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Digital Edition

IAAPA Expo 2022 back at full force, ready to welcome industry

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO — Officials, members, exhibitors and attendees associated with the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)** are excited about the upcoming IAAPA Expo 2022, feeling it is back to full force after two roller coaster years.

The IAAPA Expo runs Nov. 14-18, 2022, at the **Orange County Convention Center**, Orlando, Florida. The educational conference

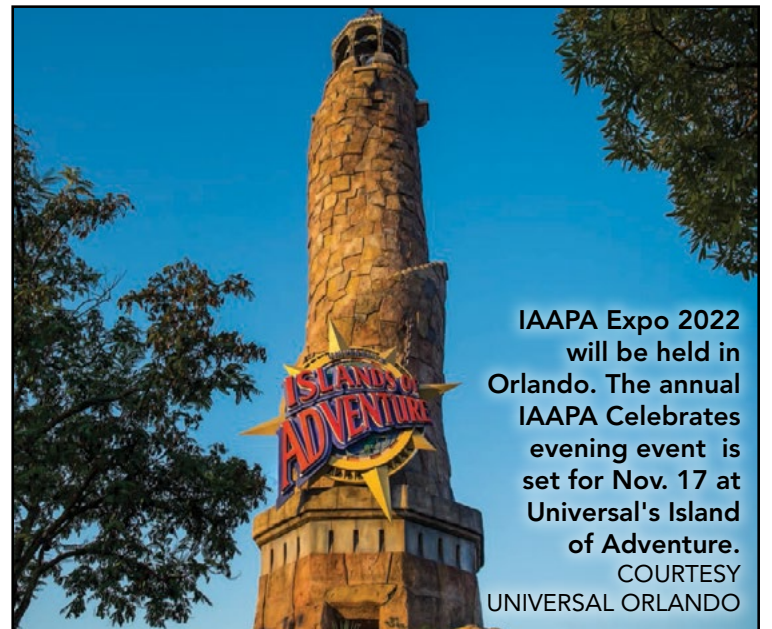
portion of the event begins Nov. 14 with the trade show opening the next day.

IAAPA officials announced earlier that there were 1,000 exhibitors registered to bring their newest and top products to the 500,000-square-foot exhibit space within the convention center. IAAPA is looking forward to hosting more than 25,000 attendees at the expo.

“It is an exciting time in the attractions industry as we continue on the path of recovery from the

pandemic, and our members are looking for new innovative products and services from our manufacturers and suppliers to enhance their guests' experiences,” said **Hal McEvoy**, IAAPA's chief executive officer and president. “IAAPA Expo in Orlando continues to be the premier showplace for the latest innovations to create fun and make memories for our industry. This is also an important event for

► See IAAPA, page 8



Accesso helps Parques Reunidos attractions head to front of line



Accesso extended its agreement with operator Parques Reunidos, delivering a variety of queuing solutions for the company's worldwide attractions. COURTESY ACCESSO

AT: Susan Storey
Special to Amusement Today

ORLANDO — Technology advances in the attractions industry are often associated with innovations in thrill rides, enhancements in virtual reality and fully immersive experiences. They are the guest-facing wonders that propel the industry and provide reasons for return visits to a favorite park or venue.

However, less visible technology plays a vital role in making those guest experiences possible. For more than 20 years, **Accesso Technology Group** has provided technology solutions for attractions and venues worldwide. To date, Accesso serves more than 1000 locations in 29 countries with its dynamic solutions that positively impact guest wait time, generate increased revenue and provide critical client data.

Each day millions of park guests around the world are able to step out of physical queue lines, so they can fully maximize their time — and fun — during their visit. It is through Accesso's technology that wait times dynamically adjust to reflect changes in operation, guest flow

and other variables. The result is capacity optimization and immediate communication with guests.

This August, Accesso, together with global leisure park operator **Parques Reunidos**, announced the companies were entering a five-year agreement that would provide the Accesso queue management services to more of the company's parks. The agreement extended Accesso's award-winning, patented technology to six additional venues owned by Parques Reunidos, and solidified Accesso as the operator's enterprise provider of queue management systems.

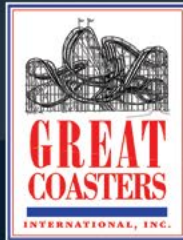
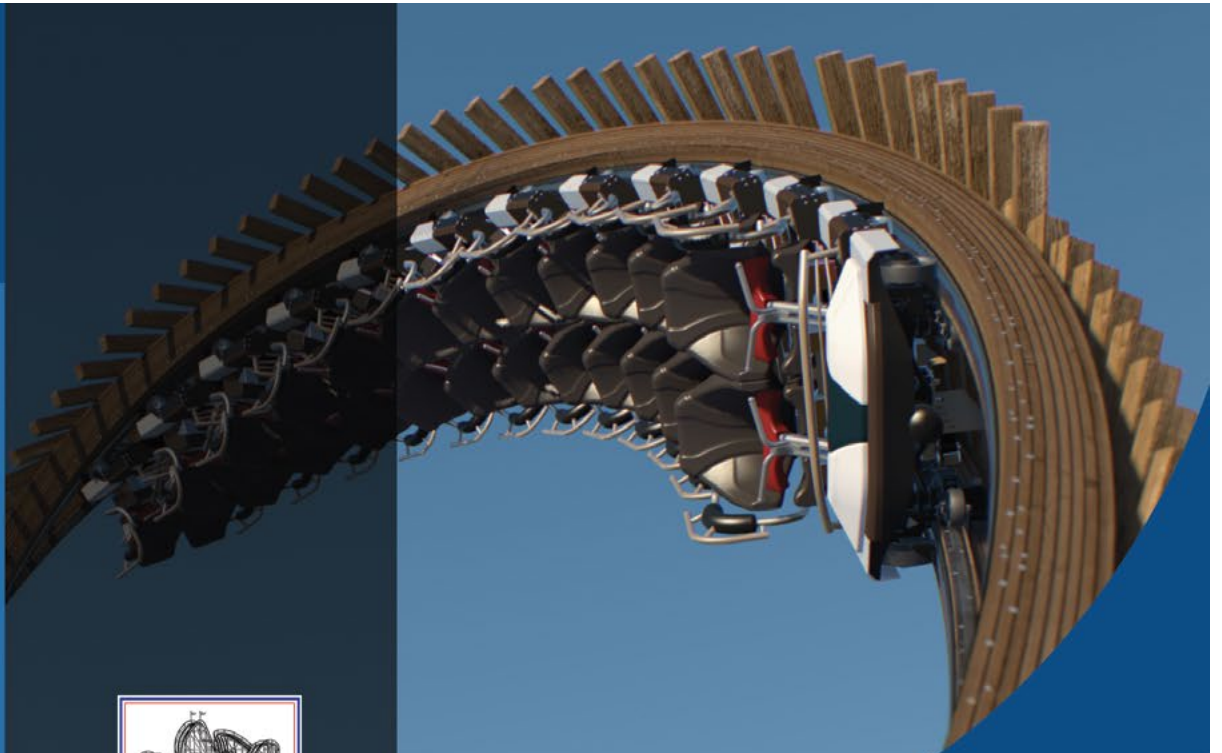
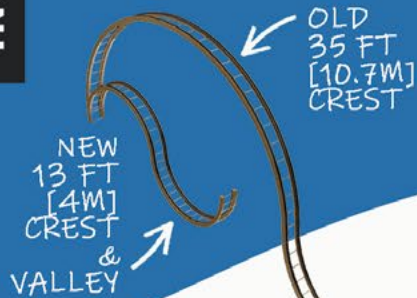
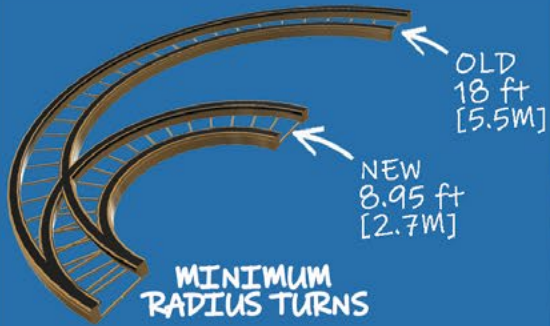
The announcement is the next step in the existing 10-year partnership Accesso has with Parques Reunidos. And just as the park operator has continued to adapt and expand, so too has Accesso at meeting the ever-changing needs of park guests worldwide.

“At Accesso, we take great pride in our approach to partnership and our ability to serve as effective extensions of our clients' teams,” shared **Andrew Jacobs**, chief commercial officer, Accesso. “Our

► See ACCESSO, page 6

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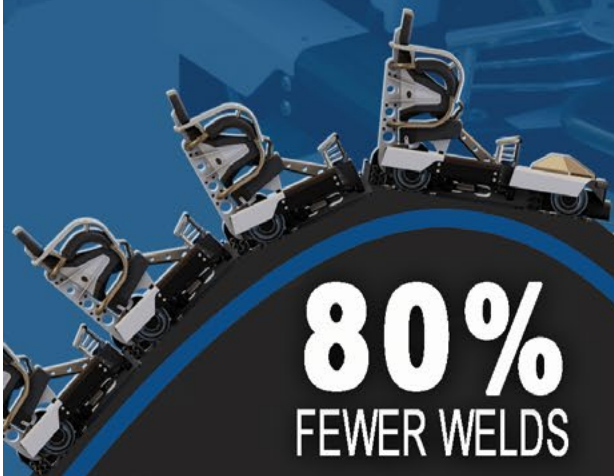
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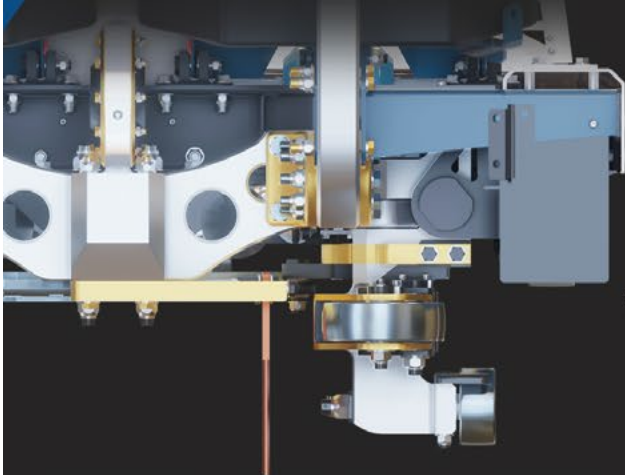
IMPROVED MODULARITY

Ability to easily adjust components for varying lift chain geometry, brakes and launch systems, for new and existing coasters.



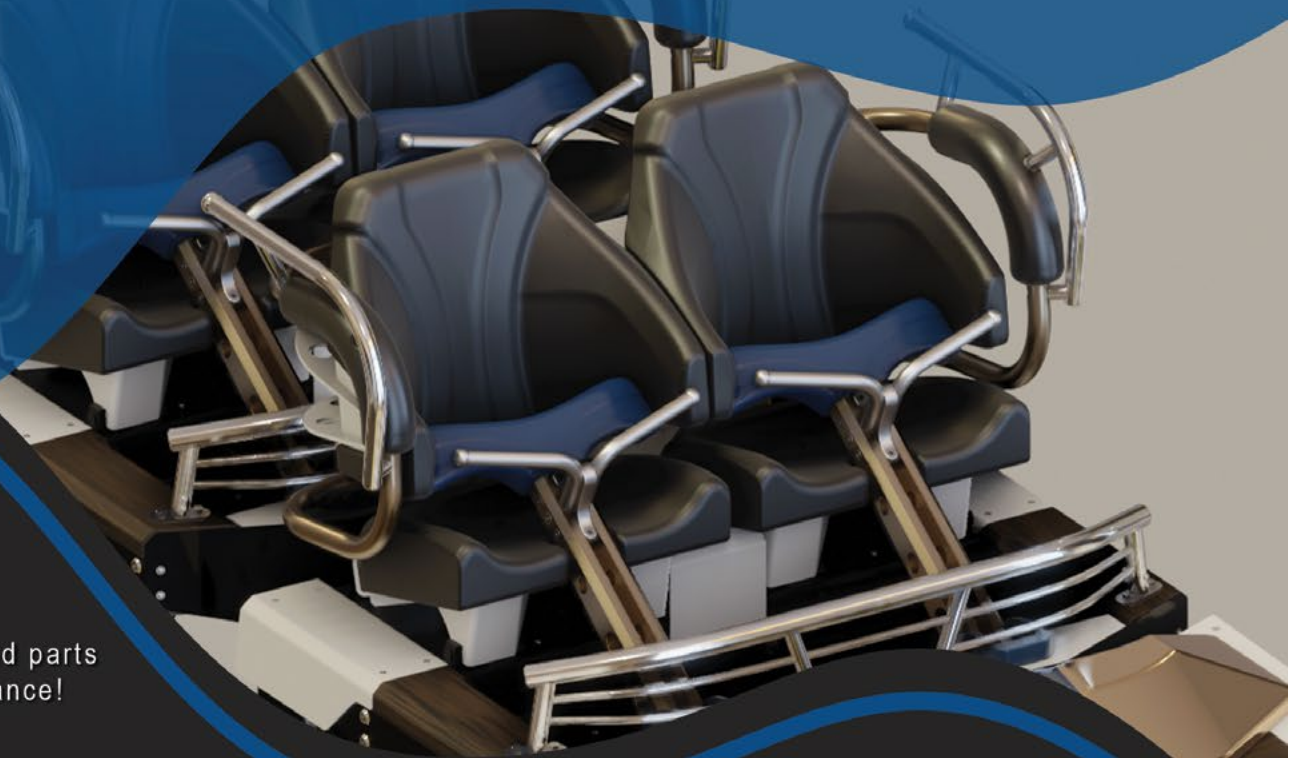
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AMUSEMENT VIEWS

AT NOTEBOOK: John W.C. Robinson, jrobinson@amusementtoday.com

IAAPA Expo after dark



Robinson

IAAPA Expo 2022 is upon us and the showfloor itself will be a bustling place of associates, customers, suppliers, salespeople, executives, friends, family and more. Thousands of square feet of eye-catching exhibits and products will be what the amusement industry calls home for several days in mid-November.

However, it is when the showfloor closes for the day — and the sun sets in Orlando — that memorable moments take place, the longest-lasting networking happens and the fun of the event kicks into full gear.

Those are the hours when we join suppliers, step into the drivers seat and entertain clients — both current and potential — with the variety of dining and entertainment options throughout the Orlando area. Maybe it is a private dinner between buyer and seller or perhaps a large scale party overlooking the city where industry executives shake hands with associates new and old. Perhaps it is a reception for customers at a local amusement attraction that showcases a supplier's wares. It could even be an IAAPA-hosted reception for all of the industry or a specialized segment of it.

Regardless of the evening event of choice, these fun happenings create not only a more intimate atmosphere to relax, network and interact with industry professionals — as well as friends — but, also, they are where some of the most impactful memories are created during the industry's days in Orlando.

Dancing the night away, trading stories from over the years, sharing brainstorming and ideas or just screaming and laughing on a roller coaster together ... the after-hours events of the IAAPA Expo are where we all let our hair down and share in the fun of the entertainment industry we are all a part of. These are the moments where business associates become lifelong friends.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY VOICE: Pete Owens, Dollywood

Excitement and anticipation

As we all prepare to head to the IAAPA Expo in Orlando, there is always anticipation and excitement. Whether it is to see the latest and greatest rides and innovations on display on the Expo floor or to see friends and colleagues from across the globe. It may be the first time in nearly two years since we have actually shook hands or embraced as we all catch up and share where we've been, how the season went and where we are going.

For me, these weeks leading up to the Expo are more often spent looking back at the spring and summer seasons and gauging successes and failures before we move on to our busy holiday season at the park and finalize plans for the next season for the parks and resorts. To be sure, it has been exciting in 2022 to see a more regular travel pattern for the families who visit



Owens

our attractions from across the country. Their smiling faces, unobscured by masks, fill the midways partaking in festive seasonal foods, clapping along with our entertainers and taking a ride on a coaster they've waited for all winter long. In short, they are trying to have their best day ever. Helping those families achieve that wish is what we are all in this business to do. It is an avocation, not just a job.

The IAAPA Expo is a time to share best practices with one another in education sessions and in conversations with colleagues so we all get better. 2023 will bring with it another set of challenges. Embracing the new year with fresh thoughts and vision thanks to a few long days in Orlando makes us all better. I look forward to seeing everyone on the floor and recharging for the new year!

