: "Polar Ocean World." The project, a marine-themed cultural park, is being heralded as an important part of Shanghai, China's tourism plan. Haichang Holdings has secured land use rights for Polar Ocean World, which will be developed on a site next to Dishui Lake.

"We are excited and honored to be part of the groundbreaking new Polar Ocean World in Shanghai," said Goddard. "The goal here was to create an attraction that would offer a uniquely different experience than the nearby Disney park, and one that would provide a complimentary, yet equally compelling, destination for families the world over."

Polar Ocean World, scheduled for opening in 2016. **See GODDARD, page 12**



Hong Kong Disneyland to add new, 750-room hotel

STORY: Andrew Mellor
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HONG KONG — Hong Kong Disneyland Resort recently marked another milestone in its continued development when it broke ground on what will be its third hotel.

Explorers Lodge, a 750-room hotel slated to open in 2017, will be dedicated to the spirit of exploration and will invite guests to enter a new world “full of discovery, nature and exotic cultures.” It will feature four distinct gardens based on cultures from around the world, along with new themed restaurants, a shop and a large outdoor swimming pool.

“This groundbreaking is another exciting milestone in Hong Kong Disneyland Resort’s almost 10 year history,” commented Bill Ernest, president and managing director, Asia, for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. “This expansion is key to continuing the resort’s growth and momentum and it underscores The Walt Disney Company’s commitment to Hong Kong. This project, along with other upcoming expansion projects and new offerings, will continue to add to the appeal of



The new Explorers Hotel at Hong Kong Disneyland will be themed on four regions of the world. COURTESY HONG KONG DISNEYLAND RESORT

Hong Kong Disneyland.”

The hotel’s theme of exploration will be brought to life throughout its guest rooms, themed gardens, restaurants and shop. It will be inspired by four 1920s explorers’ travels to four regions of the world, who cooperatively built a lodge based on their adventures throughout

the globe, adding their own artifacts and specimens gathered over a lifetime of travels. Thus the theming will reflect an African savannah, a South American rainforest, a Polynesian island paradise and an area inspired by the natural beauty of Asia.

Managing Director of Hong Kong Disneyland Re-

sort, Andrew Kam, noted that the two existing hotels have consistently enjoyed an occupancy rate of more than 90 percent in recent years, adding: “As an integral part of the resort’s overall expansion plan, the third hotel will increase our total room supply by 75 percent to 1,750. We are confident the new hotel will

enhance the guest experience and benefit the region’s growing tourism industry.”

Construction of Disney’s Explorers Lodge will create additional job opportunities as well as another 600 to 700 full-time equivalent positions at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort after it commences operation.

►GODDARD Continued from page 11

uled to open in 2017, will become Haichang’s seventh polar-themed destination in China. The project will consist of a marine theme park with 13 exhibition halls, four, large, animal-interaction plazas, four cinemas, 18 rides, space for animal-related exhibitions and parades, and a hotel. The attractions will combine elements of entertainment, ecology, and scientific research.

Goddard Group Director of Design Taylor Jeffs explains, “We have been busy creating attractions that are original and without precedent in China, by merging rides, theaters and aquatic arenas in ways that will make emotional connections with our audiences. We want our visitors to be entertained and wowed, excited and surprised, while touching their hearts, too. We are looking forward to connecting families with nature and the ocean in ways that will ensure lifetime memories.”

“As a world-class, flagship park, Polar Ocean World will showcase a wide range of species from the sea. It will also host significant entertainment features, such as large, marine science-based facilities and an Omnimax movie theater. We are determined to ensure that the Shanghai project will be on par with the industry’s global, first-tier standards in the areas of animal science exhibition, education, themed-entertainment and high technology,” said Wang Xuguang, CEO of Haichang Holdings.

Kingdom of Poseidon Harbin

Construction has begun on a new, themed-entertainment attraction, Kingdom of Poseidon, based in Harbin, China, a city famous for its annual winter Ice Festival where hundreds of carved blocks of ice form an illuminated Ice Kingdom and draw millions of people. Kingdom of Poseidon will feature a wide array of rides, shows, and unique experiences based upon stories of Poseidon and other famous, ocean-related adven-

ture tales. Goddard Group’s client is Malaysia-based KW-Zone Group, which has invested \$1.6 billion U.S. dollars into the project.

“The Kingdom of Poseidon will take visitors into compelling stories in a variety of ways, immersing them in an assortment of ocean-themed adventures,” said Jeffs. “Using a wide range of ‘real world’ 4D effects, and, in many cases, making use of the latest in video mapping, 3D, and other projection technologies, guests will experience an unprecedented array of undersea, oversea, and by-the-sea attractions.”

Goddard added, “We are creating something entirely different with Kingdom of Poseidon. Our goal is to provide new ways by which to involve park guests in the mysteries, adventures, myths, sagas, and legends about the seas – stories which have been with us since mankind’s earliest days of civilization. Man’s connection with the world’s oceans will be communicated here through a series of exciting and heart-felt emotional attractions.”

Shanghai Bund Hengdian

Shanghai Bund, is a large movie studio and theme park resort set to open in Hengdian 2016.

“As a film director myself, we were thrilled with this project on several levels. First, to re-create The Bund in its pre-war condition was a designer’s dream assignment. We are literally recreating a major international city in its pre-war state, making it a suitable shooting location for a host of motion picture productions. In addition, we also melded many other areas of old Shanghai into this attraction, as part of an overall Shanghai studio backlot. We were able to work with the Hengdian Studios team to design a backlot that would greatly facilitate shooting within multiple areas, simultaneously. Beyond that, and based upon our many years of designing major attractions for Universal Studios in Los Angeles and Florida, we were able to blend-in a working studio tour with themed attractions hid-

den within several sound stages. In this manner, the site will be able to function simultaneously both as a working movie studio and a tourist attraction.”

“The new studio and movie park will be home to several large-scale themed rides, shows, and studio tours, designed to transport guests back to The Bund’s golden era,” said Jeffs. “These attractions are based upon classic Chinese motion picture genres and styles, and are sure to make this park’s entertainment offerings truly unique.”

Chris Crary, Goddard Group’s director of Master Planning and Architecture, added, “Instead of separate areas for The Bund’s studio and studio tour — like most other movie studio-based theme parks — here both will be integrated into a single unit, made possible by the specialized placement of key production facilities and filming locations. This unique design will allow the theme park and the studio itself to function simultaneously, each without interrupting the other.”



WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► Kings Dominion water park adding slides — Page 16 / Aquatopia to debut three world premier rides — Page 16

Carnival's newest ship to feature SkyRide and water park



When the new Carnival Vista cruise ship (left) debuts in spring 2016 it will feature a 150 foot tall, 800 foot long SkyRide Technology pedal power ride (above and below) above a ropes course installation, miniature golf course and jogging track. A water park is also featured on the deck.

COURTESY CARNIVAL



STORY: Jeffrey L. Seifert
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MIAMI, Fla. — There's big fun and spectacular views on the horizon, as Carnival Cruise Line has revealed the details of its most innovative ship ever, Carnival Vista, debuting in spring 2016. Designed to connect guests to the ocean with sweeping views and plenty to do both outdoors and in, Carnival Vista will take cruising to new heights and introduce an exciting array of groundbreaking new features.

Carnival Vista will be Carnival Cruise Lines' 25th ship when launched in spring 2016. The 133,500 gross ton vessel is under construction in Italy by Fincantieri and when finished will have a capacity of 3,936 passengers based on double occupancy. The ship will be the largest in the Carnival fleet and promises to be the most fun cruise ship ever ordered by Carnival.

With SkyRide, the cruise industry's first pedal-powered open-air aerial attraction, Carnival is creating some of the best and highest outdoor vistas ever offered on a cruise ship. Adventurous riders can climb aboard hanging recumbent-like bikes to cycle their way around the 800-foot suspended twin track with panoramic views from 150 feet above the sea. Passengers will follow an oval course above the ship's running track in sleek, aerodynamic, pedal-powered vehicles. The attraction is just one of several first-for-the-industry features planned for the ship. The SkyRide on Car-

nival Vista is the first installation of the overhead track system and suspended fitness vehicles that have been developed by SkyRide Technology of Waconia, Minnesota. [See *Skyride Technology nears several markets* in the November 2014 issue of AT.]

Nearby will be SkyCourse, an exhilarating suspended ropes course. Both are part of the expanded outdoor activity park that also includes a new indoor sports hangout, The Clubhouse at SportSquare, featuring mini-bowling, ping-pong, arcade basketball, sports video gaming and more. SkyGreens will be the miniature golf course available on-board. Miniature golf has become a classic staple of many cruise ships as it is a great family-friendly activity.

Carnival Vista will feature the largest WaterWorks water park in the fleet with an array of attractions. Kaleid-O-Slide will be the line's first-ever water tube attraction utilizing one- or two-person rafts traversing the 455-foot colorful slide — the longest waterslide in the fleet. Manufactured by Polin Waterparks of Istanbul, Turkey, the slide will take advantage of Polin's unique RTM technology to manufacture a translucent slide with vivid multi-color rings producing wild, kaleidoscopic visual effects. A second body tube slide will feature clear sections to offer startling views as the slide curves precariously close to the edge of the ship. WaterWorks will also incorporate a waterplay structure with mul-

► See **CARNIVAL**, page 14



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Carnival Vista will feature the largest WaterWorks water park in the fleet with an array of attractions from Polin Waterparks (above). At left, plenty of lounge chairs and pool areas surround the WaterWorks for the guest's relaxation.
COURTESY CARNIVAL

►CARNIVAL

Continued from page 13

tiple opportunities for guests to get splashed, squirted or completely drenched.

The excitement continues indoors with a two-theater multiplex — another cruise ship first. Carnival has partnered with IMAX to bring the first-ever shipboard IMAX theater. Spanning three decks, the theater will feature the latest Hollywood blockbusters, IMAX classics and even the still-popular IMAX documentaries. Next door is a special-effects thrill theater that will offer cruisegoers mutlidimensional, special effects experiences. In keeping with the multiplex theme, a concession stand will offer popcorn, drinks and movie snacks typical of land-based cinemas. Nearby, The Warehouse will feature a variety of video and arcade games.

Even the quiet activities are made to be fun. Dr. Seuss Bookville promises to be a normal library that appears to have been put through one of Dr. Seuss's wacky contraptions. The room is decked out in bright colors, fun furniture and even has some all-time



Polin unveils new logo

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Polin Waterparks has released a new logo to reflect the evolving business and vision. Inspired by the products they are so passionate about, it represents a bird's eye view of a spiraling waterslide created from the company's initials. The logo might have been changed, but the company's passion remains the same: the passion to innovate and exhilarate.

favorite Dr. Seuss characters on the walls. But the space is all about the books — the shelves are filled to the brim for hours of fun reading.

