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Merlin Entertainments' U.S. Legoland Hotel a brickwork bonanza

Southern California park becomes full-fledged resort

STORY: Dean Lamanna
Special to Amusement Today

CARLSBAD, Calif. — With its unique toy theme and series of tasteful, steadfastly kid-focused additions over its 14-year history, including an aquarium in 2008 and a water-park in 2010, Legoland California has established itself as a serious player in Southern California's heated amusement market.

Now, with its debut of the Legoland Hotel, the San Diego metro-area park — newly and confidently rechristened the Legoland California Resort — is poised to make a successful

leap into the destination category.

Officially opened April 5 after several days of media previews, the three-story, 250-room inn, like the park, is designed to immerse families with children aged two to 12 in the creative world of Lego toys. Guests of the hotel, which is located adjacent to Legoland's entrance gate, will have early-morning access to the park of up to an hour before the general public is admitted.

"This is a one-of-a-kind property," said Frank Idris, Legoland Hotel general manager, formerly director of hotel operations at the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort and Spa. "Everything here is designed with children in mind — it's

their perspective that has gone into the planning first and foremost."

AT found this in abundant evidence during a visit to the brightly multicolored hotel — beginning with the giant, breathing green dragon made from some 400,000 Lego bricks that welcomes lodgers while guarding the porte cochere from a clock tower. Inside the lobby, which contains a "wading pond" filled with Lego bricks, several of the more than 3,500 elaborate Lego models adorning the hotel's public spaces, hallways and accommodations greet guests.

The rooms, some offering balconies and premium amenities like dynamic Lego character wall murals, are mini-

► See LEGO, page 4



Legoland Hotel workers, including one made entirely of the classic toy bricks, oversee finishing touches at the new inn.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA



Kings Dominion's new Planet Snoopy is a record setter



Kings Dominion's new Planet Snoopy, the world's largest Peanuts-themed children's area, features 18 rides including Snoopy's Rocket Express (a Zamperla Aerial Tramway), that gently glides over the action below.

AT/SCOTT RUTHERFORD

New area should challenge sister park Kings Island for Golden Ticket

STORY: Scott Rutherford
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

DOSWELL, Va. — Some records are made to be broken. And Kings Dominion did just that when it kicked off the 2013 season on March 29 with the introduction of its "Bigger, Better" Planet Snoopy, the world's largest Peanuts-themed children's area.

During a visit to Kings

Dominion this spring, AT spoke with KD Public Relations Manager Gene Petriello about the scope of this major addition to the park. "We are thrilled to open the bigger, better Planet Snoopy. With 18 total rides, there is something for everyone. The best part is that all of the new rides are designed specifically for families to ride together," said Petriello. "Kings Dominion is known for its roller coasters, including the towering Intimidator 305, but this year we wanted to focus on our little thrill seekers and their families. The new Planet

Snoopy is full of bright colors and stands out like it never has before. The biggest challenge was the massive size of the project. Spanning nearly 14 acres, everything in Planet Snoopy had to be linked up and run through one system, including the eight new rides, Family Care Center, the renovation of the restrooms and more."

Located on the site of the park's former Kidsville, this ambitious multi-million dollar project expands that section from its original seven acres to an impressive 14.

► See SNOOPY, page 5

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EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

SFHH celebrates 30th anniversary



Slade

While driving by Six Flags Hurricane Harbor in Arlington, Texas, the other day, I can tell that the 2013 daily summer waterpark season is near.

Painters from Baynum Painting were smothering one of the park's big slide towers with a team of workers who were busy giving the slides and tower a complete paint makeover and color change.

The park, originally opened in May 1983, under the direction of George Millay as Wet 'n Wild, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. With all the paint, TLC, and a new slide tower complex (CannonBowl and PipelineWave) from ProSlide the park is currently building, SFHH should be set for a banner year.

When the park opened in 1983 it was billed as the new "king" of waterparks. It was built for capacity thanks to its wide walkways, multiple slide towers, a massive wave pool and a Lazy River that encircled the wave pool. George learned much from the first first park in Orlando that has made the Arlington park a lasting success.

Interesting "Texas-Size Facts" from the opening year press materials issued by then Marketing Manager Joe Gibbons are:

- The 35-acre park was built at a cost of \$19.5 million, the most expensive waterpark built to date at that time in the U.S.
- Plumbers installed 22 miles of pipe underground ranging in size from 1 inch to 48 inches in diameter.
- More than 100 pumps were used to constantly move the park's water through filtration pits.
- 42 miles of electrical wiring would be housed in 14 miles of underground conduit pipe in the park.
- More than 15,000 yards of concrete were used to build the Arlington park. That's enough concrete to pave 5 1/2 miles of residential street to a depth of six inches.

Many great industry names worked with George at either the Orlando or Arlington parks and remain in the industry today. A few of those early day trendsetters are Mike Black, Ron Sutula, John Seeker, Joe Gibbons, Bob Gallagher, Walt Hawrylak and Rick Faber. George surrounded himself with the best of the best, evident today by the success of the Arlington park and the continued success by those mentioned above.

Gary Slade is the founder and publisher of Amusement Today. His love for amusement parks began at age six when he first visited Pontchartrain Beach Amusement Park and Six Flags Over Texas. His long newspaper career helped lead to the launch of AT in 1997.

CARTOON: Bubba Flint



EDITORIAL: Scott Rutherford, srutherford@amusementtoday.com

Riding together



Rutherford

Spring is in the air ... finally! I am more than ready to say farewell to Old Man Winter. He outlasted his welcome by several weeks.

My early assignments this spring included a visit to Virginia's Kings Dominion to cover that park's 2013 improvements. KD, like many of the Cedar Fair properties, boasts some of the biggest, baddest and most unique thrill rides on the planet. But this year's focus was on the opposite end of the spectrum – the park's youngest visitors. In KD's case, the park opened the world's largest Peanuts-themed children's area. There was specific attention paid to adding rides designed so that parents can enjoy them along with their children. It was a real treat to stroll through Planet Snoopy and see nearly every ride populated with an equal number of adults and kids.

Witnessing this phenomena sparked a memory of my early experience aboard one of

history's greatest thrill rides — the incomparable Shooting Star at Coney Island on the Ohio River near Cincinnati. Back then, at the tender age of nine, I was already fully obsessed with everything carnival/amusement park-related. But it was a life-changing ride aboard the Shooting Star that truly ignited my life-long passion and love for the roller coaster, especially those of the wooden variety.

I recall standing for what seemed like hours watching the trains slowly climb the lift and then become like rockets as they traversed that soaring mountain of white-washed wood. I proclaimed it was something I simply had to do. Because of my young age back then, I would never have been allowed to ride alone. Fortunately, my Dad was more than happy to accompany me for the journey. It was a traumatizing yet unbelievably wondrous adventure and one for which I am eternally thankful. I am glad my Dad was there with me.

Here's wishing everyone a safe and prosperous season filled with that same wonder and joy.

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2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

Peter Osbeck, Gröna Lund Parks And Resorts, Scandinavia

Peter Osbeck began his career in the amusement industry as a teenager working summers at Gröna Lund (Sweden). Soon thereafter he was working full-time at the park in the Technical Department; the first attraction Peter was involved with was the dark ride, Blå Tåget. Since that time, he has worked on the planning and installation of seven roller coasters, three tower rides and numerous flat rides and attractions. Peter lives and works with great passion and his friendly spirit makes him someone everyone wants to be around.



Peter Osbeck clowns it up for the camera while awaiting a ride on the park's Gravity Group-supplied wooden coaster, Twister. COURTESY GRONA LUND



Osbeck

Title
Ride Manager.

Number of years in the industry
Since 1980 full-time, so 33 years in this capacity.

Best thing about the industry
Creating happiness.

Favorite amusement ride
Our coaster, Twister.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be ...
Developing heavy equipment like Caterpillars.

Biggest challenge facing our industry is ...
To continue to create new and fantastic attractions for our guests.

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is ...
Seeing all the smiling guests.

When I want to really relax, I ...
Chop firewood or read a good book.

The celebrity I would most like to hang out with would have to be ...
Clint Eastwood.

My Mom always told me ...
Even problems that seem impossible can be solved.

My all-time favorite summertime song is ...
Brown-Eyed Girl by Van Morrison

When I was 10 years old, I wanted to be ...
An excavator operator.

Dream vacation
This summer my family and I will make a road trip from Los Angeles to San Francisco and back through Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks.

If I were to set a Guinness World Record, it would be for ...
Building the highest roller coaster in the world!

I am most comfortable wearing ...
Outdoorsman clothes.

The first thing I do when I get home from work is ...
Greet my dogs.

You are going to the moon. The three things you would take on the Space Shuttle are ...
My dogs, my chain saw and some good music.

The thing I most dread is ...
Two things: health problems for my family and a ride incident.

Favorite dinnertime meal ...
Barbecued moose filet with sauce béarnaise and roasted vegetables.

When friends come to visit me, I always take them here ...
My home in the Stockholm archipelago.

Take your pick: an afternoon at a winery or an evening at a brewery
The winery.

The professional athlete I most admire is ...
Magnus Samuelsson, once the strongest man in the world.

Favorite rainy day activity ...
Driving my Jeep in the mud.

Do you like to drink water with or without ice?
Without ice.

I always wish I learned how to ...
Play the guitar.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by



www.RollerCoasterMuseum.org

•**1893:** President Grover Cleveland hit an electric switch and the **Great Columbian Exposition** officially opened in Chicago, Illinois, on May 1. Considered one of the most spectacular events of the century, the exposition marked a great turning point in America, displaying all the wonderful inventions and social improvements of that time. Unfortunately, the public found the fair still in a somewhat incomplete condition, but the situation was due more to the tardiness of exhibitors than to any lack of zeal on the part of the management of the exposition. No **World's Fair Exposition** since has even been able to match the creativity and architectural wonder of this **White City**.

•**1906:** Luna Park in Arlington, Virginia, opened May 28. The new summer park had many of the familiar attractions of the time, including 30 places of entertainment along the great midway. The new park, operated by the **Ingersoll** family, would enjoy great crowds of pleasure seekers its first year, with a **Chutes** ride and **Scenic Railway**. The park was built in the hills at Four Mile Run, to take advantage of the cool breezes and numerous attractions of the time.

•**1916:** The new wooden side-friction **Greyhound** roller coaster at **Lakewood Park**, in the **Southeastern Fairgrounds**, Atlanta, Georgia, opened on Memorial Day. The park advertised the new ride as only being outclassed by the roller coasters at Coney Island. The **John Miller** design would serve the fairgrounds into the 1970s, and be destroyed during the filming of *Smokey and the Bandit 2* in 1979/1980.

•**1924:** The new **Bobs** coaster opened May 7, at **Riverview Park**, in Chicago, Illinois, during a rainy day. The **Frederick Church** design is considered one of his masterpieces, and complimented the park's extensive wooden roller coaster collection including the Pippin, Derby, Jack Rabbit, Greyhound, Skyrocket and Cannon Ball. It would be torn down after the park closed in 1967.

•**1932:** On Saturday, May 21, a fierce windstorm ran across the Great Salt Lake, in Utah, damaging buildings and structures in its path. The **Saltair Resort** would suffer a great loss, when a large portion of the old racing coaster was blown down, killing two men who were on the ground and injuring six others. Rebuilding would begin almost immediately and by mid-June it was repaired. Even with fires, it is considered the worst day in Saltair's 65-year history as an amusement resort.

•**1956:** **Walt Disney** announced in mid-May that it would be spending \$2,000,000 to expand **Disneyland**. The result of the big investment, including improvements to **Fantasyland** and **Tomorrowland**, would be unveiled June 15 — approximately one month before the first birthday of the park. It was a clear indication that the park was already highly successful, and Disney himself was solely intent on investing in the the future of the park.

—Compiled by Richard Munch, NRCMA and Jeffrey Seifert, AT

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►LEGO

Continued from page 1

fantasy lands unto themselves. Available in themes evoking pirate, medieval and other exotic adventures, they feature Wi-Fi; a separate clubhouse-like play and TV viewing area with bunk beds for the kids; and an array of Lego-crafted critters ranging from beetles to butterflies. (For kiddie practicality, each room has a child-high peephole in the door and a flip-down potty seat built into the toilet seat lid.)

The thematic fun continues at Bricks Restaurant, a family buffet-style eatery with food presented at a height kids can easily reach and paper tablecloths designed for coloring; and at Mini's Lounge and The Skyline Café, both appealing more to adults and open later into the evening. The hotel also features a large Castle Play area off the lobby with nightly children's entertainment, plus an outdoor pool with lifeguard, a fitness center and an event room.

While shepherding their families between the hotel's floors, adults will get a spe-



Featuring dynamic detailing and an array of playful Lego models, the premium pirate-themed room at the Legoland Hotel can accommodate up to five guests.

COURTESY LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA RESORT

cial charge out of the elevators: When the doors close and the elevators move, disco-ball lighting fills the space as yesteryear dance hits like "The Hustle" and "YMCA" play.

Noting the success of a Legoland Hotel introduced at Legoland Windsor in Berkshire, England, last year, Idris described the Carlsbad incarnation as a "not inexpensive" endeavor involving 50 model builders and over three million Lego bricks in addition to the actual building construction. (Although he declined to divulge the project's cost,

industry estimates have run as high as \$50 million.) The hotel will employ about 250 during peak season.

"We really want to create a resort environment where you have overnight stays — and right now, we're averaging about two nights," said Idris, suggesting a "captive guest" marketing approach akin to that of the Disneyland Resort, an hour north in Anaheim.

Even while resort officials have been hinting at further expansion in Carlsbad, Legoland's U.K.-based owner



The buffet-style Bricks Family Restaurant (above) offers equal portions of food and fun, while a friendly, steam-breathing Lego dragon (below) greets arriving hotel guests.

COURTESY LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA RESORT; AT/DEAN LAMANNA

Merlin Entertainments Group — as it has shown with its similar properties in Florida, Denmark, England, Germany and Malaysia — has grown the entertainment brand one carefully placed brick at a time. Whether the Legoland California Resort will become a new stateside model for the company, whose ownership of Madame Tussauds and numerous other properties place it second only to Disney in the attractions business worldwide, should be known by the end of summer.



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►SNOOPY

Continued from page 1

Along with fully re-imagining the ten existing attractions with Peanuts makeovers, Planet Snoopy is also home to eight completely new rides. Supplied by prolific Italian manufacturer Zamperla, Planet Snoopy's new attractions include:

Snoopy's Rocket Express (Aerial Tramway); Flying Ace Balloon Race (Samba Balloon Tower); Linus Launcher (Kite Flyer); Charlie Brown's Wind Up (Loli Swing); Snoopy's Junction (Kiddie Train); Lucy's Tugboat (Rockin' Tug); Snoopy's Space Buggies (jump Around); and Woodstock Whirlybirds (Midi Tea Cups).

The 10 existing rides, some of which have been re-themed are: Lucy's Crabbie Cabbie (formerly Boulder Bumpers); Great Pumpkin Coaster (formerly Taxi Jam); Woodstock Express (formerly Ghoster Coaster); Snoopy vs. Red Baron (formerly Red Baron); Peanuts Turnpike (formerly Junior Turnpike); Peanuts Road Rally (formerly Road Rally); Boo Blasters on Boo Hill; Joe Cool's Driving School; Flying Ace; and Snoopy's Moon Bounce.

Working with Zamperla

Procuring and installing such a large ride package requires expert planning and coordination between the park and supplier. KD Maintenance Manager Wayne Fuqua, who oversaw the install of the rides on this project, has high praise for Zamperla. "Kings Dominion chose Zamperla as the Planet Snoopy ride manufacturer based upon the sister parks in the Cedar Fair company, which have similar Zamperla rides. Zamperla also was a great fit for us because all of the eight new rides are designed specifically for adults and children to ride together, which is the goal of the bigger, better Planet Snoopy. Each ride took one to two days to install. Snoopy's Rocket Express took longer than that based upon its 600-foot-long track. All of the additional new rides were simplistic to install, in respect to most other rides. All were easily assembled once they arrived at the park. For example, with Woodstock Whirlybirds, the install included the track, four circular frame pieces;

then the cars went on top of that and the ride was ready to go. The onsite technician from Zamperla was excellent to work with and very knowledgeable, which helped make the install of the new rides run smoothly."

Family FUNtastic Guide

For most guests, visiting an amusement park is primarily all about the rides. But Kings Dominion came up with a unique way to combine fun and education. During the off-season, KD partnered with the United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg to create the Planet Snoopy Family FUNtastic Guide, a ground-breaking project for an amusement park in this region.

"The Family FUNtastic Guide was created for families to interact and teach their children before, during and after a trip to Kings Dominion. Inside the guide, families will find a concept such as 'Space Relation' connected to at least one of the rides in Planet Snoopy. That concept then has a teachable moment that can occur either on the ride, waiting in line or after the ride," explained Petriello. "There are also large signs in many of the queues for parents to interact with their kids while waiting to ride, along with 'Snoopy Snippets' located all over Planet Snoopy. The 'Snoopy Snippets' are quick statements, such as 'Learning is Fun' that helps stimulate the mind. This project at Kings Dominion shows our commitment toward not just having fun, but learning at the same time."

Family Care Center

Guests with smaller children and infants have specific needs that might not always be met at an amusement park. KD officials remedied this by incorporating into Planet Snoopy a new Family Care Center. This innovative, 1,100-square-foot air-conditioned oasis just off the midway offers a flat screen TV and play area to keep little ones occupied while parents take care of their younger siblings. Soft colors and a quiet environment along with rocking chairs, changing and feeding rooms, nap areas and more offer guests a respite from the

fun and summer sun.

Snacks and Songs

With so many rides and attractions to experience, one should also find time to grab a snack and take in a show. Planet Snoopy addresses these needs in proper style.

Making its first appearance in a theme park is Richmond-based Sweet Frog frozen yogurt. Situated adjacent to the Woodstock Express wooden roller coaster, this indoor Sweet Frog location offers a large selection of fat-free, sugar-free and gluten-free frozen yogurt options and plenty of toppings among other treats. "We saw an opportunity to have another location in Virginia and were intrigued with the idea," said Sweet Frog Director of Marketing, Victor DiPace. "With Richmond being the home base of Sweet Frog, what better place to have a location than at an amusement park in our own backyard? It is a perfect combination of entertainment, family and kids having fun."

Also in Planet Snoopy is The Kings Dominion Marketplace, a large outdoor, open-air kiosk that offers healthy food options including a wide selection of fresh fruits, cheese, vegetables, salads and healthy drinks.

Guests love Snoopy

As the new season was getting underway, AT asked how guests were responding to all that Planet Snoopy has to offer. "It is such a gratifying feeling to see the guests smiling and enjoying their day at the new bigger, better Planet Snoopy," said Petriello. "Many guests stopped me as I have been walking through Planet Snoopy to tell me how excited they are to no longer stand on the sidelines and wave at their kids on the rides, but rather, they can get onto the rides with their kids and experience the same thrills together. Families are especially excited about our newly expanded Family Care Center, which provides families a bright spot for a break from the heat, a place to nap with their kids, a place to warm up their child's bottles and a place to watch some Peanuts cartoons on a big-screen TV."



Planet Snoopy features eight new rides supplied by Zamperla that all allow parents to ride alongside younger guests. Snoopy's Junction (above) and Snoopy's Space Buggies (below) illustrate this quite well.

AT/SCOTT RUTHERFORD



Charlie Brown's Wind-Up (above) and Lucy's Tugboat (below) are perfect examples of how Zamperla worked with Kings Dominion to custom-design and manufacture the eight new rides so they fit in with Planet Snoopy's overall Peanuts theme.