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the columnist(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

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2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow

Michele Jehle, Intamin

For more than 50 years, **Intamin** has been one of the most innovative, celebrated and successful ride manufacturers in the amusement industry. **Michele Jehle** finds working in the company's marketing/public relations division a real rush, perfect for someone who loves adventure and adrenaline-seeking activities. Michele is known for her interpersonal skills, energy, love of life, hitting the slopes and biking and hiking the trails.

Title: Marketing/PR.

Years in the industry: 7½.

Best thing about the industry:

What we create puts a smile on peoples' faces. It's so much fun to see how people are passionate about the same thing, enjoying rides (big or small) and having a great time enjoying the magic moments.

Favorite amusement ride:

Red Force at PortAventura Ferrari Land in Spain. A pure adrenaline rush.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be ... A hotel director.

Biggest challenge facing our industry

Like many companies, we do also experience the shortage of qualified candidates for open job positions. Recruiting new employees these days has its challenges, although being located in the beautiful mountainous Rhine Valley certainly helps.

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

Seeing people enjoying their time and making memories with family and friends.

For lunch yesterday, I had ...

A burrata with fresh basil.

I always need help with ...

Emptying the dishwasher and folding the laundry! (I ask my husband for help as I don't like doing it).

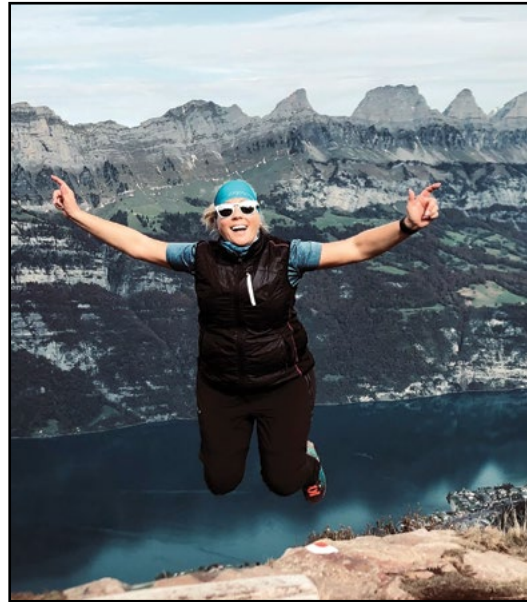
The first thing I notice when meeting someone is ... Their smile and energy.

The last song I downloaded was ...

I use Spotify. The last album I added to my library is a summer compilation we use for our grill parties.

I love the sound of ... Silence.

If I could have drinks with one famous person, it would be ... Jude Law.



Marketing and public relations executive Michele Jehle of Intamin loves adventure and adrenaline-seeking activities. COURTESY INTAMIN

In one word, my kitchen is ... My castle.

The coolest place I have traveled lately is ... Japan for skiing, fascinating country and culture. Great champagne powder, good food and friendly people.

Favorite appetizer: Beetroot Caprese – it's a tower of sliced beetroot and buffalo mozzarella with a honey vinegar dressing and garnished with sprouts.

If I could guest star on any TV show, it would be ... *The Blacklist*.

The last time I laughed out loud was ...

Yesterday. Laughter produces positive emotions and increases the endorphins that are released by our brain, so laughing is very important to live a positive life.

My favorite time of day is ...

Mornings, early-bird time is the best — even on weekends.

Growing up, my favorite cartoon character was ... Donald Duck. I still have boxes full of Donald Duck books in the cellar.

We are well into football season. What team do you root for the most?

I don't follow American football. I sometimes watch the Super Bowl. Over here it is not that popular. I am more into the English Premier league (soccer) or the German Bundesliga.

Pick one: Coke or Pepsi: Coke Zero.

Best rainy day activity: Spa day!

THE INDUSTRY SEEN

Bidding to win



SAN ANTONIO, Texas — During the 2022 Golden Ticket Awards event in San Antonio, Texas, the first annual Golden Ticket Awards Golf Tournament (see page 62) took place at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort. The tournament was a fundraiser for the National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives (NRCMA) and Andrew Mowatt of WhiteWater West (center) — flanked by *Amusement Today* Publisher Gary Slade and tournament organizer Walt Bowser of Baynum Solutions — was the winning bidder of exclusive NRCMA mounted artwork. COURTESY RON GUSTAFSON

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clients' unique needs, challenges and opportunities become our own, and we work hand-in-hand to integrate proven solutions that drive revenue, loyalty and a redefined guest experience.

Accesso integrations have been in place at many Parques Reunidos parks. Palace Entertainment, a wholly owned U.S. subsidiary group of the company, has employed Accesso virtual queuing technology for several years. The solutions empower guests to spend less time waiting and more time playing. At **Splish Splash Water Park** in New York and **Raging Waters San Dimas Water Park** in California the Accesso Passport eCommerce ticketing suite has helped the parks leverage sales of the H2Go Pass product.

This year, **Kennywood** and **Lake Compounce** added Accesso's solutions, the first two parks to come online as part of the extended partnership. At Lake Compounce, Accesso deployed virtual queuing with its Prism smart park wearable and mobile Qsmart platform. Park management saw almost immediate results.

"We implemented the virtual queuing system in July," said **Jeffery Davis**, general manager, Lake Compounce. "After such positive response from our guests throughout the summer, we have now expanded the program to be a part of our all-new 'Phantom Fall Fest' Halloween event. This allows us to offer guests the opportunity to not wait in line for our brand-new haunts and several of our most popular rides. We are already look-

ing forward to expanding the offerings for virtual queuing in the 2023 season."

Adventureland in Iowa is next in line to add Accesso's platform. It will be implemented during the 2023 operating season.

To address the needs of Parques Reunidos' European parks, Accesso's mobile Qsmart platform has been successfully introduced at **Movie Park Germany**, **Bobbejaanland** in Belgium, and **Parque de Atracciones de Madrid** and **Parque Warner Madrid** in Spain.

Of the five-year agreement and subsequent rollout, **Hans Aksel Pederson**, chief commercial officer, Parques Reunidos, shared, "Partnering with Accesso on virtual queuing is a crucial next step to providing the types of experiences our guests all over the world want. We are very happy with the expansion efforts that took place in 2022 and look forward to adding those options at more parks next year."

Providing solutions and helping clients drive their business forward is Accesso's guiding light. As a technology company, Accesso continually invests in research and development to stay ahead of industry demand and ready for client needs and wants. Accesso's team is just as passionate about providing a positive impact on the guest experience as they are about helping improve the bottom line.

Like so many companies, Accesso took time during the COVID-19 shutdown to relook at their services while preparing for the industry — and the world — to reopen. The team understood there would be pent-up demand to safely return to theme and



Accesso's mobile Qsmart platform was successfully introduced at Movie Park Germany during the 2022 season. COURTESY PARQUES REUNIDOS

leisure parks. It also recognized consumer expectations for convenience would be at an all-time high.

Understanding that guests were emerging from the pandemic with the ability to have many day-to-day needs met quickly with the push of a button, Accesso also understood the willingness to wait — in line or at all — would be lower than ever. That meant the need for proven technology products such as the Accesso LoQueue virtual queuing solution would be in high demand.

Accesso also recognized customized enhancements that could be combined with existing programs was equally as important. New pass options that allow guests to skip straight to the front of the line and an all-new hybrid program using both options were all created to help clients meet varying park and guest needs.

In addition, Accesso's

"100% Virtual Queuing" program was created to support the safe and effective reopening of theme parks and attractions during the pandemic. The program allowed operators to make virtual queuing available to all guests at select rides and attractions at no additional cost. As operators around the globe sought new ways to promote physical distancing to returning guests, the 100% Virtual Queuing model was quickly adopted by four major operators across three continents, including **Walibi Holland** and **Parc Astérix** in Europe, **Holiday World** in North America, and **Village Roadshow Theme Parks** in Australia.

Accessibility provides the global attractions industry with some of its greatest opportunities and Accesso's solution flips traditional programs upside down. The "Reverse Queuing" product helps operators support the needs of guests with accessibility needs, while maintaining an equitable experience for all. The Reverse

Queuing process operates as an inverted virtual queue. Rather than scheduling a ride board time, or counting down to certain time number of minutes, the system allows the guest and those in their party to head straight to the front of the line. After experiencing the attraction, the guests then have a "cooling down" period, which represents the amount of time they would have waited in the physical queue.

During this time, the group can take part in other activities at the park — catch a show, visit a gift shop or grab a bite to eat. When the "cooling down" period has ended, they once again can head to the front of a line for their next ride.

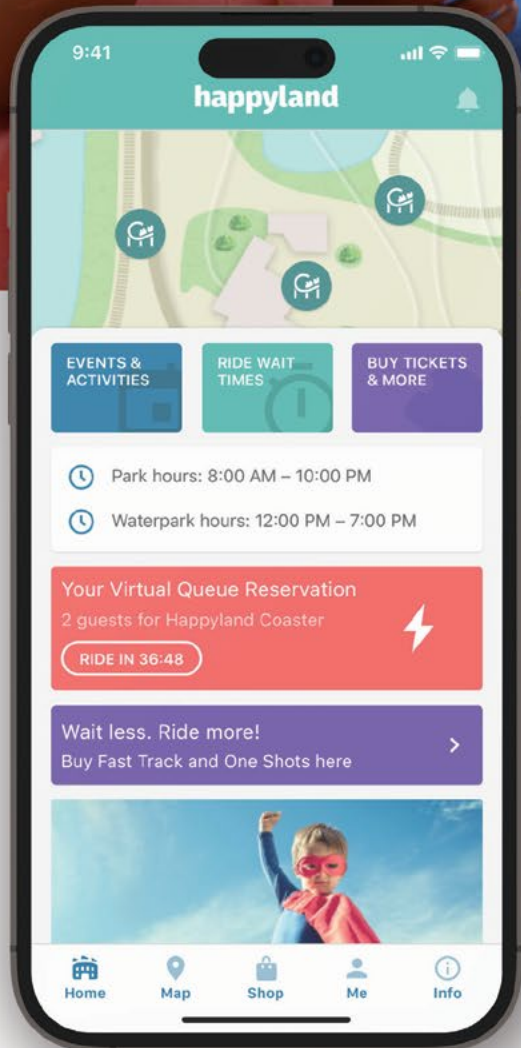
With extended client partnerships and the continual roll-out of technological solutions to meet the ever-changing needs of guests at parks and venues around the world, Accesso knows it cannot slow down. Through technology, today's guests expect "experiences on demand" as part of their daily lives — especially when it comes to their entertainment and leisure choices. Accesso remains forward-focused on the design and delivery of products and solutions that create both the on-demand, personalized convenience guests crave, with data and options for operators so they can make real-time adjustments. The end result is a fully maximized experience for all.

•accesso.com



Kennywood (above left) and Lake Compounce (above right) were two parks to come online in 2022 as Parques Reunidos extended its partnership with Accesso. Both parks introduced virtual queuing. COURTESY KENNYWOOD, LAKE COMPOUNCE

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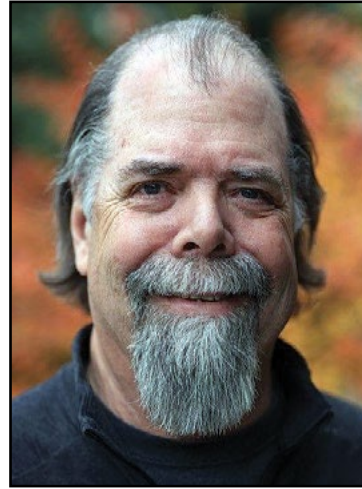
Jodi McLaughlin



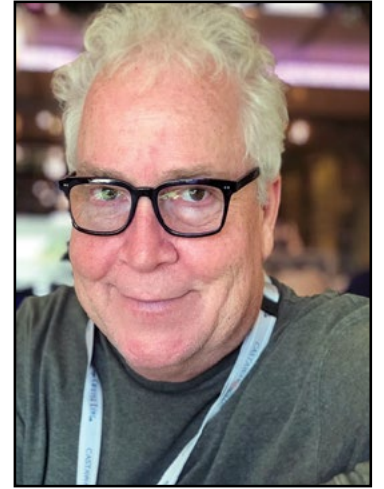
Kartika Rodriguez



Bob Rogers



Rick Rothschild



Bob Weis

► **IAAPA**
Continued from page 1

connecting, sharing best practices, hearing from the industry's top leaders and experts, and working on your professional development needs."

Although programming technically begins on Monday, Nov. 14, there are happenings beginning on Saturday, Nov. 12, the first day of IAAPA Rookies and Newcomers: FEC. It ends the next day.

On Sunday, Nov. 13,

the 12th annual IAAPA Charity Motorcycle Run for Give Kids the World takes place. Also on this day are the first days of IAAPA Institute topics Attraction Managers and for Executive Education.

Regular educational programming begins Monday, Nov. 14. Topics include entertainment, facility operations, games and merchandise, food and beverage, financial management and information technology, human resources, marketing, safety and security.

"IAAPA's Board of Directors is thrilled to welcome members and not-yet-members back to Orlando for our world-renowned Expo event," said **Ken Whiting**, 2022 IAAPA Chairman of the Board.

Whiting said the IAAPA team works hard to put together a conference program that is engaging and educational, making sure to focus on the industry's hot topics.

Attendees will get insights directly from some of the industry's top minds

when it comes to customer service, theming and innovation. There will be almost 100 EDUSessions offered as part of the education conference.

Sure to be a highlight this year is the 2022 edition of the Legends Panel. It will feature a number of the great minds behind the creation and modern-day operations of **Walt Disney World's EPCOT**, as the park prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary. It is hosted by **Bob Rogers**, founder and chairman of

BRC Imagination Arts and moderator and curator of the Legends Panel.

Legends 2022: EPCOT, 40 Years in a State of Becoming will include **Bob Weis**, global ambassador, **Walt Disney Imagineering**; **Jodi McLaughlin**: executive portfolio producer, Walt Disney Imagineering; **Kartika Rodriguez**, vice president, EPCOT; and **Rick Rothschild**, founder and chief creative officer of **FAR Out! Cre-**

► See IAAPA, page 10

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►IAAPA

Continued from page 8

ative Direction.

"We could not be happier with the speaker lineup we have for this year's Legends panel," said **Michael Shelton**, vice president and executive director, **IAAPA North America**. "This popular session lets IAAPA shine a spotlight on just some of the outstanding industry leaders who have truly carved the path to where we are today.

"Getting to focus on EPCOT as it turns 40 should offer greater insight into the future of the park and provide inspiration to everyone in attendance," Shelton said.

The five legends on this panel will share insights, strategies and lessons of a lifetime that attendees can apply to their own careers.

The Legends panel will take place 4-5:30 p.m., Nov. 16.

This year's theme is particularly fitting for Rog-



ers, who has curated this panel for nearly 20 years, as his work history links him personally to EPCOT and the greater Disney brand. Rogers wrote and produced the original *Impressions du France*, which is still playing at EPCOT's French Pavilion. Rogers has been inducted into the IAAPA Hall of Fame and has two Oscar nominations.

Some other specific educational topics and titles include:

- The Infinite Game: How to Lead in Times of Stress and Uncertainty;
- Happy Hour: The Latest Trends in Ready-To-Drink Beverages;
- Security Roundtable;
- Safety in Attractions: Risk Assessment Best Practices;

- Recruitment Marketing: Talent and Acquisition Throughout the Great Resignation;

- Water Park Management: Leveraging Technology to Manage Staff Competencies;

- A Seat at the Table: Diversity and Inclusion in Theme Park Entertainment;

- 10 Creative Ideas for Recruitment;

- What Makes a Souvenir Sellable;

- Ride Design for Non-Rider: How to Engage Every Guest;

- Augmented Reality is the Future of Attractions;

- The Road to Greatness: 2022 Top FEC of the World Finalists Share Success Stories, and

- Best Practices in Merchandising from Analytic

to Operator.

Trade show hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 15-17, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Nov. 18.

One highlight of the IAAPA Expo Opening Ceremony is the annual What's New video showcasing new rides, roller coasters, water slides, animal habitats, resorts and immersive experiences from all around the world. This has been set for the morning of Nov. 15, coinciding with the trade show opening.

As if the trade show and educational sessions aren't enough, the IAAPA offerings continue through the week, including the EDU-Tours giving participants behind-the-scenes looks.

The EDUTour schedule is as follows: **Fun Spot**, Nov. 13; **Jurassic World Veloci-coaster**, **Universal Orlando Resort**, Nov. 14; **Cooperative Collaboration Amongst Teams at Universal Volcano Bay**, Nov. 15; **Games and Merchandise at Universal's Islands of Adventure**, Nov. 16; **Busch Gardens Tampa**

Bay, An Inside Look from Gwazi, Nov. 17.