Carnival Vista is currently in dry dock with a float-out scheduled for June of this year. Construction will continue in wet dock until January of 2016 when sea trials are

scheduled to begin. The vessel will make its debut on May 1, 2016, with a 13-day premiere cruise from Trieste, Italy — the first European cruise for Carnival in three years. A variety of Mediterranean sailings from Athens and Barcelona will continue for the next five months. On October 21, 2016, Carnival Vista will disembark from Barcelona on a special 13-day transatlantic crossing and arrive in New York on November 3, 2016. Carnival will then operate a series of voyages from the Big Apple to the Caribbean.

Carnival Vista's European cruises are currently available for reservations. Additional information on the New York departures are also available with bookings becoming available in the upcoming weeks.

Beyond the amusement activities, Vista will offer enhanced dining, bar and entertainment options; as well as new scenic, themed, and family-friendly accommodation types.

For a preview of Carnival Vista visit carnival.com/carnivalvista or follow @CarnivalVista for regular Twitter updates.

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Kings Dominion's water park getting makeover, new name, new slides

DOSWELL, Va. — As part of its 40th anniversary celebration, Kings Dominion will transform its WaterWorks water park into a Soak City. This will be Cedar Fair's seventh property to bear that brand although two have since been sold. Following the original at Cedar Point, Soak City water parks currently operate at Kings Island, Knott's Berry Farm and ValleyFair,

New attractions and elements for the Dominion theme will include a 65-foot tall slide tower that features three attractions: Paradise Plunge sends thrill-seekers into an almost vertical free fall as the floor drops out from underneath their feet. On Aqua Blast, riders are sent twisting and spiraling through an enclosed chute featuring 360-degree turns. Thunder Falls launches riders in a tube down a series of intense drops and turns.

Splash Island, a new children's area, will double the size of the current children's offerings at the park. Features include small slides for young children and multiple jets of streaming water that spray up from the ground, as well as overhead.

The Soak City makeover will include an updated entrance area, and improved landscaping throughout the 20-acre park. Upgraded guest amenities will feature improved changing areas, an additional restroom complex, expanded deluxe cabanas with WiFi and television. Kings Dominion's executive chef is adding new restaurant concepts.

"The Soak City expansion shows our investment and commitment to being home to Virginia's premier water park. We are thrilled to offer two parks for the price of one, which is a great added-value to our guests who appreciate a chance to cool off during our hot summer season," says Pat Jones, vice president and general manager of Kings Dominion. "The new water park will have thrills and chills for every age, creating memories that last a lifetime."

Soak City is set to open in the spring of 2015 making this the first expansion at Kings Dominion's water park since 2007.

— Jeffrey Seifert

Poconos' Aquatopia Waterpark to debut three world premiere attractions

TANNERSVILLE, Pa. — Camelback Lodge and Aquatopia Waterpark has announced that it will unveil the world premiere of three attractions when it opens in April. The first of its kind indoor water park experiences will include: Venus SlydeTrap, a combo family raft ride; Kartrite's Quest, a next generation AquaPlay structure; and Storm Chaser, the longest uphill indoor water coaster in North America.

"Over the past 10 years, our country has seen a growth in the indoor water park phenomenon," said Ken Ellis, an owner of Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark, co-owner of Camelback Resort and Camelbeach Waterpark, and president and CEO of Aquatic Development Group. "It is an honor to be able to partner with some of the best minds in the water park industry to give families the most innovative indoor water park experience to date. We truly believe this is the wow factor families in the Northeastern region of

CAMELBACK LODGE

AQUATOPIA INDOOR WATERPARK

our country have been waiting for, and we are pleased to introduce so many state-of-the-art attractions in time for spring break."

Venus SlydeTrap rolls three attractions into one as three- to six-person rafts encounter a serpentine flume, a 16-foot sphere, and a zero-G open "Manta" wall ride. Kart-rite's Quest takes AquaPlay structures to the next level with advanced exploration opportunities. Traditional elements include a 1,000-gallon tipping bucket and 84 interactive water effects. New technology will take the attraction a step further by making it educational as well as interactive. Children will be able to explore dozens of highly themed elements including: The Flags of the World, navigation symbols, constel-

lations, Kartrite's Library, massive water dumping submersible, high flying hang glider, giant carved tree, huge sail, zodiac expedition boat, periscope, Atlantis-themed kids-zone, and giant logbook with ink blotter and quill.

Storm Chaser will be the longest and most exciting indoor water coaster ride on the planet. Using Master Blaster technology to propel one- or two-person rafts uphill along a 756-foot course, thrillseekers will encounter five drops and four curves through open, fully-enclosed dark and enclosed translucent sections of the slide.

These three, first-of-their kind, indoor attractions were developed by WhiteWater West of British Columbia, Canada.

When opened in April, the \$163 million, 533,000 square-foot Camelback Lodge & Aquatopia Indoor Waterpark will be the largest ski in/ski out indoor water park hotel in the U.S.

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PARKS & CARNIVALS

► Main Event selects Fort Worth, Texas for prototype store rollout — Page 20 / Carnival News — Pages 24-31

Skyline Attractions' debut product a success at Fun Spot

STORY: Scott Rutherford
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — After announcing and introducing their first product in November, Orlando-based Skyline Attractions installed a single two-tower unit of its new Strike-U-Up attraction at Fun Spot America in Orlando, Fla. for a test of viability in the market. The conclusion is a welcome one for the new company, with the revolutionary ride/game combination producing better-than-expected numbers.

John Arie, Jr., Fun Spot's owner and chief operating officer, witnessed the achievement first-hand. "Strike-U-Up has been a huge success at Fun Spot. I was amazed to see so many families play it over and over again," said Arie. "Great job Skyline Attractions!"

During the test period, from December 19, 2014 through February of 2015, Strike-U-Up operated as a midway game, charging \$5 per rider/player team and giving prizes to the winners of each game. At the family-owned park, which draws 60 percent of its approximate annual attendance of more than one million from locals, Strike-U-Up generated enough revenue to prove that many operators will be able to pay off their investment within the first year.

Skyline also tested operation of Strike-U-Up as a ride, for which park guests could scan their wristbands or spend from a redemption card in order to ride. As long as guests were flowing into the park, there was high de-



mand for Strike-U-Up, which often had a queue and was able to accommodate approximately 80 riders per hour with the two-tower setup.

Strike-U-Up performed so well that, during its period operating as a ride, its ridership surpassed all but one of the seven other rides in its category.

AT spoke with Chris M. Gray, partner/vice president, Skyline Attractions, LLC, about the company's first attraction. "Strike-U-Up is the newest attraction added to Fun Spot Theme Park in Kissimmee. It has been a big hit with folks of all ages. It always starts with the parents wanting to hit the kids to the top of the 20 foot tower. As soon as that race to the top is over, the kids want to strike the parents up. This is our Double Tag Team Play!" said Gray.

"The Strike-U-Up was the only game on the Fun Spot property that had to have a queue. As soon as families saw the interactive fun they all wanted to play and ride! This new ride/game combo kept them coming back for more, with several hundred players a night filled the queue for this innovated new way to play and ride."

The Skyline team is thrilled with Strike-U-Up's success at Fun Spot, where it



Skyline Attractions, LLC installed a single two-tower unit of its new Strike-U-Up attraction at Fun Spot America in Orlando, Fla. (above) for a test of viability in the market. During the multi-month test period, the ride/game combination produced excellent numbers with hundreds of players queuing up each night. At right is a rendering showing a full view. COURTESY SKYLINE

has continued to remain a hit. They note that they are able to accommodate additional orders for the upcoming season for parks wishing to see similar success as Fun Spot America. The unit at Fun Spot is slated to move to an as-yet-undisclosed major park in the Midwest in March.

Skyline Attractions, LLC is the Orlando-based exclusive manufacturer of Skyline Design, LLC's GamesURide, including Strike-U-Up. Skyline's mission is to introduce exciting new attractions to the industry year after year.



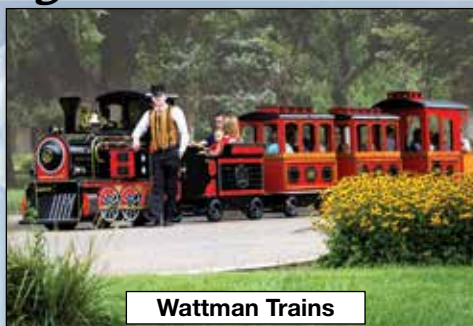
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Main Event selects Fort Worth site for expansion

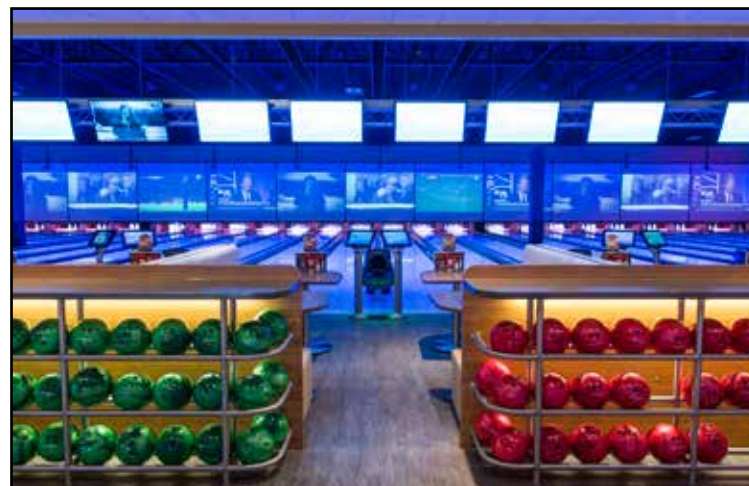
New location is one of eight new center openings planned by June of 2016

PLANO, Texas — Main Event Entertainment, the fast growing bowling-anchored entertainment center in America, has announced its newest location will be in North Fort Worth, Texas and will be a much anticipated arrival of the latest prototype.

The location on I-35W between North Tarrant Parkway and Heritage Trace Parkway will be the site of the Plano-based company's sixth center in the DFW Metroplex. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring with plans to open later this year.

"Our expansion in our home market of Dallas-Fort Worth is an important part of our growth plans, which include eight new center openings by June of 2016," said Main Event CEO Charlie Keegan. "As the pioneer of bowling-anchored entertainment, we are excited to bring our latest prototype to DFW. The new Fort Worth center will showcase our distinct 'Eat.Bowl.Play.' experience at its finest."

With centers ranging from 48,000 to 75,000 square feet, Main Event is a unique entertainment and dining destination for people of all ages. Attractions include more than 20 state-of-the-



Shown here is the computer rendering of Main Event's newest prototype concept heading to Fort Worth, Texas with a opening in June 2016. COURTESY MAIN EVENT

art lanes, a multi-level laser tag arena and a challenging gravity ropes course suspended over a games gallery with more than 100 interactive and virtual games. Dining options feature a chef-inspired menu, specialty pizzas and a full service bar.

With private rooms, complete with full-service catering and the latest A/V technology, Main Event has become a popular venue for

special events such as birthday parties, social gatherings and corporate meetings.