AT/SCOTT RUTHERFORD





2013 NORTH AMERICA PARK PREVIEW

CANADA
Alberta
Calaway Park, Calgary...BSR Whac-A-Mole and Goblet Toss
British Columbia
Canada Place, Vancouver...Fly Over Canada — Vekoma I-Ride Panoramic Flight Simulator
Playland at the PNE, Vancouver...Zamperla Samba Tower and Midi Teacups
Ontario
City of Windsor Family Aquatic Complex, Windsor...WhiteWater Master Blaster, Family Python, Whizzard, AquaPlay, children's slides, FlowRider Double, wave pool
Legoland Discovery Centre, Vaughan...Zamperla Magic Bikes
Sherkston Shores, Port Colborne...ProSlide CannonBowl and Pipeline
Quebec
La Ronde, Montreal...Aqua Twist — Mack Rides Twist 'n' Splash; PTC trains for Monstre roller coaster
Ski Bromont Water Park, Bromont...Les Serpents — ProSlide 4-lane Octopus Racer; Le Tornado — ProSlide Twister
Zoo De Granby, Granby...Wattman train
GUATEMALA
Acadia Guatemala, Guatemala City...WhiteWater FlowRider
MEXICO
Bosque Magico, Guadalupe...Technical Park Loop Fighter
Moon Palace Resort, Cancun...WhiteWater FlowRider double
Parque de Aventura Barrancas del Cobre, Chihuahua...162-foot Skycoaster
Six Flags Mexico, Mexico City...Joker — Gerstlauer spinning coaster relocated from Six Flags Discovery Kingdom
UNITED STATES
Alabama
Alabama Adventure, Birmingham...WhiteWater AquaCourse
Arizona
Castles n' Coasters, Phoenix...new paint on Desert Storm, Baynum Painting
Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium, Litchfield Park...Arm Vertigo swing ride
Arkansas
Holiday Springs Waterpark, Texarkana...New waterpark with multiple SplashTacular Slides
Magic Springs Crystal Falls Waterpark, Hot Springs...Splash Island — WhiteWater AquaPlay RainFortress
California
Adventure City, Anaheim...Family roller coaster
Aquatica Waterpark, Chula Vista...Rebranding and transformation of existing Knott's Soak City to Aquatica Waterpark
California's Great America, Santa Clara...Gold Striker — GCII wooden coaster
Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Park...Coast Rider — Mack Rides wild mouse coaster; Pacific Glider — Larson Flying Scooters; Pacific Scrambler - Eli Bridge Scrambler; refurbishment of Timber Mountain with new animatronics from Garner Holt Productions
Legoland California, Carlsbad...Legends of Chima 4D Movie Xperience — new movie in 4D theater
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Santa Cruz...Undertow — Maurer Söhne spinning coaster; Zamperla Happy Swing; BSR Fishin' Hole
SeaWorld San Diego, San Diego...Madagascar Live! Operation: Vacation — live musical show
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Vallejo...Cirque Dreams Splashtastic — combination acrobats, aerialists and marine mammal show from Neil Goldberg's Cirque Productions
Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia...Full Throttle — Premier rides LSM-launched coaster with record-breaking vertical loop
Victoria Gardens, Rancho Cucamonga...Wattman train
Colorado
Elitch Gardens, Denver...Blazin' Buckaroo — E&F Miller coaster relocated from Alabama Adventures
Water World, Denver...R&R Creative Rehab of Journey to the Center of the Earth with LED lighting, new music and sound effects and new dinosaurs.
Connecticut
Lake Compounce, Bristol...Retheming of water park to Crocodile Cove; Bayou Bay — new wave pool and party patio
Quassy, Middlebury...Lazer Maze Challenge — Funovation laser maze; ProSlide Mach complex with PipelineWave and three Pipeline slides
Splash Away Bay, Middlebury...Water expansion of former Saturation Station with three ProSlide slides and a Vortex Aquatic Structures play structure
Florida
Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, Tampa...Madagascar Live! Operation: Vacation — live musical show
Epcot, Walt Disney World...Test Track — revamped and re-imagined previous Test Track
Fun Spot America, Orlando...White Lightning — GCII wooden roller coaster; Freedom Fighter — Vekoma/Chance suspended family coaster; Refurbished 250-foot Skycoaster from MGM; Larson Tilt-A-Whirl; BSR Short Range, Water Game and Balloon Dart
Kennedy Space Center Visitor's Complex, Kennedy Space Center...Space Shuttle Atlantis Exhibit — new \$100 million facility featuring space shuttle
Legoland Florida, Winter Haven...World of Chima — new themed area with Quest for Chi — splash battle ride and Legends of Chima 4D Movie Xperience
SeaWorld Orlando, Orlando...Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin — family adventure ride
The Magic Kingdom, Walt Disney World...Fantasyland Expansion with Under the Sea — Journey of

the Little Mermaid, Omnimover dark ride; Princess Fairytale Hall
Universal Studios Orlando, Orlando...Transformers: The Ride; BSR Balloon Bust and Bazooka Bust
Georgia
Lake Winnepesaukah, Rossville...New SoakYa waterpark
Savannah Mall, Savannah...Chance Rides 28-foot double decker carousel
Six Flags Over Georgia, Austell...SkyScreamer — Funtime 242-foot StarFlyer
Six Flags Whitewater, Atlanta...Typhoon Twister — ProSlide Behemoth Bowl
Wild Adventures, Valdosta...Tail Spin — Zamperla Mega Disk'O 24; Wacky Wheels — Zamperla teacup ride
Idaho
Roaring Springs, Boise...ProSlide FreeFall
Silverwood, Athol...Visa Dance Party Maxi 360; Zamperla Barnstormer
Illinois
Aquatic Zoo, Mount Vernon...New safari-themed waterpark with slides, splash pool and animal spray features
Santa's Village Azoosment Park, Dundee...WildCat — Pinfari Zyklon Z47 relocated from Fun Spot
Six Flags Great America, Gurnee...igNight - Grand Finale — closing show
Indiana
Holiday World & Splashin' Safari, Santa Claus...Hyena Falls — Three enclosed ProSlide tube slides and ProSlide Wave; Kitty's Tea Party — Zamperla Teacup ride; Chance Rides C.P. Huntington train; BSR Custom Striker and Goblet Toss
Iowa
Modern Woodmen Ballpark, Davenport...Chance Rides 27-meter wheel, two kiddie rides
Kansas
Schlittebahn Kansas City, Kansas City...Mega-Blaster — four-person Master Blaster water-coaster
Kentucky
Beech Bend, Bowling Green...Vortex — Chance Rides Revolution
Venture River Waterpark, Eddyville...ProSlide 4-lane KrakenRacer
Maryland
National Harbor Maryland, Fort Washington...Chance Rides 36-foot carousel
Six Flags America, Upper Marlboro...Bonzei Pipelines — SplashTacular multi-tube drop-capsule waterslides
Massachusetts
Boston Duck Tours, Boston...Chance Rides amphibious duck vehicles (3)
Edaville USA, Carver...Children's coaster relocated from Enchanted Forest, Rhode Island
Six Flags New England, Springfield...Bonzei Pipelines — SplashTacular multi-tube drop-capsule waterslides; new paint on Thunderbolt, Baynum Painting
Michigan
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth...Bavarian Blast — ProSlide BulletBowl and Tower Twister — ProSlide Pipeline
Great Wolf Lodge Traverse City, Traverse City...ProSlide Pipeline
Michigan's Adventure, Muskegon...Lakeside Gliders — Larson Flying Scooters
Rolling Hills Waterpark, Ypsilanti...WhiteWater speed slide, AquaTube, poolsider
Zehnder's Splash Village, Frankenmuth...ProSlide TantrumAlley and SuperLoop with SkyBox
Minnesota
Valleyfair!, Shakopee...Dinosaur's Alive — walk through exhibit
Missouri
Silver Dollar City, Branson...Outlaw Run — Rocky Mountain Construction/Ride Centerline wooden coaster
Six Flags St. Louis, Eureka...Boomerang — Vekoma Boomerang relocated from Six Flags Over Texas, new paint from Baynum Painting
Worlds of Fun, Kansas City...Dinosaur's Alive — walk through exhibit; Combination of waterpark and theme park into one gate; WhiteWater Constrictor, Flatline Loop, Aquatube body slide
Nevada
Adventuredome at Circus Circus, Las Vegas...El Loco — S&S-Sansei El Loco roller coaster
Akita Plaza, Las Vegas...Launched roller coaster (relocation of Speed the Ride from Nascar Café)
Cowanbunga Bay Waterpark, Henderson...New Waterpark with multiple Polin attractions including a Surf Safari
Freemont Street Experience, Las Vegas...SlotZilla — two Skyline zip rides, one with a first-of-its-kind propulsion launch system
Wet 'n' Wild Waterpark, Spring Valley...New Waterpark with multiple Whitewater slides including a family Rattler, Constrictor, Family Boomerango and SuperBowl
New Hampshire
Storybook Land, Egg Harbor Township...Zamperla Convoy
Whale's Tale Waterpark, Lincoln...ProSlide SuperLoop
New Jersey
Casino Pier, Seaside Heights...Technical Park Street Fighter Revolution; BSR Top Glo and Whac-A-Mole
Funplex, Mount Laurel...FunCoaster — SBF Visa spinning coaster
Jenkinson's Boarkwalk, Pt. Pleasant Beach...BSR Lucky Duck and Fishin' Hole
Keansburg Amusement Park, Keansburg...Zamperla Rockin' Tug
Playland's Castaway Cove, Ocean City...Technical Park Heavy Rotation; Zamperla Air Race, Kite Flyer 8 and Happy Swing
Runaway Rapids Waterpark, Keansburg...WhiteWater Champagne Bowl, AquaTube body slides
S&T Amusements, Ocean City...SBF Flying School

2013 NORTH AMERICA PARK PREVIEW

Sahara Sam's Oasis, West Berlin...The NileMile — ProSlide Tunnel Twister
Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson...Safari Off Road Adventure — Guided vehicle rides through Animal Safari
Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, Jackson...Big Wave Racer — ProSlide 6-lane KrakenRacer
Splash Zone Waterpark, Wildwood...Flow House with WhiteWater FlowRider double
Steel Pier, Atlantic City...Visa Tekno Fly, Visa Mine Train Coaster, Visa Kiddie Bumper Car, SBF Top Dancer, Visa Pirate 32360;
Wizards Festival of Fun, Laurel Springs...Visa Flying School

New Mexico

Cliff's Amusement Park, Albuquerque...Zamperla Happy Swing
Western Playland, Sunland Park...S.D.C. Hurricane relocated from Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk

New York

Adventureland, Long Island...SBF Surfs Up; Visa Farm Train; Zamperla Swing Ride 20; BSR Whopper Water, Long Range Basketball
Darien Lake, Darien Center...Blast Off — S&S space shot relocated from Alabama Adventures; Ignite the Night laser show
Legoland Discovery Center Westchester, Yonkers...New FEC with 4D cinema and Kingdom Quest — ETF Trackless Mystic Mover Ride; Zamperla Magic Bikes
Luna Park, Coney Island...Zamperla 360, Magic Bikes and Watermania
Martin's Fantasy Island, Grand Island...Max's Doggy Dog Coaster — Visa family coaster; Zamperla Rockin' Tug
NCL Norwegian Breakaway Cruise Ship, New York City (summer port)...WhiteWater AquaLoop (2), AquaTube Body Slide, Poolsider
SplashDown Beach, Fishkill...ProSlide 6-lane OctopusRacer and SuperLoop; Zamperla Watermania
Spish Splash, Calverton...Bootlegger's Run — ProSlide HydroMagnetic Rocket
The Great Escape, Queensbury...Screamin' Eagles — Larson Flying Scooters

North Carolina

Carowinds, Charlotte...Dinosaur's Alive — walk through exhibit

Ohio

Beach Waterpark, Mason...Re-opening of existing park with \$5 million in improvements
Cedar Point, Sandusky...Gatekeeper — B&M wing coaster
EnterTrainment Junction, West Chester...1/24th model replica of Cincinnati's Coney Island
Kalahari Resort, Sandusky...ProSlide KidzZone
Kings Island, Mason...new paint on Italian Job, Baynum Painting

Oklahoma

White Water Bay, Oklahoma City...ProSlide Pipeline Wave and CannonBowl

Oregon

Oaks Park, Portland...Chance Rides C.P. Huntington train

Pennsylvania

Hersheypark, Hersey...ProSlide Pipeline (2); New 3D movie in Chocolate World
Idlewild & SoakZone, Ligonier...Float Away Bay — Lazy River
Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg...Flying Turns — John Fetterman wooden bobsled coaster; Stratosfear — Larson/Arm drop tower

Waldameer, Erie...Bertazzon Music Express

South Carolina

Family Kingdom Amusement Park, Myrtle Beach...Twist 'n' Shout — Zamperla Zig Zag coaster relocated from Magic Springs
National Amusement Rides, Myrtle Beach...Visa Midi Dance Party
SkyWheel Myrtle Beach, Myrtle Beach...new paint, Baynum Painting

South Dakota

Huron Aquatic Center, Huron...WhiteWater Master Blaster, AquaTube body slide, AquaSpray

Tennessee

Dollywood's Splash Country, Pigeon Forge...RiverRush — ProSlide HydroMagnetic Rocket
The Island at Pigeon Forge, Pigeon Forge...The Great Smoky Mountain Wheel — Chance Rides/Bussink R60 Giant Wheel
Wilderness Lodge at the Smokies, Sevierville...WhiteWater Whizzard

Texas

Dallas Zoo, Dallas...Wattman train
Kemah Boardwalk, Kemah...Refurbished Chance Aviator with LED lighting; BSR Balloon Dart
Legoland Discovery Center, Grapevine...Legends of Chima 4D Movie Xperience — new movie in 4D theater
Schlitterbahn South Padre, South Padre Island...Schlitterbahn Beach Resort — Indoor waterpark and hotel
Six Flags Fiesta Texas, San Antonio...Iron Rattler — Rocky Mountain Construction/Ride Centerline steel coaster rebuild of former Rattler wooden coaster with Gerstlauer trains; 45-meter Funtime slingshot
Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, Arlington...Typhoon Twister and Tsunami Surge — ProSlide CannonBowl and PipelineWave; new paint on multiple slides, Baynum Painting
Six Flags Over Texas, Arlington...Texas Sky Screamer — 400-foot Funtime StarFlyer; New paint on Shock Wave and La Vibora, Baynum Painting
Splashtown, Spring...ProSlide SuperLoop (2)
State Fair of Texas Fair Park, Dallas...Top o' Texas — 500-foot tall Intamin observation tower with rotating cabin; BSR Top Glo

Utah

Lagoon, Farmington...Zamperla Midi Teacup and Speedway

Virginia

Kings Dominion, Doswell...Planet Snoopy expansion Zamperla Aerial Ride, Jump Around, Kite Flyer 8, Lolli Swing, Midi Teacups, Rocking Tug, Samba Tower, Tooner Train

Washington

Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound...Howl at the Moon Glow Golf, Art Attack Shankz+ black-light indoor golf course

Wisconsin

Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells...Visa Mini Dance 360
Mt. Olympus Water & Theme Park, Wisconsin Dells...Hades 360 — barrel roll inversion added to existing coaster, The Gravity Group



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2013 INTERNATIONAL PARK PREVIEW

Australia

Dreamworld, Coomera...new themed area Kung Fu Panda: Land of Awesomeness; Pandamonium — Zamperla Air Race
Jamberoo Action Park, Jamberoo...Funnel Web — ProSlide Tornado
Sea World, Surfer's Paradise...Mack Rides water coaster
Wet 'n' Wild Sydney, Sydney...New waterpark with multiple waterslides including ProSlide Tornado, TantrumAlley, TornadoWave, BowlingAlley, Mammoth, Mammoth Bubba and KidzZone; 250-foot Skycoaster; WhiteWater Rattler, Constrictor, Master Blaster, Boomerango, AquaLoop, Whizzard, Extreme River
Wet 'n' Wild Water World, Oxenford...WhiteWater Constrictor

Austria

Familienland Pillerseetal Erlebnispark, Sankt Jakob in Haus...Big Bang — custom Zierer coaster with elevated seating
Familypark Neusiedlersee, St. Margarethen...Rattenmühle — Gerstlauer bobsled coaster
Fantasia, Strasswalchen...abc Rides Freefall Tower

Belarus

Belarus Aquatic Center, Minsk...WhiteWater Master Blaster, Rattler, Python, SuperBowl, Champagne Bowl, AquaPlay, FlowRider, wave pool

Belgium

Bellewaarde, Ieper...Huracan — Zierer Force custom roller coaster
Plopsaland De Panne, Adinkerke-De Panne...New Viking-themed area with Zamperla Disk'O, Mack interactive boat ride; 1300-seat Groot Theater for concerts and musicals
Walibi Belgium, Wavre...Re-opening of Turbine — Schwarzkopf shuttle loop with new Gerstlauer train and new ride enclosure with special lighting

Brazil

Beach Park, Fortaleza...ProSlide SuperLoop (2), FreeFall, CannonBowl, TantrumAlley
Beto Carrero World, Santa Catarina...Premier LIM-launched two-track coaster relocated from Six Flags Great Adventure
Hopi Hari, São Paulo...Intamin 10-inversion coaster

China

Century Amusement Park, Zhengzhou...Inverted coaster
Chimelong Paradise, Panyu...Mack Rides Omnimover; Polin Turbolance waterslide
China Dinosaurs Park, Changzhou...Huss 120-meter Sky Tower
Chuanlord Holiday Manor, Shunde...Hebei Zhongye four-loop coaster
Fantawild Adventure, Tong'an...New park with multiple rides including coasters from Vekoma and Golden Horse; Maurer Söhne SkyLoop coaster
Floraland Continental Park, Wenjiang...New park with multiple rides including five coasters
Grand Sight, LingShui...ProSlide PipelineWave, Pipeline, TantrumTiger, Topsy-Turvy, Dark BehemothBowl, Tornado; WhiteWater AquaLoop, Whizzard, speed slide, children's slides AquaPlay, FlowRider double
Great Mall of China, Sanhe...New park with multiple rides including the tallest indoor coaster from Premier and two Vekoma coasters
Hainan Wenchang Space Theme Park, Wenchang...New park with multiple rides including a spinning coaster

Hangzhou Children's Park, Xihu...Apple Worm — Golden Horse Fruit Worm coaster
Happy Kingdom, Penglai...New park with multiple rides including a Mack launched coaster and Beijing Jiuhua suspended looping coaster
Happy Magic Watercube, Tianjin...WhiteWater AquaLoop (2), Whizzard, speed slides, FlowRider double
Happy Valley (Tianjin), Dongli...New park with multiple rides including Martin & Vlemincx wooden coaster; S&S~Sansei El Loco Coaster; Zamperla
Happy Valley (Wuhan), Hongshan...OCT Thrust SSC1000 — S&S~Sansei air-launched coaster
Happy Valley (Yunan) Spa & Waterpark, Yunan...ProSlide Tornado, Tantrum Alley, CannonBowl, Topsy-Turvy, Pipeline, FreeFall, 6-lane ProRacer,
Happy World, Fuzhou...S&S~Sansei 16-seat combo tower
Jinling Happy World, Jin'an...Journey to the Stars — Hebei Zhongye 11-inversion roller coaster
Jurassic Dream, Daging...Mystic Caverns Express — Mack Rides indoor coaster
Lanzhou Hengda Chinese Ecological Park, Lanzhou...Big Roller Coaster — roller coaster
Locajoy Holiday Park, Yongchuan...Intamin 10-inversion coaster; Huss Top Spin
Nantong Adventure Land, Gangzha...New park with multiple rides including a Maurer Söhne Sky Loop coaster; WhiteWater Python, Master Blaster, Family Boomerango, Family Raft Ride, AquaLoop, SuperBowl and others
Ocean Kingdom, Zhuhai...New park with multiple rides including B&M wing coaster; Mack Rides SuperSplash and water coaster; Zierer Kontiki XL and Flying Fish; Chance rides 50-foot marine-themed carousel

Playa Maya Waterpark (Shanghai), Shanghai...Preside HydroMagnetic Hornet (2), BehemothBowl, TornadoWave, 8-lane Octopus Racer, Mammoth (2), CannonBowl, Pipeline (2), Topsy-Turvy, KidzZone
Playa Maya Waterpark (Tianjin), Tianjin...Preside HydroMagnetic Hornet BulletBowl, Pipeline (2), Topsy-Turvy, Twister, Tornado, TornadoWave, 6-lane KrakenRacer, SuperLoop (2), Ridehouse (2), Mammoth (2), KidzZone
Playa Maya Waterpark (Wuhan), Wuhan...Preside HydroMagnetic Hornet (2), BehemothBowl, Tornado, TornadoWave, 8-lane Octopus Racer, SuperLoop (2), FreeFall (2), KidzZone
Sino Wonderland, Huainan...Speed Shuttle — Beijing Shibaolai suspended looping coaster
Victory (Triumph) Kingdom, Wuging...U-Shaped Roller Coaster — Intamin Fly Rider shuttle coaster
Window of the World, Kaifu...Speed Shuttle — Zamperla MotoCoaster
Wujin Mountain National Forest Park, Yuci...Park expansion with two new coasters

Columbia

Piscilago, Melgar...Piscihuracanes — ProSlide BowlingAlley and TantrumAlley
Salitre Magico, Bogotá...Larson/Arm Drop Tower