There also are numerous luncheons and receptions for those in specific areas of the industry throughout the IAAPA event.

The 16th Annual IAAPA Footprints From the Heart 5K Run/1 Mile Walk Benefiting Give Kids The World Village, is set for Thursday morning. Participants run or walk the pathways of the 89-acre nonprofit resort. The morning of Nov. 16.

The Brass Ring Ceremony is set for 5-7 p.m., Nov. 16 and IAAPA Celebrates is set for the evening of Nov. 17 at Universal's Islands of Adventure.

Featured speakers include **Tom Mehrmann**, president and COO **Universal Parks and Resorts**, **Pacific Rim**, set for morning of Nov. 16, at the Leadership Breakfast (GM and Owners) and **Andrew Wexler**, CEO **Herschend Family Entertainment**, set for Nov. 16, Lunch and Learn.

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IAAPA names Freddi as second vice chair, elects 2023 board members

LONDON, U.K. — **Massimiliano “Massi” Freddi**, the founder and chief executive officer of **Wonderwood** on Lake Maggiore, Italy, was named the second vice chair of IAAPA’s Board of Directors for 2023. He will serve as the first vice chair of IAAPA in 2024 and lead the global association for the attractions industry as the chair of the board in 2025.

The selection was made during a board of directors meeting on Sept. 11 in London, United Kingdom, just before IAAPA Expo Europe opened its doors at ExCeL London.

“Massi is a dreamer and doer, and his 20 years of experience and success confirms he’s well suited to be IAAPA’s second vice chair,” said **Andreas Andersen**, the chair of IAAPA’s Governance Committee. “His combination of attractions management and development, with career highlights and passion in education and inspiring others, result in future board leadership that is as much about honoring tradition as it is about supporting and sustaining growth for IAAPA and for IAAPA members around the world.”

IAAPA also named nine people who will take new positions within its leadership ranks, including seven brand-new individuals joining the board. New board members begin their service in 2023:

Asia Pacific Regional Advisory Committee Chair Director (2023-2025)

Andrew Bolstein is senior vice president of operations at **Shanghai Disney Resort**. Bolstein has hands-on leadership experience in finance, operations and safety. He has served on the IAAPA APAC

Regional Advisory Committee for four years and assisted in developing the COVID-19 Reopening Guidelines for the association.

Latin America Regional Advisory Committee Chair Director (2023-2025)

Xavier Lopez is the president and founder of **KidZania**. First opened in 1997, KidZania has expanded to have more than 20 facilities around the world that entertain one million visitors annually by providing educational entertainment experiences, offering kids the opportunity to role play and learn more about unique and exciting professions.

Manufacturer and Supplier Committee Chair Director (2023-2025)

Jeroen Nijpels is the managing director and owner of **JNELC**, which he founded 16 years ago. JNELC supplies rides and attractions and assists operators in project development and procurement. Nijpels has been an active IAAPA volunteer since 2002.

Facility Member Director (2023-2025)

Pia Adlivankin is the chief executive officer and managing director of **Linnanmäki Amusement Park**, which is Finland’s largest amusement park. Located in Helsinki, the park welcomed more than 1.2 million visitors annually (pre-Covid).

Facility Member Director (2023-2025)

Jason Freeman is the corporate vice president of public safety and risk management for **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation, LLC**. Six Flags

operates 27 properties throughout North America, including theme parks, amusement parks, water parks and a family entertainment center. Freeman has been involved with IAAPA since 1988.

Facility Member Director (2023-2025)

Ali Alsuwaidi is the chief operating officer for **Global Village**, a one-stop-destination for entertainment, shopping, dining and attractions in Dubai. He is a member of the IAAPA EMEA Advisory Board and has participated in the IAAPA Leadership Conference.

Past Chair Director (2023 – 2025)

Gerardo Arteaga is the general manager of **Fantasilandia**, the largest amusement park in Santiago, Chile with attractions for for all ages. He has been the general manager of Fantasilandia for 20 years. In his role he has experienced natural disasters and political upheaval, yet, he and his team, managed to expand their operations to include a large regional chain of family entertainment centers, **Diversur SPA**, currently operating in three markets.

Facility Member Director (2023 – fulfilling final year of Xavier Lopez’ term)

Gina Claassen is the corporate safety director for **Herschend Family Entertainment** and has been with the company for 25 years. Herschend Family Entertainment and its parent company Herschend Enterprises are a family-owned themed attractions corporation that operates entertainment, tourism, and hospitality properties that span 26 locations across the U.S. and British Columbia.














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2022 IAAPA Expo exhibitor listing

List is current as of Oct. 12, 2022. For last-minute changes, booth additions and cancellations, consult the IAAPA show directory.

360 Karting	2886	Aquaventronics / CarnivalGames.com	4890	Camaleon LED	4004
3DK9	4573	Aquify Systems	1638	Capital Online Auctions	5458
3DX Scenic	656	ARC Studios	3571	CaptiVR GmbH	682
40 Below Company	3656	Architectural Design Consultants, Inc.	1743	Caravan Soft Toys and Big T Toys & Sports, Inc.	2802
911 Cell Phone Bank	1937	Arihant Water Park Equipment	3031	Cardknox	5542
A Beep LLC	4235	Armodilo Display Solutions / SafeGuard	3709	Carriage Works, Inc.	3657
A&A Global Industries	824	Art Attack	5140	Cashmate USA	2889
Aardvark	3219	Art-FX Studios, Inc.	3275	Castle Golf, Inc.	2671
ABC rides switzerland	5320	Artificial Palm Trees - Oasis Illusions	1659	Catalate - Dynamic Pricing Software	1650
AC Radiocom LLC	4510	Artistic Contractors, Inc.	160	Cawley Company/The	4102
accesso	5131	Ascentium Capital	5559	CCF Bank	4688
Action Lighting	4602	Astro Carpet Mills	4254	Celestial	681
Admit One Products, Inc.	5737	Asylon Robotics	3584	Centaman, Inc.	4640
Adrenaline Amusement	643	Atlas Commercial Products	5558	CenterEdge Software	4454
Adrenaline Amusements	647	ATM Merchant Services	408	Central Tent	5556
Advance Pro Tech	381	Atmosphere	3283	Champ Throw Interactive Targets	4083
Advanced Animations, LLC	1669	Attractions.io	5442	Chance Rides	2606
Advantage + Financing	274	Audio Innovators Inc.	2642	Chance Rides	2806
Adventure Golf & Sports	4867	Autograph Foliages	2659	Chao Cards	122
Adventureglass	2604	Avius	3800	Characters Unlimited Inc.	3712
Aerial Adventure Dome	3480	AVS Companies	103	Chargerent	3582
Aerodium Technologies	5502	Axcitement	3690	Cheer Amusement	3469
Aerophile S.A.S.	3013	Axes & Armor LLC	742	Chestnut Identity Apparel Inc.	4200
AG Ninja	4090	Axess AG	4756	Chicago Gaming Company	200
AIMS International	2808	Axiom Holographics	206	Chocolate Moonshine Co.	3663
Air & Water Systems	1780	Bad Dog Tools	147	Christie	1383
Airparx	4286	Bagjump Airbag Systems	4491	Cirque Factory	4059
Airspace Solutions	1645	Ballast VR	847	Classic Products Corp.	4519
Albanese Confectionery	3758	Banana Products, LLC	789	Classic Toy Co.	1624
Alberici USA Inc.	726	Bandai Namco Amusement	900	Cleanbox Technology	3590
Alcorn McBride Inc.	869	Bandai Namco Amusements	1000	CleanRiver Recycling Solutions	6115
Algenys	3988	BarChefs	3857	Clicklease	4282
Alinco Costumes	2603	Barron Games International	806	CLM Risk Management	3429
Alive Risk	4336	BatFast Sports	6106	Cloward H2O	2247
Alligator Ice	3766	Battech	4520	Clubspeed	2074
Alpine Media Technology	6117	Battle Company	4660	CMD Enterprises	4611
Alterface Projects	3610	Battle Company	4662	CmdCentr	3908
Altitude Rides and Attractions	4006	Bay Tek Entertainment	1015	CO2Meter	3560
Altra Motion	2936	Bazooka Ball / Fluorescent Print	4827	Coastal Amusements	1315
Aluvii, Inc.	3854	BBBI / Kids Bowl Free	503	Cobra Polymers Inc.	373
Alvarado dormakaba Group	4645	BDR Design Group	2067	Cogan S.R.L.	1815
Amazing Magnets	1680	Beaudry Interactive, LLC	872	Coin Tech Cashless System	1615
Amega Entertainment	1654	Beijing Angel Yongyi Technology Co.Ltd	3688	Cold River Mining Corp	4708
American Adventure Park Systems	3603	Ben's Soft Pretzels	3660	Columbus McKinnon	557
American Amusement Machine Assoc. (AAMA)	911	Berk Enterprises	3406	Combat Karting	2089
American Changer Corp.	612	Bertazzon	4224	Comin International	5685
American Christmas by MK Illumination	854	Betsen Enterprises	517	Commercial Recreation Specialists	3067
American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE)	4119	bHaptics	3471	Complete Signs	3381
American Holtzkraft, Inc.	2733	Big Sky Miniature Golf	4467	Comply Amusement Safety Ltd	4412
American Locker	4400	BigAirBag B.V.	4780	Composite Effects, LLC	2890
American Paper Optics	4711	Billings Productions, Inc.	1662	Concept 1900 Entertainment	4615
American Pinball	640	Birket Engineering	867	Condiment Cow	3659
American Specialty Insurance & Risk Services, Inc.	4702	Biz Karts INC.	2086	Conductix-Wampfler, Inc.	2829
American Tent	2980	Biztracker POS	3583	Connect&GO	2036
AMI Entertainment	104	BJ Toy Company	2909	Continuum Preparedness	4450
AMPP	3236	Black Light Unity	4065	Control Play	3864
Amusement & Music Operator's Assoc. (AMOA)	2108	Blacklight Attractions / Halloween Productions	4267	Convergence, LLC	4647
Amusement Advantage Guest Exp. Solutions	4117	BMI Leisure	4465	Coogar Products, LLC	5544
Amusement Connect	417	BMI Merchandise	815	Cool-A-Zone	782
Amusement Construction Co. Inc.	4773	Bobproducts.com LLC	2771	Copper State Arcade LLC	108
Amusement Devices & Mfg Llc.	4469	Bob's Space Racers, Inc.	2615	Core Cashless, LLC	4445
Amusement Entertainment Risk Insurance Assoc.	3410	Bob's Space Racers, Inc.	2815	Cossio Insurance Agency	5478
Amusement Products	4869	Bolliger & Mabillard Inc.	4806	Cost, Inc.	4726
Amusement Source International	209	BoMar Soft Playgrounds	2142	Costume Specialists Inc	2927
Amusement Supply Company	5169	BounceWave Inflatable Sales	6085	Cotton-love.com	1635
Amusement Today	4015	BounceWave Inflatable Sales	8730	CPI Amusement/Pageantry World	2833
Anchor Industries / Economy Tent International	4600	Bouncing Angels	5154	Craftsmen Industries	3481
Andamiro Co. Ltd	600	Bouncing Angels	8140	Creative Visions	2675
Animalive Ltd	4288	Bouncy Castle Network	6062	Creative Works	4072
Animax Designs, Inc.	474	Bowling Proprietors' Association of America	1804	CSE Entertainment Ltd.	2965
Antari USA	991	BowlMarc Robotics	247	CTM Group/EuroLink	1821
APARC Water Slides	1647	Boxblaster Florida	1888	Cumming Group	1658
Apex Commercial Capital	609	Boxblaster Virtual Reality	1886	Cyclone Distributors Inc	5557
Apex Order Pickup Solutions	3666	Brand Vending Products	611	Daiwa by U.S. Jclean, Inc.	5606
Apple Industries	1300	Breeze Creative LLC	2872	Daniels Wood Land, Inc.	469
AppTracts	504	Bridgewater Studio	4283	Danken	1691
Aqua Play Parks World	852	Bright White Paper Co.	3689	DataSpan	4054
AquaBanas	1352	Brogent Technologies, Inc.	4227	DC Locker Inc.	3708
AquaGlide	1652	Brogent Technologies, Inc.	4427	Deep Blue Communications	4134
Aquakita	1358	Brunswick Bowling Products	4831	DEI	1338
AquaRevival	1742	Brushboarding International	6100	Delta Strike	4478
AquaSeal	273	Bumper Boats, Inc.	3421	Deltrain SA	3710
Aquatic Development Group	2655	Busch Systems International	1045	Design Concepts	3402
Aquatique Show International	456	Buzzpark	4690	Designer Palms	4159
		C.Cretors and Company	3654	Designmaster Fence	3715
		Cadron Creek Play	1847	Designs in Motion	2864
		California Umbrella	6133	Dewesoft	4010
		Calplush Toy Corporation	1631	DFX	452