Main Event, which opened six centers in new and existing markets in 2014, has plans to open centers in Fort Worth, Kansas City, Phoenix, Chicago, Orlando, Tulsa, Memphis and Albuquerque by June 2016. The company currently has 19 centers in five states.

• mainevent.com

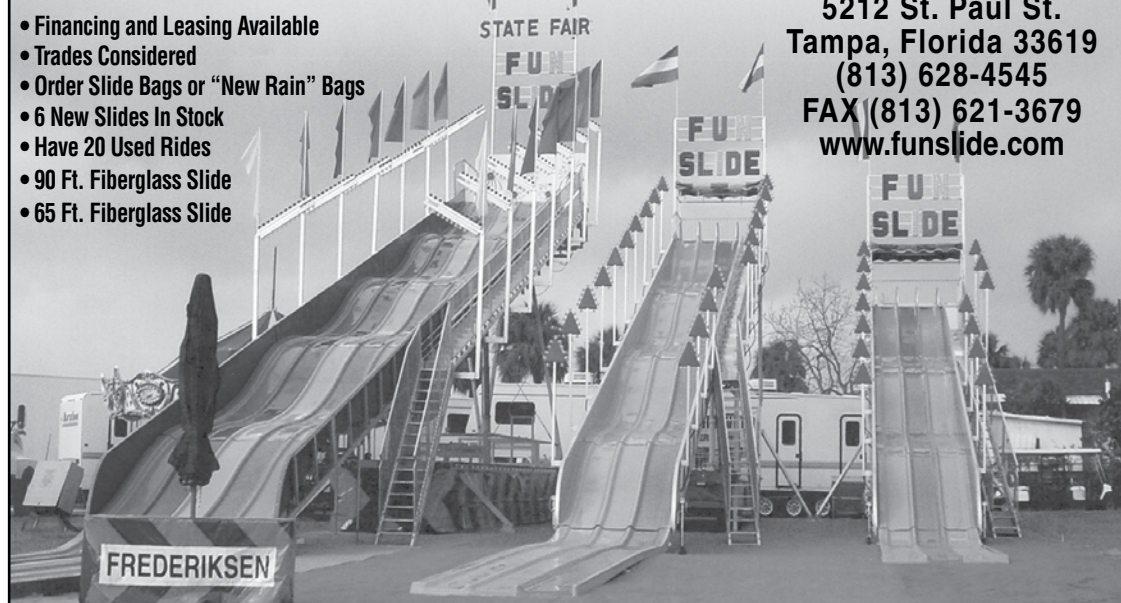
Main Event adds Chief Financial Officer

DALLAS, Texas — Main Event Entertainment announced on Feb. 11 the appointment of **Chandra McCormack** to the position of chief financial officer. An experienced senior executive with both publicly held and private organizations, McCormack will provide strategic direction and maintain financial excellence to support the company's expansion.

"Chandra has shown an outstanding ability to implement organizational structure, lead technology innovation and streamline processes, which makes her a huge asset for our business," said Main Event CEO Charlie Keegan. "The addition of a leader of Chandra's caliber further strengthens Main Event during this critical time of aggressive growth."

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Kay Park introduces new Pong Table



JANESVILLE, Iowa — Kay Park Recreation has introduced its newly designed Pong Table for outdoor use with polished fiber-reinforced concrete table top, coated metal legs and net to withstand weather. The table, at 1,100 pounds is heavy enough to stay in place and is designed to withstand the weather conditions while giving years of service.

The net plate has been designed so it can be custom laser cut with the facility name.

Ping Pong is fun for all ages! It makes a great addition to the amenities of many types of facilities' grounds! FEC's and other amusement facilities can rent out paddles and balls to generate revenue.

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FAST TRACK

COMPILED: Scott Rutherford,
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

Walt Disney Co.'s quarterly revenue and profit topped Wall Street estimates as visits to its theme parks rose and last year's animated film hit *Frozen* drove home video and toy sales. Disney's shares rose 4.4 percent to \$98.23. The stock reached record highs in recent months as the company reported strong performances across its TV networks, theme parks and movie studio. Each of its five divisions reported higher operating income for the quarter. Operating income at Disney's parks and resorts rose 20 percent to \$805 million in the company's fiscal first quarter, ended Dec. 27, when more people visited its parks in the United States. They also spent more on tickets, merchandise, food and drinks.

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment received two Parents' Choice Silver Honor awards for the Orlando company's Saturday morning television series, "The Wildlife Docs" and Emmy-nominated "Sea Rescue." SeaWorld's distribution partner, **Litton Entertainment**, submitted both shows for consideration by the Parents' Choice Foundation, which honors outstanding children's media. Fewer than 20 percent of products submitted for awards receive any level of commendation. Past winners of the Silver Honor include popular educational shows, books and Web sites such as PBS' "Fetch!"

Six Flags Over Georgia will be the latest in the theme park chain to offer guests a ride in reverse on its popular B&M inverted roller coaster, *Batman: The Ride*. This all-new ride experience – dubbed *Batman: The Ride Backwards* will debut on the park's opening day, March 14, 2015.

"We are excited to offer our guests an incredible and gravity-defying ride on one of the park's most popular attractions," said Six Flags Atlanta Properties Park President **Dale Kaetzel**. "This twist is the first of several new experiences coming this season to Gotham City."

Busch Gardens Tampa Facebook fans have spoken, and the name of the baby male gorilla is *Enzi*. The name was chosen after nearly 2,000 votes were submitted in a Facebook poll. *Enzi* means "power" in Swahili, which is spoken by various communities living in Eastern Africa. The other name options were *Birungi*, meaning "bringer of good things," and *Bem*, meaning "peace." The baby gorilla was born on Dec. 16 at Busch Gardens to 12-year old endangered western lowland gorilla, *Pele*. Both *Pele* and baby, along with Busch Gardens' other gorillas, can be seen in the *Myombe Reserve* habitat at select times throughout the day.

A golden bolt was the last piece of the 400-foot-tall, **Intamin**-built, **Orlando Eye** to be installed as crews put the last of the giant wheel's 30 passenger capsules in place on February 5. The *Eye* began to rotate immediately for a brief test. **Merlin Entertainments**, which owns and operates the *Eye* brand of ob-

servation wheels, says it will open this spring and will be the first attraction to debut in the reimagined *I-Drive 360* complex on International Drive.

SkySpire San Diego, a waterfront tower at least 250 feet tall and possibly topped by a restaurant with 360-degree views, has been proposed as an alternative to a giant Ferris wheel on **San Diego Bay**. The project, costing up to \$40 million, is one of five the **San Diego Unified Port District** board was reviewing as it explores options for the next 50 years of bayfront development. Resembling a giant coffee press with a double-helix rail carrying 10-passenger gondolas, the proposed observation tower would be built by **U.S. Thrill Rides**, an Orlando-based company that has produced more than 300 rides for theme parks and other destinations, including **San Diego's Belmont Park**.

With its massive concrete foundation now in place, the countdown to take off is on for **Skyforce**, a new high-flying attraction opening this spring at **Blackpool Pleasure Beach**. A custom-designed version of the **Sky Fly** ride from Germany's **Gerstlauer**, *Skyforce* will see the Pleasure Beach become the world's first park to have a ride based on the popular aerobatic display team, the *Red Arrows*. Protecting the Pleasure Beach's rides from the corrosive effects of sand, sea water and strong winds is the foremost challenge for the site's design team and a new system has been created to protect the metal work of *Skyforce* in conjunction with **Gerstlauer**. *Skyforce* is nestled under the lift hill of the **Big One** roller coaster, and will be decorated with *Red Arrows* livery, with its own control tower.

PGAV Destinations has been selected for the design of the relocation of the **Big Bear Alpine Zoo (BBAZ)**, California's only wild animal rescue and rehabilitation facility of its kind. BBAZ offers a safe haven for injured, orphaned, and imprinted wild animals, aiming to enhance human understanding and respect for the value of our ecosystem. Begun in the aftermath of a 1959 San Bernardino National Forest wild fire, BBAZ is home to a wide range of injured, abandoned, or illegal-pet-recovery animals. The plan calls for the Zoo to relocate a short distance within the City of Big Bear Lake.

Three new nighttime spectaculars will dazzle guests at the **Disneyland Resort** when the *Diamond Celebration* begins Friday, May 22, 2015. Nighttime will glitter as never before when the latest technology and immersive special effects lift the *Paint the Night* parade and *Disneyland Forever* fireworks spectacular beyond anything seen in the past at Disneyland Park. In **Disney California Adventure** park, a new "World of Color" show featuring Mickey Mouse will tell the story of Walt Disney and the Happiest Place on Earth through fountains, film, animation, a stirring musical score and visual surprises.



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PA Farm Show, Showmen raise scholarship funds



Each year during the Pennsylvania Farm Show (Pennsylvania's equivalent to a state fair minus the rides), the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association sells \$2.00 tickets to ride the carousel. Proceeds are split between the PA Department of Agriculture scholarship fund and the PSSA scholarship fund. This year, at the 99th show, more than \$19,000 was raised for each of the two organization's funds. The ticket takers are (l to r): Jerry Bartlebaugh, Bartlebaugh Amusements; Lisa Bartlebaugh, Bartlebaugh Amusements and Jim Huey, concessionaire.



This 1946 Herschel carousel, provided by Steve Switka, S&S Amusements, Scott Township, Pa. has been with the eight day run of the Pennsylvania Farm Show since 2005. It is located in the Family Living Section of the Main Hall. Proceeds from this ride and the Dalton Mini Tractor ride in the Weis Exposition Hall go to scholarship funds of both the Showmen's Association and the PA Department of Agriculture scholarship fund. The mini tractor ride was furnished by Steel City Shows, now a part of the new Powers & Thomas Midway Entertainment.

AT/B. DEREK SHAW

2015 Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo ropes in record-setting numbers

Talley Amusements provides 48 rides, 30 games on midway

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

FORT WORTH, Texas — The 2015 Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, which ran Jan. 16-Feb. 7, was one for the record books.

And, that is literally. Numerous records were broken during the 23-day livestock and agriculture extravaganza at Will Rogers Memorial Center, including an all-time attendance mark.

The show drew a total of 1,248,500. The past record was set in 2012 when 1,166,000 fairgoers attended. Last year's attendance was 1,136,100.

"With the exceptionally good weather experienced during the 2015 show, most previous year's show records were shattered," said Brad Barnes, Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo's president and general manager. "Records range from general grounds attendance and rodeo ticket sales, to gross receipts from our 16 livestock auctions.

"Our food vendors and commercial exhibitors all experienced growth in sales as well," Barnes said. "We had a very successful 23-day run and we appreciate the support of our community."

The theme for this year was "Stock Show Strong." The event was packed full of entertainment including 36 rodeo performances in 23 days.