Costa Rica

Parque Diversiones, Parque Diversiones...Búmeran — Vekoma Boomerang relocated from Sao Paolo (opened November 2012)

Croatia

Aquacolors, Porec...New waterpark with 16 Polin attractions
Denmark
Djurs Sommerland, Nimtofte...Juvelen (Jewel) — Intamin double-launched roller coaster
Fårup Sommerland, Pirupvejan...Orkanen — Vekoma suspended family coaster
Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen...Zamperla eagle-themed Air Race and jumping tower

England

Alton Towers, Staffordshire...Smiler — Gerstlauer roller coaster
Chessington World of Adventures, Chessington...Zufari — new 22-acre wildlife area with off-road truck ride
Flamingo Land Theme Park & Zoo, Malton...Twistosaurus — Zamperla Twister Coaster; Hero —

Zamperla Volare (flying coaster); Zamperla Magic Bikes
Great Yarmouth Pleasure Beach, Great Yarmouth...Family Star — Fabbri Spinning Madness relocated from Sommerland Syd
Legoland Windsor, Windsor...Legends of Chima — 4D movie experience. Duplo Valley Splash and Play — extension of Duploland with WhiteWater West AquaPlay
Pleasure Beach, Blackpool, Blackpool...Wallace & Gromit: The Thrill-O-Matic dark ride replacing Arrow Gold Mine

Finland

Linnanmäki, Helsinki...Refurbishment of park's ghost train
PowerLand, Alahärmä...Zierer Jet Skis; Interlink Log Flume
Särkänniemi, Tampere...Särkänniemi Doghill — new themed area with animal attractions, stage and Dracula's Castle

France

Aqualand, Bassin d'Arachon...Polin waterslides and water play attraction
Aqualand, Cap d'Agde...Polin waterslides and water play attraction
Aqualand, Frejus...Polin waterslides and water play attraction
Aqualand, Saint Cyprien...Polin waterslides and water play attraction
Aqualand, Saint Maxime...Polin waterslides and water play attraction
Aquapark Domaine Pommier, Villeneuve de Berg...18 Polin waterslides including King Cobra and Looping Rocket
Didi'land, Morsbronn-les-Bains...Technical Park Jumping Ship
Fraispertius City, Jeanménil...Zamperla Crazy Bus
La Coccinelle, Gujan-Mestras...Technical Park Red Baron Ladybird

Germany

Erlebnispark Tripsdrill, Cleebrohn...Karacho — Gerstlauer custom launched Euro-Fighter; Moser tower ride
Europa Park, Rust...Grimm's Enchanted Forest expansion
Freizeitpark Plohn, Legenfeld...Fluch des Teutates — abc Rides River Splash
Heide Park, Soltau...Madagascar Live! It's Circus Time — stage show
Legoland Deutschland, Günzburg...Temple X-pedition — interactive treasure hunt through Egyptian temple
Phantasialand, Brühl...Chiapas — Intamin Rapids Boat Ride with reverse drop
Sea Life Adventure Park, Oberhausen...Expansion of Sea Life Aquarium to Sea Life Adventure Park; Antarctic adventure — themed flume from abc Rides

Hong Kong

Hong Kong Disneyland, Lantau Island...Mystic Manor — trackless dark ride

India

Dream Park, Mumbai...New park with multiple rides including coasters from Premier and Zamperla
Walkwater Park, Mumbai...Zamperla Mine Train roller coaster

Indonesia

Bandung Carnival Land, West Java...Rides & Fun Twist and Sun Revolution 260
Bugis Waterpark, Makassar...Polin ship-themed King Cobra waterslide
Dunia Fantasi, Jakarta...Zierer Kontiki
JungleLand, Bogor...New park with multiple rides including two Zierer coasters — elevated seating and Force Two; Zierer Wave Swinger
Popeye World, Medan...ProSlide Topsy-Turvy, BulletBowl, SuperLoop, Twister, Pipeline

Iraq

Al Zawra's Dream Park, Baghdad...Vekoma suspended looping coaster; Zamperla Vertical Swing, Air Race, Z Force, Happy Swing, Galleon, Jump Around, Fire Brigade

Italy

Cinecittà World, Rome...New park with multiple rides including an Intamin 10-inversion coaster, family coaster, Giant Drop and Flight Simulator; Mack Rides SuperSplash
Etnaland, Belpasso...Eldorado — S&S~Sansei Coaster; S&S~Sansei combo tower; Hip Hop Coaster — Zamperla; Storm — Mack Rides compact megacoaster; Mack Rides Twist 'n' Splash; Zamperla Mega Disk'O, Jumping Star
Gardaland, Castelnuovo del Garda...Madagascar Live! It's Circus Time — stage show
Movieland Park, Lago di Garda...KITT SuperJet — speedboat ride
MSC Preziosa Cruise Ship, Genoa (home port)...Polin waterslides including Vertigo — the longest waterslide on a cruise ship
Rainbow Magicland, Valmontone...Battaglia Navale — Preston & Barbieri splash battle; Demonia — haunted house; Action Drive — kiddie driving school

Japan

Hamanako Pal Pal, Hamamatsu...Dragon Fighter — interactive dark ride
Hasunuma, Hasunuma...WhiteWater Constrictor, Flatline Loop
Nagashima Spa Land, Nagashima ...New B&M trains for existing Steel Dragon 2000 coaster; Zierer Jet Skis; WhiteWater Family Boomerango (2), Abyss (2)
New Reoma World, Takamatsu...WhiteWater AquaTube body slide, innertube slide, AquaSpray
Suzuka Circuit, Suzuka...Batto's Power Crystal Hunt — interactive dark ride
Tokyo Disneyland, Tokyo...Star Tours: The Adventures Continue — update of Star Tours motion simulator
Yomiuriland, Inagi...SweetsCup — teacup ride

Kazakhstan

Happylon FEC, Almaty...Wattman train

Macedonia

Trajkovski Sport Complex Waterpark, Skopje...New waterpark with multiple Polin attractions including Space Boat — a combination Space Hole an Black Hole attraction

Malaysia

Bukit Gambang, Pahang...ProSlide BulletBowl, Topsy-Turvy, SuperLoop (2), FreeFall (2), RideHouse 110, KidzZone
Genting Highlands, Kuala Lumpur...Stinger — ProSlide HydroMagnetic Rocket
Legoland Malaysia, Nusajaya...WhiteWater Rattler, Whizzard, SuperBowl, Aqua Tube body slides, AquaPlay, wave pools, wave channel, children's slides
Mount Austin, Johor...New waterpark with multiple Polin attractions

Netherlands

Attractiepark Slagharen, Slagharen...Mack Rides Twist 'n' Splash; Zamperla rockin' tug, bath splash, magic bikes and driving school
Avonturenpark Aquaventura Slidepark, Hellendoorn...New waterpark with 11 Polin attractions including wave slide, multi-lane racer, Black Hole and Windigo
Kinderstad Heerlen, Heerlen...Indoor family roller coaster
Toverland, Sevenum...Magical Valley — New themed area with 7 new attractions including Djengu River — Hafema river rapids ride; d'Wervelwind — Mack Rides spinning coaster with onboard sound

Norway

Aquarama, Kristiansand...WhiteWater FlowRider

2013 INTERNATIONAL PARK PREVIEW

Kongeparken, Ålgård...ABC Rides water ride

Tusenfryd, Vinterbro...Thor's Hammer/Viking Adventure — 3D dark ride with trackless vehicles from ETF Ride Systems

Philippines

Azure Beach Club, Paranaque City...WhiteWater AquaPlay

Qatar

Al Wakra Waterpark, Al Wakra...WhiteWater AquaLoop, Family raft ride, Whizzard, speed slide, innertube slides, AquaPlay

Romania

Divertiland, Chiajna...New park with multiple rides including Fabbri Big Apple Coaster, family coaster and spinning mouse

Russia

Anapa Aqua Park, Anapa...ProSlide TornadoWave, 6-lane KrakenRacer, TantrumAlley, BowlingAlley
Gorki Indoor Waterpark, Ryazan...New indoor waterpark with multiple Polin waterslides including Kamikaze, Space Hole/Black Hole, Magic hole, Aquatube, Tunnel body slide (opened December 2012)

Megacenter Gorizont Aquapark, Rostov-on-Don...New indoor waterpark with 10 Polin waterslides including Black Hole, Windigo, Navigatour and Looping Rocket

Shumejka Outdoor Aqua Park, Shumejka...WhiteWater Whizzard, speed slides, AquaTube, AquaPlay, children's slides, wave pool

Sochi Park Adventureland, Sochi...New park with multiple rides including Vekoma Giant Inverted Boomerang; Mack Rides launched looping coaster; Mack Rides wild mouse coaster

Saudi Arabia

Atallah Happy Land, Jeddah...Surfrider — Intamin Surf Rider 40/12 (opened 2012)

Stationery Fantasies Waterpark, Jeddah...ProSlide Tornado

Singapore

Universal Studios Singapore, Sentosa Island...Sesame Spaghetti Race — suspended dark ride

Wild Wild Wet, Kampong...ProSlide Superloop (2)

Slovenia

Terme Olimia, Podčetrtek...Polin King Cobra

South Korea

Geo Je Resort, Geoje...WhiteWater Boomerango, AquaTube body slides, innertube slides, AquaPlay, Extreme River, wave pool

Lotte World, Seoul...Underland — new themed area in former shopping mall and Do You Speak Beluga? — Goddard Group Interactive theater show

Spain

Carnival Sunshine Cruise Ship, Barcelona (home port)...Carnival Waterworks addition with 4 Polin waterslides

Costa Cariba Aquatic Park, Salou...Waterpark expansion including ProSlide FreeFall, 6-lane ProRacer and multi-bump; waterplay structure and splash pad

Puerto Venecia, Zaragoza...WhiteWater Adventure Trail, Ropes Course (2), FlowRider double

Sweden

Gröna Lund, Stockholm...Eclipse — 400-foot Funtime StarFlyer

Liseberg, Gothenburg...Stampbanan — Preston & Barbieri family coaster; Kaninlandet (Rabbit Land) — new themed area; Zierer Double Family Freefall Tower; ETF Panorama Pedal Plus; Zamperla Magic Bikes, Jump Around, Flying Tigers

Skara Sommarland, Axvill...ProSlide FreeFall with SkyBox

Switzerland

Acquaparco Ticino, Ticino...ProSlide Tornado, Topsy-Turvy, PipeLine, TunnelTwister (2)

Taiwan

Formosan Arboginial Cultural Village, Yuchr Shiang...Hafema river rapids ride

Thailand

Asiatique, Bangkok...Dutch Wheels R60 giant wheel

Cartoon Network Amazon Waterpark, Bang Saray...New waterpark with 15 Polin attractions including a Humangosaur-themed King Cobra, and magic spheres. All slides are cartoon network themed
Ramayana Water Park, Pattaya...New waterpark with multiple WhiteWater slides including Python, Master Blaster, AquaLoop, Boomerango, Whizzard, speed slide, innertube slides, AquaPlay, wave pool

Santorini Water Fantasy Waterpark, Cha-Am...New waterpark with multiple Polin waterslides including a King Cobra and Black Hole

Tunisia

Thalassa Monastir, Monastir...New waterpark with 21 Polin slides including King Cobra

Turkey

Bostanci Luna Park, Istanbul...Technical Park 25-meter Ferris wheel and Aerobat

Vialand, Istanbul...New park with multiple rides including Intamin launched coaster and family coaster, tow boat, Spill Water, Rapids Ride and slow boat ride; Zierer Star Shape, Jet Skis, Wave Swinger; Huss King Kong

Turks and Caicos Islands

Beaches Resort, Providenciales...Wattman train

United Arab Emirates

Al Montazah Waterpark, Sharjah...WhiteWater AquaPlay

Global Village, Dubai...Wattman train

IMG Theme Park, Dubai...New park with multiple rides including Mack Rides coaster

Wild Wadi, Dubai...WhiteWater speed slide

Yas Waterworld, Abu Dhabi...New waterpark, multiple slides from WhiteWater; ProSlide HydroMagnetic Mammoth and Tornado; Vekoma Roller Coaster

Ukraine

EVPA Waterpark, ...WhiteWater Constrictor, speed slide, SuperBowl, body slide, multi-lane mat racer, AquaPlay

Vietnam

Royal City, Hanoi...ProSlide Topsy Turvy, BulletBowl, 6-lane ProRacer, Speedway complex with Superloop(2) and FreeFall (2), Mammoth, TantrumAlley, RideHouse, KidzZone

Wales

Oakwood Leisure Park, Pembrokeshire...Park expansion with seven new rides including themed flume, powered rail ride, restaurant and café. Some rides relocated from Camelot Park

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Euro Attractions Show 2013 slated for Paris

PARIS, France — Euro Attractions Show (EAS) 2013 will be held Sept. 18-20 at Porte de Versailles in Paris, France. With nearly 300 exhibitors already booked for EAS 2013, a 10 percent growth over last year, the upcoming EAS promises to be once again the largest conference, trade show, and business and meeting point for the leisure and attractions industry in Europe.

The EAS conference program will cover educational offers, innovative technologies, storytelling, safety, in-park spending, events, human resources, waterparks, and family entertainment centers with presentations from European industry leaders.

The event will also feature exclusive behind-the-scenes tours at local attractions including Disneyland Paris and Parc Asterix. Unique networking events are also planned throughout the week to help attendees make meaningful firsthand connections within the industry. The major networking event will be the Opening Reception on the evening of the Sept. 18, which will take place in the Musée des Arts Forains, a wonderful museum on the history of European fairgrounds and attractions with fully operating historic rides and games.

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B&M builds new trains for Japan hypercoaster

Nagashima Spa Land receives three trains for Morgan coaster

STORY: Scott Rutherford
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

KUWANA, Mie Prefecture, Japan — In a move that raised more than a few eyebrows, the massive Steel Dragon 2000 hypercoaster at Nagashima Spa Land opened for the 2013 season with new rolling stock supplied by Bolliger & Mabillard of Monthey, Switzerland.

Originally opened in 2000, Steel Dragon would hold the title of the world's tallest complete-circuit roller coaster (318 feet) for three years. Designed by Morgan Manufacturing, the massive 8,133-foot-long ride opened with three six-car (36 passenger) trains that were capable of achieving a top speed of more than 95 mph.

What is surprising about the new-for-2013 trains is that this is only the third time B&M has built passenger vehicles for a ride the company did not design. B&M's very first amusement project was in 1989 when the company delivered replacement sleds to Six Flags Great America for their Intamin bobsled ride. The B&M designed sleds featured side-by-side seating. The original in-line seating sleds were sent to Six Flags Over Texas for use on their bobsled ride. The Great America ride is in use today at The Great Escape in upstate New York.

AT spoke with B&M representative Sophie Bolliger about the rarity of the renowned Swiss designers supplying trains for coasters in which they were not

"Nagashima Spaland approached us many years ago to replace the existing trains on Steel Dragon, and we agreed to do so. It was a pleasure to work with them"

**—Sophie Bolliger
Bolliger & Mabillard**



Bolliger & Mabillard has built and delivered three, 28-seat trains for the record-breaking Steel Dragon 2000 hypercoaster at Japan's Nagashima Spa Land. Replacing the ride's original rolling stock supplied by the coaster's designer/builder, Morgan Manufacturing, this is only the third time B&M has built trains for a coaster not designed by the Swiss company.

COURTESY B&M

involved. "You are right, B&M does not usually build trains for coasters designed by others. Nagashima Spaland approached us many years ago to replace the existing trains on Steel Dragon, and we agreed to do so. It was a pleasure to work with

them," explained Bolliger. "Three trains were delivered to Nagashima Spaland. Each train consists of seven passenger coaches and one pilot coach. They each seat 28 passengers."

Steel Dragon's new B&M trains feature the company's

popular lap restraints as well as seatbelts and guest leg guards. Early rider reports confirm that the Steel Dragon experience is greatly enhanced by the comfort and airy, open nature of the new coaches.



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Aussie World opens new in-house built waterplay area



Aussie World's new Leak'n Logs offers a range of unpredictable water features, creating a great cool down attraction for guests.
COURTESY AUSSIE WORLD

STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

QUEENSLAND, Australia — Guests at Aussie World in Queensland, Australia, have been soaking up the fun, quite literally, during 2013 following the opening of the park's most recent new attraction, Leak'n Logs.

The Sunshine coast theme park has invested over AUD 2 million (U.S. \$2 million) in expanding the complex and the new waterplay area is the fourth new attraction in just under two years, complementing 30 existing rides and games.

Situated between the Plunge water ride and the Redback thrill ride, Leak'n Logs was designed and constructed on site by the park's technical services department and incorporates a variety of fun, unpredictable water features. Among these is a tin

shed that inside emulates a typical Queensland electrical storm, complete with thunder, wind, lightning and rain. Indeed, so realistic is the effect that guests can often be seen checking the sky to see if a real storm is coming!

Also included is a walk-through mist shed which sits underneath a leaky corrugated iron water tank, random tipping buckets, intermittent and continuous showers, an outback log waterfall and irregular dancing water jets. And with the attraction being right next to the Plunge, an additional drenching is assured when the ride's log boats come down the ramp and hit the water which sprays over visitors enjoying Leak'n Logs.

Not surprisingly, the new attraction has proved a popular addition during the hot summer at Aussie World.

Vekoma SFC to debut in June at Denmark's Fårup Sommerland

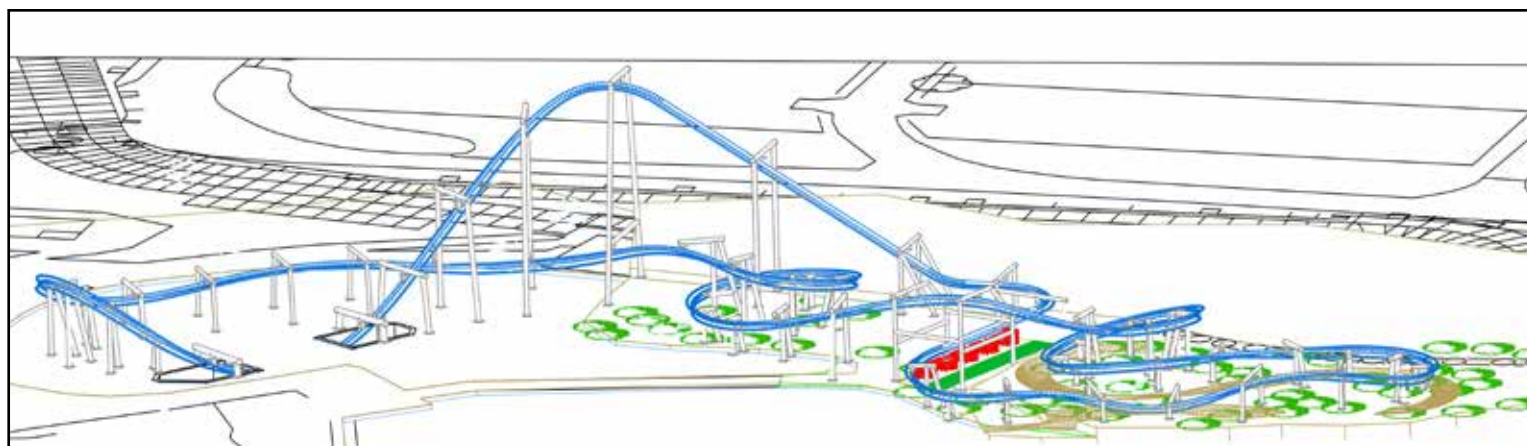
65-foot tall coaster to reach 46 mph, dive under water

JYLLAND, Denmark — Fårup Sommerland in Denmark is moving towards the opening of its latest major attraction which is due to make its debut in June.

Orkanen (Hurricane), a custom designed suspended family coaster from Vekoma, represents an investment for the park of DKK 35 million (U.S. \$6.1 million) and will provide guests with a thrilling experience at speeds of up to 75 kmh (46.6 mph) both over and under water, at heights of up to 20 meters (65.6 feet).

Riders will travel through a tunnel, troughs and between trees, all at a relentless pace, and while it will be aimed at thrilling the whole family (the minimum height requirement is just 105 cm (40 inches), the new coaster will undoubtedly satisfy the needs of all coaster fans with its speed, unique features and forces of up to 3.5 G.

"As the name suggests, The Hurricane is an adrenaline packed, whirlwind of a ride which fires its passengers through an 18 meter (59 foot) long underwater tunnel," say proud park directors Søren



Fårup Sommerland's new suspended family coaster will appeal to all ages and tastes with a variety of exciting features.
COURTESY VEKOMA

Kragelund and Per Dam.