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Dicapac	881	Foto Master LLC	4852	Hytera US Inc.	3302
Digital Centre America	124	FreeStyle Slides, Inc.	3852	I.C.E Signs	3953
Digital Centre America, Inc.	224	Fright Vision	4356	I.E. Park S.r.l./Amusement Rides & Soli Bumper Cars	2669
Digonex: Automated Dynamic Pricing	4236	Froggy's Fog	2690	i2k	4067
Dinoscapes	2854	Frontgrid / ParadrpVR	1060	IAAPI	4135
Dippin' Dots, LLC	3900	Fujifilm North America Corporation	4165	Ice Creative Entertainment	2080
Dippin' Dots, LLC	4002	Fujimi, Inc.	4675	iCombat Laser Tag	3086
DNP Imagingcomm America Corp.	3672	Fun & Fun Toys Inc	3400	ID&C Wristbands	4550
Doc Palapa	2933	Fun Express	424	Ideal One Amusement Software	2682
DOF Robotics	2286	Fun Spot Manufacturing LLC	4886	Ideal3	688
DOF Robotics	2686	Funk North America	3089	Ideas Extremas	2869
Dogwood Entertainment	882	Funlandia	3862	Ideattack, Inc.	467
Donna Italia Inc. USA	3756	Funovation	3074	Image Engineering	1083
Doppelmayr	3620	Galaxy Multi Rides	5171	IMC International Mascot Corporation	3618
Dotto Trains	4231	Game of 1000 Boxes	4078	IMKI	779
Doug Fleenor Design	873	Game Over Escape Rooms - Cube Challenges	3062	Immersive Planet Design S.L.	2279
Dr. Fuji / Acigi	4156	Game Show Mania, LLC	4658	Immotion Group	1378
Dreamland Playground Co.Ltd.	4488	Game Time International/ GTI	5402	Imply	800
Dronisos - Drone Light Shows	751	Games to Go	6065	Impulse Souvenirs	2774
DUNA-USA	973	Gantner Ticketing	4642	ImSim	642
Dutch Wheels	3615	Gantom Lighting & Controls	1859	InCord Play	2831
Dynamic Attractions	667	Garmendale	1161	Incredible Technologies	813
E & F Miler Industries LLC	4718	Garner Holt Productions Inc.	672	Incredivend	3964
Eagle Bounce	5554	Garrett Metal Detectors	4451	Incres Luge Cart	4382
eAtlas	366	Gatmaster Technology	5941	Indiana Ticket Co.	2828
Economy Tent International	4700	Gateway Ticketing Systems, Inc	4847	Indoor Playgrounds International	4652
eInflatables	5174	Gel Blaster Inc.	4291	Infinity Massage Chairs	3027
Elaut Group (Benchmark Games, Coast to Coast, Elaut)	829	Gellyball	1386	InflatableOffice LLC	5440
Elaut NV	1329	Genesis Studios	2190	InnovatAR, Inc.	8360
Eldorado Climbing	4056	GeoFX Technologies	364	Innovative Concepts in Entertainment, Inc.	1806
Electrosonic	1365	GEP Productions Inc.	319	Inntopia	4551
Eli Bridge Company	4621	Gerstlauer Amusement Rides GmbH	5824	Inowize	3473
Elite Laser Tag Equipment	2091	GetOutPass	3878	InPark Magazine	871
Ellis & Associates	2638	Ghoulsh Productions	1889	InstaSplash	3686
Embed	1331	Gilderfluke & Company	1750	Intamin	5119
Emiliana Luna Park S.r.l.	3726	Give Kids the World	4131	Intelligent Entertainment	5738
Empex Watertoys	3006	Glimmer Body Art	4680	InterActive Play	351
En Masse Energy Solutions	4610	Global Archery Products	1688	Interactive Play Systems	8630
Enchant Studios	3291	Global Special Effects	5447	Intercard Inc	2206
Endura Paint	3382	Globe Ticket Company	2602	Interlink LG	4417
Endureed	2652	Gloworks	4019	Intermatic	790
Engage by Cell	4603	Goengineer	3408	Int'l Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education	1649
Enklu	1931	Goffa International Corp.	2811	Int'l Independent Showmen's Foundation	3617
entertainment resource GmbH	462	Gold Medal Products Co.	2200	International Special Attractions, LTD	879
ENTTEC	3580	Golden Paintworks	3280	InterPark Magazine	4333
Eomac Ltd.	556	Good Stuff	1324	Invest Quebec International	460
EpicSurf	2654	Good Time Fabrication	8250	IPConfigure, Inc.	4549
Epulse	6127	Gorilla LUBE	4012	iPlayCo	4069
Escalera Inc.	111	Gosetto S.r.l.	4629	Ironhill Plastic Cards, LLC	2908
Escapology	3866	Gould Manufacturing	2635	Ital-Resina di Di Talia Angelo	4636
ETC	2180	Granite Industries	5460	J & J Amusements, Inc.	2662
ETF Ride Systems	4804	Granite Insurance	3626	J & J Snack Foods Corp.	3904
Eurogames SRL	3829	Gravity Group Wooden Coasters	5129	Jack o' Lantern Journey	4684
Event Hawk Marketing	5454	Great Coasters International, Inc.	2273	Janam Technologies	4342
Event Rental Systems	5682	Greenspan Ltd	1057	Jane Farrell	4504
EVO Payments	4064	Guangzhou Ifun Park Technology Co., Ltd	217	Jaycon Systems	758
Eworks Pro	4017	Guangzhou Wahlap Technology Corp. Ltd.	213	Jazwares	3209
exA-Arcadia	415	Haaga/Bissell	3869	JB-inflatables	5152
Expert Hosiery	4164	Haas & Wilkerson Insurance	4421	Jennison Entertainment Technologies	1006
Exploring Digital	258	Hafema Water Rides GmbH	4631	Jersey Jack Pinball	1735
Extreme Engineering	2600	Hangzhou Trains Equipment Co. Ltd.	4604	Jinma Rides	5828
Eye Candy Inflatables	8645	Happy Jump, Inc.	5469	JK Coin Supply LLC	101
EZ Inflatables Inc.	5662	Harmony Helper	349	JKJ Workforce Agency, INC	4238
EZ Inflatables Inc.	8030	Harris Miniature Golf Courses, Inc.	2865	JKRP Architects	3182
Fabbri Group	4820	Hawe Micro Fluid GmbH	3910	Johnson Fitness and Wellness	4221
FaceRacer LTD	4280	Haystack Dryers Ltd	2736	Jolly Dolly LLC	6058
Factory Direct Party	2981	HB Leisure Ltd.	3003	JRA	1069
Falcon Water Tag Extreme	8350	Head Rush Technologies	4410	JRS Ventures	2008
Falcon's Creative Group	2290	HEC Worldwide	5669	Jump N Jump	5162
Falgas Germany	4633	Henka LLC	6118	JumpOrange	5184
Family Fun Corp.	3072	Herborner Pumps	1640	JumpOrange	8530
FareHarbor	5635	Hero Zone VR	3486	Jungle Jumps	5480
FEC Financial Group	317	Hi Striker Co.	4669	Jungle Jumps	8150
FEC Insurance Agency	4771	High Score Amusements Ltd	403	Ka'ana Wave Company Inc.	1854
FEC Real Estate	3380	Hirsch solutions	626	Kalkomat Bis	628
Felimana Luna Park SA	3215	Hitch-Hiker Mfg.	4240	KARAOKE MACHINES S.L./KaraokeMedia	2019
FiberBuilt Umbrellas & Cushions	3034	HiWater	4460	Kart1 Distribution	4863
Fiberglass Coatings, Inc	1849	Hoffman Mint	812	Kartworld America Inc	6102
Fibrart	2280	Hogan Stakes	5459	Katapult Ltd.	1061
Fidlock	252	holidynamics	658	Kay Park Recreation Corp.	2800
Fiesta	1731	Hologate	2883	KCC Entertainment Design	3060
Flagship Carpets	4404	Hologate	3083	Kent Precision Foods Group	3358
Flavour Blaster	3556	Holovis	1362	Kern Studios & Mardi Gras World	1072
Florida Attractions Association	3018	Holtz Builders Inc.	2838	KettenWulf Inc.	4112
FMX	5736	Hospitality Robots	5545	Kevin's Worldwide	5449
Foamalicious	3284	Hot Games	508	KioSoft	510
Foamdaddy	3886	Hownd.	1079	Kiteman Productions LLC	262
FoamMaster By FoamPartyMasters.com	8010	Hullabaloo Sales, Inc.	8430	Klopp: Money Handling Equipment	2109
Forbo Flooring Systems	5741	Human Touch	1878	KMG International B.V.	5104
ForeverLawn Inc.	4060	Huss Park Attractions	4024	KOCCA - Korea Creative Content Agency	231
Formula K Amusements, Inc.	3624	HVD bv	3652	Komuse America, Inc.	1336
Forrec	2069	Hypervsn	890	Kool Replay	4511



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KORONA POS	4447	MoonwalkUSA	8260	Polar King	3254
KristallTurm	4206	Moser's Rides S.r.l.	5100	Polgun Waterparks & Attractions	1343
KumbaK The Amusement Engineers	3419	Moser's Rides SRL	8650	Poligon by PorterCorp.	2047
Kwik-Covers	3502	Moss Distributing Inc	631	Polin Group	3054
L3DFX, LLC	1874	MTI Products/ AutoFry	3454	Polin Waterparks	2847
LA Photo Party	4062	Murphys Waves Ltd.	4213	Pool Safe Inc	649
Lagotronics Projects	1665	My Arcade	928	porviva gmbh	1350
LAI Games	831	NAC Semi	943	Powerhouse Toys/ The Zoofy Group	908
Lake Country Corporation	3811	Nardi USA	3259	Powersoft S.p.A	465
Lamberink Ferris Wheels	5433	National Amusement Park Historical Assn.	4612	PPG	447
Lancer Worldwide	3763	NAARSO	3119	Premier Polysteel Outdoor Furniture	3271
Landmark Studio & Design	3460	National Fiber Technology	1773	Premier Rides	2612
Larson International, Inc.	4021	National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives	3912	Preston & Barbieri S.r.l.	5638
Laser Encore	150	National Ticket Company	4171	PrimeTime Amusements	2013
Laser-Blast	3269	Nationwide Instruction for Cardiovascular Educ.	2735	Principal LED	942
Laserforce International	2878	Naughton Insurance, Inc.	2633	Pro Forma Advisors LLC	1671
LaserTag.com by Zone	3669	Nayax Tigapo	709	Pro Karting Inc.	4571
Lasertron	1800	NEAAPA	2827	Progressive Specialty Glass Company, Inc.	2880
Laserwar	4058	Neil Enterprises Inc.	3765	Promotex USA Inc.	3273
Launch Logic	1949	Neptune Benson, Evoqua Water Technologies	3231	ProParks Attractions Group	1756
Lawless Industries LTD	3508	Neptune Radio	2964	ProSlide Technology INC	2254
LaZer Runner Laser Tag Systems	4269	Netronic	983	Public Restroom Company	4243
Le Waf	3754	Nets & More	1642	Pucker Powder by Creative Concepts, Inc.	3867
Leaf Commercial Capital, Inc.	828	Nets Unlimited, Inc.	1674	Puka Creations	808
LearningZen	4111	Neveplast SRL	4626	Punchkins	6101
Leavitt Recreation and Hospitality Insurance	1749	New Vue Solutions	3802	Pure Salt Websites	6134
Lefunland	4678	N-Flatables Cutting Edge	5164	QNC Inc/ Quik 'n Crispy	624
Legendary Escape Game	8525	Ningbo Sinoknit Co., Ltd.	4390	Quantum Creative Studios	271
Leisure Activities	5653	Ninja Jump	5462	QubicaAMF Bowling Products	1031
Leisure Activities	8340	Ninja Jump	8130	Quince Imaging	981
Leisure Craft Inc.	6125	NNN Pro Group	5841	Race Car Simulators, Inc	990
Leisure Development Partners	2056	North American Kitchen Solutions, Inc.	3360	Radiant Mfg.	374
Leitner-Poma of America	5938	Northeast Insurance Center, LLC	4358	RadioBoss 2-Way Radios	4334
Levent Lunapark	6131	Novelty Inc	3019	Rain Drop Products	652
Life Floor	2742	Nutis Visual Communications Group	756	Raindrops Enterprises	3552
LifeFormations	1866	nWave Pictures	862	Ralph S. Alberts Co. Inc	3024
LifeguardEye	2937	NXT Capture	2006	Ramaker & Associates, Inc.	1935
Lightfry USA LLC	3478	Oceanering Entertainment Systems	2262	RAMPF Group, Inc.	2065
LightUpToys.com	5146	OCT Vision Inc.	5600	Ramuc/Tuff Coat Div Of MRT	2044
Lil' Orbits Inc.	3015	Oh!Fx	4458	Rapid Prototyping Services	3234
Lilliput Play Homes Inc.	2875	Omega Carpet Patterns	3606	RAVE Sports	2040
LilYPad	4302	One Fat Frog	3262	RCI Adventure Products	5631
Lock America, Inc	2119	One Inflatable Inc	6082	Ready Credit	5735
Long Range Solutions	4464	Onesunports	454	Rebound Unlimited, Inc.	3204
Look Solutions USA	850	OneTeam360, Inc.	6136	Red Raion	654
Loonie Times Custom Mascot & Plush	6104	OnPoint Digital Target Software	840	Redbone Products, Inc.	3117
Luc Urethanes, Inc.	4204	OpenAire, Inc.	2644	Redemption Plus	1824
Lucky Core	219	Orca Coast Playground	2743	Relax In Comfort - Luxury Massage Chairs	5404
Lvlup Audio Towers	558	Original Jumping Pillows, LLC	4788	Renatus - Ant DivaMo Kid Zones Reimagined	3281
Mack Rides	2269	Orlando Special Effects, Inc.	1771	Renold, Inc.	875
Maclan Corporation	4013	OTK Kart Group (Tony Kart)	4388	Rentopian	5637
Magic Jump Inc.	5673	OTR Premium Cocktails	3456	RES	4608
Magic Jump Inc.	5678	Otto Trading Inc	2859	Research Casting International	1660
Magic Memories USA, LLC	888	Outdoor Amusement Business Assoc. (OABA)	2837	Retro Arcade	1717
MagicMoney	5400	Outdoor Factory	1062	Reverchon / SAMC Avia	979
Magnet World, Inc	4202	Pacific Surf Designs	2862	Revl Inc.	4109
MagneTag High Tech Foam Combat	2881	Paddock Pool Equipment Co	2835	Reynolds Advanced Materials	1957
Magnetic Cash	421	Pagertec	3965	Rhineland Cutlery, LLC	3452
Majestic Manufacturing Inc.	4624	Pan Amusements	3017	Rhode Island Novelty - Nanco	2210
Majestic Trains	4278	Panasonic Connect	6122	Richo International, Inc.	1375
Mark Anthony Brands, Inc/White Claw Hard Seltzer	3458	Paokai Electronic Enterprise Co. Ltd.	106	Ride Development Company	2624
Martin & Vleminckx	5143	Paradigm Design	842	Ride Entertainment	4815
Martin Aquatic	1840	Paragon International	4000	Rides And Fun - Italy	4233
Mason Water Slides	2637	Park World Magazine	4720	Rides-4-U, Inc.	5415
Massivit 3D Printing Technologies Ltd.	1686	Party Center Software	4462	Rilix	838
Master Pitching Machine	2673	Party Direct	4071	Rimo GERMANY GmbH & Co. Kg.	3286
Matrix	5931	Passage Inc	4343	Ripley's Believe It or Not!/Guinness World Records	662
Maurer Rides	4811	Path	1682	RMC	4215
MaxFlight Corporation	2215	Patterson Fan Co	2860	RoboLabs	3354
Max-R	4619	PB Amusement	4402	Robot costumes usa-mascottes.com	3069
McGowan Allied Specialty Insurance	3021	PDC	4052	Rocken Graphics	3206
MediaMation, Inc.	865	PearlWeave Netting	3082	Rocket Inflatables	8320
Medici XD	1372	Peek	5445	Rocket Inflatables	8420
Mee Industries, Inc.	2182	Peek-a-Boo Toys	3412	RocketRez	4649
Megalodon Creations	1857	Peerless Ovens	3558	Roller	4245
Memopark	2020	Penny Press Factory LLC	4303	Ropeland	1347
Meyer Sound	679	PeopleVisionFX	2858	Roto	669
MG Imports, Inc	3810	Perky's Pizza, John Daly Pizza	100	Rover International	151
MI Concept + Design Inc.	2084	PGK Design S.R.L. Unipersonale	4674	Roxi Group Inc. / RoxiSpice	3553
Mich Playground Co., Ltd.	651	Phenomena	5609	Rugged Interactive	3683
Microcom Corp.	6135	Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc.	2824	Rust-Oleum	458
MicroTouch	509	PIA Products	1835	RX Music	2935
Milco MFG, LLC	4671	Piaggio Fast Forward, Inc.	6138	S & B Candy and Toy/ St. Louis Game Co.	1600
Milspec Industries	4502	PicBox Company/Curator	4656	S&S Worldwide, Inc.	2217
Mindgames Escape Rooms LLC	2891	Pigeon-tech	874	S4 Lights	1678
Mini Melts Ice Cream	3267	Pipeline Games Company	406	Socoa Cashless System	1603
MK Themed Attractions	858	Pixis Drones, LLC	883	Safari Thatch, Inc.	1369
Mobaro	4517	Plantscape Commercial Silk	2052	Safe Slide Restoration	3037
Mobibooth	264	Player One Amusement Group	1627	Safe Strap Co LLC	4219
Mobilemoney \$Cashless	5936	Playmind	1818	Safemark	3824
MoBooths	4256	PlaySmart	4666	SafePark USA	4473
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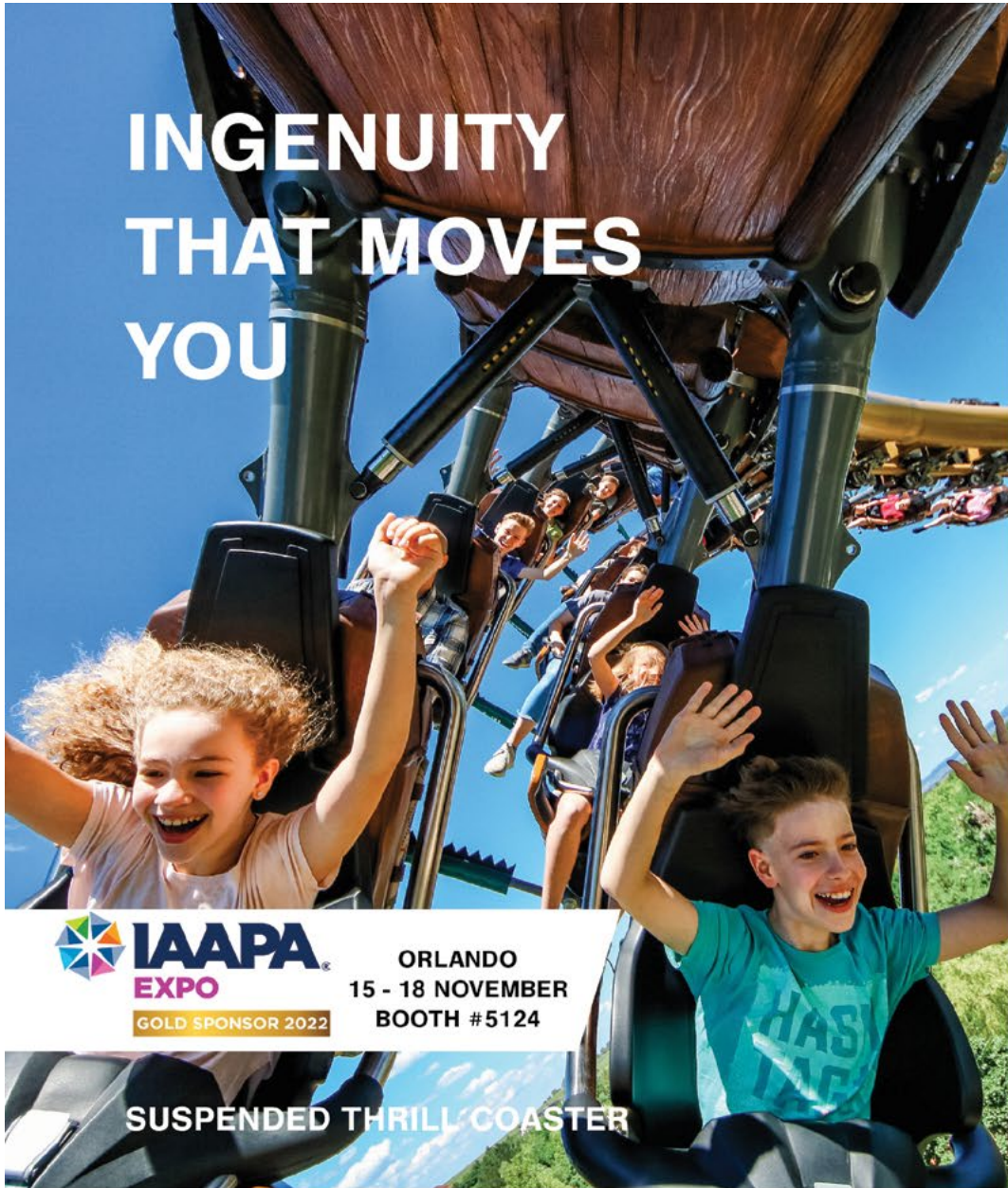