The traditional All Western Parade that weaves



Talley Amusements brought 48 rides and 30 games to the 2015 Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo Midway. A record 1,248,500 guests passed through the gates during the 23-day run.
AT/SAMMY PICCOLA

among the streets in downtown Fort Worth kicked off the event.

Talley Amusements, the midway provider for the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo for over a decade, provided 48 rides and 30 games on the midway.

A record \$3.7 million was generated for the 2015 Junior Sale of Champions. Local business owners, executives and individuals were responsible for purchasing 286 head of steers, barrows, lambs and goats.

"It's remarkable to see the kind of support provided by our area leaders and organizations," Barnes said. "They realize these students have put in countless hours of dedication to their livestock projects and are willing to reward them with above market prices."

The grand champion steer, a 1,344-pound European crossbred, topped all challenges with an impressive \$240,000 bid, a record.

FAST FACTS

\$3,709,361 paid to junior livestock exhibitors during the Sale of Champions.

1,248,500 people attended this year, crushing the old attendance record of 1,166,000 set in 2012.

\$240,000 paid for the grand champion steer, Bob Marley, beating the previous record of \$230,000.

100,100 people attended the last day of the Stock Show setting a new record for the show's final day.

61 degrees was the average high temperature during the 23-day Stock Show.

13 daily attendance records were set this year.

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IISA Extravaganza and Trade Show perseveres

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

GIBSONTOWN, Fla. — The International Independent Showmen's Association (IISA) has seen its annual Extravaganza and Trade Show attendance drop steadily.

This year was no different. But, attendance is not what drives this event, according to officials. It is what occurs among those who do attend that perpetuates and preserves this show.

Teresa Rimes, show secretary, said she continues, year after year, to hear comments from exhibitors that buyers are on the grounds.

"I had many comments from exhibitors that said this year was the best they ever had," Rimes said. "We think the show went very well."

The Extravaganza and Trade Show, held this year Feb. 3-7, is produced by the International Independent Showmen's Foundation (IISF), the non-profit arm of the IISA.

The extravaganza includes the trade show, meetings, educational sessions and a variety of social events.

While attendance may have dropped, there are exhibitors looking to return to the fold. For example, Jeff Miller, representing Chance Rides in sales for the carnival industry, said he visited the trade show this year on behalf of Chance.

"Chance Rides has been mostly absent from this show for a long time," Miller said. "We took a different approach this year. We didn't exhibit, but I spent about two and a half days mostly getting our feet wet. It was good to be back."

Miller said he was encouraged by the reaction from attendees.

"We are very pleased to be involved in the carnival industry," he said. "We (Chance) will



do our best to earn our position."

Chance Rides is currently in production manufacturing two new Zippers for carnival owners. One was sold to Skinners' Amusements. The owner of the second hasn't been announced.

"We haven't manufactured a Zipper in a while," Miller said. "We are retheming and updating it. It will be the same ride, but the new generation will have a more modern look."

Miller said Chance is working on selling a couple of Century Wheels and "we are working on a totally new attraction that has never been done. We are in development right now to see if it can be done."

Len Soled, Rides-4-U, also had a very good show. He did exhibit and had quite a few pieces of equipment. In fact, he won an award for having the largest exhibit. The rides on exhibit were mostly pre-sold, but business was done at the show.

On the grounds, Soled displayed: a SBF/Visa compact spinning coaster going to Butler Amusements; SBF/Visa Jets ride going to Campy's Amusements; SBF/Visa Groovy Bus going to Majestic Rides; Fredrickson slide going to Houghton Enterprises; and SBF/Visa Drop 'N Twist to Beauce Carnival.

While at the show, among some of Soled's sales were two KMG Inversions, one to Skerbeck Entertainment Co. and one to PBJ Happee Day Shows. He sold a KMG Fire Ball to Deggeller Attractions, and a Drop N' Twist and Groovy Bus to Goldstar Amusements.

Tons of Fun also pur-



Wadkins exhibited its Expo Wheel at the 2015 International Independent Showmen's Association Extravaganza and Trade Show, held Feb. 3-7, Gibsonton, Fla.
AT/SUE NICHOLS

chased a Groovy Bus. Luehrs' Ideal Rides and World's Finest Shows each purchased a Frog Hopper.

"We, again, noticed that buyers were at the show," Soled said. "We are very pleased."

And, there were many more exhibitors expressing positive results.

Bob's Space Racers exhibited several pieces including its new Jumpin' Monkeys game. It also exhibited a trailer that featured four games. The long sides offered a balloon game and a water race game. The short sides offered a toss game and a basketball game.

Dalton Kid-ride Rebuilders Inc. set up its Farm Tractor ride and had two other rides on trailers.

Zamperla exhibited its Sky Ride and Wadkins had set up its Expo Wheel. Wisdom showed its Gravitron, Centrifuge and Monster Truck Ride.

Battech Enterprises set up two of its slides side by side.

For the first time this year, the IISF held a Friday night event with proceeds to go to



Bob's Space Racers was on hand at this year's IISA Extravaganza and Trade Show. Along with this Lucky Duck game, the company displayed its new Jumpin' Monkeys game. It also had a trailer set up, which featured four games, one on each side. AT/SUE NICHOLS



Battech Enterprises brought two slides and set them up side by side, creating this larger attraction, at this year's IISA Extravaganza and Trade Show, held Feb. 3-7, Gibsonton, Fla.
AT/SUE NICHOLS

the association's museum, the American Carnival Museum. The event was held on the grounds and netted about \$6,000.

Dates for the 2016 trade show were not available at press time.

The Outdoor Amusement

Business Association (OABA) and the Showmen's League of America (SLA) held events on the IISA grounds. The OABA, along with the IISF, held a ribbon cutting event at the association's museum on Wednesday. The ribbon cutting represented the grand opening of the OABA Hall of Fame and Industry Pioneer section of the museum. The OABA held a reception that evening on the IISA grounds.

The SLA held a social mixer and a meeting on Thursday evening.

Both organizations had booths at the trade show.

Educational sessions addressed topics such as employment screening, DOT compliance, workplace violence, accident investigating, and foreign labor.

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103rd PSACF/PSSA Convention sees 1,600 attendees in Hershey

*Lisa Bartlebaugh,
takes the helm as
2015 PSSA president*

STORY: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

HERSHEY, Pa. — Attendance was down slightly this year for the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF) and Pennsylvania State Showman's Association (PSSA) convention held at Hershey Lodge and Convention Center January 21-24.

The 103rd edition of this annual event brings together board members, volunteers and staff from most of the 109 county and local fairs held throughout the Commonwealth each year. It is also an opportunity for three dozen carnival/midway owners/operators, along with food/game concessionaires, attractions, entertainers and suppliers to show off their wares by way of a two and a half day trade show.

This year there were more than 156 vendors, including 20 first-time ones. Exhibit booths, including the Communication Exhibits — an aisle devoted to scrapbooks, advertising and memorabilia from fairs held throughout the state during the past year — were located right inside the trade show floor entrance in the 32,000 square foot, Great American Hall. The trade show floor was brisk with activity. Many vendors surveyed were happy with attendance and participation.

The big news on the trade show floor was the purchase of Bill Swank's Steel City Shows (rides and routes) to upstart, Powers & Thomas Midway Entertainment. Ed Powers, son of Corky (Powers Great American Midway), decided to go on his own with partner Ron Thomas. The deal was finalized in mid-December. "I'm excited and ready. It's great meeting all these fairs," said Powers.

In addition, educational seminars, daily workshops, breakfast tabletop topics and banquets each evening completed the schedule of events. Some of the table topics included: Introduction to Social Media; Animal Health; Bring on the Press; Midway Promotions that Work; Screening Unwanted Vendors and Museums on your Fairgrounds.



The old and new, shown l to r, are: Ed and Amy Powers, Tracy and R.D. Thomas, principals in the new Powers & Thomas Midway Entertainment company. They purchased all the equipment and routing from Steel City Shows. Back row: Patty and Bill Swank, are retiring after a long time in the industry in Southwestern Pa. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



The man who changed how we dance, with "The Twist," "Pony Time," "The Limbo Rock" and more had the PA State Fair banquet crowd twisting with him. All 59 State Fair Queen contestants joined Chubby Checker on stage for their opportunity to twist with him. COURTESY MARLYN KAUFFMAN



The 2015 leadership of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs are, l to r: Harry Ruffner, secretary/treasurer with Bedford County Fair; John Blaney, president, with Fayette County Fair and Dr. David Reese, Tioga County Fair. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

Wednesday evening was the night to showcase entertainment of all types and variety, from musical acts, impersonators, magicians, comedians and clowns, western shows and more. Many of these acts were also on the trade show floor each day.

The Opening Celebration keynote speaker was Chad Hyman. In 2001, at the age of 27,

his life changed in an instant when a 2,000-pound bale of hay shattered his neck leaving him a quadriplegic. However Chad's dreams were not paralyzed that day — he became an example of what is possible. Hyman spoke about attitude, change, success and vision. "He was extremely motivational," said Harry Ruffner, secretary / **See PSSA, page 29**

►PSSA

Continued from page 28

treasurer of the PSACF. The *Wall Street Journal* calls Hymas, "One Of The 10 Most Inspirational People In The World!"

Each evening, hospitality rooms were the gathering places after the business of the day was over. The Showmen's Association, who has been in existence in Pennsylvania the past 47 years, had an active room. Others were hosted by the President of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs, Variety Attractions Inc, Reithoffer Shows, Inc., J&J Amusements, Tropical Amusements and the Bloomsburg Fair.

Thursday evening's banquet, held by the PSACF, started off with all 59 County Fair queens that were vying for the State Fair Queen title, to introduce themselves, many with clever approaches including poems and pieces of trivia from the area they represent. Introduction of PSACF directors and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture representatives, were done. "Boots" Hetherington, Fair Fund Office, PA Department of Agriculture, received the largest round of applause. George Gregg, retiring Secretary of Agriculture, spoke to the crowd, receiving a standing ovation upon conclusion. In part, Gregg said, "Fairs are alive and well in Pennsylvania. All of you are advocates for agriculture across the state."

The evening continued with a 45 minute music showcase from Chubby Checker, provided by Variety Attractions. The man who changed how we dance, with "The Twist," "Pony Time," "The Limbo Rock" and more had the crowd twisting with him as he worked the ballroom floor. Later in his fast-paced show, the 59 State Fair Queens all joined Checker on stage for an opportunity to twist with him as well.

The PA Showman Association held their banquet Friday evening. Various awards were presented to a variety of showmen for annual and lifetime contributions. Bill Swank, retiring from Steel City Shows (now owned by Powers & Thomas Midway Entertainment), was Showman of the Year. A check was presented to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation for \$19,000 — half the proceeds from the Showman's Carousel and mini tractor ride that operated during a 10 day farm show run in early January. The use of

the carousel was donated by S&S Amusements, Inc, Scott Township, Pa. The PSSA presented eight scholarships, totaling \$15,700 to students from their half of the Farm Show ride proceeds during the banquet. PSSA has raised and donated over \$160,000 in scholarships since inception. The total amount of scholarships, including the Farm Show Foundation portion is over \$300,000.