"The Hurricane is exactly what roller coaster enthusiasts have long suggested should be the next big attraction for Fårup Sommerland, whereby passengers are suspended with their feet dangling in the air," explains Søren Kragelund. "This design, combined with the 75 kmh speed and a seven storey drop through dense fog into an underwater tunnel, gives a feeling of freedom and excitement. These feelings are enhanced by the backdrop of trees, water and earth giving the impression that one could almost touch their surroundings as they hurtle around the track. The Hurricane is a one-of-a-kind ride. This coaster delivers a



Hurricane, seen here under construction, will join Fårup Sommerland's other coasters, Falcon and Lightning, when it opens in June.
COURTESY VEKOMA

unique ride experience that is thrilling for the whole family."

Speaking on behalf of Vekoma, Stefan Holtman commented: "This is the fastest

suspended family coaster in the world and also the first suspended family coaster featuring an underwater tunnel. Furthermore, its ergonomic

seats and the state-of-the-art manufacturing process will ensure a very smooth and comfortable ride."

Italy's Gardaland kicked off its 2013 season in March with a new live-action production, *Madagascar Live: It's Circus Time!* Presented inside a large circus tent, the new show features beloved characters from DreamWorks Animation's *Madagascar* films along with highly skilled human performers singing, dancing and executing death-defying stunts. COURTESY GARDALAND



Gardaland opens season with new live DreamWorks inspired show

CASTELNUOVO DEL GARDA, Italy — Gardaland launched its 2013 season on March 28 with a new live-action presentation featuring the popular characters from DreamWorks Animation's *Madagascar* films. "Madagascar Live: It's Circus Time!" is an extraordinary spectacle inspired by *Madagascar 3*, which premiered in theaters in October 2012.

Gardaland and DreamWorks Animation worked side by side to create this one-of-a-kind project for Europe. The biggest amusement park in Italy and one of the greatest production studios in the sector of animated features joined forces and are now entertaining children and adults in a truly special fashion.

Having landed in Europe, the *Madagascar* characters are trying to avoid being captured by the menacing French animal control officer, Captain Dubois. After meeting a traveling circus comprised entirely of animals, they decide to follow it trying to blend in among its artists.

The story at Gardaland begins from the moment guests enter the show's home, a Teatro Tenda (Tent Theater) that is capable of seating up to 1,100 people. Captain Dubois' officers will search spectators, suspecting that *Madagascar*'s characters may be hiding among them. When the lights come up, the hilarious show begins, with the *Madagascar* gang and highly skilled human performers singing, dancing and executing death-defying stunts.

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Toverland adds four-acre Magic Valley section

STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

SEVENUM, Netherlands — Toverland in the Netherlands has continued its growth and development in 2013 with the completion of a major expansion project that has seen the park add four acres to the overall area it now covers.

The new Magic Valley is home to seven new rides, a magic fountain show and a new restaurant and represents a total investment of €14 million (U.S. \$18 million). Much attention has also been paid to the landscaping of the area with the intention of creating a “place of peace” in which visitors feel as though they are in a dream.

Magic Valley is also home to a population of dwarfs, the Dwervels, who have built their homes around the Rapid River ride, Djengu River, named after Djengu, the leader of the Dwervels who put his spell on the magic source and makes the river flow. At night, when Djengu sleeps, the river stops flowing. To complete the magic feeling, Imascore

composed over two hours of music for six different sections of the valley.

The 460 meter (1,509 foot) long Djengu River Rapid River ride, from Hafema, begins 5.5 meters (18 feet) above street level and when guests walk beneath the ride there is a genuine feeling of being in a valley. The park brought in 2,800 tons of real stone and over 60,000 trees and smaller plants to the area, while waterfalls, the largest of which is 25 meters (82 feet) wide and 9 meters high, also add to the effect.

A Mack spinning coaster, Dwervelwind, incorporating on-ride music and a highly decorated station, is another of the major attractions added, while the Tolly Molly is a Metallbau Emmeln water carousel with custom made boats in the shape of mythical water creatures.

A Heege tower, Coco Bolo, is also new and features the nest of Coco, a magical bird, on the top, while also new is a climbing castle, air trampoline, the Kids survival course and Katara, a fountain of magic.



Above, The Dwervelwind Mack Rides-built spinning coaster is just one of the attractions in the new Magic Valley area at Toverland. At left, Djengu is the leader of the Dwervels, who have made their home in Toverland’s Magic Valley. COURTESY TOVERLAND



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Carowinds unveils animatronic exhibit, Dinosaurs Alive!

Sister park Kings Island adds 118-foot tall animatronic dinosaur

STORY: Scott Rutherford
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Carowinds recently became the latest park in the Cedar Fair family to introduce the popular Dinosaurs Alive! to its attraction lineup.

Opened earlier this spring on a wooded site near the park's South Gate, Dinosaurs Alive! combines finely detailed hand-crafted animatronics, interactive consoles, a lush setting and educational content that reflect the latest scientific theories to give guests an idea of what it must've been like to walk among some of the largest creatures that ever roamed prehistoric earth. Dinosaurs Alive! offers not only the excitement of a tail thrashing, clawing and roaring exhibition, but the opportunity for guests of all ages to actively engage in a unique learning experience.

The dinosaurs, which are scientifically accurate based on the latest paleontological knowledge, were created by the Canadian-based company, Dinosaurs Unearthed. Launched, in 2005, Dinosaurs Unearthed is an innovative traveling exhibition company that creates dynamic, multi-sensory experiences about the fascinating world of dinosaur discovery.

Visitors are able to hear the sounds, see the movements and observe the beauty of more than 30 full-sized animatronic creations that replicate nearly every feature of the dinosaurs. Dinosaurs Alive! is presented in a spectacular outdoor setting in order



Carowinds recently unveiled Dinosaurs Alive!, a sprawling exhibit that combines hand-crafted animatronics, interactive consoles, a lush setting and educational content to showcase life-size Dinosaurs. The creatures populating Dinosaurs Alive! were all created by the Canadian-based company, Dinosaurs Unearthed.
AT/SCOTT RUTHERFORD

to feature the full life-sized majesty of gigantic sauropods such as Mamenchisaurus and Tyrannosaurus Rex.

Dinosaurs Alive! also features a "dig" where younger guests can use brushes and shovels to sift through the sand and uncover dinosaur bones and fossils.

Continuing the Dino theme, Carowinds converted its 4D Action Theater into a

► See DINOSAURS, page 16



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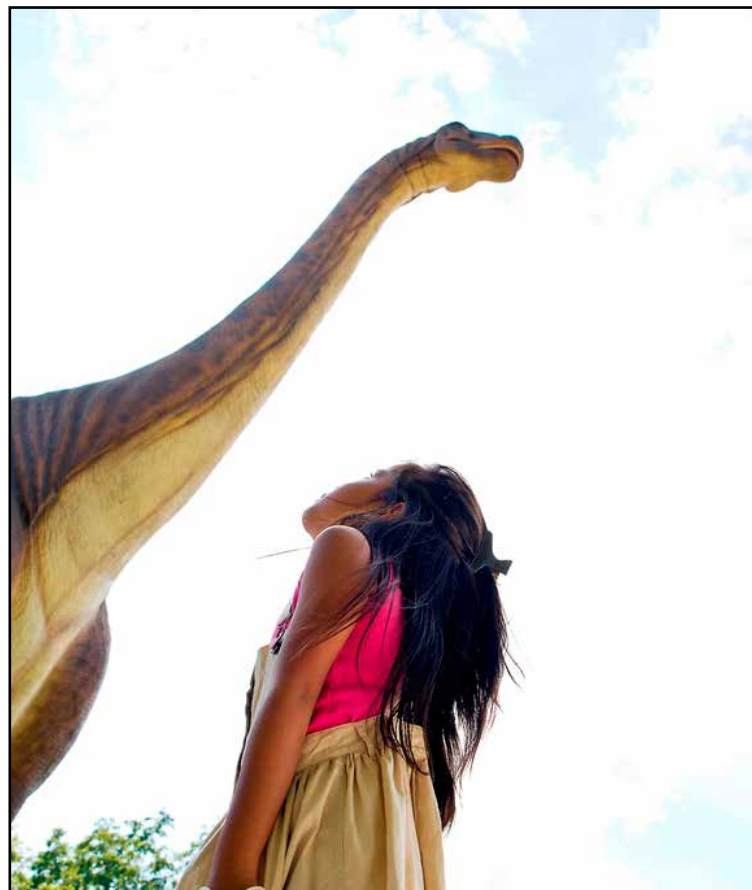
Voodoo Interactive Raft, abc rides



Hoopla, Moser Rides



Wattman Mini Express



► DINOSAURS

Continued from page 15

3D venue for *Dinosaurs: Giants of Patagonia* 3D. This entertaining film offers a theory on what might have caused the extinction of the dinosaurs. The theater features an updated Real 3D projection system and state-of-the-art audio.

World's largest animatronic dinosaur invades Ohio

One of the largest creatures to ever lumber the earth

Kings Island has added Sauroposeidon, the world's largest animatronic dinosaur, to its existing Dinosaurs Alive! attraction. The length of three school buses and the height of a six-story building, Sauroposeidon took a crew of 12 people two weeks to set up.

COURTESY KINGS ISLAND

is now storming Ohio's Kings Island in all its roaring glory with the arrival of a life-size Sauroposeidon, the world's largest animatronic dinosaur that has been added to the park's existing Dinosaurs Alive, which is entering its third season of operation.

Even the tallest guests at Dinosaurs Alive! may feel a little small standing next to Sauroposeidon. The length of three school buses and the height of a six-story building, this dinosaur showcases just how gigantic some sauropods really were. Known as the Earth Quake Lizard, this North American dinosaur was unearthed in the United States and rivals South American sauropods for the title of largest in the world. Estimated to be between 112 to 118 feet long and 56 feet tall, Sauroposeidon is said to have weighed 50 to 60 tons, eight

times the size of an African elephant.

The extraordinary size of the Sauroposeidon has made crafting, transporting and building the animatronic dinosaur a creative challenge. Designed and handcrafted exclusively for Kings Island by an expert team of exhibition designers and builders, the dinosaur arrived at Kings Island in four shipping containers and took a crew of 12 people two weeks to set up.

Also new this season is an area within Dinosaurs Alive! where guests will find a pack of Albertosaurus, a scene that explores the idea that carnivorous theropods may have been social creatures. Based on evidence gathered at the Albertosaurus Dry Island bonebed in Alberta, Canada, paleontologists believe these dinosaurs may have hunted in packs of all ages.



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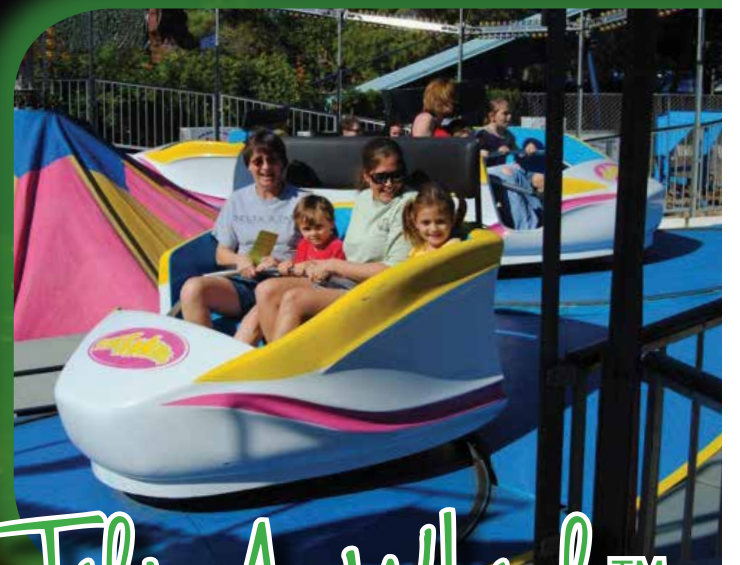
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COMPILED: Scott Rutherford,
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Disney Imagineers recently unveiled a new attraction, "A Pirate's Adventure: Treasures of the Seven Seas," at **Magic Kingdom** park at **Walt Disney World**. The new interactive quest will open to guests over the summer. Guests will become new pirate recruits and will be armed with magic talismans and treasure maps to help collect valuable treasure throughout Adventureland.

Orlando-based **Strates Shows** has submitted an application proposing a summer-long event that would feature rides, games and concessions from June 8 to Sept. 6 on the site formerly occupied by the **Pavilion Amusement Park** in downtown Myrtle Beach, S.C. The property has sat mostly vacant since the Pavilion was demolished by owners **Burroughs & Chapin** in 2006.

The **Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex** partnered with **Rovio Entertainment**, creator of the globally successful **Angry Birds** franchise to bring the beloved characters to life. **Angry Birds Space Encounter** is the first comprehensive, interactive Angry Birds attraction in the United States. The 4,485-square-foot Angry Birds Space Encounter brings to life the space adventures of the Angry Birds as they follow their kidnapped eggs into an inter-galactic wormhole, come face-to-face with Space Pigs and gear up with heroic superpowers.

The April edition of *FamilyFun* magazine announces its 2013 Travel Awards, which include categories for destinations, resorts, zoos and amusement parks. **Holiday World** is listed third, after **Walt Disney World** and **Disneyland**. **Hersheypark** and The **Hotel Hershey** were awarded in the Top 10 Amusement Parks and Top 10 Family Resorts, respectively.

Legoland Discovery Center Dallas/Fort Worth brings to life **Lego Legends of Chima** in an exclusive 4D Movie Xperience. The all new 12-minute animated 4D film, complete with high impact special effects, will immerse audiences in the fantastical Lego world of Chima where tribes of animal warriors compete in epic battles for CHI, a mystical energy source of limitless power and destruction.

The Quassy Summer Idol singing competition returns to **Quassy Amusement Park** with new categories, rules and show dates. Audition registration is now open. The live shows will be presented at Quassy's Carousel Theatre stage at 2 p.m. July 21 and 28 and Aug. 4 and 11. Those interested in registering may call the park office at (203) 758-2913.

South Carolina's **Riverbanks Zoo** set their all-time single day attendance record on April 6, when 12,979 people came through the turnstiles. Overall, 55,175 people visited the zoo the first week of April. During peak season, the zoo usually averages 9,800 people a day. The zoo plans to develop additional parking as part of a \$32 million expansion.

Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Food & Wine Classic returns for its fourth year and will be held on Oct. 18 - 19, 2013 at the **Epcot Resort Area Hotels**. The outdoor festival will include food and beverage seminars, food and wine tastings and live music. Seminars will be led by the hotels' chefs and certified beverage experts, while the hotels' award-winning restaurants will showcase signature culinary selections to pair with tastings from more than 30 wineries.

The former site of the **Movieland Wax Museum** on Beach Boulevard in Buena Park, Calif. has been leased to an exhibition company. Approximately 40,000 square feet of the 60,000-square-foot property has been leased to Atlanta-based **Premier Exhibitions Inc.** for its **Bodies — The Exhibition** and **Titanic — The Experience** exhibitions. Both attractions are expected to open in the summer.

The **Tulsa Zoo** has announced the start of construction on its first master plan project: the Mary K. Chapman Rhinoceros Exhibit. Designed by **One Architecture**, the \$3.1 million exhibit will replace the outdated 38-year-old facility with a naturalistic, state-of-the-art home for the zoo's resident white rhinoceroses, Jeannie and Buzbie. The new exhibit will offer guests many immersive features, including up-close viewing into the rhinoceroses' indoor environment through a 20-foot wide glass viewing window.

Cedar Point is partnering with Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital and United Way of Erie County, each of which have 32 seats available to bidders for the first official ride on the park's newest roller coaster, **GateKeeper**, on Cedar Point's Opening Day, May 11.

Orange County Commissioners have cleared the way for the city of Orlando, Florida to use tax dollars to build a pedestrian bridge connecting **Universal Studios** theme park with a new 1,800 room hotel the company is building. The city can now issue about \$9.5 million dollars of tax incremental bonds from a Community Redevelopment Area to pay for the bridge over Hollywood Way.

The **Baltimore Museum of Art** has announced the implementation of short- and long-term measures designed to balance the museum's budget for the coming years and ensure the institution's financial health. Initiatives include a reduction in personnel, restructuring staff in key areas, increasing contributed and earned revenue, and reducing the draw on the museum's endowment.

Disneyland's newest show, "Mickey and the Magical Map," opens May 25 in the Fantasyland Theatre. The show presents Mickey in his timeless role as the sorcerer's apprentice. Sorcerer Yen Sid sets his Mapmakers to work and the ensemble cast paints a wondrous map — capable of taking dreamers to any place imaginable and so large it spans the entire stage of Fantasyland Theatre.

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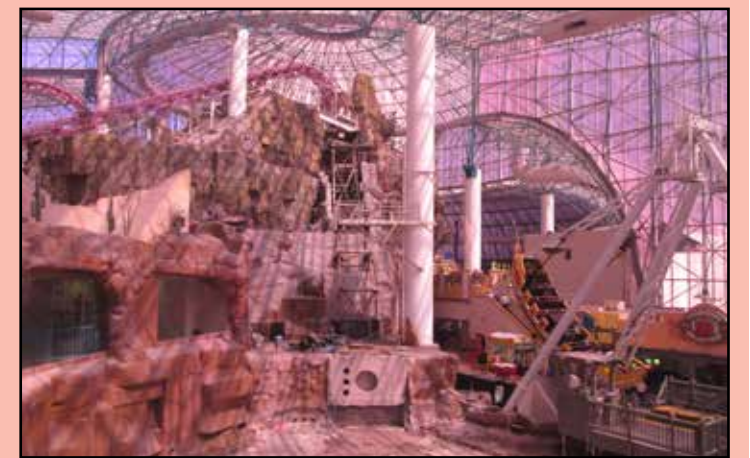
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Adventuredome site prep underway for new S&S El Loco



The S&S El Loco going in place of the Rim Runner will be on the site of the splash pool for the Arrow Shoot the Chute ride. The compact coaster will feature an extended customized track portion that will allow the Circus Circus Adventuredome to utilize the existing load/unload station for the water ride. Designed by S&S/Sansei, the ride is scheduled to debut in December 2013. In 2014, the park will continue the removal of the Arrow ride, turning their attention to the lift hill, to make room for yet another attraction in the future.

AT/GARY SLADE





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Kentucky Kingdom clears another hurdle for potential 2014 reopening

LOUISVILLE, Ken.— The Kentucky Tourism Development Finance Authority has finally approved \$10 million in tax incentives for Ed Hart and Kentucky Kingdom LLP.

Hart has publicly stated that he and his business partners have now finalized a budget and devised a new plan to reboot Kentucky Kingdom with the original \$40 million investment. He said they'll be utilizing more of their own assets. "My partners and I are going to have to put in more money than we anticipated because we're going to be borrowing less money from the bank.

"The tourism tax credits were a very, very important part of our financial plan, so we're happy to see that piece is completed," added Hart.

Hart is confident that when the park reopens it will perform as well as it did under his direction in the 1990s. Commenting on his history with Kentucky Kingdom, Hart



Kentucky Kingdom, closed since the end of the 2009 season, could be one step closer to returning as an amusement/waterpark for a possible 2014 opening. \$10 million in tax incentives was recently approved by The Kentucky Tourism Development Finance Authority.

COURTESY GOOGLE EARTH

said: "We ran a very successful facility. We built over 1.3 million in attendance, bringing hundreds of thousands of people, visitors, in for overnight stays."

The hiring of contractors whose jobs will be to get the

park operational by 2014 has already begun. As of press time, the deadline to finalize the lease was April 27. AT will continue to monitor the situation and report on the progress in our next issue.