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Sartori Rides SRL	4824	Swirl Freeze	3252	Vantage	2243
Satisfi Labs	2189	Switch Bowling	5602	Var LIVE International Limited	202
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Sega Amusements International Ltd	1010	Tapeswitch	3718	VideoBooth Systems	4357
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Semnox Solutions	606	Taylor & Associates, Inc.	2143	Viewpoint Videos	4508
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Sharingbox - DNP Photo Imaging Europe	3880	Telescope Casual Furniture	1862	Vivaticket	4800
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Sippers by Design	4009	The Juice	1860	Water Technology, Inc.	2840
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Skidata, Inc	4452	Themed Entertainment Association (TEA)	1066	Waterloo Tent & Tarp	2629
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Sky Elements	975	Themics Philippines Inc.	2278	Wave Italy	1852
Skylab	249	Themrise	1675	Wavesurfer	1959
Skyline Attractions	4415	Thermoset Solutions	1856	Waymatic Inc.	2702
Skyline Ziplines Ltd.	3404	Thrill Builders	4654	WD Amusement Rides BV	5436
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Star Micronics	5444	Unit-e Technologies	1702	Z Pro Watersports	2647
StarGuard Elite LLC	1758	United States Postal Service	3256	Zamperla, Inc.	2024
State Fair Mini Donuts	3665	Univest Capital, Inc.	727	Zebec Of North America, Inc	2045
Step Revolution LLC	638	Unlimited Snow - TapeMyDay - The Experience Ticket.com	686	ZED Digital	6119
Stern Pinball, Inc.	412	UNO Parks	4757	Zhongshan Luck Amusement Machine Co. Ltd	420
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Storibox	4403	US Bowling Corporation	4262	Zierer Karussell	4424
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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► EPCOT celebrates 40 years — page 26 / Scene75 opens Chicagoland location — page 36

Adventureland Iowa preparing for Zamperla coaster/flume combo

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

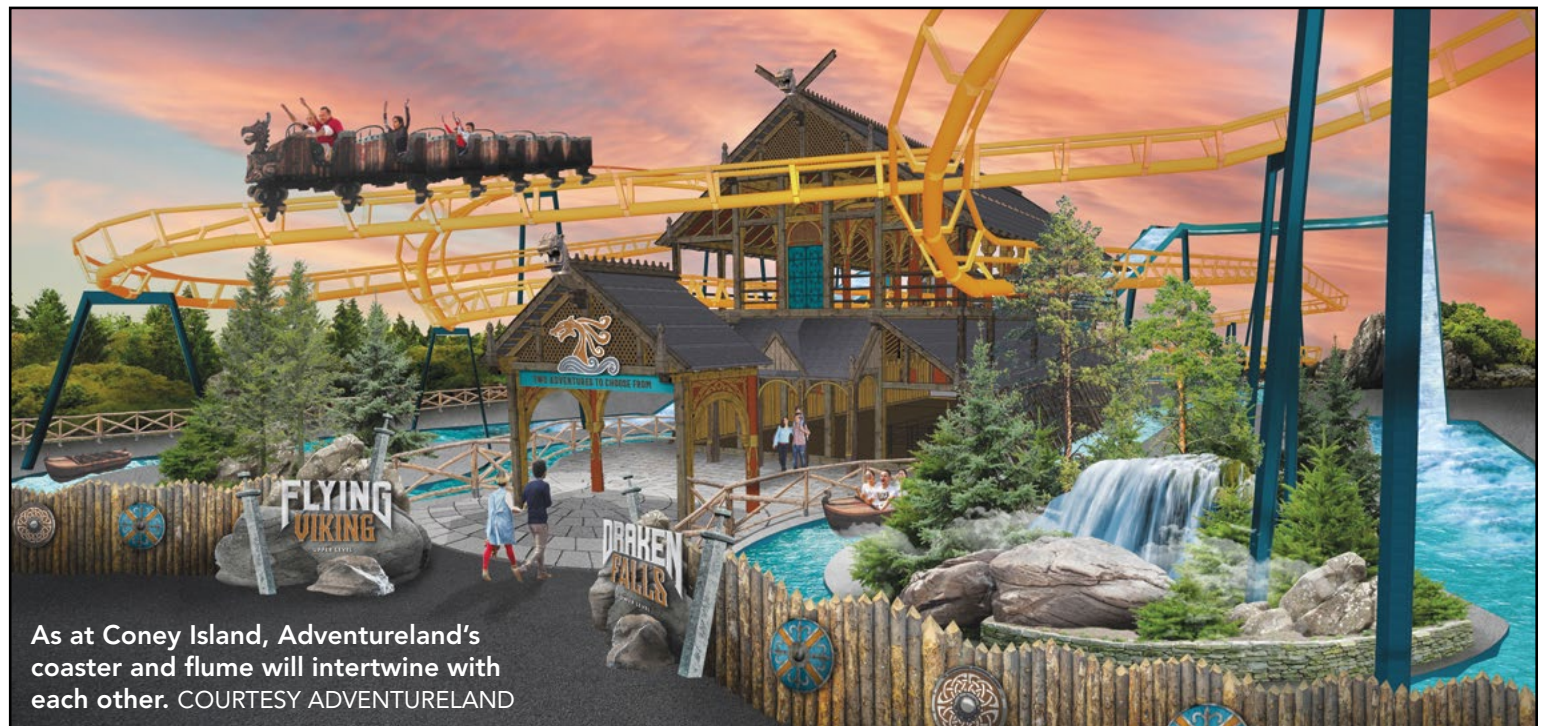
ALTOONA, Iowa — Vikings are invading Adventureland with a little help from Zamperla. The park is adding two attractions in a new Viking-themed area of the park.

The Flying Viking is a family roller coaster that rises to a height of 50 feet. Thrills will be kept to a moderate level at 26 mph. The track length is 1,312 feet. It's a fun ride for children to ride with parents, as is Draken Falls, a new flume for the park.

"These two unique rides are even better when they are woven together, and both add something new and special to our lineup," said Adventureland General Manager **Bill Lentz**. "Our guests voiced a desire for a new flume ride, and this next-generation version is bigger and better than anything to be found within hundreds of miles. Pairing it with a thrilling family roller coaster that people of all ages can enjoy is going to be a big hit."

This combination of intertwined attractions was originally designed for Luna Park at New York's Coney Island.

"The layouts of The Flying Viking and Draken Falls are the same as our installation at Luna Park," said **Michael Coleman**, North American sales, Zamperla. "Because of the installation sites and theming of the rides, the experience will be transformative in different ways for each guest. Often rides can be themed to look a certain way but



As at Coney Island, Adventureland's coaster and flume will intertwine with each other. COURTESY ADVENTURELAND

not be supported by additional elements to round out the overall installation. What the **Palace Entertainment** team is doing between the immersive station and other key hardscape elements, this installation will certainly immerse guests."

The addition of this ride pairing makes for the 10th and 11th new attractions geared toward families that have been acquired since Adventureland was purchased by Palace Entertainment.

"Our integrated rides concept is an idea where we take one of our large assets like a coaster or flume and design it with other attractions laid out in the same area," said **Adam Sandy**, roller coaster sales and marketing director, Zamperla. "This concept grew from several places. We watched our clients at **MOiPark** and **Cultus Lake Adventure Park** wind

our coasters around their facilities and put attractions from us and other manufacturers in those spaces. We also visit a lot of properties and have been excited about what clients like **Mall of America**, **Gröna Lund** and others have done. They used smaller footprints to create a different type of density by using vertical space."

"Demographically, The Flying Viking Junior Coaster comes in with a 36-inch height requirement for accompanied passengers, so almost all the guests who can walk through the front gates will be able to participate in the experience," Coleman told *Amusement Today*. "While those at 36 inches may be too short for Draken Falls, the intertwined layouts will allow them to still engage on an emotional level with the Super Flume and give them something to look forward to when they visit the park the

following year. At 42 inches accompanied, Draken Falls will wow the guests from about five years old and up. Its innovative new design will provide one of the largest flume splash-downs out there. While a lot has been said about the youth participation in these attractions, make no mistake, they are both crowd pleasers for all ages. The combo of the Flying Viking and Draken Falls is pure multigenerational fun!"

For coaster fans, Adventureland has been quite the hotbed with new installations appearing at the park in 2016, 2019, 2021 and now 2023. Flying Viking fully concentrates on all members of the family.

"Building more rides in the same footprint allows the same parks to achieve a different type of guest experience," said Sandy. "Immersive is a word thrown around a lot

when it comes to theming. But traditional rides and good storytelling can create immersion also. We think that riders stepping into the Viking area at Adventureland will be amazed as they see two huge rides surrounding them no matter which direction they look. Add in the kinetic activity and it will be a great experience both on and off-ride. We are providing an experience that speaks and engages multiple generations. Whether you are watching or riding, this area will be a blast."

For 40 years, Adventureland had a popular log flume, but the park evaluated the maintenance needs and decided the old attraction had reached the end of its lifespan. It was retired following the 2015 season. While the removal of that ride made space available for one of the

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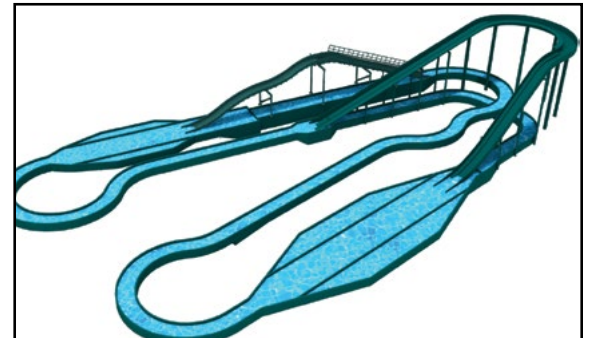
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Theming will help tell the story and place guests into the storyline. Each layout is shown separately below, but the two attractions will overlap onto the same footprint.

COURTESY ADVENTURELAND



► IOWA Continued from page 22

park's most dramatic coasters in 2016, a flume ride is still a park staple that most guests fondly remember. This new version will feature six-passenger boats. The length is more than 1,200 feet.

Sandy feels the convenience of a coaster/flume package makes a lot of sense for many operators.

"We asked ourselves, why not offer the concept instead of having our clients piecemeal them?" he said. "Therefore, we started conceptualizing what our ride integrations could

be like. The first one we created was for Ferrari World where we supplied three family attractions and a Junior Coaster in the same footprint; this project opened in 2020. At the same time, we were working on a new area for Luna Park and we started thinking about maximizing capacity and investment on a small footprint because of the lot sizes at Coney Island — and the integrated rides concept felt like a perfect fit. At Adventureland, the two rides will replace an older attraction and redefine a corner of the park."

Groundwork on the

project has commenced and materials are being transported to the site. Adventureland is excited to entertain big crowds next season.

"With multiple trains on the coaster and up to 20 boats for the Super Flume, it is possible to realize throughput up to 2,000 people per hour on this one footprint depending on a park's needs," noted Coleman. "I wouldn't be surprised to see more of these integrated ride packages pop up at parks around the world due to the spectacle and positive guest-related opportunities they present."

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EPCOT celebrates 40 years as it is being readied for the next 40

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — On Oct. 1, 1982, Walt Disney World Resort invited guests to imagine what life would be like in the 21st century with the opening of the then-named EPCOT Center.

This unique theme park focused on showcasing ideas and technologies the world had never seen before. The formal grand opening was held over a three-day period.

Guests were introduced to the park's five Future World pavilions and nine World Showcase pavilions from around the world.

On Oct. 1, 2022, Walt Disney World Resort again invited guests to EPCOT. This time it was to help celebrate the rechristened park's 40th anniversary.

The day began with a special early-morning celebratory presentation featuring performances



Guests were given quite a show during Epcot's 40th anniversary celebration on Oct. 1 of this year. An early-morning ceremony began the day, and a late afternoon performance with music and lights in front of Spaceship Earth ended the day. COURTESY WALT DISNEY WORLD

from Mariachi Cobre and the Voices of Liberty at the American Gardens Theatre. There was a video of **Walt Disney** talking about EPCOT, and Walt Disney World ambassadors **Ali Manion** and **Raevon Redding** also took the stage to talk about the legacy of the park.

Disney staff had adorned

the park with banners of the EPCOT 40 logo at the park entrance. The music at the entrance plaza was changed to the classic EPCOT soundtrack for the day.

As visitors entered the park, they were able to get commemorative guidemaps with a similar look as the entrance banners. Guests



also were given an EPCOT commemorative poster.

At the Creations Shop, figures of Mickey and Minnie in their retro rainbow EPCOT suits were on display. And stacking the shelves of the shop was 40th anniversary merchandise, such as T-shirts, Figment plush, 40th trade pins,

magnets, mugs and EPCOT 40 Spaceship Earth light-up figure with Figment laying down in front of it.

There were special treats to be had as well. Special beverages were served in 40th anniversary souvenir cups. There was

► See EPCOT, page 28

abc rides

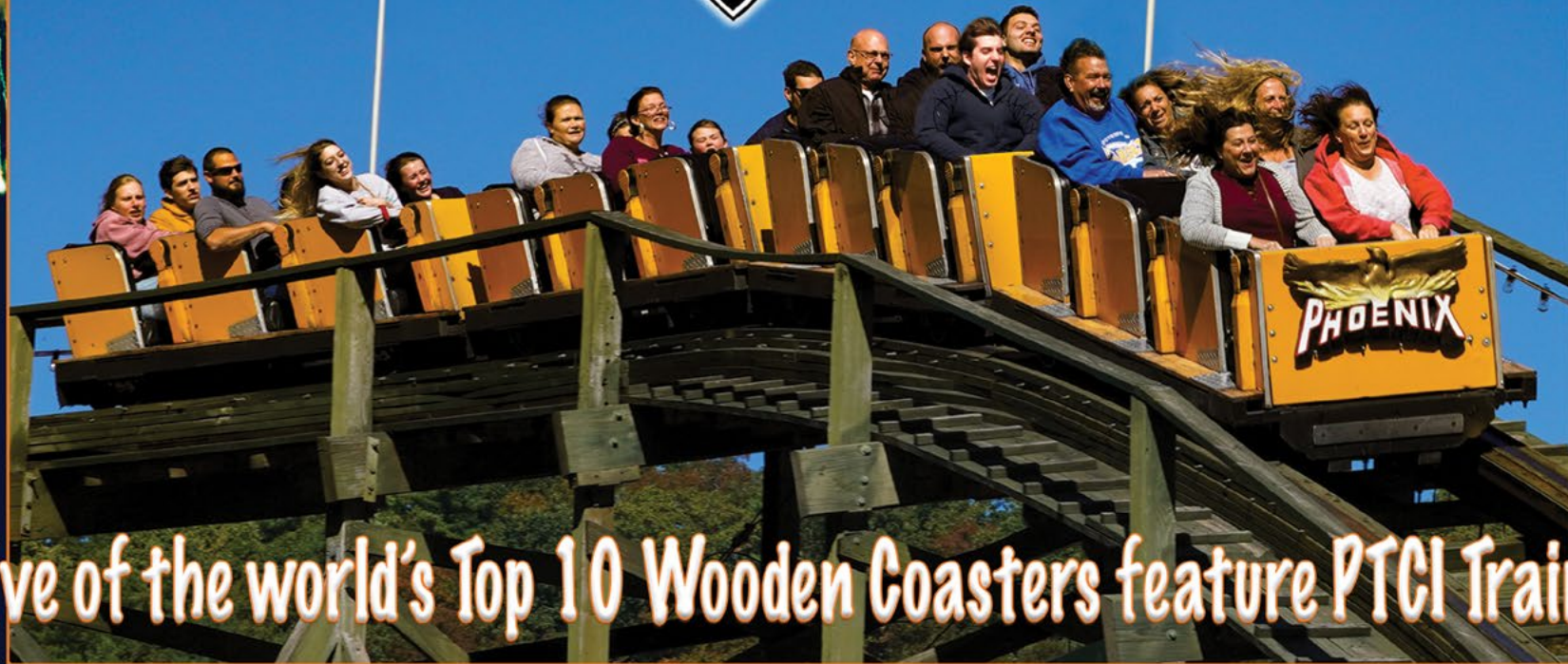
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▶ EPCOT

Continued from page 26

a Celebration Funnel Cake and a Liege Waffle at the Connections Cafe and Eatery, which received a 40th anniversary make-over.