The banquet also featured the installation of the 2015 PSSA President Lisa Bartlebaugh, co-

owner of Bartlebaugh Amusements, State College, Pa. When asked about her priorities this year as the incoming president, Bartlebaugh said, "We have a few things going on, including food safety and regulations. Ride safety is always first. We will tackle any problems and go from there."

In talking with the county fair representatives, their big concern is the uncertainty of how a new governor in office will affect statewide support of the industry.

An integral part of the PSACF portion of the convention is the crowning of the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen. Since there is no "official" state fair, the Saturday evening banquet serves as the opportunity to announce the 2015 Queen who visits any of the 109 fairs in Pennsylvania upon request during the upcoming season. This year 59 contestants representing their local/regional fair participated in three days of judging activities before a winner to this 29th annual event

was selected and crowned. Alana Eisenhouer, Miss York Fair, took the honors. This is only the second time in recent years the York Fair had queen contestants.

In closing, Ruffner felt very good about the 2015 edition of the PA Fair/Showmen convention. "Three members of the I.A.F.E. were in attendance. Everyone was pleased with the table topics and seminars. Overall, we received very favorable comments."

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CARNIVAL LIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne, psherborne@amusementtoday.com

North Carolina lawmakers recently filed a bill to increase fines and penalties on amusement ride operators who don't follow state safety standards.

N.C. State Representative **Ted Davis**, the primary sponsor for the bill, told local news agencies in Raleigh, N.C., the state's capital, that the bill came as a response to a 2013 amusement ride accident that occurred during the **North Carolina State Fair**, Raleigh.

That accident sent five people to the hospital. Investigators later determined that safety devices on the ride had been tampered. It occurred on the Vortex, manufactured by Technical Park. The ride was owned by **Family Attractions Amusement Company**.

The operators of the ride face fines and criminal charges.

The bill raises penalties on several infractions related to operating amusement rides. The bill also creates a new felony for harming someone with a ride that has been illegally operated.

The **New Mexico State Fair's** midway carnival could look a bit different this year because of increased vendor competition.

Expo New Mexico, Albuquerque, the venue for the fair, issued a request for proposals the first of January, seeking bids from vendors who might be interested in taking over the midway during this year's Sept. 10-20 fair. Notice of the RFP was sent to approximately 65 carnival operators.

Tulsa, Okla.-based **Spectacular Attractions**, doing business as **Murphy Bros. Expositions**, has had the state fair's carnival contract for 27 of the past 30 years. When Expo last put out an RFP for the carnival in

2010, only Murphy Bros., which teamed up with **Reed Exposition Midways of Texas**, submitted a timely bid.

A local news agency quoted Expo spokeswoman **Erin Thompson** as saying there are several elements involved in how the state fair receives revenue from the carnival vendor, such as sharing processing fees from ATM machines, RV space rental, reimbursement for the cost of ride tickets, security, utilities, etc.

But, she said, the lion's share of carnival revenues comes from ride ticket sales. Murphy Bros., for example, pays Expo 33 percent of ride ticket sales, and a minimum of \$190,000 for concessions rental space.

The deadline for RFP submissions is March 3.

Kathy Kramer assumed her new role as CEO of the **Orange County Fair & Event Center** in Costa Mesa, Calif., Jan. 5, 2015, ending years of controversy and suspicion that dogged a proposed sale of the **Costa Mesa Fairgrounds**.

Despite the turbulence that preceded her arrival, Kramer has said she came in prepared to celebrate in style this year's 125th anniversary of the **Orange County Fair**, which is set for July 17-Aug. 16.

And she has ambitious plans to expand the reach and appeal of the Fair & Event Center within the community and the county's tourism industry.

Kramer's resume includes stints in business operations, sales, and marketing for non-profit, government and business organizations. She found the listing for her new job online from thousands of miles away.

At the time, she was working in Edmonton, Canada at **Northlands**, a not-for-profit organization that hosts the **Canadian Derby, Farmfair International** and

the **Edmonton Fair**, as well as concerts and sporting events.

The annual OC Fair attracted 1,337,167 visitors last year and the OC Fair & Event Center offers a variety of events and programs throughout the year.

The **Tulsa (Okla.) State Fair** has now made money seven straight years, and 2014 was the best year ever. County officials last month announced the 2014's fair made more than \$2.1 million, up from \$1.8 million in 2013.

The estimated attendance was 1.1 million, putting the Tulsa State Fair among the 15 largest in the country, according to fairgrounds officials.

Parking, concessions and booth rental sales all increased in 2014 while overhead and labor costs decreased by \$60,000.

The Tulsa State Fair had its worst year in 2007, when it lost \$760,318. Since 2008, it has made money every year. Beginning in 2010, it has made at least \$1 million a year.

In hopes of boosting concert ticket sales, the **Kansas State Fair**, Hutchinson, Sept. 11-20, 2015, has already announced the first acts in its grandstand lineup, with tickets going on sale Feb. 6.

Fair Manager **Denny Stoecklein** said the fair has booked up-and-coming country artists Sam Hunt and Old Dominion. That concert has been set for Sept. 13.

Traditionally, the fair's ticket office starts selling concert seats in May. Now, said Stoecklein, with feedback from fairgoers, the idea is to spread the on-sale dates out, making it more budget-friendly.



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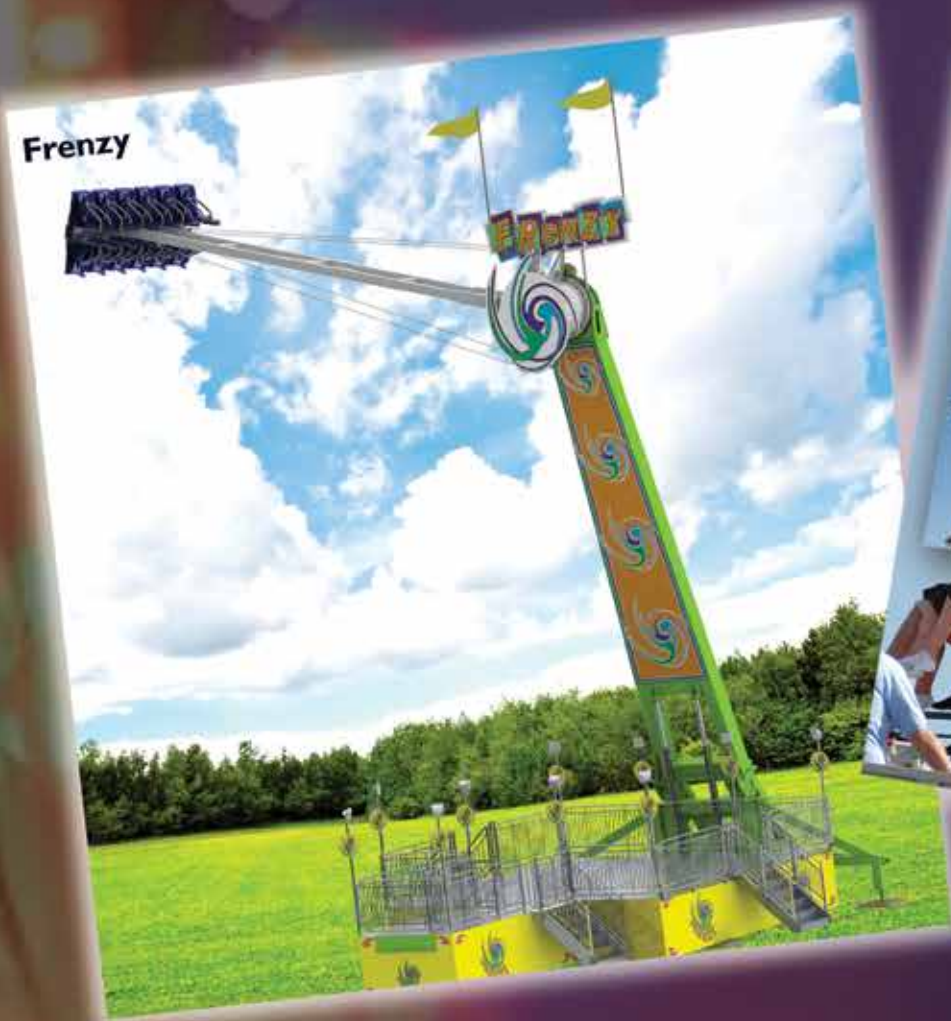
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BUSINESS & CLASSIFIEDS

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RWS and Associates Entertainment inks long term N.Y. office lease

STORY: Scott Rutherford
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

NEW YORK — RWS and Associates Entertainment, a production company that tours the world with a host of cruise ships, resorts and theme park clients including Six Flags and Cedar Fair Entertainment, has signed a long term lease in Long Island City (the westernmost residential and commercial neighborhood in Queens). The four-story building at 34-01 38th Avenue offers 218,000 square feet of space.

"The deal, in aggregate, is more than \$10 million for 12 years," said Jeffrey Rosenblatt who brokered the deal on behalf of NGFK for the tenant. The asking price was between \$20 and \$30 per square foot.

Rosenblatt, currently executive managing director at Coldwell Banker Commercial Alliance, added that the Long Island City location was appealing because of its proximity to Midtown Manhattan and relatively affordable rent. The size of the space — the production company will have a permanent studio and rehearsal space on the ground floor and offices on the third floor of the building — was also part of the decision to relocate to Queens. The area, where Kaufman Studios are also located, is gaining in popularity.

RWS is moving its offices from 1560 Broadway and had been leasing studio space across the city. Renovations are currently underway on the building's lobby.



RWS and Associates Entertainment has signed a long term lease in Long Island City for a new location that offers 218,000 square feet of office space. The four-story building will be used for show rehearsals, costume fittings, musician and vocal rehearsals. In addition, the new larger space will allow RWS to develop state-of-the-art video concepts and meet with clients all in one central location.

COURTESY RWS



RWS is expected to move into its new home and put signage of its name on the façade of the building at the end of the year.

AT spoke with Ryan Stana, CEO RWS and Associates, about the company's decision to relocate: "RWS' expansion to our complex in Long Island City, a short subway ride from Times Square, goes beyond the added square footage. Sharing the neighborhood with some highly acclaimed film and TV production studios,

RWS' new office and studio complex opens on the cusp of the company's 12th anniversary. This expansion is a direct reflection of our team's hard work and success the company has experienced. It has been a longtime goal to provide a campus like environment for our clients, performers and staff to use as a one-stop shop. Within a few steps we can watch a rehearsal for one of our new shows, hold costume fittings, orchestrate musician and vocal rehears-

als, develop state-of-the-art video concepts, and meet with our clients in a beautiful, relaxed conference room with Manhattan views," said Stana. "Our goal is also to be able to offer our studios as an additional resource for producers who may be looking for cost-effective rehearsal studios in New York. We are thrilled to be one of the many companies helping to revitalize Long Island City and look forward to being an integral member of the community."