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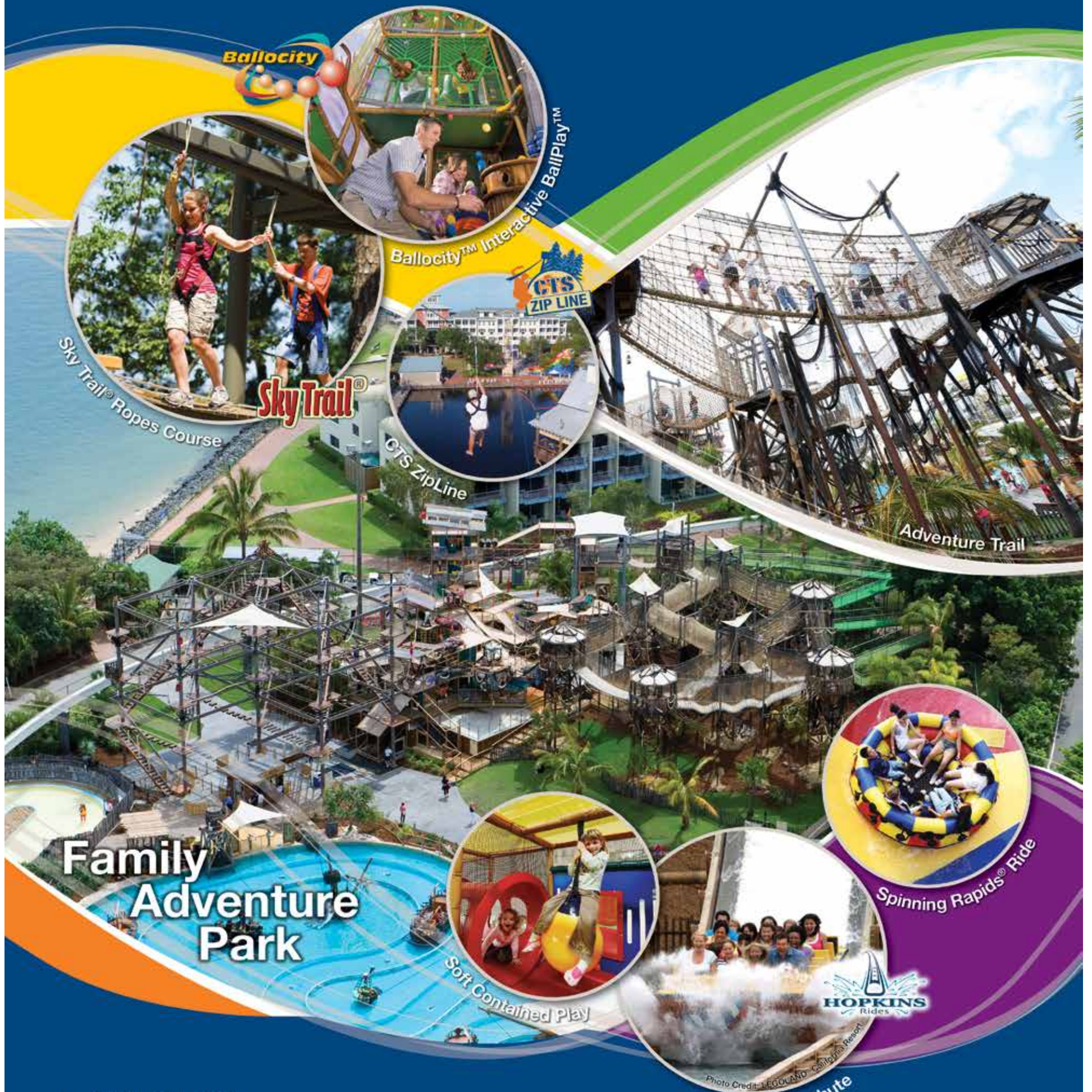


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Team WLSL set to break new world record on June 18

Largest simultaneous swim lesson sends message: swimming lessons save lives

OVERLAND PARK, Kansas — On June 18, 2013, tens of thousands of kids and adults at aquatic facilities around the world will unite for the fourth year in a row to set a new Guinness World Record. The global record attempt for The World's Largest Swimming Lesson (WLSL), will take place at 11a.m. (Eastern Time)

Team WLSL holds the current Guinness World Record for the largest simultaneous swimming lesson, which stands at 24,873 participants representing 15 different countries across five continents. The 2012 WLSL event generated more than 29 million media impressions, spreading the event's important message to hundreds of thousands of families.

Tragically, drowning remains the leading cause of unintended, injury related death for children ages 1-5, and the second leading cause of ac-



cidental death for children under 14. Research shows participation in formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by 88 percent among children aged one to four, yet many kids do not receive formal swimming or water safety training.

The WLSL event is designed to reach out to parents and kids with the key message that Swimming Lessons Save Lives near the start of the summer swimming season. Waterparks, aquatic facilities, swim schools, Ys, — all have served as host locations.

Facilities interested in serving as an official Host Location for The World's Largest Swimming Lesson 2013 record breaking attempt have until

May 19 to register online at: www.wsl.org.

"We're thrilled to see the tremendous support continue for this important water safety event," said Rick Root, President of the World Waterpark Association. "The greater the participation, the more families we're able to reach with this crucial message."

About The World's Largest Swimming Lesson

The World's Largest Swimming Lesson was created as a platform to help aquatic facilities and the many different regional, national and international water safety organizations work together to communicate the fundamental importance of teaching children to swim. Visit www.wsl.org to learn more.

This event is supported by the following industry leaders in water safety:

The American Red Cross (ARC), *Amusement Today* (AT), Aquatics International (AI), the Association of Aquatic Professionals (AOAP), The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP), Canadian



Participants in the 2012 WLSL get instruction from this lifeguard at SeaWorld San Antonio's newly opened Aquatica. COURTESY WLSL

Red Cross, Center for Disease Control's Healthy Swimming Program (CDC), Colin's Hope, INATI, International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF), International Swim Instructors Association (ISIA), Independent Pool & Spa Service Association (IPSSA), Jeff Ellis & Associates, National Aquat-

ic Safety Company (NASCO), National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA), *Park World Magazine*, Pool Safely, Starfish Aquatics Institute, Swim For Life Foundation, United States Swim School Association, USA Swimming and the World Waterpark Association (WWA).

Splashdown Beach expansion underway

FISHKILL, N.Y. — SplashDown Beach Waterpark received Planning and Zoning Board approvals for a \$12 million dollar expansion. The development will begin with the addition of two new rides for the summer of 2013.

Dizzy's Water Whirler, a Zamperla Watermania will be one of the first in North America. Located at the Bob the Builder Splash Works attraction, Water Whirler will accommodate up to 24 guests at one time and feature 30 interactive water elements.

Adjacent to the Bob the Builder attraction will be the new Arctic Adventure. The first of the Arctic Adventure's six new attractions will be the five-story Arctic Plunge — a multi-lane, headfirst Octopus Racer from Pro-Slide Tech-

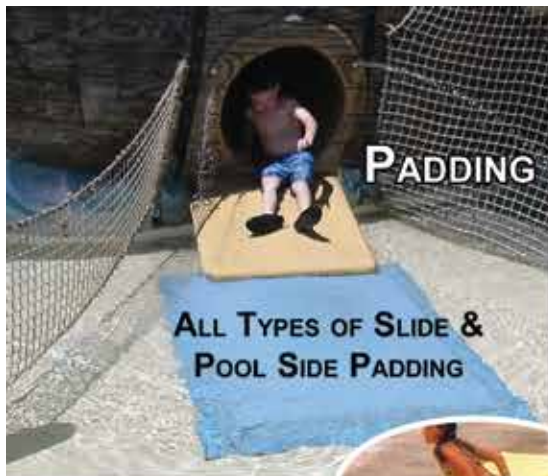
nology. The multi-lane racer begins with a 360-degree horizontal loop, then riders are launched into a head-to-head drag race to the bottom, flying over vertical curve humps, experiencing weightlessness, and gaining even more speed before the smooth deceleration run-out.

"This will be the largest single expansion at SplashDown Beach since we purchased the park in 2004. We have created a true family destination for summer fun," say owners Shelley and Steve Turk.

"SplashDown Beach has been a great home to Bob the Builder's first water park, and we're thrilled to continue working together to expand Bob the Builder Splash
► See EXPANSION, page 28

This artist rendering shows the size of the new \$12 million expansion underway at SplashDown Beach Waterpark. COURTESY SPLASH DOWN BEACH WATERPARK





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►EXPANSION

Continued from page 24

Works," said Julie Freeland, Director, Live Events, The Americas, HIT Entertainment. "The Water Whirler ride will be a fun and exciting addition for kids and families to experience their favorite builder and his Can-Do Crew."

Have waterpark news of interest you would like featured in

**NEWS
SPLASH**

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production@amusementtoday.com

SeaWorld San Diego waterpark rebranding well underway



The previous Knott's Soak City in Chula Vista, Calif., is on schedule to reopen June 1 as SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment's third Aquatica waterpark. To facilitate the property's rebranding as Aquatica San Diego, the company is spending millions redoing the landscaping and upgrading the existing slides with new paint, tropical theming and reengineering where necessary. Among the larger improvements will be the addition of a huge sandy beach to compliment the 500,000-gallon wave pool. As with Aquatica San Diego's sister parks in San Antonio, Texas, and Orlando, live animals such as flamingos and sea turtles will enhance the attraction, which will be cross-marketed with SeaWorld San Diego. AT/DEAN LAMANNA



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Hawaiian Falls announces four-year deal with Coke

All five waterparks to offer unlimited season drink pass

THE COLONY, Texas — Hawaiian Falls waterparks and The Coca-Cola Company have agreed to a four-year partnership at the company's five North Texas waterparks. As a result of the agreement, waterpark guests will enjoy a broad expansion of soft drink offerings. For the first time, the parks will also offer a season drink pass while adding drink stations throughout each waterpark campus.

"We are pleased to partner with The Coca-Cola Company," said David Busch, Hawaiian Falls CEO. "Our companies share a commitment to the highest quality standards and a desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Our agreement with Coca-Cola, the number one soft drink producer in the

world, will result in better service, better value and higher satisfaction for our guests."

Beginning immediately, only Coca-Cola beverages will be sold at all Hawaiian Falls food and beverage outlets. Products to be offered include Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Coke Zero, Sprite and other low and no calorie drinks such as Dasani bottled water.

As part of the agreement, Hawaiian Falls will add several new drink stations throughout the parks for guests' convenience. For the first time, guests to Hawaiian Falls may receive unlimited soft drinks for the entire 2013 season. The season drink pass is \$19.99 and is available online at hfalls.com.

Celebrating 10 years of bringing families closer together, Hawaiian Falls operates waterparks in Garland, The Colony, Mansfield, Roanoke and Waco, Texas.

Splash Zone announces Flow House venue

WILDWOOD, N.J. — On Memorial Day weekend, Splash Zone Water Park will open Flow House — an exciting new entertainment venue on the Wildwood Boardwalk that will feature music, entertainment, food and beverage, and at the center of it all — a new FlowRider Double.

The \$1.9 million Flow House featuring the FlowRider Double at Splash Zone Water Park will be one of only five Flow House venues in the entire world, and the biggest thing to hit the east coast this summer. Families and friends will be stoked to have a new place to relax, enjoy the summer sun, and hone in their flow boarding skills in a cool, surf infused lifestyle venue.

For those who've never ridden before, kids (over 42" in height) or any novice can body board and get the feel of flow boarding under the guidance of the Flow House operators — a great way to learn to ride in a safe and controlled environment. The more advanced and adventurous can use the standup "flowboards" during designated time periods. Those

who catch on to flowboarding shred back and forth through the water, drop in from the top of the incline, and maybe even pull off 360-degree spins and other tricks. If it doesn't sound like your thing, the spectator-friendly FlowRider offers an up close and personal view to cheer on friends and family or just enjoy the show.

"We're excited to be adding a ride of this magnitude to the park," said Andy Weiner, president of Splash Zone Water Park. "Flow House will be a great new place for kids to hang out in a safe and fun environment."

Plans for the new Flow House include live music and DJ's, entertainment and dancing. Since opening in 2000, Splash Zone Water Park has become one of the top destinations along the Wildwood Boardwalk. This is the largest single attraction expenditure in the park's history.

The new Flow House and FlowRider Double will be open in time for the 2013 summer season at Splash Zone Water Park.



NEWS SPLASH

COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert, jseifert@amusementtoday.com

First Choice Holidays, an all-inclusive travel agency in the U.K., recently auditioned dozens of candidates for the role of slide tester. The successful candidate will be sent to several resorts in Egypt, Greece and the Canary Islands to give their reviews of the resorts and their waterparks. In addition to the travel benefits, the position comes with a salary of £10,000 (\$15,100) for the six-month contract. The company said it was looking for someone who knows how to have fun but will be serious about the job as well. The candidates were filmed on slides at **Sandcastle Waterpark** in Manchester and also made an audition tape.

SoakYa, Lake Winnepesaukah's new waterparks is still planning to open May 24 as scheduled, but the park has not received the tax break it was anticipating. Lake Winnie hoped to get a \$113,000 break in Georgia sales and use taxes but, the law, passed in 2011, was found to have technical flaws making it impossible for state agencies to make the tax break a reality. The representative who authored the original proposal has submitted a new version that was passed by a House Committee in February and is awaiting vote by the full House.

Hong Kong's **Ocean Park** received a loan of HK\$2.3 billion (\$296 million) to finance the development of a world-class waterpark. The all-weather waterpark is expected to be an architectural icon in Hong Kong with a sweeping, translucent roof. Included with the waterpark will be a retail, dining and entertainment area. The government is expecting the new waterpark to generate longer lengths of stays at the park and in Hong Kong. Current plans have the new waterpark opening in 2017.

Harvest Family Entertainment of Texas, the developers behind the popular **Hawaiian Falls Waterparks**, has submitted a revised proposal for a waterpark at **Kit Carson Park** in the city of Escondido, Calif., about 30 miles north of San Diego. The nine-acre park would feature wave pools, waterslides and geysers during the summer. In the off-season guests can take advantage of climbing walls, rope courses and 70-foot-tall zip lines. Harvest also plans to take over the nearby Kit Carson amphitheater and provide live entertainment. The initial proposal had the city's annual payments on construction bonds about \$250,000 over the city's share of the revenue. The Mayor said that because of the benefits to the city, he would be happy with a proposal that at least breaks even, but not one that costs the city money.

Yas, Waterworld, Abu Dhabi's new mega waterpark, had originally announced the launch of ladies nights starting May 16 to ensure the comfort and ease of the park's more conservative female guests. But after a flood of requests, the park moved that date to April 18. Every Thursday evening is now "Ladies Night" — no men will be admitted from 8 p.m. to midnight in April and May and from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in June. Boys eight years old and under will be permitted access along with their female relatives.

Legoland Florida's waterpark, which was transformed last year from the old **Splash Island** at **Cypress Gardens**, got even more décor and statuary during the off-season. Two million Lego bricks have been added since the waterpark debuted last year, bringing the total to an astounding four million Lego bricks found in impressive models throughout the waterpark. Additions include a 15-foot spouting mermaid at the entrance of the park. A brightly-colored Lego entrance was added to the Build-A-Raft River, and guests will float by Moby Dick — made of 200,879 Lego Duplo bricks. The wave pool is now decked out with a shark and scuba diver made of more than 330,000 bricks. "The **Legoland Water Park** offers a distinct experience as its various elements are specifically designed for the safety and enjoyment of families with small children," said Legoland Florida General Manager Adrian Jones. "As we open the doors for our second year, we are thrilled that we are now offering even more exciting features for guests to enjoy."

The residents of Pasco, Washington, were given an opportunity to provide input on a proposed aquatics center in west Pasco. The **Tri-Cities Regional Public Facilities District** board is developing the aquatics center proposal and asked Wisconsin-based **Water Technology Inc.**, to put together a conceptual site plan. During a workshop held by the board, attendees were given a list of about 40 amenities and asked to pick their top eight choices and rank them. The amenities included various items such as competition and wave pools, lazy rivers and waterslides, an interactive fountain and even a climbing wall. The aquatics center proposal will be funded by sales tax increase that has yet to be presented to voters. The regional board hasn't decided whether to run the measure on a summer ballot or wait until the November elections.

One week before Easter Sunday, the **Great Escape Lodge & Indoor Waterpark** in Lake George, N.Y., held an Eggstravaganza benefit event for the Double H. Ranch in nearby Lake Luzerne, N.Y. The Eggstravaganza featured breakfast, a number of different activities including fitness demonstrations and a performance by a magician, a visit from the Easter Bunny and access to the indoor waterpark. All proceeds benefited the Double H Ranch that provides free programs and year-round support to children dealing with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

Zehnder's Splash Village in Frankenmuth, Mich., announced in March a \$20 million expansion. The project calls for 32 new guest rooms and adding 30,000 square feet of the waterpark with new attractions and a fully retractable roof. Part of the funding for the new project comes from the Michigan Strategic Fund which approved \$500,000. The Michigan Economic Development Corp.'s Loan Participation Program is providing \$5 million in loan enhancement funds. The balance of the project funding is coming from Zehnder's. The hotel and existing waterpark will remain open during construction. The expansion is expected to open in 2014.

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Alan E. Ramsay elected to NEAAPA's Hall of Fame

*Association's
100th annual
meet well attended*

STORY: Ron Gustafson
Special to Amusement Today

NEWPORT, R.I. — Alan E. Ramsay, late secretary/treasurer of the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) and a past president of the organization, was inducted into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame during the organization's annual March meeting at the Hyatt Regency Newport Hotel and Spa here.

Ramsay became the 34th person inducted into the prestigious hall since its formation in 1998. This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the organization.

The industry was shocked by Ramsay's sudden death in June of 2011 at age 41. At that time he was NEAAPA's secretary/treasurer and had served as president in 2004 and 2005.



**Alan E. Ramsay,
NEAAPA Hall of Fame**

For more than a decade he was the owner of CLM Entertainment in Cumberland, R.I., where he was a lead trainer and certified risk evaluator known worldwide in the amusement industry. He also developed training manuals for amusement rides in various regions of the country and world.

His first job in the amusement industry was at Rocky Point in Warwick, R.I., and later as a manager at Roger Wil-

liams Park in Providence, R.I.

In addition, he worked for Ripley Entertainment, Inc., of Orlando, Fla., and managed the Great Wolf Lodge project in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

As a member of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA), he spoke at numerous educational seminars at the organization's annual expo in the United States as well as similar events around the world.

Ramsay's mother, Judy Culgin and her husband, Bob, accepted the NEAAPA Hall of Fame plaque on his behalf. The ceremony included a video presentation highlighting Ramsay's life in the industry.

Others honored

NEAAPA also honored others during the evening dinner meeting, which was attended by 90 members and guests.

Lindsey Westlund, a



New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) officers (from the left) are: President Dave Sugrue, general manager, Ocean Beach Park, New London, Conn.; First Vice President Ryan DeMaria, rides manager, Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H.; Second Vice President Dorothy Lewis, vice president Fun Station Entertainment Group, Danbury, Conn.; Treasurer Charlene Conway, owner Carousel Family Fun Centers, Fairhaven, Mass.; and Secretary Ed Hodgdon, group sales and marketing, Funtown Splashtown USA, Saco, Maine.

COURTESY RON GUSTAFSON/NEAAPA

student at the University of Massachusetts for Business Management and seasonal employee at Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass., received NEAAPA's Pinnacle Award for outstanding cus-

tomers service along with \$500.

Six Flags New England also received the association's Paragon Award for excellence in graphic promotion. The award-winning campaign

► See NEAAPA, page 33

Savannah Mall opening Chance Rides double-decker carousel



Chance Rides supplied the Savannah Mall with this ornate double-decker carousel, which is located in the facility's food court. The 28-foot-tall wildlife-themed machine features a number of hand-painted traditional animals such as horses along with the more rare okapi and lemur. Owned and operated by Fun Brands Carousels, the attraction is the first carousel in the city to utilize brighter, more energy-efficient LED lighting.

COURTESY CHANCE RIDES

SAVANNAH, Ga. — The Savannah Mall is preparing to unveil its newest attraction, a double-decker carousel supplied by Chance Rides. Located in the mall's food court, the two-level machine is the first of its kind in Savannah and, according to owner/operator Fun Brands Carousels, the only one of its kind in the state of Georgia.

The 28-foot-tall wildlife-themed carousel features a number of hand-painted animals. In addition to showcasing traditional creatures such as horses, it is also the only known double-decker carousel to feature the rare okapi and lemur. The new ride is the first carousel in the city to feature brighter and more energy-efficient LED lighting.

"A ride on a carousel is timeless. It's something that brings back memories of our youth and can build a lifetime of memories with our children," said Lee Knowlton, president and CEO of Fun Brands Carousels. "We're thrilled to be opening our first carousel under the Fun Brands Carousels name with our great partners at the Savannah Mall."

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►NEAAPA

Continued from page 32

revolved around the park's Goliath roller coaster, which made its debut in 2012.

Ryan DeMaria, rides manager at Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H., received the Alan E. Ramsay Safety Award for unparalleled commitment to safety within the industry.

The three awards were presented by committee chair Justine Brewer, president and CEO, Southwick's Zoo, Mendon, Mass.

The President's Award was given to Tom Tessitore, chair of NEAAPA's Membership Committee. Tessitore is the regional account executive for National Ticket Company, Shamokin, Pa. Outgoing NEAAPA President Cory Hutchinson of Funtown Splashtown USA, Saco, Maine, presented the award.