The popular annual International Food and Wine Festival was still underway as visitors took on the 40th anniversary celebration. This festival runs from mid-July through Nov. 19. This festival debuted in 1996.

The day ended with a new "Beacon of Magic" premiere. The show started at 7:30 p.m. on the evening of Oct. 1. Guests packed the entrance plaza in front of Spaceship Earth to listen to popular musical themes and watch as the iconic globe came to life with lights.

The "Beacon of Magic" included music from the different time periods of EPCOT, such as Tapestry of Nations, Let's Listen to the Land, New Horizons, One Little Spark and We Go On.

At the very end of the



An artist rendering showcases some of EPCOT's current transformation. COURTESY WALT DISNEY WORLD

musical presentation, audio of Walt Disney proclaimed, "We call it EPCOT."

Over the years, guests to EPCOT have seen changes and expansions. And in the background of the busy day on Oct. 1, construction continued for the park's massive transformation.

First announced in 2019, the multi-year project has seen the addition of a new fountain at the main

entrance, as well as new restaurants and attractions, including Space 220, Remy's Ratatouille Adventure and Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind.

EPCOT is evolving into four unified neighborhoods. World Celebration, World Discovery, World Nature and World Showcase.

The visions of the neighborhoods when totally completed will be more of

a flow from one to another, with World Celebration offering new experiences that connect guests to one another and the world around them.

World Discovery is the place where stories about science, technology and intergalactic adventure come to life.

This is where the Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind is located. The attraction opened on

May 27, 2022, and is the first "other-world" showcase pavilion at EPCOT. The family-thrill coaster adventure starts in the Galaxarium, a planetarium-like exhibition that explores the similarities and mysteries of the formation of Earth's galaxy and Xandar. This coaster is entirely enclosed.

The World Showcase section continues to be a celebration of culture, cuisine, architecture and traditions — infused with new magic.

And World Nature is being dedicated to understanding and preserving the beauty, awe and balance of the natural world. It includes The Land and The Seas with Nemo and Friends pavilions, as well as the forthcoming Journey of Water, Inspired by "Moana."

Walt Disney was once quoted as saying that EPCOT will "always be in a state of becoming." The park is set to enter its next 40 years with all-new ways for guests to experience the magic of possibility.



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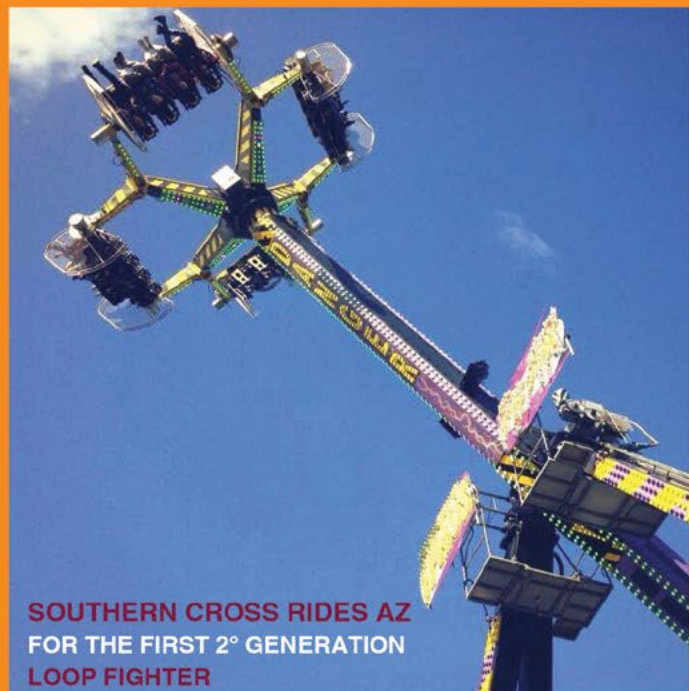
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Park Post-its

AT: Pam Sherborne
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Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia, California, has updated some of its public safety measures. The enhanced policy includes a reduced bag size limit and an x-ray screen of all bags coming into the theme park.

The new bag size, including backpacks and purses, can't be bigger than 12 inches by 12 inches by six inches. Diaper bags and bags used for medical reasons will be excluded from this rule.

Other Six Flags parks in the chain have introduced similar measures.

The enhanced measures went into effect the first week of September.

Officials at **Kennywood Park**, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, also have announced new security measures following a shooting in late September inside the park. Three people were injured, including two teenagers, one of whom was arrested and charged on Oct. 6 in connection with the incident. That teen, who was grazed by a bullet, was identified as **Darryl Pirl** of West Mifflin. The other teen and a 39-year-old man were shot in the leg.

As a result, Kennywood officials said the new measures would include more police, more security along perimeter fences, limits on bag sizes and masks covering faces and require adult chaperones for all juveniles at all times during the park's Phantom Fall Fest, scheduled to run through October 30.

Since the arrest of Pirl, police were still investigating the incident as well as looking for a second shooter. Police feel the incident is linked to an ongoing feud between teenagers in an area nearby.

Legoland Florida Resort, Winter Haven, is stepping up to help victims of Hurricane Ian.

Through Oct. 9, the resort said it will donate \$20 from every Legoland theme park ticket sold online to the **American Red Cross** to help support Hurricane Ian relief efforts to a maximum of \$100,000.

The park said the donations will enable the American Red Cross to prepare and respond to help people

recover from the disaster.

For the second year in a row, **RWS Entertainment Group (RWS)** has been selected by IAAPA, the global association for the attractions industry, to provide full creative and production services for the organization's annual international conference and trade show in Orlando, Florida, November 14-18.

Services provided by RWS will range from scripting and staging to music, media, lighting design and installation. The four-day premier event includes educational programming, receptions, keynote presentations, the award reception and numerous special events.

El Paso Zoo, Texas, welcomed a new female Przewalski's horse in September. The zoo has become a front-runner in the conservation efforts of the species, and one day, zoos working to preserve the species want to reintroduce them to their native territory in Russia.

The Przewalski's horse is an endangered species and conservation efforts like shipping the animals to their native territory are being impacted by global events such as the war in Ukraine.

John Kiseda, animal curator at El Paso Zoo, said since they haven't been able to take the animals back to their native territory, they are sending them to other American zoos. He thinks once global conflicts ease, they can start exploring returning the breed back to the wild.

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium announced a new attraction at **The Wilds** in Muskingum County near Cumberland, Ohio, is expected to open in late 2023 or early 2024.

Construction on a 59-acre RV campground worth \$7.2 million has started. Plans are for the campground to have 46 spots for RVs, 27 primitive camping spots, hiking and biking trails, a playground, a camp store, a dog park, two shower houses and fishing and swimming at a nearby lake.

For children and adults with disabilities and special needs, a one-stop shop for medical needs and other services has opened up as an extension of **Morgan's Wonderland**, San Antonio, Texas, an ultra-inclusive theme park.

It's called the MAC, short for Multi-Assistance Center. The 165,000-square-foot, \$45 million complex is a testament to how successful Morgan's Wonderland has become since opening in 2010.

The MAC will house more than 30 community-based organizations to offer therapeutic, dental and same-day surgical care as well as legal advice, haircuts and many other services.



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Six Flags introduces Oktoberfest as a new festival at multiple parks



Oktoberfest Food Festival is new at eight Six Flags theme parks.
AT/TIM BALDWIN

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ARLINGTON, Texas — Following an extremely hot summer at many theme parks, Arlington-based **Six Flags Entertainment** helped entice parkgoers back once fall arrived. Eight of the Six Flags properties introduced Oktoberfest, a new food festival for the chain.

“We’ve added new color and new looks since [the beginning of the year]. At the corporate level, we wanted to give our guests experiences each time they come here, and we thought it would be good to have more events and festivals,” said **Dennis Clark**, vice president of in-park services and events, Six Flags. “It’s good for guests to have something to look forward to.”

Clark explained that park leaders are encouraged by CEO **Selim Bassoul** to push themselves to offer a fresh and exciting product. Boo Fest for kids was also included at the same time as Oktoberfest, and a Veteran’s Weekend is scheduled for November.

“We had our parks submit us their thought processes, and we chose eight

of them. We knew we could execute an Oktoberfest festival pretty quickly,” Clark told *Amusement Today*.

In these parks, specific areas have been set aside solely for the festival. Food offerings are grouped nearby and available in walk-up kiosks. Some locations have the German menu spilling over into adjacent dining facilities as well.

“As we developed the concept, we landed on Oktoberfest Food Festival as the event name, with the main focus on food and beverage for all participating parks,” said **Chris Ozimek**, regional marketing director. “To make the event even more legit, each park was able to develop a custom decor package that worked for the festival environment at that particular park. We continue to enhance this each week. There was freedom to add music, street characters and other activities at each park.”

“We set out to make sure that you could get a great Oktoberfest experience,” said **Steven McCurdy**, food and beverage manager, **Six Flags Over Texas**. “The décor had to be incredible, as well as the entertainment. We wanted it to be family friendly, so we added games and actors. The beer choices had to be in great quantity. In the end, we want to provide our guests with more value and a great experience. I believe that we accomplished that with this event.”

Among the décor, numerous photo ops are created for families to take pictures, and the parks are pleased to see them engaged. Seasonal staff enjoyed wearing appropriate garb for the Oktoberfest event, which helps sell the experience to the guests.

“The theming is bunting, flagging and hay bales; that’s pretty easy,” said Clark. “You can’t be in your Six Flags uniforms and pull this off and be an immersive experience. We saw T-shirts with suspenders printed on them, but we found actual Bavarian suspenders and got them within a week. The hats are really cool. With our tan shorts and white socks, we

▶ See **FLAGS**, page 33

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Costuming helps sell guests on the vibe of the festival.
AT/TIM BALDWIN

► FLAGS

Continued from page 32

were good. It was incredible what our corporate procurement team did for us.”

Interestingly, the parks held the Oktoberfest Food Festival at the same time the popular Fright Fest events were taking place.

“We now had a festival within an event, but luckily it fits,” smiled Clark. “The guests reacted well because the change of food was a departure. Instead of burgers and pizza, they could get something totally different and see the beer steins and different theming. It has been very well received.”

“Oktoberfest is the perfect complement to Fright Fest ... especially the enhanced adult beverage variety for our guests,” said **Jeffrey Siebert**, Six Flags Fiesta Texas park president.

At Six Flags Over Texas, street characters engaged visitors by speaking German to them as they entered the festival area.

When asked what about offering new food items excited him the most, McCurdy told AT: “First you always think about what you already know. Then you get on the web to research for what you don’t know. It takes a great amount of time to find the right products and then to make sure that you can get enough for the full run of your event. You are looking for products that surprise you in a good way. Once you settle in on the right ingredients, you take a great amount of time fine-tuning the processes that you want in place. This may be the most critical piece to it — it has to look and taste great. We often ask ourselves, ‘How do you

make it better?’ If a dish is served with a sauce, can you add something to make it pop? Is it fresh herbs or is it some kind of seasoning that takes a good dish and makes it great? My favorite part is hearing the guests talk about the food and how good it is. It helps justify everything that you did to get to that point.”

As the festival evolved, parks looked at how they could further enhance it.

“Our guests were flocking to the photo opportunities, so we added more signature photo locations and more park décor to satisfy our guests’ selfie needs,” smiled Siebert.

“Every day is a joy when I see how much fun our guests are having,” Ozimek said. “Giving them an extra treat, like Oktoberfest Food Festival, really pushes this fun over the top. Seeing our guests enjoy a new and different experience like this is rewarding to our entire team who worked so hard to put this special event together.”

Six Flags management evaluated the new event and is eager to expand it in 2023.

“We’re already planning and ordering for next year,” said Clark. “As this thing gets legs, it just gets better.”

“Festivals give us the chance to make our park attractive to a larger audience,” said Ozimek. “By re-inventing the park’s offerings throughout the year, our guests can visit multiple times and have an entirely different experience. Other guests who may not have considered visiting the park may choose to attend a particular event as opposed to not visiting at all. Our guests are enjoying the Oktoberfest Food Festival, and we plan to make it even bigger in 2023.”

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Cool Intamin coasters coming to SeaWorld, Busch Gardens parks

AT: Tim Baldwin
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WILLIAMSBURG, Va. and SAN DIEGO — Things are about to get snowy for sister parks Busch Gardens Williamsburg and SeaWorld San Diego. Both parks are constructing 2023 projects, and they have a common element — snowmobiles.

SeaWorld San Diego will debut Arctic Rescue, while Busch Gardens will reveal DarKoaster.

Both rides feature “snowmobile” seating, much like that of a motorcycle in which passengers ride holding handlebars. The coasters are provided by Intamin.

“Just like Wave Breaker at SeaWorld San Antonio, Juvelen at Djurs Sommerland and many other executed Intamin Family Launch Coasters, this seating position really feels as if you are experiencing an ATV (Quad), jet ski or a snowmobile,” an Intamin



DarKoaster repurposes a dark ride building with a themed, indoor coaster that features four launches. COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS WILLIAMSBURGH

spokesperson told *Amusement Today*. “It is the upright seating position in combination with the handlebars that makes the ride experience so unique and adds heavily to the fun of these great Family Launch Coasters. The seating positions on an ATV, jet ski or snowmobile are

similar to each other.”

Another similarity between the two attractions is a repurposed building. At the San Diego project, a former simulator attraction will reconfigure the queue, and much of the building will be the ride’s station. In

Williamsburg, a former dark ride, DarKastle, will have the ride building repurposed for the new attraction, DarKoaster, which will be entirely indoors.

That coaster will not only be completely enclosed but also offers switch track so that

one train can load while a train of riders takes a second lap within the ride building.

“We’ve seen success in the switch track technology with Pantheon, as it allows guests to enjoy the ride’s signature spire,” said Busch Gardens Park President Kevin Lembke. “Implementing the switch track with DarKoaster lets us expand the ride’s footprint. Since DarKoaster is being constructed in an existing building, the switch track element was the best way to create a longer ride experience.”

At SeaWorld San Diego, the ride experience will be partially indoors as well as outdoors.

“Previously there was a simulator attraction for our guests to enjoy, and we have repurposed that space — along with some additional space outside of the building — to bring this new Arctic Rescue snowmobile journey to life,” said SeaWorld Park President Jim Lake. “We’ve really plussed up the experience with a ride that will be great for the entire family.”

With no pun intended, snowmobiles make for a cool vibe to riding a coaster.

“The snowmobile design of the straddle coaster is a unique addition to our portfolio of thrills, as none of our existing attractions offer an elevated seat while riding,” said Lembke.

“The main feature of the vehicles is the very open, fun and lightweight design in combination with the fact that the seating arrangement does not require any shoulder straps and therefore increases the feeling of freedom,” noted the Intamin spokesperson. “The combination of all those features enhances the ride experience even further resulting in a sensational feeling for the passengers.”

“The straddle coaster experience that gives you the sensation of riding a snowmobile will be a really fun and unique thrill for our guests,” added Lake. “I really like that this will be a ride that the entire family can enjoy together.”

As with so many attractions at SeaWorld, the educa-

▶ See INTAMIN, page 35

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►INTAMIN**Continued from page 34**

tional component is integral to the project.