RWS Associates will be a supporting partner of the 2015 Golden Ticket Awards, presented by *Amusement Today*, by providing musical entertainment during the awards ceremony. The 2015 GTA event is scheduled for New York City, Sept. 11 & 12 and will feature tours of Victorian Gardens at Central Park and Luna Park at Coney Island.

Complete 2015 GTA event details will be posted later this spring at GoldenTicketAwards.com.

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In memory of Tat Won

Editor's note: During last November's IAAPA Attractions Expo, WhiteWater West lost one of their own. The following is a statement just released on the unexpected passing of Tat Won, age 58 (1956-2014).



Won

RICHMOND, B.C., Canada — Words seem inadequate to express the sorrow felt by the loss of our colleague and friend.

Tat Won was one of the most remarkable men ever to walk this earth. His kindness, humility and talent were truly unparalleled.

Tat Won was always a friend and role model, never missing a chance to flash his signature smile at everyone that crossed his path. He was fair-minded and humble, never criticizing or judging another. The way that Tat chose to live his life should inspire us all to live our best lives and to never let a day go by without acknowledging our blessings.

Tat was an athlete and enjoyed classic Canadian winter sports like skiing on the local mountains and playing our country's beloved sport, hockey. Some would say his tennis skills were that of a professional (although he'd never admit it).

Tat was a dedicated father to his two children and a loving and doting partner to Karen.

Tat was a master of his art, the best water park designer in the industry, all the while maintaining a truly unassuming nature. Disney, the most successful brand in the world, requested Tat by name to work on their projects due to his amazing creativity, superb eye for detail and for the efficiency of which he could accomplish his one-of-a-kind designs. He worked on world-renowned projects such as Caribbean Bay in Korea and Yas Waterworld in Abu Dhabi. Even after 20 years, the people he worked with at Forrec still reference his style when they refer to a distinguished "Tat design."

In honor of Tat Won, WhiteWater has established the Tat Won Vertical Leadership Award. The award will recognize the ongoing efforts and commitment of our employees in supporting WhiteWater's journey to become a truly vertical organization, built on customer service excellence.

Many of us at WhiteWater had the pleasure and the honor of working with Tat for 20 years. Tat was WhiteWater's Senior Landscape Architect.

You will be missed, our hearts are with you.

**The worldwide staff at
WhiteWater West Industries Ltd.**

Hershey Ent. remembers Kent Bachmann

HERSHEY, Pa. — Kent Bachmann, Hershey Entertainment's Director, Design and Engineering with the Construction Services Group, passed away on October 20, 2014. This was after a courageous battle with Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), a condition that affects the bone marrow and the blood cells it produces. (This is what ABC's *Good Morning America* host, Robin Roberts has endured). Bachmann was 58.

Prior to position with Hersheypark, which began in 1999, Bachmann was vice president of Engineering for a Harrisburg, Pa. consulting engineering firm. He presented seminars on various topics for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards. Subjects included: "Amusement Ride Standards and Code Applications" and "Metal Fatigue." He also shared ride physics with students during Hersheypark Science Days, along with visits to schools. He also lectured to the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association operators on, "Water Chemistry Mathematics."

He was served with the Department of Agriculture – Amusement Ride Division (Inspector Class II) and was appointed to the Amusement Ride Safety Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as the board's engineer by former Gover-



Bachmann

nor Edward Rendell. Baughman was also a member of the National Association of Amusement Ride Officials.

During his 15 years at Hersheypark, Bachmann oversaw the engineering aspects of all the major attractions, including: Storm Runner (2004), Fahrenheit (2008) and Sky Rush (2012) — all Intamin products, Set Point's Roller Soaker (2002) and the new-for-2015, Maurer AG, Laff Trakk among other attractions.

Bachmann, who lived in Elizabethtown, Pa. is survived by his wife and son, as well as his faithful companion Gus. "Uncle Kent" is greatly missed by his eight nieces and nephews and remembered for his passion, quick wit and the pyrotechnics he brought to family reunions.

Amusement Today talked with those who worked with Kent at Hersheypark.

"He was one-of-a-kind. I think if he had been my Physics teacher in high school, I would have majored in Physics in college. He was such a wonderful human being and quite active in his church," said Kathy Burrows, manager, Public Relations, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company.

Laura Woodburn, director of Ride Operations said, "We were so saddened by the passing of Kent. It is never easy to lose a friend, and especially Kent. His passion and enthusiasm for the industry was a force to be reckoned. We miss him dearly."



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Mike Apple retires from Six Flags Over Texas

ARLINGTON, Texas — This season will mark a bitter sweet end of an era at Six Flags Over Texas. For 47 seasons, the park's Director of Operations has been employed at the park and now he's retiring.

Mike Apple began his career in 1967 as a ride operator for the Von Roll-built Astrolift. Throughout the years he's always taken great pride in his work for the park. During his tenure, he has seen or been a part of nearly every innovative moment at the park. In addition to working as a ride operator, he worked in Human Resources, Park Services, Games and eventually made his way back to Operations where he served as the Operations Manager for more than 25 years before he was promoted to Director of Operations in 2007.



Apple

Many have had the pleasure of hearing him tell great stories about the years when Angus G. Wynne, Jr. — the founder of Six Flags Over Texas — would roam the midway. As a member of management, Mike would often be found at the front of the park during the hot summer months wearing a short sleeved button down shirt, slacks, cowboy boots, name badge and carrying a trash picker.

On Feb. 6, 2015 Mike was honored by current and former Six Flags employees, inside his favorite entertainment venue — The Crazy Horse Saloon.

Apple, as he's affectionately called by co-workers, has told colleagues that as a retiree he plans to travel, work in his yard, and for the first time in several years be home to celebrate his wedding anniversary with his wife instead of being at the park.

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PEOPLE WATCH

Gateway Ticketing announces staff changes



Howard

GILBERTSVILLE, Pa. — Gateway Ticketing Systems recently announced that it has named a new Chief Financial Officer and promoted a staff member.

Kevin Howard has been named as the company's new CFO. Howard comes to Gateway with decades of industry experience and has been in the role of Interim CFO since November 2014. He looks forward to bringing his expertise in accounting saying, "I am thrilled to be a part of a growing and respected company like Gateway Ticketing Systems."

With over 30 years in public accounting, I have worked with numerous closely-held businesses and hope to use that experience to contribute to Gateway's ambitious plans and future. I look forward to the journey and working with the Gateway team."



Lopez

Marcus Lopez has been promoted to the newly created position of director of Customer Experience. Lopez moves into this critical new role to provide continued excellence in customer service and an enhanced level of engagement with Gateway customers around the world.

With Gateway since 2011, Lopez joined the company from Universal Orlando where he worked in Information Technology.

Holiday World celebrates service years

SANTA CLAUS, Ind. — Four employees at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari were recently honored for their many years of service with the world's first theme park. This year's honorees represent 70 years of service. The Holiday World & Splashin' Safari Service Award recipients are:

- **Bob Burrows**, maintenance manager, 25 years
- **Elmer Rains**, maintenance technician, 20 years
- **Vanessa Kellems**, director of Retail & Games, 15 years
- **Jodie Zorn**, purchasing coordinator, 10 years

Thinkwell Group adds Francois Girard



Girard

BURBANK, Calif. — **Thinkwell Group** recently announced the appointment of **François Girard** to senior vice president of global business development. Girard joins Thinkwell after serving as senior vice president of development and strategy for Belgium-based Dragone funded by renowned theatre creator/director Franco Dragone. Prior to Dragone, Girard worked as a professional consultant to Fortune 500 companies in the corporate strategy practice of Deloitte Consulting in Canada.

SeaWorld announces management changes

ORLANDO, Fla. — SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc. announced on Feb. 6, 2015 changes in its operations management. **Daniel B. Brown** becomes the company's chief parks Operations officer, having operational oversight over all of the company's theme parks. **Donald W. Mills** becomes Orlando park president responsible for leading the company's Orlando parks: SeaWorld, Discovery Cove and Aquatica. Current Orlando park president **Terry Prather** moves to the company's corporate team to become senior vice president of Operations with oversight of the safety, environmental, ride operations and standardization functions across the company's parks. He will also work closely with the company's industry-leading zoological operations.

No fishing tale here...



Dick Knoebel, Knoebel's Amusement Resort, is known for his love of sea and fishing. Thus it should come as no surprise that he and three companions reeled in a record 92 Mahi Mahi fish during a trip on Jan. 21, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Shown here, left to right are: Rob Bunton, Dick Knoebel, Veronica Durling and Mark Freiji. When asked by AT why the group didn't catch 100 fish, Knoebel replied, "We ran out of bait!"

COURTESY VERONICA DURLING

MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 02/12/15	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
Apollo Global Management (Great Wolf Resorts)	APO	NYSE	23.34	33.68	20.02
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	36.91	37.95	26.56
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	403.50	406.70	3.277
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	54.35	55.76	42.75
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	58.38	59.30	47.74
	CMCSK	NASDAQ	57.87	58.94	47.21
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	103.58	103.85	76.31
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1221.00	1298.00	864.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	2255HK	SEHK	1.17	2.27	1.02
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	11.75	13.70	10.30
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	21.24	28.75	17.25
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	18.80	35.30	15.11
Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town Co., Ltd. (OCT)	000069	SZSE	7.88	8.97	4.30
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	45.16	45.57	31.77
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	3200.00	3245.00	2941.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	6.20	8.44	5.38

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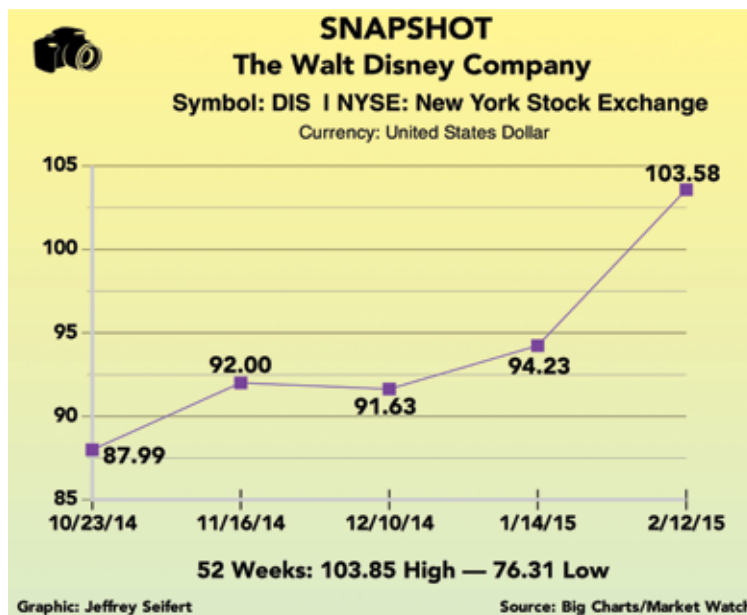
Worldwide Markets: **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock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

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Region (U.S.)	As of 02/09/15	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.930	- \$1.186
Midwest	\$2.769	- \$1.200
Gulf Coast	\$2.761	- \$1.027
Mountain	\$2.776	- \$1.092
West Coast	\$2.756	- \$1.145
California	\$3.061	- \$1.019

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On 02/12/15 \$1 USD =	
0.8839	EURO
0.6553	GBP (British Pound)
119.78	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9267	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.2902	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.2607	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

H.J. Heinz, Cedar Fair strike deal

SANDUSKY, Ohio — **H.J. Heinz Company**, based in Pittsburgh, Pa., and **Cedar Fair Entertainment Company**, announced a five-year exclusive marketing and supplier partnership for ketchup, mustard, relish and mayonnaise condiments.