Keynote

Will Morey, chairman of the IAAPA Board of Directors, was the keynote speaker at the gala. He congratulated NEAAPA for its continued strength and longevity as a regional organization and for addressing the many challenges in today's business climate. Morey is president and CEO of Morey's Piers, Wildwood, N.J., operators of beachfront amusement and waterparks.

New officers

The election of NEAAPA officers and directors followed the awards and speaking agenda. New NEAAPA officers are: President Dave Sugrue, general manager, Ocean Beach Park, New London, Conn.; First Vice President Ryan DeMaria, rides manager, Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H.; Second Vice President Dorothy Lewis, vice president Fun Station Entertainment Group, Danbury, Conn.; Treasurer Charlene Conway, owner Carousel Family Fun Centers, Fairhaven, Mass; and Secretary Ed Hodgdon, group sales and marketing, Funtown Splashtown USA, Saco, Maine.

Following the election, Sugrue addressed the audience as the new president.

Educational programs

Prior to the evening's social hour and dinner, NEAAPA presented a number of educational seminars, coordinated by Education Committee Chair Dorothy Lewis.



Changing of the guard. Incoming NEAAPA President Dave Sugrue (left) accepts the gavel from Cory Hutchinson.

COURTESY RON GUSTAFSON/NEAAPA

Corrina Ferguson, of VisitNewEngland.com; Mark Brodeur, with the State of Rhode Island; and Ron Gustafson, director of public relations and marketing, Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury, Conn., delivered lectures related to maximizing marketing efforts and partnering within the tourism industry.

Erik Beard, with the law firm of Wiggan and Dana of Hartford, Conn., conducted a seminar on developments in the Americans With Disabilities Act, followed by an afternoon session on social media led by Scott Brown of wddonline, Wadsworth, Ohio.

An operators' roundtable wrapped up the educational programs followed by a NEAAPA Board of Directors meeting. The board meeting was suspended so final items on the agenda could be brought before and acted upon by those attending the annual business meeting and dinner.

NEAAPA's 100th anniversary annual meeting concluded the next morning with the president's breakfast at the hotel.

2013 Summer Meeting

The next gathering of the association will be at its annual summer meeting — this year being hosted by Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury, Conn., on Wednesday, Aug. 14.

Kings Dominion works with local businesses on park expansion, outfitting workers

DOSWELL, Va. — In an ongoing effort to spur the local economy, Kings Dominion officials are making deliberate decisions to work with local companies on a variety of 2013 projects.

During a recent visit to the park, *AT* spoke with Kings Dominion Public Relations Manager Gene Petriello about several such applications. "Kings Dominion is committed to working and partnering with local businesses in the Richmond-area. Along with working with the United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg [to create the Planet Snoopy FUNtastic Guide educational booklet and program], Kings Dominion partnered with several local contractors from start to finish to build the new Planet Snoopy."

Another example of shopping close to home that is making ripples across North America is the fact that Kings Dominion also partnered with Ukrop's Dress Express, a Richmond-based national leader that provides custom-designed uniforms. "The new, bright and vibrant Planet Snoopy uniforms debuted at Kings Dominion when we opened the bigger, better Planet Snoopy this spring," added Petriello.



Kings Dominion associate Megan models one of the new Planet Snoopy uniform shirts that were custom-designed for Kings Dominion by Richmond-based Ukrop's Dress Express. The uniforms proved so popular that Ukrop's Dress Express is now outfitting 50,000 associates across Cedar Fair's 11 amusement parks.

AT/SCOTT RUTHERFORD

"Kings Dominion also tested the UDE's Dri-Express performance polos. Summers in Central Virginia can be very warm and for our employees out in the heat, we needed to find an innovative way to keep them cool and dry, even on those hot days. We found the perfect fit with Ukrop's Dress Express. Employees also like the shirts because they dry quickly and don't fade after



multiple washes. This new uniform also helps our guests easily recognize an employee with the shirt's bright colors."

The new uniforms will be worn not only at Kings Dominion but Ukrop's Dress Express is outfitting 50,000 associates across Cedar Fair's 11 amusement parks.

•ukropsdressexpress.com

Hendrick Construction finishes new Carowinds events facility

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Hendrick Construction, Inc. has completed The Grove, a new events facility with a capacity for hosting up to 15,000 people a day at Carowinds. The Grove dramatically expands Carowinds' facilities for catered events at the park; luncheons, company gatherings, school field trips, and family reunions.

"Over the years, we have developed a great partnership with Carowinds," said Roger Hendrick, president of Hendrick Construction. "From building the infrastructure and foundation for new roller coasters to radically increasing the park's event space, we always enjoy our work at the park."

The Grove is located at the North Gate adjacent to Carowinds' premier roller coaster, The Intimidator. Beautifully landscaped, the six venues are named for the trees that grace the park and thrive throughout the Carolinas. The Cedar, Oak, Maple, Magnolia, Palmetto and Dogwood areas offer visitors a private space to gather, enjoy a meal, and spend time with friends and co-workers. In addition, The Grove also includes a new VIP room to host

upscale events. The enclosed, air-conditioned Rose room offers audio/video capabilities to meet any need from business meetings to award ceremonies.

"We're excited to open the new facility," said Chris Kirby, marketing director for Carowinds. "It will combine the fun of the amusement park's 13 roller coasters and 398 acres of rides and attractions with the amazing meals provided by the catering staff. The Grove is the perfect venue to bring people together."

Hendrick Construction built the infrastructure and foundation for The Intimidator in 2010 and the Carolina Cobra in 2009.

Hendrick Construction, Inc. is a Charlotte, N.C.-based general contractor that provides commercial construction services throughout the Southeast. The company's portfolio includes facilities for corporate headquarters, manufacturing, industrial, health care and biotech companies, as well as schools, government buildings, churches, entertainment venues and restaurants.

•hendrickconstruction.com

The Puyallup Project

John Hinde rehabs historic Coaster at Washington State Fair

STORY: Scott Rutherford
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

PUYALLUP, Wash. — When it comes to wooden roller coasters, what the Pacific Northwest lacks in terms of quantity, it makes up for in quality. Along with the rides at Idaho's Silverwood and the magnificent Playland Coaster in Vancouver, the 1935-built wooden roller coaster (aka Giant Coaster) at the Washington State Fair is without question one of the most unique around. The ride's brief operating season — four days for the Spring Fair in April and 17 days for the main fair in September — makes it difficult to experience if one is not a local. Despite its abbreviated schedule, it's still the most popular ride at the fair.

Several years ago, fair officials acknowledged the fact that the Giant Coaster's aging wooden structure and track were forcing maintenance workers to spend an exorbitant amount of time and money in repairs and upkeep. After weighing their options, which for a time included simply replacing the Giant Coaster with a modern model, they recognized the ride's historical significance and the loyal following it has developed with generations of fairgoers as well as roller coaster enthusiasts worldwide. They instead elected to rebuild their star attraction.

John Hinde oversees Coaster rehab

In 2009, Funtastic Rides and the Washington State Fair selected Port St. Lucie, Florida-based John Hinde of J.P. Hinde Enterprises, Inc. to begin an extensive and comprehensive rebuild of the Giant Coaster. This would turn out to be a wise decision as John is one of the most experienced individuals operating in the industry today. One look at his company's history and client roster illustrates this quite clearly.

Starting in Food Services at Cedar Point in 1963, John moved up through the ranks at that Ohio landmark, eventually becoming Shop Foreman of



The Giant Coaster at the Washington State Fair as it appeared just prior to the start of a multi-year rehab project under the direction of J.P. Hinde Enterprises, Inc. COURTESY J.P. HINDE

the park's Ride Maintenance and Construction Department (1969-75). Two of his early milestones occurred between 1976-80 when he worked in various high-level capacities in the initial construction and daily operations of both Marriott's Great America theme parks in California and Illinois.

After creating his own company in 1980, John had a hand in a truly astounding number of amusement/theme park projects. From Canada's Maple Leaf Village

► See COASTER, page 35



►COASTER

Continued from page 34

to Hong Kong's Ocean Park to Kuwait's Entertainment City, he worked in various capacities developing ride safety, maintenance and inspection programs along with construction and rehab of existing rides and attractions. Some of John's most celebrated wooden roller coaster overhauls include the American Eagle at Great America; relocation and reconstruction of Giant Coaster/Wild One from Paragon Park to Wild World in Maryland; relocation and reconstruction of Florida Hurricane/Arkansas Twister from Boardwalk and Baseball to Magic Springs in Arkansas; rebuilding the Wildcat at Lake Compounce; and the resurrection of Myrtle Beach's Swamp Fox after suffering severe damage from Hurricane Hugo.

The Puyallup rebuild

Since the Puyallup coaster would be needed for both fairs, it was decided to break up the work in numerous phases. Over the past five years, virtually every upright, ledger and layer of track was completely removed and rebuilt from the ground up.

FAST FACTS

Name/Park

Giant Coaster/
Washington State Fair,
Puyallup, Wash.

Type

Wooden roller coaster

Height/Length/Speed

55 feet/2,650 feet/50
mph

Opened

1935

Ride Time/Capacity

1 minute 45 seconds/
1,300 riders per hour

Trains

Three eight-car trains;
16 passengers per train

Design/Builder

John Miller/
Edward H. Bollinger

Rebuilt 2009-13 by
John Hinde of J.P. Hinde
Enterprises, Inc.

Just after the conclusion of the Spring Fair in 2009, John's crew carefully dismantled the Giant Coaster's central section, which included the lower end of the first drop all the way to the beginning of the southern turn. This excised portion encompassed four track runs and structure. Beginning in June, new concrete footers were poured. By the end of that summer, 45 bents, new track and handrails had been completed so the coaster could run for the fair in September. Interestingly, Hinde chose to replace the coaster's original Douglas Fir with Southern pine, which seems to offer a smoother experience for riders.

Like clockwork, the second phase of dismantling and reconstruction began just after the 2009 fall fair and continued through the winter. This phase included replacing 32 bents and track near the northern turn. The largest sections of project would take place over the next three years with 72 additional bents, track and related sections being replaced.

AT spoke with John Hinde at the Washington work site as reconstruction continued on the Giant Coaster. "Phase seven began in September 2012 right after the Puyallup Fair," Hinde explained. "This included the removal of 18 legs of the lift hill and adjoining track areas, including the main brake area. This is the last major section to be rebuilt. There is a short section from the station to the base of the lift hill along with the station track areas that still needs to be re-furbished."

Of course, another major component of the Giant Coaster also set to receive plenty of TLC is the rolling stock. These three beautiful eight-car articulated trains are the ONLY surviving examples of Fred Church's trains still in operation (see sidebar for details). Though some work has already been performed on the trains such as removing the old oiler cans that lubricated but deteriorated the track, more work is still in store.

And yes, John appreciates the historical nature of these trains and intends to keep them fully intact. "We plan to rehab the trains as well, hopefully beginning this summer prior to the fall fair," he said.

Giant Coaster pedigree

PUYALLUP, Wash. — The Giant Coaster (formerly Coaster Thrill Ride) at the Washington State Fair has led a colorful and sometimes tumultuous existence. Originally built as a side-friction model from a design provided by the legendary John Miller, the ride was first operated in 1935 by Edward H. Bollinger (owner of Oaks Park in Portland, Oregon). The coaster quickly became the main attraction at the fairgrounds. But after suffering severe damage by fire in the 1940s, the ride was reworked by Walker LeRoy (builder of the spectacular Coaster at Vancouver's Playland Park) and updated to accept rolling stock featuring upstop wheels.

The reborn coaster opened in 1950 with a trio of "new" trains acquired from Happyland Park in Vancouver, B.C. These three eight-car articulated trains originally ran from 1925 until 1947 on the Giant Dipper, a spectacular twister created by master Golden Age roller coaster engineer Frederick Church.

Over the years, the coaster remained popular but its maintenance costs were becoming detrimental. As of Spring 2013, the ride has been almost completely rebuilt by John Hinde of J.P. Hinde Enterprises, Inc.

Along with being an ACE Coaster Classic, the Giant Coaster has the unique designation of being the world's only wooden roller coaster to utilize functioning Fred Church trains. Named Blaz'n Blue, Ol' Yeller and Or'nry Orange, these trains, along with the recently-rebuilt structure and track, offer riders a classic experience like no other on earth.

—Scott Rutherford



The Giant Coaster's three eight-car articulated trains originally ran from 1925 until 1947 on the Giant Dipper at Happyland Park in Vancouver, B.C. These beautiful trains are the only surviving examples of Fred Church rolling stock still in operation today.

COURTESY J.P. HINDE

"Rehab should be performed so all three trains are adjusted to the same specifications once all track and brake work is completed."

Hinde's future post Puyallup

Somehow, a rumor began circulating that John Hinde would finally retire once work was completed on the Puyallup Giant Coaster project. With a laugh, Hinde

emphatically laid that rumor to rest. "I'll wait to see what is going on at that time. There is plenty of life left in these old bones, they just move slower than they used to," he said. "My wife will decide how much time I will be allowed to spend at home."

Work will continue on the coaster throughout the summer with the ride making its triumphant return as the "King of the Midway" during

the Washington State Fair in September. Then, it will take eager passengers on a familiar but significantly smoother ride. Congratulations and thanks to John Hinde and his crew for keeping this shining example of roller coaster history alive and well for new generations of thrillseekers.

Keep up to date on happenings at the Fair at: www.thefair.com.

CONTINUING COVERAGE | SUPERSTORM SANDY

'Game On!' for renovated arcade in Keansburg, N.J.

Bev & Wally's Family Fun Center returns with community support



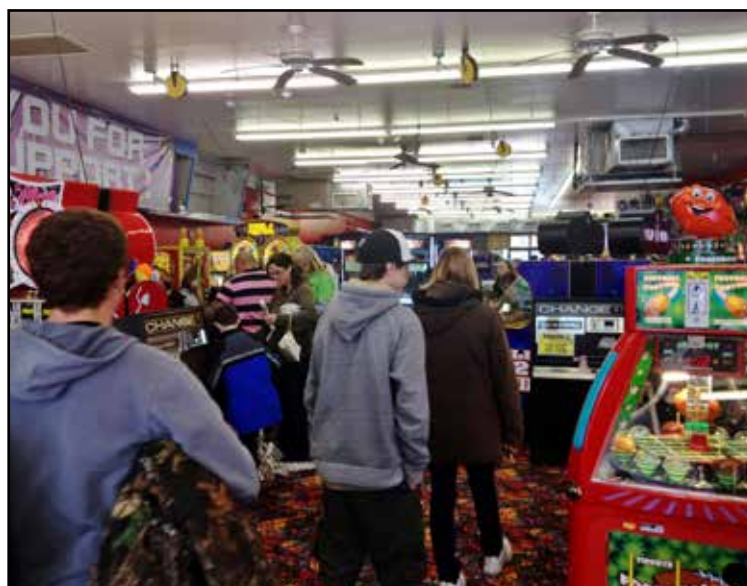
STORY: Dean Lamanna
Special to Amusement Today

KEANSBURG, N.J. — The crane machines are plucking, the pinball machines are ping-pong and the skee ball lanes are thundering once again at Bev & Wally's Family Fun Center.

A local institution and Keansburg Amusement Park fixture at 46 Beachway for over 35 years, the arcade was completely refurbished and restocked with new games over the winter following its utter ruination by Superstorm Sandy. The premises were compromised by a five-foot tidal surge that lifted and scattered equipment for blocks.

"Not one machine was salvageable," said Bev & Wally's co-owner John Maurer, who bought the business with a partner nine years ago. Worse, he added, "insurance covered nothing."

Following months of work, the arcade had a soft opening on March 30, the day before



Easter. Although the holiday weekend weather wasn't the best, "the customers didn't

seem to mind," Maurer said. "Easter Sunday was a great day for Bev & Wally's."



Maurer credited Keansburg Amusement Park proprietors William and Henry Gehlhaus with providing the can-do drive needed to get Bev & Wally's up and running. "They've been great," he said. "Days after the storm, they said, 'We'll be open for Easter.' And we were!"

But Maurer, who is also manager / co-owner of the Sayreville, N.J.-based arcade equipment and supplies company Coast to Coast Entertainment and is wrapping a three-year term as president of the New Jersey Amusement Association, emphasized that the establishment wouldn't have returned to operation without the community's support.

"Keansburg has grown up with this arcade and the residents are happy to see us back," he said. "I'm also blessed with amazing family and friends, and I'm thankful for everyone who volunteered their time to help us clean up and refurbish Bev & Wally's."

Months after Superstorm Sandy's devastating punch (top photos), literal and symbolic signs of survival and recovery abound at Bev & Wally's Family Fun Center, which was completely refurbished and re-outfitted with new electronic games for its busy grand reopening on Easter weekend.

COURTESY BEV & WALLY'S FAMILY FUN CENTER





NEW JERSEY AMUSEMENT ASSOCIATION

SUPERSTORM SANDY

Restore, Rebuild and Reopen

Seaside Heights fast-tracks new boardwalk

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. — With Casino Pier's soon-to-be-dismantled Star Jet roller coaster standing sentinel in the surf, the reconstruction of this city's mile-long boardwalk picked up speed in March and April as new pilings were driven and fresh planks were nailed down. The restored boardwalk was expected to be ready for foot traffic by May 10.

Off-boardwalk attractions, such as Casino Pier's go-kart track, began resuming operation by late March. Boardwalk proprietors not wishing to miss out on potential Easter holiday and spring-weather sales opened temporary booths along Ocean Terrace to do business.

Casino Pier limited advance ticket sales to its street-side go-kart and waterpark attractions pending a more solid reconstruction completion date for the pier, where about half of the ride inventory is expected to be operating by Memorial Day. Farther south, in Seaside Park, clean-up was continuing at the more heavily damaged FunTown Pier, which reportedly may be rebuilt for a 2014 opening.

—Dean Lamanna



COURTESY DEBBIE KARU / CASINO BEACH PIER, LLC.



Plan to attend NJAA's 54th Annual Dinner Dance

Event scheduled for May 13 at Clark's Landing in Point Pleasant, N.J.

POINT PLEASANT, N.J. — On May 13th, the New Jersey Amusement Association (NJAA) will host its 54th Annual Dinner Dance. This year, New Jersey State Governor Chris Christie will be attending as guest speaker and honoree, as well as the individuals dedicated to rebuilding the communities, beaches and boardwalks devastated by Super Storm Sandy.

The event brings colleagues and friends together to acknowledge their service and commitment to the amusement industry, discuss future goals and plans, and celebrate the upcoming summer season. The restoration of the coastline is on everyone's mind, and while its completion may take time, it's quite impressive how far it has come in just a few months. This progression brings renewed hope for the future, and the dinner dance is one way to show appreciation to those who are working hard to restore the shore.

First responders will be recognized and awarded that evening through monies that were collected on their behalf to help them in their rebuilding efforts.

The 2013 Summer Season is about to begin, and this special evening is a great way to welcome it in and celebrate with members and guests at Clark's Landing in Point Pleasant, NJ. Festivities include cocktails, keynote addresses, awards, dinner, dancing and a fun time all around.

For information on how to be a part of this special occasion, please visit the NJAA website at www.njamusements.com, email njaa40plus@aol.com or call (732) 240-0000.



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54th Annual Dinner Dance

Guest Speaker and Honoree

*Governor
Chris Christie*

*for his support of
the Amusement Industry*



Monday, May 13, 2013

*Clark's Landing Yacht Club
Point Pleasant Beach, NJ*

*Cocktails 5:00pm ~ Dinner and Dancing to follow
\$100.00 per person*



NEWS & NOTES

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2014 AIMS Safety Seminar to include new courses on social media, ziplines and observation wheels

Kelly Bernish

AIMS business consultant
kellyb@aimsintl.org

Springtime marks the time when AIMS officially begins planning for the next Safety Seminar. Our Education Committee, lead by **Patty Beazley**, met on April 9 in Orlando. Thanks to a call for speakers and a lot of input from previous attendees along with the hard work of the committee, we are excited to offer new classes along with a new spin on some favorites as well. The **2014 AIMS Safety Seminar** will be held **January 12-17** at the Doubletree at SeaWorld in Orlando. Discounted preregistration has already begun at aimsintl.org.

One of the new sessions this year at the Safety Seminar 2014 will be on social networking and will cover everything from using it effectively for disaster planning to how to manage it. Much of AIMS news is "Tweeted" out every day @aims_int. Follow AIMS for all kinds of great industry news. For the first time, we will also be offering courses pertaining to ziplines and observation wheels.