“I like that that the thrilling experience ties in really well to the Wild Arctic theme,” said Lake. “Not only will it be a really fun ride, but it helps to tell the story of how climate change impacts animals in the arctic and how important it is for us to help with those issues. You get to go on an exhilarating journey to rescue these animals, and then after you exit the ride you get to see some of them — belugas, walrus, ringed seals — up close. I truly feel that seeing these animals up close at SeaWorld allows guests to build a stronger connection and [provides] encouragement to take action to help protect them.”

Intamin is known for



Arctic Rescue will send riders through three launches, each one getting faster.
COURTESY SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO

doing various types of launches, from family coasters to gigantic hyper coasters.

“For this particular type of Intamin launch coasters, the friction wheel launch system is the most appropriate drive system,” said Intamin’s spokesperson. “Compared to big hyper coasters and LSM launch coasters, these [strad-

dle coasters] are often lower-to-the-ground projects. The choice of our state-of-the-art friction wheel launch drive is owed to the target group, namely families looking for fun and some thrill, and the lighter weight of the train compared to the big ones. In more recent years, Intamin has continued to advance

the state-of-the-art friction wheel drive system that is second to none from a performance and a low-noise emission perspective and provides exhilarating acceleration and speed.”

The San Diego installation will feature three launches, which increase in speed with each launch (34, 38 and 40 mph). The California coaster will feature 2,800 feet of track. Riders 48 inches or higher can board trains that seat 16 riders in eight rows of two (just as in San Antonio). Trains in Virginia will be five rows of two.

Being indoors, DarKoaster at Busch Gardens will incorporate thematic visuals.

“We’ve already let our guests know that King Ludwig has returned when his abandoned fortress resurfaces after strange weather patterns have been recorded in the area,” Lembke

told *Amusement Today*. “DarKoaster will be housed in the iconic Curse of DarKastle building and park fans will notice theming nods paying homage to the previous attraction. Additional details will be shared on the storyline in the coming months, but we look forward to continuing King Ludwig’s story with a supernatural twist. On the second lap guests will encounter changes in DarKoaster’s theming, which will create a diversified experience throughout the ride.”

DarKoaster includes four launches, and thanks to the switch track will travel over 2,454 feet during the journey. While dark and stormy, the park considers it to be a family-friendly dark ride experience.

DarKoaster will be Busch Gardens’ tenth coaster, and Arctic Rescue will be SeaWorld’s sixth.

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Scene75 Entertainment Centers grow, open Chicagoland location

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

ROMEDEVILLE, Ill. — Scene75 Entertainment Centers opened a new location in Chicagoland in August and so far, so good, according to the company's founder and CEO.

"We have only been open for a few months, but so far the brand has been very well received," said **Jonah Sandler**. "We are excited to be in the Chicagoland area, and we hope to add another location in the Chicago market in the future."

The new indoor family entertainment center is 135,000 square feet in size and houses 14 attractions, including a coaster, go-karts and drop tower, as well as 120 video and redemption games, the Backyard



Scene75 Entertainment Centers opened a new location in mid-August in Romeoville, Illinois. It houses 14 attractions, 120 video and redemption games, miniature golf and go-karts. COURTESY SCENE75

Eatery, a sweetshop, a full-service bar, private party rooms and a 300-person

banquet facility.

This location in Romeoville is the fifth Scene75 location currently operating. It is the sixth opening for the company. However, the Scene75 Entertainment Center in Edgewood Towne Centre, Swissville, Pennsylvania, permanently closed in spring 2021 due to the pandemic and the obstacle of dealing with two subsequent lockdowns.

Scene75's move into the Chicago area has not only been exciting because of the strong demographics, but also just a little nostalgic for the company.

Sandler said the community has embraced Scene75. He was born there; his dad was a long-time resident of the Illinois city.

"I also lived there after undergrad for five years for work and graduate studies," he said. "I still have many friends and family members in the area."

As far as attractions for the new center, Sandler said they have certain attractions they continue to bring into every location.

"We also add some unique ones to the mix every time after reviewing the competitive



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- Batting Cages (**Amusement Products**)
-
- Blacklight Golf (**Art Attack**)
-
- Bumper Cars (**Amusement Products**)
-
- Dark Ride (**Triotech**)
-
- Drop Tower (**Moser**)
-
- Go-Karts (**Amusement Products**)
-
- Inflata-park (**Inflatable Depot**)
-
- Laser Maze (**Funovation**)
-
- Laser Tag (**LaserForce, Art Attack**)
-
- Mini-Bowling (**Qubica**)
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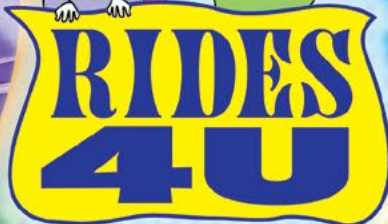
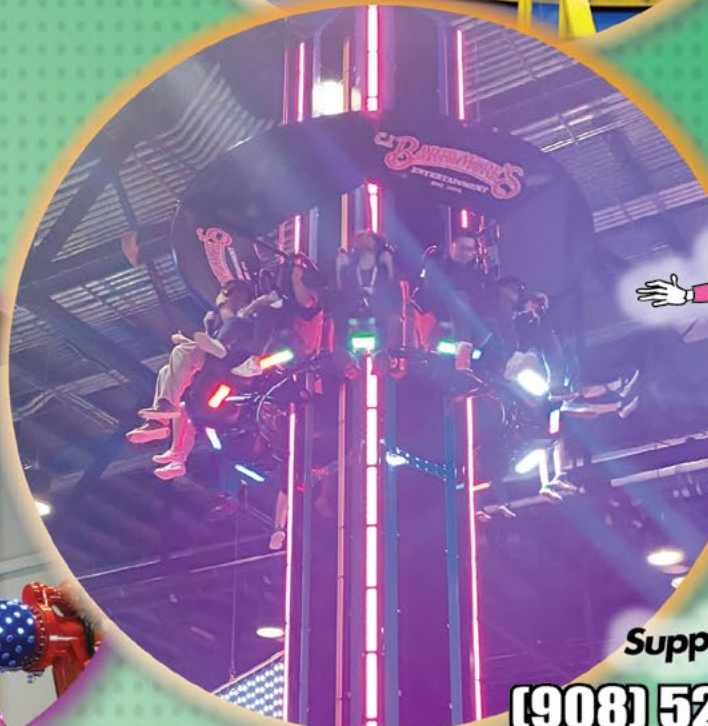
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► See SCENE75, page 38

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The Scene75 location in Romeoville, Illinois, is the third location with an install of a Visa spinning coaster model (above). A Laser Tag arena has been a popular draw at all of Scene75's locations. Below is a look of the entrance at the Chicagoland's arena. COURTESY SCENE75



► SCENE75

Continued from page 36

landscape," he said.

In Romeoville, he felt that there was an opportunity for indoor baseball batting cages. So four lanes of cages were added to the attractions.

The FEC also upgraded its technology recently. "Scene 75 recently implemented our Mobile Wallet technology to elevate their guest experience, enabling their customers to top-up or reload straight from their phones without leaving their game," stated **Renee Welsh**, CEO of **Embed**. We're excited to see how Scene 75 Entertainment

Centers transform into FECs of the future."

"We also are testing Scene75 Flavors, a sweet shop with candy, ice cream, specialty sodas and more," Sandler added.

This is the third location for a spinning coaster, by **Visa**, through **Len Soled**, **Rides 4U**. Soled said this is a compact spinning coaster, which fit better into the space of the center.

"We have put another compact in Scene75's Columbus, Ohio, location and a spinning coaster 5.0 in Dayton, Ohio," Soled said. "The 5.0 model is more elevated and has more vehicles."

• scene75.com



The new Scene75 Entertainment Center in the Chicagoland area continues the chain's experimentation in a variety of food offerings. The location features **Seventy-Five Flavors**, a sweet shop offering more than 75 flavors of various delectable treats. COURTESY SCENE75



FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTRAL

AT: John W.C. Robinson
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Monkey Rock is preparing to open on October 26 at the Sunland Park Mall in El Paso, Texas.

A jungle-themed entertainment center, Monkey Rock's attractions include blacklights, a nine-hole mini-golf course, an arcade, tenpin bowling lanes, a VR experience from **Hologate**, trampolines and four LED rock wall stations.

Monkey Rock is targeted to appeal to a broad demographic of young professionals and more including families as well as high school and college students. The El Paso center is the first Monkey Rock destination, but its owners plan to expand as a nationwide franchise. Monkey Rock was built by a family that also owns an aquarium, along with several other family-oriented businesses.

• **Sacoa** has installed its cashless system at **Cicis Pizza**'s Orlando, Florida location. Owners **Charles** and **Victoria Holden** have reported a 200% sales increase after installing the cashless payment system and a Sacoa EZ kiosk to improve security and boost revenue.

"I'm not a tech guy at all, but this system is so easy to use," said Charles Holden.

Sacoa is planning to integrate its system into more Cicis Pizza locations in the near future.

"I'm very impressed with the sales increment displayed by Cicis Pizza and look forward to an excellent and prosperous continued relationship," said Sacoa USA CEO **Sebastian Mochkovsky**. "I know that with Sacoa's help and Charles and Victoria's continuous support, we'll be able to achieve new heights and continue to create bigger and better things."

• Orlando's **ICON Park** announced plans to open an 8,000-square-foot entertainment center dubbed **Max Action Arena** this fall.

The center will offer a variety of interactive experiences, including a **Zero Latency VR** virtual reality experience, adventure rooms, an axe-throwing session and an escape room. A specific opening date was not disclosed.

"With its cutting-edge VR technology and collaborative experiences, Max Action Arena is the perfect place for friends and family to compete and explore together," said **Family Entertainment Group** Vice President of Business Development **Ray Smith**.

• The city of Grand Prairie, Texas,

announced the forthcoming additions of a **Bass Pro Shops** location and **Andretti Indoor Karting and Games** FEC. Each plans to open a new destination attraction on the east side of State Hwy 161.

Andretti Indoor Karting and Games is planning a 96,000-square-foot facility of its newest design that will feature an indoor climate-controlled kart track, arcade, virtual reality games, laser tag and duckpin bowling. Plans are to open by end of 2023. This will be the company's second location in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and its seventh nationwide.

Bass Pro Shops will build a new 100,000-square-foot retail store, with a unique completely custom design, which will be the outdoor retailer's fifth location in the region and 15th location in Texas. The new location is expected to open in the spring of 2024.

"These two mega attractions are a perfect blend with Grand Prairie's robust array of powerhouse retail, entertainment and tourist venues," said Mayor **Ron Jensen**.

• **Simplicity Esports and Gaming Company** has entered into an exchange agreement with **Diverted River Technology, LLC**, pursuant to which Simplicity Esports agreed to acquire 100% of the membership interests of Diverted River in exchange for 80% of the issued and outstanding shares of Simplicity Esports' common stock.

Roman Franklin, CEO of Simplicity Esports, stated, "I am thrilled with the prospect of working together with **Zack Johnson** and his incredible team. The previous company, **ggCircuit**, had software and services that dominated the esports gaming center industry space. Their experience, relationships, and reputation provide a solid foundation to grow Diverted River into a powerhouse company servicing the technology needs of the broader \$35 billion-dollar family entertainment center industry."

• **Time Square Grand Slam** of Tyler, Texas, has been acquired by **EVO Entertainment Group**.

Times Square Grand Slam is viewed as an important part of the Tyler community. With that in mind, owner **Howard Charba** entrusted EVO and its CEO **Mitch Roberts** to continue his family's legacy.

"We are grateful to the Tyler community for embracing us with Times Square Cinema and then the growth to Times Square Grand Slam," said Charba.

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Agreement brings first Altitude Trampoline Park to New Mexico



FEC chain Altitude Trampoline park is preparing to launch its first location in New Mexico. COURTESY ALTITUDE TRAMPOLINE PARK

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Altitude Trampoline Park announced a new signed franchise agreement to make its entrance into New Mexico with a go-to location for active family fun and entertainment. Local entrepreneurs, **Gabriel Mora** and **Veronica Castillo** are set to introduce the brand to Northern New Mexico communities, specifically targeting the Albuquerque-area.

“I’ve been in the people business for the last 25 years, and I’m thrilled to continue to have the opportunity to make a positive impact on families in our community through this new Altitude Trampoline Park location,” said Mora. “You can really tell that the executive team believes in the brand and its mission to provide clean, safe and active indoor entertainment options to guests across the country. It was a major factor in our decision to partner with Altitude.”

Prior to franchising with Altitude Trampoline Park, Mora worked in the restaurant and hospitality industries with **Twin Peak Restaurants** before becoming the director of operations for **The Kent Companies**, overseeing day-to-day operations for around 70 locations, proving that Mora already has his foot in the door when it comes to company operations and managing a team, skills that will prove to be viable in running an Altitude Trampoline Park.

“We’re overjoyed to bring aboard individuals who are as driven to create an outstanding experience for our guests like Gabriel and Veronica,” said **Robert Morris**, vice president of development for Altitude Trampoline Park. “They are the ideal franchisees to introduce Altitude Trampoline Park’s proven business model to the great state of New Mexico and establish a home for gravity-defying joy, exhilaration, social growth and wellness in Albuquerque.”

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Fun City migrates to Semnox across all its Middle East locations

MANGALORE, India — **Fun City** — an FEC brand across U.A.E., Bahrain, KSA, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and India — has replaced its swipe card systems with **Semnox's** Parafait RFID Cashless solution.

Fun City India migrated its card system to Parafait three years ago and has been operational in 30 stores across India. The additional implementation in the Middle East includes migration of 50 stores with over one million customers from their existing magnetic swipe card system to Semnox's Parafait RFID Card System. The migration process was carried out in just over three months with zero downtime and overnight cut-over.

Operated by **Landmark Leisure**, Fun City boasts multiple brands including **Fun Ville**, **Fun Block** and **Fun Works**. Its attractions consist of arcades such as redemption, novelty games, video games, skill games, big rides and play areas. Fun City's complexes are now powered by more than 4,500 Lumin RFID readers across its stores requiring just a card tap to play. Semnox's Lumin readers feature attractive displays, customizable themes, multi-language support and tap-anywhere options.

"After a detailed review of our IT and POS infrastructure to ensure it stays future-proof and gives us the flexibility and speed required, we have chosen Semnox as our new partner," said **Silvio Liedtke**, CEO of Landmark Leisure. "This will also enable us to further integrate both of our GCC and India operations in many aspects of running our operations. Semnox has not only been proven to provide great value but also provides a very robust and forward-thinking infrastructure enabling us to go the next step in our evolution."

Fun City is now able to offer seamless card-roaming capability across all its locations which not only enhances guest convenience,

but it also increases guest frequency and foot traffic, combined with the simplicity of the tap-to-play feature.

Parafait's technology solutions delivers operational control through centralized cloud-based management and reporting and Semnox's flexibility to adapt to the new requirements of the growing FEC chain.

"It is heartening to see the innovative operators like Fun City seeing the value of a single comprehensive solution adopting latest technology and innovations including RFID tap solution backed by our world class support," stated **Umesh Prabhu**, business head of FEC vertical of Semnox Solutions.



Fun City Middle East locations have migrated to the Semnox's Parafait RFID card system. COURTESY SEMNOX

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Oklahoma State Fair attendance, ride midway revenue on par

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—After all was said and done, the 2022 Oklahoma State Fair was on par both with ride midway revenue and attendance from the previous edition. Over 900,000 people made it to the 11-day fair this year. The fair does not disclose actual revenue information,

although Frank Zaitshik, owner of Wade Shows, did say, “Our overall net was just terrific!”

“The weather was beyond hot for this time of year and certainly had an impact in a number of areas. [There was] no discernable impact from COVID-19 on the 2022 Oklahoma State Fair,” said Scott Munz, senior vice

president-marketing.

“Your Fair Share of Fun” was the 2022 theme.

Wade Shows, the carnival provider, brought in 62 rides, increasing the total ride lineup by eight. The company did book in a few independents, including Wood Entertainment (Michael Wood). Nearly half were kiddie rides.

Rides that were new or back after an absence: Mega Drop (Fabbri Group), Magnum (Mondial Rides), Techno Power (Tivoli), Extreme (Technical Park), Cliff Hanger (Dartron) and Lolly Swings (Zamperla). There also were a few new kiddie rides. Many of the most popular rides were some that were already mentioned, along with Street Fighter 360 (Technical Park), Quasar (ARM Rides) and Yo-Yo (Chance Rides).