Heinz will be the only ketchup, mustard, relish and mayonnaise manufacturer to have marketing and supplier rights at the parks, and will be positioned as Cedar Fair's "Official Partner and Supplier" for each of its parks as related to condiments. This partnership will span all 11 of Cedar Fair's parks across the United States and Canada.

As part of the agreement, Heinz will receive product sampling rights, advertising on Cedar Fair's FunTV Media Network, and exposure on digital menu boards throughout the park. Heinz ketchup, mustard, relish and mayonnaise will be made available to park guests throughout Cedar Fair's regionally dispersed network.

Live Oak Bank announces BPAA sponsorship

WILMINGTON, N.C. — **Live Oak Bank** announced its partnership with the **Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA)**. As part of the BPAA's Smart Buy program, member centers have access to financing options specifically addressing the needs of the Bowling and Entertainment industry.

"Live Oak Bank is thrilled to be selected by the BPAA as a trusted partner," said **Ben Jones**, Domain Specialist for the Bank's Entertainment Center division.

"We are excited that Live Oak Bank has joined our exclusive Smart Buy program," **Tom Martino**, BPAA President stated. "Our program is very selective, and adding a partner like Live Oak who is equally invested in the betterment of BPAA members is a great step towards growing this industry."

Six Flags announces quarterly dividend

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** announced on Feb. 5, 2015 that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.52 per share of common stock payable to shareholders of record as of February 17, 2015. The dividend will be payable March 9, 2015. In other Six Flags news, **James Reid-Anderson**, **Six Flags Entertainment Corp.** president & CEO, unloaded 150,700 shares at an average price of \$43.12 on January 5, 2015. The total amount of the transaction was worth \$6,498,184, according to the disclosed information with the Securities and Exchange Commission in a Form 4 filing.

At a Glance...

•PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The **New England Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions (NEAAPA)** will hold their 102nd annual meeting at the Providence Biltmore Hotel, March 23-25, 2015. For more information call (877) 999-8740.

•LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The **International Pizza Expo** will be held March 23-26, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nev. at the Las Vegas Convention Center. For more information visit: www.PizzaExpo.com.

•LAS VEGAS, Nev. — **Amusement Expo 2015**, sponsored by **AAMA** and **AMOA** and organized by **WT Glasgow, Inc.**, will be held March 24-26 in Las Vegas, Nev. at the Las Vegas Convention Center. For more information visit: www.amusementexpo.org.

•LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The **Roller Skating Association's 78th Annual International Convention and Trade Show** will be held May 10-13, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nev. at the South Point Hotel & Casino. For more information visit: www.rollerskating.org.

•LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The **2015 Bowl Expo** will be held June 22-26, 2015 at the Paris Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nev. Former NBA player **Magic Johnson** will deliver the Keynote Address. The Bowl Expo is produced by Arlington, Texas-based **Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA)**. For more information visit www.bpaa.com or call (800) 343-1329. Speaking of bowling, in 1975, Paramount Pictures Corp., in conjunction with Ballantine Books, published **Star Trek Blueprints**, drawn by Franz Joseph Designs. The drawings show every detail of the USS Enterprise, of the 1960s **Star Trek** TV show. Of special interest is Deck 21, home to six regulation bowling lanes, complete with a 83-seat spectator seating area. No word on if any crew member ever bowled a perfect game.



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Safety seminars a big hit to begin 2015 season

STORY: Pam Sherborne
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Safety seminars targeting those within the amusement industry opened the 2015 year to much success.

The following are recaps to three recently-held safety educational events.

AIMS International Safety Seminar

Over 300 people attended this year's AIMS International Safety Seminar, held Jan. 11-16, at the Double Tree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld, Orlando, Fla.

That attendance represented an increase of 10 percent, said AIMS Executive Director Karen Oertley.

"We offered over 400 classes this year, Monday through Friday, and had more than 100 volunteer instructors to teach them," Oertley said. "We were up 30 percent in our sponsorships over 2014."

AIMS International was formed to promote continuing safety in the amusement industry. The annual AIMS International Safety Seminar is a comprehensive safety-training experience for individuals responsible for the care and safety of the amusement industry's guests. It involves classroom instruction and hands-on experience.

Attendees build tailored course curricula that best suit their needs and the needs of their employers.

Even though there is basic core curriculum offered, new courses are added every year.

Nearly 200 people tested for certification this year. Certification may be obtained in the areas of maintenance, operations, aquatic ride inspections and general ride inspection.

International presence involved nine countries outside of the U.S. attending. They were: Canada, Mexico, Colombia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Although not finalized, AIMS is looking at 2016 dates of Jan. 10-15, in Orlando.



AIMS held its 2015 International Safety Seminar Jan. 11-16 at the Double Tree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld, Orlando, Fla. Officials were very pleased with attendance and everyone was pleased with the weather. This scene is from the last day of the seminar. The weather was so nice that the Operations, Inspections and Audits class was held outdoors. COURTESY KAREN OERTLEY/AIMS

NAARSO

Annual Safety Forum

NAARSO held its 28th Annual Safety Forum Jan. 25-30, in Myrtle Beach, S.C., at both the Ocean Dunes/Sand Dunes Resort and Broadway at the Beach.

Laura Woodburn, NAARSO public relations chair, said there were 300 attendees at this year's safety forum and NAARSO officials were pleased with the results.

There were 35 instructors and an array of courses throughout the forum.

NAARSO is a non-profit organization that provides resources, education, and certification programs for amusement device inspectors.

New to the 2015 schedule was the Level II track of the Operations classes. The Level II comes two years after the first Level I Operations track.

SAFETY

"This has been an extremely popular session," NAARSO Executive Director Leonard Cavalier said last November. "We felt it was time to add Level II."

Woodburn said they had 60 people participate in the Level II ride operations course.

The hands-on portion of the forum was held at Broadway at the Beach.

"We are expecting an even greater overall attendance next year," Woodburn said. "We will be at Hershey, Pa. in 2016, with our host park being Hersheypark."

Current NAARSO membership is 1,258.

International Ride Training, LLC (IRT)/iROC

International Ride Train-



IRT/iROC enjoyed a successful 2015 ride operator school with 84 registered students attending the hands-on event at the Circus Circus Adventuredome in Las Vegas, Nev. Above right, an instructor goes over safety points of the S&S Frog Hopper. AT/GARY SLADE



NAARSO held its Annual Safety Forum at Jan. 25-30 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Here, a portion of the attendees are participating in the hands-on portion featuring this ride, a Zierer Wave Swinger. The meetings were held at the Ocean Dunes/Sand Dunes Resort and the hands-on portion of the seminar was held at Boardwalk at the Beach. COURTESY JOSEPH J. PANDOLFO

ing LLC (IRT) hosted the annual International Ride Operator Course (iROC) school Feb. 4-6, Las Vegas, Nev., at the Circus Circus Adventuredome, Hotel and Casino.

A fairly new school, iROC is designed as an operational train the trainer curriculum that includes the standards of performance for specific operator skills with significant focus on preparation of teaching the standards.

There were 84 registered attendees this year, with Cedar Fair Entertainment Co., Sandusky, Ohio, sending 30 managers. Patty Beazley, a managing member, said seven new parks sent representatives as well.

Cindee Huddy is also a company managing member.

"The overall school was a tremendous success," Beazley said. "Students participat-

ing in our school learned the designated 10 critical components for ride operators/attendants and completed an 'amazing race' down Las Vegas Blvd."

And, attendees also enjoyed guest speakers, which included Johnnie Williams, Johnnie Williams Foundation, who gave the opening and closing remarks.

Dino Fazio, director of operations, Morey's Pier, Wildwood, N.J., has been the school director for the past five years.

"I think it went really well," Fazio said. "Each year we spend significant time tweaking the school from the year before. I think this was our best year yet. We had an increase in the number of parks represented and an increase in the variety of parks."





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2015 AIMS Safety Seminar a success, 300-plus students attend

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Oertley

ORLANDO, Fla.
— The **2015 AIMS Safety Seminar** was a tremendous success drawing more than 300 students from across the U.S., Canada and Mexico as well as registrants from places around the world including Colombia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Indonesia, Dubai, India and Qatar. More than 100 volunteer instructors were on hand to share their expertise at over 400 individual classes dedicated to all aspects of safety education.

The Seminar would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers and staff who roll up their sleeves and help with the myriad tasks and logistics an event this size requires. Special thanks to the backbone of the Safety Seminar, **Holly Coston**, AIMS Seminar Operations Manager and her team of ace volunteers including **Ed Zakar** from Six Flags Great Adventure; **C.W. Craven**



Premier Rides (above left) displayed during the vendor portion of the AIMS Safety Seminar. Above right, more than 300 students, 100 instructors made the 2015 seminar a huge success. AIMS PHOTOS

from Skyride Enterprises, Inc.; Ride Inspector, **Al Scanlan**; and Coulter and Associates' **Rick Achard** and **Barry Schaible**. Thanks also to our 2015 Ambassadors, **Manny Esteves**, PA State University, **Erin McCoullough**, and **Matthew Poulsin**, both from Six Flags Great Escape.

Many thanks to AIMS Certification Director, **Jan King**, for her hard work and organization in administering and ensuring AIMS certification credentials are up to date and properly filed at the seminar and throughout the entire year.

As we close our fiscal year at the



end of this month, it's also an appropriate time to thank and acknowledge the AIMS International board of directors who so generously give of their time and service to support our mission of safety education: Board President, **Roger Berry**, R.S. Alberts Company; First Vice President, **Timo Klaus**, KumbaK—The Amusement Engineers; Second Vice president, **Tim Viox**, Leisure Labs, LLC; Treasurer, **Patty Sullivan**, Eli Bridge Company; Past President, **Mike Gutknecht**, Ride Entertainment Group of Companies; **Tony Claassen**, Silver Dollar City; **Linda Freeman**, Rockwell Automation; **Franceen Gonzales**,

WhiteWater West; **Brian King**, Recreation Engineering Inc.; **Mark Moore**, Uremet Corporation; **Jim Seay**, Premier Rides; **Tom Sheehan**, The Sheehan Law Firm; **George Tso**, Ocean Park Corporation; and **Mike Withers**, Walt Disney Imagineering.