Some of the other "favorite" sessions we will have once again include "Human Engineering with **Dr. Kathryn Woodcock** of Ryerson University; Ergonomics with **Heather Earl** from Walt Disney World and Autism Awareness for the Amusement Industry with **Mike Pastor** of Legoland California.

"The AIMS Safety Seminar brings together a wide variety of training on a range of topics at different levels. Participants can efficiently

put together a personalized program of workshops in a single trip and write qualifying exams for several industry-specific credentials. The variety of workshops and addition of new workshops means that even regular participants can continue to get something different each year. A successful professional has a strong network, and the AIMS seminar is also a great opportunity to make contact with suppliers, consultants, and counterparts from around the industry." Dr. Woodcock, AIMS Education Committee member added.

We will also be offering tracks for OSHA 10-hour Training and Certified Pool Operator this year. Of course, we will be offering AIMS Certification testing for Maintenance, Operations, Inspection and Aquatics.

Springtime also brings with it the opening of many of the parks and new rides around the country. Some of the headline stories include **Central Amusements International** with rides by AIMS members **Zamperla**, and their reopening of Coney Island, post Superstorm Sandy, as well as **Premier Rides** and Full Throttle at **Six Flags Magic Mountain**. This attraction will even feature a song created for the roller coaster, "Live it Up" by Airbourne! **Jim Seay**, past AIMS president and president of Premier Rides added, "All of us at Premier Rides are extremely excited about the debut of Six Flags Magic Mountain's Full Throttle coaster. Featuring three intense magnetic launches, a unique underground experience, and a World Record Loop where trains go both on the inside and the outside of the loop structure, Full Throttle will be both a technological marvel and an awesome thrill ride!"



Gibtown attendees didn't have to look far to see safety at work in our amusement industry. Above, Alan and Angela Wadsley, Gull Wing Industries, display one of their mobile power generators; below, control panels were highlighted at the Rides 4U booth while at right, height restriction fencing could be found at N.P.D. Mfg. Co. AT/GARY SLADE



AIMS is also excited for our partner, **SeaWorld Orlando** as they continue work on their biggest expansion, Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin, opening on May 24. We are looking forward to partnering with SeaWorld once again at AIMS Safety Seminar 2014. Our hands-on classes continue to be some of our most popular and we appreciate SeaWorld allowing us to visit their parks as part of these sessions.

It was great to see many AIMS members during my first visit to Gibtown this spring. I spent some time with **Amusement Today** Publisher **Gary Slade**; **J.R. Lane** and **Maegan Wallace** with **Maclan Corporation**; **Patty Sullivan** with **Eli Bridge** and **Zamperla's Ra-**



mon Rosario.

The great work of AIMS members is really felt in all aspects of our industry including standards development. Another one of the favorite sessions at the Safety Seminar is the ASTM Session, facilitated by **Len Morrissey** with **ASTM International** which will be on deck for 2014 as well. Recently the first Global Safety Standard for Ziplines and Aerial Adventure Courses, Trampoline Courts and Weather Requirements for Parasailing have been approved. The ability to react quickly to this growing segment of the amusement industry is remarkable. Morrissey, director of ASTM Technical Committee Operations, said he was pleased to announce the recent approval

of these three new standards that "cover the safety aspects of very unique categories in amusement and patron entertainment activities that are gaining popularity throughout the world." He went on to say, "These new standards represent thousands of volunteer hours of collaboration by the leading experts in their respective fields — many new to the ASTM process. Each of these efforts demonstrates how the standards development process can be utilized to assure that safety considerations are able to keep pace with the dynamic and innovative nature of the amusement industry." The next F24 meeting will be held in October in Scottsdale.

Finally, springtime also signifies the time when the AIMS board leadership changes over. As we say farewell to past president **Mike Gutnecht** of **Ride Entertainment Group** and all of the great work he brought to AIMS during his two-year tenure, we welcome new AIMS President, **Roger Berry** with **Ralph S. Alberts Company**, a ride padding systems manufacturer. Berry is a 19-year AIMS member and brings with him great experience and innovative thinking. He is also a member of IAAPA, participating in both the Safety and the Manufacturers & Suppliers Committees, a member of ASTM International, Chairman of F24.10, and is on the ASTM F24 Executive Committee.

Please visit aimsintl.org for biographical information for all of our board members as well as 2014 Safety Seminar updates.

Lake Rudolph Campground Philip Koch dies at 47

SANTA CLAUS, Ind. — Philip Koch, owner of Lake Rudolph Campground & RV Resort, died April 9 after suffering cardiac arrest. He was 47.



Koch

Born and raised in Santa Claus, Ind., Koch attended Heritage Hills High School in Lincoln City, Indiana, grad-

uating in 1983. He attended Purdue University and graduated in 1988 with a BS in Business Administration and Management.

Koch was the chief executive officer of HO HO Holdings, LLC, the parent company of not only Lake Rudolph, but also the Santa Claus Christmas Store, Kringle Place Shopping Center and Santa's Land, LLC.

He was chairman of

the Santa Claus Christmas Celebration committee, and a member of the Sons of the American Legion in Santa Claus, Dusty Trails Saddle Club, Southern Indiana Horseman's Club, the Spencer County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds, the Indiana Recreation Vehicle Indiana Council and the Indiana Campground Owners

Association. The town of Santa Claus slogan, America's Christmas Hometown, was one of Philip's many ideas.

His philanthropic efforts included numerous donations to area churches and non-profit organizations including Ronald McDonald House Charities and the ARVC Foundation, donation of land to help create Jim Yellig Park in Santa Claus, and donation of office space for the Spencer

County Visitors Bureau.

Philip is survived by his wife, Carol, and two children, Alexa and Logan. He is also survived by his mother, Pat, and siblings Kristi, Dan and Natalie.

In lieu of flowers, as per Philip's wishes, please make all donations to the Santa Claus Museum. The family will create an antique historical train room in his honor.

JMA's John Mann passes away at 63

HUNTINGTON, Ind. — John Allen Mann, 63 of Fort Wayne, passed away February 22, 2013 at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

A 1968 graduate of Huntington High school, John earned his bachelors degree in Political Science at IPFW. Along with being a local entrepreneur, businessman and philanthropist, he was the CEO of JMA, Inc., a company he started in the mid 70's that did marketing, PR, promotions, restaurant management and entertainment.



Mann

Mann was involved in promoting various forms of entertainment throughout his career including clients such as The Walt Disney Company, Ringling Brothers Circus, Carson & Barnes Circus, and Bearcreek Farms Resort. He was an enthusiastic advocate of the Circus and Outdoor Amusement Industries and the Indiana State Fair. His company eventually owned and operated 60 Subway Sandwich Franchises in Tennessee, Michigan and Indiana. The company currently owns 22 Subway Shops, all in Indiana, and owns commercial and rental properties, an investment company, a commercial leasing company and farmland.

He is survived by his wife, Gale; stepson, John Witting; stepdaughter, Karen Witting as well as numerous cousins and good friends.

Memorials may be made to Riley's Children Hospital or donor's choice in care of Myers Funeral Home, 2901 Guilford Street, Huntington, Ind. 46750.



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MARKETWATCH

RIDING THE MARKET



Company	Prices	Prices	52 Weeks	
	One Month Ago	04/11/13	High	Low
Cedar Fair L.P.	\$37.40	\$40.72	\$40.81	\$25.00
MGM Mirage	\$13.03	\$12.86	\$14.11	\$8.83
Six Flags Ent. Corp.	\$69.00	\$72.21	\$75.67	\$43.13
CBS Corp.	\$46.54	\$46.30	\$47.42	\$29.81
Walt Disney Co.	\$56.83	\$60.55	\$60.67	\$41.25
Apollo Global Mgt. LLC	\$23.03	\$25.44	\$27.56	\$10.42
Blackstone Group	\$20.39	\$21.10	\$21.46	\$11.12
Village Roadshow	\$4.94	\$4.97	\$5.14	\$2.85
NBC Universal	\$23.25	\$23.59	\$23.09	\$18.02

CURRENCY DIESEL PRICES



Region (U.S.)	As of 04/08/13	Change from year ago
East Coast	\$4.009	-\$0.181
Midwest	\$3.956	-\$0.099
Gulf Coast	\$3.888	-\$0.175
Mountain	\$3.889	-\$0.230
West Coast	\$4.023	-\$0.354
California	\$4.196	-\$0.244

TOP 7 MOST TRADED CURRENCIES



On 04/11/13 \$1 USD =	
0.7630	EURO
0.6499	GBP (British Pound)
99.8582	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9308	CHF (Swiss Franc)
0.9482	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.0105	CAD (Canadian Dollar)

PEOPLE WATCH

Gold Medal's John Evans Jr. honored

John Evans Jr., senior vice president of Gold Medal Products Co., was recently honored with a Doctorate of Foodservice (DFS) award during ceremonies held at The NAFEM Show.

The North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM) program stated it recognized "elected leaders of major foodservice industry associations for their commitment and dedication to their respective organizations and the industry at-large." Evans received this award in correlation with his presidency of The National Association of Concessionaires (NAC).

"These 50 DFS honorees exemplify superior commitment and dedication to the advancement of the organizations that they represent," said Tom Champion, CFSP, NAFEM president and president of Franke Foodservice Systems, Inc., Smyrna, Tenn. "NAFEM is grateful for the valuable contributions they have made to their respective organizations and to the greater hospitality industry. We are pleased to recognize their accomplishments."

Evans was also named the Person of the Industry at the Tri State Independent Theatre Owners Associations Convention. He was presented the award by Larry Etter, senior vice president of Malco Theatres, Inc., and Tri State board member.



Evans

sistance to start up tech companies in the United States and around the world.

"Judith's remarkable and diverse professional background will be a great asset to our company," said Jim Atchison, president and CEO of SeaWorld Entertainment.

"We are delighted that a person of Judith's caliber is joining the board. She has made significant contributions in public service as well as in the leadership roles she has played in complex media businesses. Judith brings to SeaWorld a rare combination of personal and professional experiences," said David D'Alessandro, chairman of the board of SeaWorld Entertainment.

Sandy joins railroad museum board

Adam Sandy has joined the board of directors at the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore, Maryland. A decade-long veteran of the theme park industry, Sandy serves as the Sales Director for the Ride Entertainment Group, which is based in Stevensville, Maryland. His primary role is selling roller coasters and attractions to amusement and theme parks around the world. In addition, he oversees the marketing arm of the company, which creates the long-term strategy for the attractions Ride Entertainment owns and operates.

"I am excited to be a part of a great museum with a very engaged board. As someone raising a family in the city, I can appreciate how important the B&O Railroad Museum is to the people of Baltimore and the Mid-Atlantic as a whole. My industry is one where the guest experience is paramount and I hope to use my background to help the board and museum staff in any way I can." Sandy said.

He noted, "I really appreciate how the B&O Railroad Museum has generated revenue and interest by creating non-traditional museum attractions like story time and themed events that all tie back to the trains. They have set themselves up as an extremely strong regional family attraction and are a competitive option for the entertainment dollar of locals and tourists alike."



Sandy

Funtown Splashtown USA chooses Gateway Ticketing

BOYERTOWN, Pa. — Gateway Ticketing Systems recently announced its selection by Funtown Splashtown USA as the venue's new ticketing and access control provider. Maine's largest family-themed water and amusement park, Funtown Splashtown USA's 500,000 annual visitors will enjoy an enhanced visitor experience this season with the implementation of Gateway's flagship point of sale and admission control solution, Galaxy. Visitors will also be able to print both regular and corporate discount passes using Gateway's eGalaxy Web Store.

The improved guest purchasing experience is essential to the venue's decision to go with Galaxy according to Funtown Splashtown USA Marketing Manager, Ed Hodgdon: "In the past we have used largely manual ticketing and access control solutions, but we have seen a marked increase in the requests from customers for more electronic means of ticket purchasing. For example, our corporate customers want to be able to go online, enter a discount code and batch order tickets. Galaxy will enable us to do this, and more!"

Gateway Ticketing Systems Business Solution Architect Steve Bell, is excited to see Gateway partner with Funtown Splashtown USA: "With a culture of being both family run and having a family focus, there is a definitive synergy to our organizations. We are honored to be a critical part of their vision to be the best facility they can for their guests."

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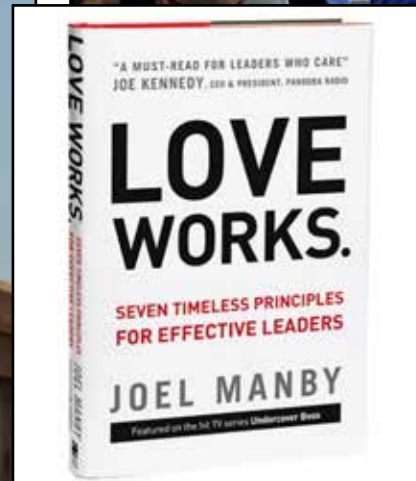
Family entertainment company banks on compassion

For Herschend CEO Joel Manby, 'Love Works' as smart business

STORY: Dean Lamanna
Special to Amusement Today

NORCROSS, Ga. — Most executives play their business strategies close to the vest. But Joel Manby, president and CEO of Herschend Family Entertainment (HFE), wears his on his sleeve.

And on a dust jacket, too. While overseeing the 26 entertainment, tourism and hospitality operations in 10 states that comprise the largest family-owned theme park corporation in the U.S., Manby published a book last year that has enjoyed acclaim and brisk sales. Titled *Love Works: Seven Timeless Principles for Effective Leaders*, it is a guide to conducting business with compassion that doubles as a manual for HFE's 10,000-plus employees.



Pictured (far left) with Wild-Fire at Silver Dollar City, Joel Manby, president and CEO of Herschend Family Entertainment, published the acclaimed business book *Love Works* last year after appearing on the CBS reality TV series *Undercover Boss* (above) in 2010. His company hosts more than 14 million guests annually. COURTESY HERSCHEID FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

The principles set forth in *Love Works* were applied at HFE for many years by sibling co-founders Jack and Pete Herschend before Manby refined and defined them. The project's catalyst was Manby's 2010 appearance on the CBS reality television series *Undercover Boss*, which drew 18 million viewers and an avalanche of mail praising the executive's respectful approach to treating employees.

A cared-for workforce is key to fulfilling HFE's vision, which Manby says is "bringing families closer together." That begins with the company's own.

Prior to becoming president and CEO of HFE in 2003 after five years on its board of directors, the Harvard-educated Manby spent 20 years in the auto industry — serving instrumentally in the Saturn Corporation's startup and GM's International Division before his promotion to CEO of Saab Automobile USA. But the Battle Creek, Mich., native doesn't take success for granted: Manby's parents kept the clan afloat on as little as \$50 a week after his father lost his tractor dealership.

Manby's empathy with the working poor led HFE to

establish the Share It Forward Foundation, which assists its own employees who are in need. And the married father of four has nurtured a decade of company growth, including, within the past year, the introduction of two cutting-edge attractions: the \$20 million Wild Eagle steel wing coaster at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., and the \$10 million Outlaw Run, a barrel-rolling wooden coaster, at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo.

Manby had barely caught his breath after attending the latter ride's debut in mid-March when *AT* chatted with him.

What are your impressions of, and hopes for, Outlaw Run?

I could not be more pleased. The teams at Rocky Mountain Construction and Silver Dollar City executed this project to perfection. I'm proud of them because they stepped up to innovation, and we all signed up for the risk that meant. It's going to take Silver Dollar City to a new level.

What moved you to undertake the task of writing a book while running a major company?

After *Undercover Boss*, I

heard from many frustrated employees and leaders who saw in the show — in the culture Jack and Pete Herschend created, and I've been able to carry on — the way they always thought a business should be run. That's when I knew a book would hit a chord. The Herschends and the HFE board supported *Love Works* very much, and all the royalties are going to our Share It Forward Foundation.

How does Share It Forward strengthen the link between employee morale and HFE's success?

My book's theme, "leading with love," is the philosophy behind our company philosophy. It's not rocket science that the guest experience can never rise higher than the level of your employees' enthusiasm. We focus on making sure our employees are satisfied, because if they're broke or unhealthy, they'll never create a great guest experience.

Share It Forward starts with our employees' unselfishness. They put their own money into this foundation, and then HFE matches it dollar for dollar. We have a variety of programs — catastrophic aid, health care assistance, marriage counseling, financial con-

sulting, child assistance — and each of our properties has a health advocate nurse providing a bridge to whatever kind of care an employee needs.

How did HFE manage during the recession?

We've generated double-digit returns every year. Our dividends have continued through that, and we're almost double in EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) what we were in 2003. It's just been a little tweak every year — either organically or through an acquisition.

We did have to make very difficult decisions, like freezing wages and asking executives to take pay cuts. But we did so to protect jobs. We have not had a mass layoff of any size since the recession hit in 2007. And we have very little debt and a very healthy balance sheet.

When you joined the company, how sturdy was its business foundation — and how did you build upon it?

Jack and Pete Herschend are two of the finest men I've ever met, and HFE's foundation is as solid as you can get it. I could not have come into a stronger situation. That said, I was the company's third non-family CEO, and there

had been some rough spots with the previous two. Transitioning a wonderful, family-owned-and-run environment to a non-family member is difficult, and I navigated that with the Herschends' tremendous support.

My initial focus was how to define the culture that Jack and Pete created so eloquently at Silver Dollar City, which got weaker the farther we moved from Branson. Dollywood had a strong culture of its own, but it was very different. My job was to apply a vernacular to HFE's culture and teach it to the rest of the team. Obviously, a CEO can't be everywhere — and that's where *Love Works* has helped put a stake in the sand for our employees: *This is our company culture and what will be expected of you.*

The second big thing I did was to diversify our company away from being too outdoor attraction-driven. We don't have access to public capital; we just can't go out and raise \$300 million to buy a park like Six Flags. So we've bought a couple of aquariums (in New Jersey and Kentucky) and expanded our metro market indoor attractions, which provide a weather hedge and also

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►MANBY

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a demographic edge.

Coming from the auto industry, what did you find unique and challenging about the amusement industry?

In both, you feel the customer's breath and hear their complaints daily. But this industry is more complex because it involves several businesses. We have food, which is very complicated, and varied entertainment. Then we've got merchandising and attractions. It's very difficult to be good at them all.

The point is, I had to learn to lead differently. In the auto industry I came up through every frontline job — including selling cars at the dealer level. So I was more autocratic and

felt I always had the answer. When I came to Herschend, I surrounded myself with better people and asked really good questions. I learned to be a better leader here because I didn't know the industry and didn't pretend I did.

Having added major attractions at Silver Dollar City and Dollywood, which HFE properties do you feel could use some extra love?

We allocate based on our properties' needs and what we can afford. We do need to focus on Wild Adventures in Valdosta, Georgia, because we bought it out of bankruptcy, as well as the parks we're running for CNL Lifestyle Properties — Darien Lake and Elitch Gardens. But nobody gets starved.

How will you realize HFE's recently expanded li-



Joel Manby (right) tests the new \$10 million hybrid wooden coaster Outlaw Run at Silver Dollar City with one of his "heroes" at Herschend Family Entertainment, company co-founder Pete Herschend.

COURTESY HERSCHEID FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

censing deal with Character Arts, LLC, for the use of characters from the 1964 animated TV special *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*?

Christmas for us is always classic and about bringing back youthful memories

with feel-good stories, so Rudolph fits perfectly. We'll use the characters in a variety of show, parade and meet-and-greet ways that are being determined. And there are great retail opportunities for selling plush.

Now that you and Donald Trump have made successful forays into both reality TV and authorship, do you think Trump would benefit from reading your book?

I think he would. *(laughs)* I'm not sure he'd agree with it all, but I bet he'd agree with more than people might give him credit. Because there's actually nothing soft about leading with love. I've lived the GM world of only leading by the numbers in a more fear-based culture. And I've lived the Herschend way of treating employees with dignity — but also demanding outstanding performance and results.

My book has had a positive impact on people, and that's what I care about the most.



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2013 Houston Livestock Show exceeds 2.5 million attendance mark

2013 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Top 10 rides

1. **Windstorm**, owned by SJ Entertainment, manufactured by SDC
2. **Skyride #2**, manufactured by Seatrek
3. **Euroslide**, Euroslide
4. **Rave Wave**, SDC
5. **La Grande Wheel**, Carousel Holland
6. **G Force**, KMG
7. **Crazy Coaster**, owned by SJ Entertainment, Reverchon
8. **Skyflyer**, Mondial
9. **Alien Abduction**, Wisdom Industries
10. **Starship 2000**, Wisdom Industries

—Based on number of riders

New rides on the midway of Ray Cammack Shows

- Kamikaze**, Fabbri
- Mach I Speed**, KMG
- Motorbikes**, Dalton Kid Rides
- Farm Tractors**, Dalton Kid Rides
- Quad Runners**, Dalton Kid Rides
- VW Bugs**, Dalton Kid Rides

—Source: RCS

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

HOUSTON, Texas — Chief Operating Officer Leroy Shafer had projected that the 2013 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, which ran Feb. 25-March 17, attendance would top out at about 2.4 million people.

"I never dreamed we would go over 2.5 million," Shafer said. "Our greatest growth was in attendance on the grounds. People are enjoying themselves on the grounds of show."

Overall attendance at this year's event was 2,506,238, with rodeo attendance being 1,308,288, both figures record-setting. Overall attendance in 2012 was 2,257,970, with ro-



Shafer

deo attendance as 1,283,419. In 2011, overall attendance was 2,262,834 and rodeo attendance 1,255,323.

As far as to what event officials attributed this overwhelming increase to, Shafer said, "I always first have to say weather."

"The only weather issue we had the entire show was on opening night," he said. "We had to close the grounds due to high winds before the rodeo."

Shafer said the event has been on the upswing since 2008 when the economy took its hit.

"You know, I am sure you have heard this before, but the largest growth experienced by the fair and festival industry in this country happened during the Great Depression," he said. "In 2009, all the talk of the 'staycation' increased our attendance."

Another factor that helped

increase attendance this year Shafer noted is the growth to the Houston area. He said it has been reported that 150,000 people are moving to the Houston area annually. There has been a shortage of office space as well as housing in the area.

"The Houston economy is red hot right now," he said.

Shafer said the great entertainment line-up this year was also a contributing factor to growth. There were more than 41,000 season tickets sold for the 2013 rodeo and concert program. That is about 66 percent of the normal capacity of the Reliant Stadium.

"We had an extra George Strait concert date at the end of the show, which we figured would definitely increase our attendance," he said. "What we didn't think would happen is that we had already set an all-time record before that

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Judkins updates H-2B program events

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Changes, proposed changes, court rulings and timelines to the Federal government's H-2B Visa program that allows the use of temporary foreign labor in the U.S., can be at the very least confusing and frustrating to many.

The outdoor mobile amusement industry, among many more industries, has been hiring foreign seasonal labor for many years, but over the past decade it has become more of a challenge to get enough workers, have the same workers return or get the workers for the start of the season.

James Judkins, JKJ Workforce Agency and Small Business Workforce Alliance, has many helping those within the carnival work through the program. In mid-April, Judkins sent out an email to the industry to explain what is currently happening and why it is important industry.

With his permission, *Amusement Today* has taken excerpts from his email for publication as a way to inform. The following are those excerpts:

"There is a great deal of uncertainty, rumors and incorrect information circulating about the H-2B program. In an effort to inform, without bogging down in too many details that confuse instead of clarify, I will give a brief summary of

the current situation.

Prior to 2008 the Department of Labor had not issued any formal H-2B regulations. They had been running the program with a series of Guidance Letters that managed their involvement in the H-2B program.

The DOL under the Bush Administration finalized rules for the program in December 2008 and they were put into effect in January 2009. [2009 RULES].

These 2009 rules were challenged in court by a group of workers' rights advocates.

Most of the 2009 regulations were upheld by the court, but the system that the Department of Labor (DOL) had been

► See H-2B USA, page 44



James Judkins, JKJ Workforce Agency Small Business Workforce Alliance, sent out an email in mid-April in an effort to bring members of the outdoor mobile amusement industry updated on H-2B Visa events and to ask industry members to contact their Member of the House. Seen here with Judkins are Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose) and John Meredith, Meredith Advocacy Group.

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►HOUSTON

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show."

Ray Cammack Shows provided the midway for the show. The carnival brought about 84 rides this year, with six of them being new rides for the show. Those were the Kamikaze, manufactured by Fab-bri; the Mach I Speed, KMG; and four kiddie rides from Dalton Kid Rides, the Farm Tractors, Motorbikes, Quad Runners and VW Bugs.

This year also marked the last year for Skip Wagner, who had served as president and CEO since 2005. He has become the president and CEO of the 12th Man Foundation at Texas A&M University. Wagner's official last day was April 4. Shafer has been named as interim president and CEO while remaining the chief operating officer.

The first time Wagner was hired by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo was in 1991 in the capacity of assistant general manager. He left in 1999 to become the president of the Oklahoma State Fair, Oklahoma City. He was re-hired by Houston in 2005 as the president and CEO.

Shafer, who is celebrating his 40th year with the Houston show, is the interim president and CEO, as well as continuing his role as chief operating officer.

He said they are beginning their search to fill the position of president and CEO but, "nothing is broken here and we are not in a rush."

"Just in the last 10 days, we have a search committee looking for a national and international search firm and we plan to use one," Shafer said. "We don't have a time line for when we expect to hire a new president and CEO. But, we have been given recommendations that say it will take be-



Above, Ray Cammack Shows' Chance Yo-Yo is always a popular ride on the midway. Below, a young boy tries his skills on the ring toss game. The 2013 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo set an all-time attendance record drawing more than 2.5 million visitors.

COURTESY HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO



Wagner



tween five to seven months."

Following are additional highlights from the 2013 Show:

- The one-day total attendance record was set Saturday, March 16, with 174,507 visitors.

- The Rodeo Houston paid attendance record of 1,308,288 fans enjoyed action-packed rodeo performances and superstars in concert.

- Five Rodeo Houston performances landed in the list of the show's top 20 paid rodeo attendance records, taking the top five spots.

- A record 264,132 people attended the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest to help kick off the Show, Feb. 21 - 23.

- The Rodeo House Super Shootout: North America's Champions presented by Crown Royal was held Saturday, March 9, 2013. This groundbreaking, invitation-only, one-day event featured

champion athletes from 10 of the best rodeos in the United States and Canada. Contestants competed in Bareback Riding, Barrel Racing, Bull Riding and Saddle Bronc Riding. With a total purse of \$200,000, the Super Shootout is the richest one-day rodeo event in the world. Each champion earned \$25,000 and a champion buckle.

- This year's livestock competitions and horse shows boasted 27,070 entries.

- Eight of the junior market and School Art auction Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion sales set new records.

- Since Jan. 1, 2013, the show's social media outlets have seen significant growth in followers, including Facebook likes increased by 70,561, a 28.7 percent increase; Rodeo Houston's Twitter followers increased by 107.6 percent since Jan. 1, 2013, to currently more than 30,000.

"This is a very precarious situation we find ourselves in politically. The industry is poised to play a significant role in the enactment of comprehensive immigration reform and we do not want to upset that process as it will provide the long-term solutions we need to remain viable in our marketplaces. Therefore, we must make a very loud statement and appeal to our individual Congressmen or Congresswomen as direct constituents needing relief from public policy gone awry."

—James Judkins, JKJ Workforce Agency and Small Business Workforce Alliance

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Continued from page 43

using for many years to assign wages by using the 4-tier OES prevailing wages from the Bureau of Labor Statistics was thrown out, not because the wages were inaccurate or fundamentally wrong, but because DOL had not followed the proper steps in putting the 4-tier wage methodology into place. [OES 4-TIER WAGE]. The judge said DOL could continue to apply the 4-tier wages while they followed the proper procedures to adopt that method of calculating wages.

DOL could have simply followed the proper steps and reinstituted the OES 4-TIER WAGE methodology that is mandated for other non-immigrant visa categories. Instead, the Obama administration declared the OES 4-TIER WAGE methodology flawed — said it depressed U.S. workers' wages — and in 2011 offered a new wage rule that would have doubled the prevailing wage for amusement and recreation attendants. [2011 WAGE RULE]

This would have effectively ended the H-2B program so we joined with other H-2B employers and challenged the 2011 WAGE RULE in court in Louisiana. [LA FORESTRY].

A second group of employers challenged the 2011 WAGE RULE in court in Florida [BAYOU].

The underlying argument in both cases is that the H-2B law, as written, provides for DHS (Department of Homeland Security) to administer the H-2B program and that the DOL only has an advisory

role and has no congressional authority to issue any regulations.

The LA FORESTRY case was heard in Louisiana and subsequently transferred to the Pennsylvania Court that was handling (the 2009 case mentioned above) case because the La. judge ruled that the cases were similar.

Before a judge in either case ruled, we were able to get Congress to block the 2011 WAGE RULE by adding language to DOL's appropriation bill prohibiting the agency from implementing the rule.

Subsequently the judge in the Pa. case ruled against us and the LA FORESTRY case is currently under appeal in the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals.

The DOL dropped the second shoe in 2012 when they proposed new program rules. These new program rules, if put into effect, would have made it impossible for H-2B employers to comply with the program and would have rendered it unworkable. The attorneys in the FL BAYOU case filed an additional case to challenge the 2012 PROGRAM RULES.

The Judge issued a preliminary injunction against the DOL to stop them from putting the 2012 PROGRAM RULES into effect. This was appealed by (opponents) and by the DOL and on March 21, 2013 the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the preliminary injunction issued by the district court judge. It is expected that the District judge in Florida will soon make the injunction permanent and, hopefully, also issue an injunction.

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►H-2B USA

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tion against the 2011 WAGE RULES.

Remember the original (2009 Pennsylvania) case that began this whole chain of events? Well, that separate case that involves no H-2B employers is still alive and on March 21, 2013 the judge in that case surprised everyone and issued a ruling that barred the DOL from continuing to use the OES 4-TIER WAGE methodology and gave them 30 days to come up with a wage methodology that is compliant with the law.

This means the judge revised the earlier decision that said DOL could continue to use the 4-tier wages while they worked on a replacement. The judge has now prohibited DOL from assigning wages based on the 4-tier wage methodology, which is how virtually all amusement industry employers get wages in the H-2B program.

DOL complied with the Judge's orders by stopping the issuance of prevailing wage determinations, which was expected.

However, on April 2, 2013 DOL issued a notice that they were also stopping the processing of all applications for Labor Certifications based upon the OES 4-TIER WAGE methodology. On the same day, the DHS issued a notice that they were stopping the processing of all I-129 petitions that were based upon the OES 4-TIER WAGE methodology.

This means that if you have not received an I-797 approval notice from USCIS for your H-2B workers, you will not be getting any H-2B workers in the foreseeable future."

Judkins goes on to state that there "is no justification for either the DOL or the DHS to stop processing labor certification requests or I-129 petitions for H-2B employers based upon the judge's ruling because the applications currently in process are based upon valid prevailing wage determinations issued prior to the judge's rulings and the recruitment that has been done and the labor certifications that have been issued should be considered valid."

Judkins asked, in his email, for those in the amusement industry to contact their Member of the House.

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Big Tex, the towering statue and an iconic symbol of the **State Fair of Texas**, is getting a new voice.

State Fair of Texas officials said they decided last month to not renew the contract of **Bill Bragg**, who has been the voice of the cowboy figure for 11 years.

"I'm not bitter but, boy, am I broken-hearted," Bragg said.

Bragg says there had been signs of trouble in the past, but nothing that would have led to this. The primary concern had been over his title, Bragg said.

Fair spokeswoman **Sue Gooding** said the State Fair intended to bring Bragg back at the end of last year's fair. She declined to discuss the reasons why the contract was not renewed.

By a 26-16 vote, fair board members voted in March to reduce ticket prices and vendor and booth rates for the **2013 Durham (Conn.) Fair**. Fair President **Gene Chiappetta** resigned after the vote, unceremoniously ending his nearly 10-year run as head of Connecticut's largest agricultural fair, according to a news report from the online Patch.

Chiappetta had been a volunteer with the fair since 1981, which includes serving as president since 2004.

Members also agreed to reduce vendor and booth rates by nine percent across the board and eliminate a \$50 energy fee charged to all vendors.

The changes appear to be the result of a significant decline in fair attendance in recent years.

Women from Sacramento and West Sacramento have been named to the **California Exposition and State Fair's** executive team.

California Gov. **Jerry Brown** announced last month the appointment of **Michelle Prater**, 44, as marketing and public relations manager, and **Carrie Wright**, 37, as programs manager.

Rick Pickering, CEO of the California Exposition and State Fair, described Prater, a Sacramento resident, as a seasoned executive with experience in advertising, marketing, corporate partnerships and brand development.

Most recently, she served as the environmental sustainability and marketing manager at Best Buy from 2010 to 2012 and was senior business manager of strategic alliances at Maloof Sports and Entertainment from 2001 to 2010.

Wright, of West Sacramento, has been involved in what Pickering described as cutting-edge programming at fairs across the United States and Canada. She has held various positions with the **Western Fairs Association** since 2008, including marketing director and programs director.

Colorado State Fair officials are preparing for the possible impact of a proposed bill that would change the way state lottery funds are disbursed could have on the summer expo.

Currently, Pueblo County (the fair is located in Pueblo, Colo.) gives the fair \$175,000 to help subsidize its operation from the county's allocations of Conservation Trust Funds.

Proposed Senate Bill 145, sponsored by state Sen. **Angela Giron**, D-Pueblo, seeks to give metro districts a full share of Conservation Trust Funds, money generated from lottery proceeds and earmarked for parks and recreation.

Fair Manager **Chris Wiseman** told the Colorado State Fair board that he needs to look at making possible cuts if the measure passes.

Del Mar, Calif., city officials are stepping up their push for representation on a newly shaped board that would oversee the **Del Mar Fairgrounds**, home to the **San Diego County Fair**.

The effort will focus on persuading county officials to give a city representative or city representatives a spot on the panel.

For months, city officials with Del Mar, Solana Beach and San Diego have made it clear that they would like a say in what happens at the state-owned fairgrounds.

The Del Mar council members said they'd like to have some sort of resolution sooner than later.

Members of the **Chilton County Kiwanis Club** will develop a plan for figuring out a new location for the **Chilton County Fair**, Clanton, Ala., in 2014.

In January, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at the Chilton County Airport granted a one-year extension for the Chilton County Fair to remain in the current location, near the airport, for the 2013 fair.

It was previously announced in October 2012 that the fair would have to find a new location due to a proposed airport project that would extend the airport's runway 1,000 feet to the west.

The fair posed safety issues with the airport that receives grants from the FAA and Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) Avionics Division due to having a lit up Ferris wheel that is considered an obstruction near the airport's runway.

The Airport Authority informed the Kiwanis Club of the airport's long-term plans for growth and allowed a one-year extension for the fair, but members of the Kiwanis Club are trying to develop a plan for what to do in 2014.

The Kiwanis Club is actively looking for a new fairgrounds and wants to get an idea from city leaders as to what type of help they plan to provide.

Competition is part of the **Franklin County Fair**, Waynesboro, Pa., but competing activities at the end of August have prompted organizers to move fair week to early July.

The fair has been set to run July 7-13. It had been held the third full week in August.

The change was made due to so many activities in the month of August in the county as well as contending with school starting and band and football camps.

Tractor pull dates had to be switched around and the carnival had to be changed. **Reithoffer Shows** will play this year's event. **Snyder's Amusements** had provided the midway.

The **Ewing-Fleming County Fair**, Ewing, Ky., will no longer be a part of summers in the area. Owners **Buddy and Louetta Curtis** had to cancel the annual event primarily due to health problems. But, it also had been difficult to manage the fair during tough economic times and the dwindling number of fair-goers.

The Curtis family purchased the fairgrounds in 1999. The first fair the family ran was in 2000.

The **Kentucky State Fair** board approved a draft of capital plans that would last from 2014 to

2020.

Those plans include a major renovation of the Kentucky International Convention Center and the demolition of old Cardinal Stadium at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

The plan still requires state approval. State funding would have to be available for any of the projects to happen.

The top item on the fair board wish list is \$180 million to renovate and expand the downtown convention center.

Denver-based **Fentress Architects** last month submitted a plan that called for renovating 397,000 square-feet of space at the aging center and developing 162,000 square-feet of new meeting space within the existing footprint.

The second-highest fair board priority is demolishing the old Cardinal Stadium and building a 70,000-square-foot warehouse in its place. The price tag for that project is estimated at \$15 million.

Angie Avila remembers marching in the **Tulare (Calif.) County Fair** parade as a freshman playing the clarinet for the Redskins band in 1960.

Five decades later, Avila will get a chance to enjoy the parade from a much different point of view — as the fair's chief executive officer.

Avila, who's also the **Kings County Fair** (Hanford, Calif.) CEO, was appointed the Tulare County Fair's interim top administrator earlier this month — and will remain until a permanent replacement is found, likely until the end of the year.

"I think it's exciting to do the Tulare County Fair," Avila said. "It's a bigger fair [than Kings County]. I love the fair system. I think it's going to be a good partnership."

Avila took over the county fair's helm on March 1, following a request from the board members.

The **Virginia Farm Bureau Federation** entered into an agreement March 14 to assume full ownership of the **State Fair of Virginia** and **The Meadow Event Park** from **Universal Fairs LLC** of Cordova, Tenn.

Farm Bureau, which had been 50-percent owner since last July, entered into an agreement on the remaining 50 percent and will continue to operate the state fair and many other events on the historic 331-acre property that was once home to Secretariat, the legendary Thoroughbred who captured the 1973 Triple Crown.

This year's fair will run from Sept. 27 to Oct. 6 at the Caroline County site.

New York State Agriculture Commissioner **Darrel J. Aubertine** announced that New Yorkers have chosen "Sharing the Bounty and Pride of N.Y." as the theme of the **2013 Great New York State Fair**.

This theme was voted on by New Yorkers after Commissioner Aubertine and State Fair Director **Tom Ryan** narrowed a field of suggestions down to 10. **Kathy Denman** from Syracuse created the theme that New Yorkers ultimately decided on.

The new theme will now be the basis of a statewide marketing and public relations campaign aimed at promoting the Great New York State Fair to all New Yorkers.

The 2013 Great New York State Fair will run from August 22 to September 2, 2013.

PBJ Happee Days Show getting off to a soggy start

KENNETT, Mo. — Mid last month, Tim Casper, PBJ Happee Day Shows, was experiencing the worst weather he had ever experienced at the beginning of a season.

"This is our third week out and six out of seven days have been rained out," Casper said. "I think we have had two good days."

Casper, whose show is based in Marion, Ark., said the weather was great for their set-up at the Kennett (Mo.) Jaycees Show-Me State BBQ Cook-Off, which was held April 4 & 5. But, the rain had started again and on Thursday, April 3, it was pouring.

"We have been told that the weather should be nice for Friday and Saturday (April 4 & 5)," he said. "But, I am just at the point where I don't believe the weatherman anymore."

Nevertheless, Casper was trying to look at the situation in an optimistic way. For example, he said he had his H-2B visa workers, while some other carnival owners he had spoken too had not gotten them on their midways to start the season.

"Well, they are there, but they are standing around in the rain," he said, with a chuckle.

Casper uses about nine workers under the U.S. Labor

H-2B Visa program, which allows foreign labor seasonal work.

Casper said his new Battech Enterprises Zero Gravity with its LED light program looks great and he has had good response with it.

"With the LED lights, it will knock your socks off," he said.

He also purchased a Hog Rally, Battech Enterprises, and

expects to take delivery of that new ride in late May or early June. He purchased three new food trailers from Schantz as well.

"We replaced all our food trailers this year," he said.

He said his son, Cody Casper, took a good look of successful food trailers on other midways. They have three food trailers: funnel cake, popper and corn dog, the latter his

son owns.

A new date was added for this season and that is the Washington (Mo.) Town and Country Fair, Aug. 7-11. Casper said his show runs from April through Halloween, playing about one spot a week.

He normally carries between 18 and 20 of his newest rides with him and sometimes puts up as many as 32 at a

larger fair depending on the needs.

"We used to do a lot of splitting up, but we don't do that anymore," he said. "We made a little more money doing it that way, but we also had a lot more headaches."

"You know, 25 years ago, we didn't make as much money as we make now, but it was more fun," he said. "But, I love it."



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South Dakota Fair to limit use of carts during fair hours

HURON, S.D. — South Dakota officials will restrict the use of golf carts on the state fairgrounds in Huron to improve safety during this year's State Fair.

State Fair Manager Jerome Hertel said an average of 30,000 people a day attend the state fair. He says the use of golf carts must be restricted to reduce accidents between carts and pedestrians.

Personal golf carts will no longer be allowed on the fairgrounds, but carts will be available for rent if people first get permits and show proof of personal liability insurance. Cart permits issued for transporting disabled people must be used only for carrying disabled people.

In addition, more courtesy carts and drivers will be available, and the State Fair is adding more trams.

This year's fair will be held Aug. 29-Sept. 2.

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