Safety is of utmost concern to everyone in the amusement industry and AIMS International strives to educate and inform our members and students on all topics related to safety both old and new. The 2016 Safety Seminar will again be held in Orlando, January 10-15 and planning is already underway. We invite and welcome your suggestions for new classes and topics as well as proposals to teach. Please send your ideas to info@aimsintl.org by March 20, 2016 for consideration.

AIMS International is a non-profit association dedicated to improve industry safety through leadership in education. Industry support of this important annual Safety Seminar is vital to the health and prosperity of the entire amusement industry. We are especially grateful for those companies who support the work and mission of AIMS International as sponsors of the Safety Seminar, as seen on this page below.

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



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Judge Roy Scream celebrates a 35th birthday at Six Flags Over Texas

STORY: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com



ARLINGTON, Texas — In 1980 Six Flags Over Texas was winding down its second decade of operation. The park had become a phenomenal success for the tourism of the Dallas/Ft. Worth area and was a catalyst for what would become one of the largest theme park chains in the world. When Six Flags Over Texas opened for the 1979 season, capital investment was light that year, following on the heels of the hugely popular addition of Shock Wave (Schwarzkopf double loop coaster) the year before. For its 20th season, Six Flags was primed for the next big thing.

As fate would have it, the park would be thrown a curve ball. The 1979 souvenir map noted something coming in 1980 in the Mexico section. Six Flags had heavily invested a commitment into the R&D for Arrow to build the first-ever bobsled coaster since the construction of Flying Turns coasters concluded in 1941. Unfortunately, Arrow was not able to deliver the product as testing had not proven successful. Six Flags management was left standing without the goods with a window of time for adding something new and flashy vanishing quickly. With the retirement of the park's Big Bend steel roller coaster in the fall of 1979, a new high-profile attraction was vital.

Enter William L. (Bill) Cobb, Dallas resident and renowned engineer and coaster designer. With the help of Don Rosser and the team from Roller Coaster Corporation of America (RCCA), Cobb accepted the chal-

lenge of delivering a new wooden coaster with the remaining budget of close to \$2 million. Errol McKoy, the park's general manager at the time, had a fondness for Lake Winnepesaukah's Cannonball. The size and scope of the new ride would have similarities to Lake Winnie's woodie. Having spent a short span of his time in New York, McKoy liked the allure of Coney Island's icons. His vision of eventually developing the waterfront area of Six Flags into a boardwalk section would take a first step. The new wooden coaster would actually be built outside of the park's boundaries along the edge of the lake. Future expansion — which never materialized — was to continue adding on to the lakeside ambience. As it was, an entrance to the coaster was a newly-constructed tunnel underneath the park's entrance drive. Even today, driving right between two large attractions upon entering the park is an intriguing thrill.

The construction process took place right at the front entrance ticket plaza. This covered area was boarded up and wooden bents were assembled not far from the ride site. In the interest of time, a vat pool of white paint was built in the parking lot and the wooden structure pieces where physically dipped into the white paint and then stacked to dry before moving to the ride site.

With its emphasis on Texas icons, Six Flags dubbed the new wooden coaster Judge Roy Scream. A head scratcher of a name to those unfamiliar to the Lone Star legend Judge Roy Bean, the woodie was named after the so-called "hanging judge." A man with a tumultuous past, Bean eventually took up office in his saloon proclaiming "Law West of the Pecos." His court office, The Jersey Lilly, had already been replicated in Six Flags' Texas section where staged gunfights took place on a daily basis. Now, the unscrupulous Texan would have a roller coaster named after him. The tagline for its debut was "Awe West of the Pecos."

On March 1, 1980, opening day was met with very cold

temperatures. Despite the chill, the Kilgore College Rangerettes were on hand, along with the media, to send out the first trains, opening the ride to the public. Its original colors were green track and yellow handrails with two PTC trains painted gray and yellow. McKoy, by this time, had moved on to the next stage of his career at the corporate offices, and Judge Roy Scream was opened with Ray Williams at the helm as general manager.

As the years passed, the color scheme of the ride shifted to red handrails and blue track, with the two trains mimicking those colors. Chaser lights would trace the layout's undulating outline making for magnificent reflections on nights that the lake's waters were a calm, mirror-like surface. In 1995 those lights were removed in favor of bright floodlights that brought the white structure to a vivid glow making for even more stunning reflections.

When AstroWorld opted to change out its Texas Cyclone trains for new ones from Morgan, Six Flags received one of those trains and created a third train, which would be painted white, now giving the three colors of the Texas flag an opportunity to ride the rails with one train continuously in rehab.

With a first drop of 65 feet, the Judge would be in line with family thrillers of its time. Ironically, a decade later, its sibling would set a world record for wooden coasters when Texas Giant opened in 1990 and pushed the boundaries of roller coaster statistics.

In 1991, members of American Coaster Enthusiasts dedicated a plaque in tribute to coaster designer Bill Cobb. It can still be seen by riders from the queue. Cobb's love of what he called "hoop de doos" can be found in the small speed bumps on the return leg that give riders those lovable head-ducking moments.

In 1993, the park announced a spring promotion of running Judge Roy Scream with trains facing backward. While the initial intent was to continue such operation only through May, the popular draw was continued throughout the entire season. It would not be until 2014 that such a marketing twist would be repeated at Six Flags Over Texas. Last season, Batman The Ride ran backward for the second half of the year.

Today, Judge Roy Scream remains a rarity in the Six Flags



Construction on Judge Roy Scream proceeded at a fast pace with footings poured Dec. 1979 (above left) and support structure following in Jan. 1980 (above). Above right, workers pour concrete for the ride entry tunnel located under the park's entrance road. Below, riders enjoy a spin on the Judge. CONSTRUCTION GARY SLADE/AT FILE



system as it still utilizes skid brakes to bring the ride to a stop. Originally, the train was operated with three levers which controlled the zones from the long brake shed up into the station. The operator was signaled when one train was making the horseshoe turn in the out-and-back layout to dispatch the next trainload of riders. Original capacity for the ride was reported to be 1,200 riders per hour.

For its 35th birthday, the park's lone woodie is receiving

some love. Director of Construction and Maintenance Mike Sosamon reports that about one-sixth of the total track length has been replaced from the ledgers up. "Due to the size and scope of the project, we exceeded our normal annual repair budget by approximately forty percent," he says. The work started immediately after the holiday season ended and continued through mid-February. The off-season TLC is just the right gift for this family favorite.

FAST FACTS

Judge Roy Scream
Six Flags Over Texas
Arlington, Texas

- 65 feet tall
- 50 degree first drop
- 2,670 foot length
- 53 mph top speed
- 323,800 board feet of lumber
- 3,000 gallons of paint
- Three PTC trains

- **William L. Cobb & Associates**, designer
- **Roller Coaster Corp. of America**, builder

- Opened March 1, 1980



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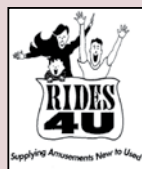
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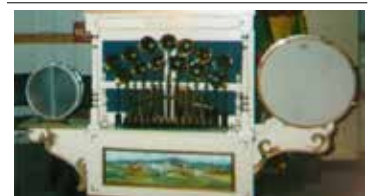
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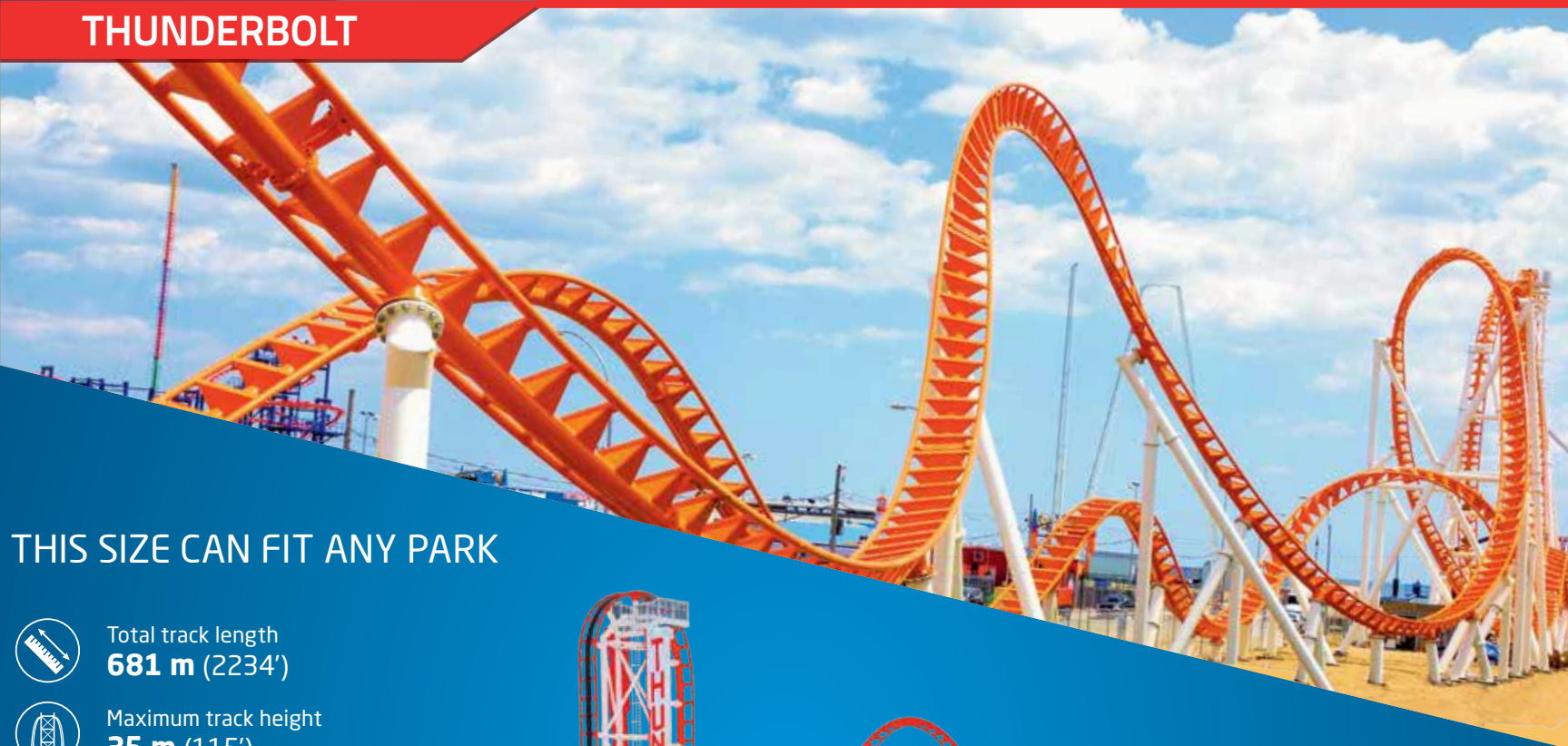
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