Rider appeal has a direct correlation with rider capacity according to Zaitshik: “We were stronger in ride capacity in 2022 over 2021. All rides do well; however, people tend to gravitate to the longer lines.” He was pleased that there were fewer breakdowns and incidences.

Munz enjoys the fair and its relationship with the carnival provider. “We have been with Frank Zaitshik (Wade Shows) for many, many years and have always enjoyed that relationship,” he said.

“I’m the most senior member of the fair. I’ve been there 43 years in one capacity or another,” said Zaitshik. From 1966-80 he was with Link Shows, who had the spot. Then from 1993 to present, Wade has been the provider. “We respect them (Oklahoma

State Fair) and they appreciate the work we do.”

Zaitshik has served under every CEO since 1960, including the newest one who recently came on board.

“Every day is not wonderful, but at the Oklahoma State Fair, every day was wonderful. It was pretty gratifying and exciting,” said Zaitshik.

Special promotions included Thrifty Thursdays (\$5 gate admission, \$2 Little Book of Big Deals and \$25 unlimited carnival ride armbands); Military Monday (military personnel and their spouses got in free and \$5 Sky Eye Wheel tickets); Pepsi \$2 Tuesday gate admission and carnival rides \$2, with \$2 Little Book of Big Deals and \$2 Sky Eye Wheel tickets) and

► See FAIR, page 46




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The 2022 Oklahoma State Fair was on par both with ride midway revenue and attendance from the previous edition in 2021. COURTESY OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR



www.armrides.com  

EVERY RIDE SHOULD BE A STAR





Wade Shows was the carnival provider, bringing in 62 rides. COURTESY OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR

► FAIR Continued from page 44

Senior Day (Wednesday – free admission for senior citizens 55+ and \$5 Sky Eye Wheel tickets). The fair also did a Flash Sale in mid-August for a combo unlimited carnival ride armband and gate admission for \$25 that proved extremely successful.

“Our advertising budget was increased over 2021 but not back to the pre-COVID-19 levels,” said Munz, when asked about their marketing mix. “We still used the traditional outlets (TV, radio, print and outdoor) but increased our spending in the digital space, including the placement of “boosted” posts on social media channels. For the first time, we used local influencers to promote our event on the social media channels including TikTok.”

The fair refers to itself as “Oklahoma’s Premier Family Attraction” with its long history of providing a family-friendly atmosphere that Oklahomans can attend and make lasting memories. This year there was even a wedding between two of the participants in the Oklahoma Frontier Experience, an interactive discovery zone.

Prior to the start of the fair each year, it holds the “Great Taste of a Fair” food competition in three categories that compete for “The FAIRest of Them All” title. This year’s winners were: Sweetest of the Sweet – Apple Pie Churro Bites (**Project Krave**), Slice of Savory – Coconut Shrimp

(**Then Bacon Habit**) and New to the Scene – Alligator Corn Dog (**The Pioneer Wagon**). The staff were surveyed in four food categories, including Best First-year Food concession: **HTeaO**; Hey, Where’d You Get That: Pickled Pizza (**Swains Pizza On-A-Stick**); Most Unique Food: Deep-Fried Cauliflower (**G3 Concessions**) and the item many fairgoers were eating: corn on-the-cob (**Oklahoma Roast Corn**).

“We, like anyone else trying to hire workers, had an extremely difficult time getting all the workers we needed,” said Munz, when asked about employment challenges and strategies. “Fortunately, we have a lot of people that have worked the fair for many years, even taking vacation time from their regular jobs to work at the fair. For all others, we just kept grinding and evidentially, we were able to fill all positions. Keeping those positions filled throughout the run of the fair was also a challenge but we just stayed on it.”

“Early indicators tell us our revenue streams were on par with 2021,” said Munz. “The unknown is how far off the mark we end up on expenses since we did our budgeting back in February. As we all know, just about everything has gone up in price since February. More than ever, it’s not how much you made, it’s how much it cost you to make it. We are working through that process now.”

The 2023 fair takes place September 14 – 24.

• okstatefair.com



MIDWAYSCENE

AT: B. Derek Shaw

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Those in the industry know the quality and excellence of **Gregg “Scooter” Korek’s** photographic artistry. Now through the new year, more people will have the opportunity to experience it as well. Whether taking midway shots for **NAME**, where he is employed, or out on the open road, his photographs enlighten, entertain and many times, inspire.

TheMuseum, Kitchener, Ontario, has 65 images of Korek’s on display that were inspired by the 100th anniversary of **Jack Kerouac**, an American novelist and poet. Kerouac solidified the idea of a road trip in the human imagination, who alongside **William S. Burroughs** and **Allen Ginsberg**, was a pioneer of the Beat Generation.

Guest curator **Virginia Eichhorn** developed “Rolling Under the Stars/A Photographic Journey.” This exhibition takes guests through the lens of Korek to 50 states and 10 provinces. Scooters’ work is on display to remind viewers of the “before” and to inspire them in the new “now.” These photos, like Kerouac’s novel, encourage people to embrace the experiences on whatever road they are led to.

The photographic exhibit runs through the end of this year.

In late September, **Skelly’s Amusements, Inc.** was asked to bring its 65-foot Wadkins Expo Wheel to Rutgers Stadium in Piscataway, New Jersey. It was there for five of the six home games of the Scarlet Knights this fall. The center hub featured a big red “R.” The Williamstown, New Jersey, operation also had food and games at the stadium, creating a Jersey Shore theme. **Rutgers University** is generally credited with being “the birthplace of college football,” as the first intercollegiate football game was held between Rutgers and Princeton on November 6, 1869.

The wheel also was set up at **Citizen’s Bank Park** for **Philadelphia Phillies** playoff games.

After 10 years at the helm, **California Exposition and State Fair** CEO **Rick Pickering**, will retire at the end of the year. **Tom Martinez**, chief deputy general manager will be appointed interim CEO.

“No one accomplishes much on their own, but on the combined efforts

of the team, friendships and partnerships that come into their lives,” Pickering told *The Sacramento Bee*. “I will greatly miss working with dedicated leaders in the Capitol region, but my trust in Tom as the interim CEO is deep and his work over the past seven years has been transformational.”

Early in the new year, the **Western Fairs Association (WFA)** will be hosting its 100th convention and trade show. Billed as a Centennial Celebration, the Sacramento, California-based trade organization is holding the event at the **Grand Sierra Resort & Casino**, Reno, Nevada. The dates are January 15-18.

Founded in 1922 and incorporated in 1945, the WFA is a nonprofit trade association serving the fair industry throughout the western United States and Canada. The association’s primary purpose is to assist in maintaining the highest professional standards within the fair industry through a voluntary network of individuals and organizations. The primary objective of WFA is to promote the prosperity of fairs through educational activities, training programs and legislative advocacy.

Bill Ogg, executive director of the **Nebraska State Fair**, announced that he intends to resign his position and to assist with the transition to new leadership.

“I was hired in 2020 to ‘right the ship,’” he said in a release. “The 2022 Nebraska State Fair, with record numbers in several areas and positive surveys of exhibitors, vendors and the public, is once again heading in the right direction and full steam ahead. The effort we put in has been both exhilarating and exhausting, and I am ready to invest more time with my family and for myself.”

“We are grateful for Bill’s hard work on behalf of the Nebraska State Fair and **Aksarben Stock Show**. His efforts through the difficulties of COVID-19, our increased attendance and positive financial position are testaments to Bill’s leadership,” said Nebraska State Fair Board Chairman **Bob Haag**.

“Coming aboard in the middle of COVID-19 was so very challenging,” Ogg said. “I’ll always be proud of the celebration of Nebraska 4-H and FFA youth that the 2020 Fair was able to host. That was memorably rewarding.”

2022 edition of The Big E records its second-highest attendance

AT: Ron Gustafson
Special to Amusement Today

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The remnants of Hurricane Ian hurt attendance during the final weekend of **The Big E**, but the 17-day fair still saw more than a million-and-a-half guests pass through the gates, making the tally the second best in the event's history.

Officials reported 1,603,354 came to the 2022 edition of The Big E with six single-day records broken. The overall attendance mark was set in 2019 when 1,629,527 passed through the turnstiles.

"The Saturday (Oct. 1) forecast called for more significant rain than was realized on our grounds, plus there was more rain in other parts of New England," said **Noreen Tassinari**, marketing director for the exposition. "A sunny Saturday would have resulted in attendance in the 170,000 range."

As it turned out, 130,464 came under the less-than-perfect Oct. 1 weather. Sunday, Oct. 2, was cloudy and cool but the 139,362 that came set an attendance mark.

North American Midway Entertainment (NAME) provided a huge midway with more than two dozen spectacular and thrill rides and a kiddieland with nearly 20 attractions. New at The Big E was NAME's 150-foot Super Wheel. Manufactured in Europe by **Ronald Bussink** of **Professional Rides AG**, the wheel travels on 20 tractor trailer loads and features 36 climate-controlled gondolas. The giant wheel required seven tickets to ride.

Other spectaculars included the 360-degree Star Dancer pendulum (**Technical Park**), Super Cyclone roller coaster (**Interpark**), Vertigo (ARM), Wave Swinger (**Zierer**), Speed (KMG) and Delusion (KMG).

Pay-one-price rides (giant wheel not included) were offered Monday-Friday at \$35 per person, \$30 pre-sale. Express POP was an additional \$15. Ride tickets were \$1.50 each with the best value being a book of 50 for \$65 with rides requiring two



North American Midway Entertainment provided the event's midway with nearly 20 attractions. COURTESY THE BIG E

to seven tickets. No midway figures were announced.

The Big E Arena, sponsored by **Truly Hard Seltzer**, included the following acts: **Dropkick Murphys; Unforgettable Fire; Brantley Gilbert** with special guest **George Birge; Nelly; Sublime with Rome; Bring Me The Horizon; Chase Rice & Jimmie Allen; The Happy Together Tour; and Lynyrd Skynyrd.**

The Court of Honor Stage brought a rockin' line-up of acts: **Alley Cats; Modern English; Yung Gravy; KT Tunstall; Everclear; Young@Heart Chorus; The Yardbirds; Canned Heat; The Main Squeeze; Johnnyswim; Buckets N Boards; Sounds of the 60s; Tai Verdes; DJ Jazzy Jeff; Madeline Edwards; LFO & Ryan Cabrera; Boogie Wonder Band; The Entertainer: Music of Elton John & Billy Joel; Jon Secada; All-4-One; ERNEST; Baha Men; Alien Ant Farm; American Authors; and John Waite.** The stage was also the site of Collector Car Live, an automotive event that featured a lineup of collector, classic and custom vehicles.

The E Stage featured fresh sounds of local and emerging talent, offered every day of the fair.

Other daily offerings were "The Big Parade," "Viva Las Circus," Swifty Swine Racing Pigs, "Sahara," "Zultar, the Comedy Fortune Teller," Mobile Glass Studio, the Roaming Railroad and rides and games on the

including the new Sky-High Super Wheel.

The Front Porch was introduced this year inside Gate 5 as a new district for food, shopping and memorable moments. It included several new food vendors.

The Big E's Space Chat Experience took place in The Big E Arena as New England

students made live radio contact with Astronaut **Bob Hines** on the International Space Station. As part of an educational program intended to promote science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities, the Space Chat was an out of this world opportunity brought to students and Big E fairgoers by Amateur (Ham) Radio Operators.

New food vendors included: **Soulfully Vegan; Cha Feo; Riceballs Arancini; Ferrindino Maple Farm; Bakery on Brewer; Sassy's Sweet Potatoes; The Happy Dough Co.; Villa of Lebanon; BoardWok Noodles; The Place 2 Be; Las Kangris Food Truck; Kulfi Ice Cream Taste of Persia; Frankie's Famous Italian Frozen Lemonade; Chick-Fil-A; The West Side Grille Cider Garden; and Ann Maries Candies.**

The Eastern States

Farmers Market and Wine Barn offered fairgoers a variety of agricultural demonstrations, such as spinning and weaving, cooking demonstrations, samples from The Big E Northeast Gold Wine, Cider & Perry Competition, wine slushies and cheese plates in the Wine Café and thousands of 4-Hers & FFA youth participated in competitions and demonstrations.

Each state building along the Avenue of States put its best foot forward to bring the fairgoers an authentic New England experience. **Storowton Village Museum** offered tours of its 19th century buildings, staffed with "villagers" going about their daily routines, as well as historic demonstrations and glassblowing on the Green.

The 2023 edition of The Big E is slated for Sept. 15 - Oct. 1.

•thebige.com

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► News Splash — page 50 / Korea's Ocean Adventure adds Wiegand Fusion Slide — page 52

Polin supplies attractions to Vietnam's re-opened Tropical Paradise

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

NHA TRANG CITY, Vietnam — **Tropical Paradise**, the water park at the newly rebranded **VinWonders Nha Trang Amusement Park** was expanded for the 2022 season. First opened in 2006, the original water park was designed and supplied by **Polin Waterparks**. Initially scheduled to open in 2021, a temporary pause caused by the COVID-19 pandemic delayed plans. The water park recently completed a major expansion with Polin Waterparks being selected to add a number of unique installations to the park. The newly expanded water park held its grand opening on June 8.

Among the new attractions is a specially customized version of Polin's award-winning King Cobra waterslide. Now slender and sleeker, the new version includes a double down and eye-catching colorations. Another standout attraction is the Splash Course — a combination ropes course/water obstacle course. Participants who can get through are rewarded with access to the slide tower that holds an Aquatube waterslide. This particular Aquatube, accessible only through



A multitude of shiny new colorful slides can be seen above, including the Black Hole + Spaceboat combination. The waterpark is situated right along one of the many sandy beaches of Hon Tre Island (below). COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS

the Splash Course, is an enclosed body tube that was manufactured using Polin's state-of-the-art technology UTexture, giving it a unique jungle-like motif not found anywhere else within the park.

Younger children or less adventurous guests can enjoy a themed interactive waterplay structure equipped with climbing nets, water cannons and slides all topped with a tipping bucket that periodically provides a water deluge to guests on the structure.

A Polin spokesperson said: "Thanks to Polin's customer-oriented, flex-



ible and efficient design approach, Vinwonders Nha Trang's expansion promises to transform the water park experience. Polin's award-winning

waterslide King Cobra was customized as a new version for this project and has become the center of attention with its distinctive appearance. The new

expansion will bring unique and exciting experiences to VinWonders visitors."

Following the expansion

► See POLIN, page 50



The newly styled King Cobra slide has a prominent location in the center of the park (above left). Those who negotiate the Splash Course are granted access to a special Aquatube slide (above right). COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS

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Smaller children have an Aquapark Tori waterplay structure all to themselves. COURTESY POLIN WATERPARKS

►POLIN Continued from page 48

sion, the water park now covers an area of 59,000 square meters (14.6 acres) and includes 39 water-slides, a wave pool, relaxation pool, a long sandy beach, and other water-themed activities. Polin products that were added to the original water park include Flying Boats, 4 Pcs Navigatour + 3 Pcs Black Hole + 2 Pcs Rafting Slide combination, Black Hole + Flying Boats Combination, Black Hole + Rafting Slide Combination, Black Hole + Space Boat Combination, Black Hole + Space Shuttle + Rafting Slide Combination, Kamikaze Freefall, Tunnel Freefall, Aquatube + Body Slide Combination, Body Slide, Black Hole + Wave Slide Combination, Body River + Rafting Slide Combination, Mini King Cobra, Multislide Combination, Black Hole + Mini Magicone Combination and the Splash Course

“VinWonders is the biggest theme park chain in Vietnam,” says **Kubilay Alpdogan**, general manager of Polin. “It was truly an honor to be able to work with the group again. We take great pride in the fact that the park chose us as a partner for their recent expansions.”

Originally **Vinpearl Land Nha Trang**, VinWonders Nha Trang Amusement Park park is located on Hon Tre Island (Đảo Hòn Tre or Island of Bamboo in English). The island is accessible from Nha Trang City via the **Vinpearl Cable Car**, a record-setting 10,892-foot long aerial tramway that crosses over the sea. Built by Poma, the system uses seven offshore towers to support a 52mm stainless steel haul cable. A one-way trip takes approximately 15 minutes depending on wind conditions.

While it is possible to take a day trip to visit the park and/or the water park, most guests choose to stay at one of the island’s resorts. All of the resorts on the island are owned by the **Vin Group** and range from private villas to hotels with spectacular views to luxurious bungalows overlooking the ocean. Guests at the resorts have access to multiple amenities, private beaches, restaurants, as well as access to the amusement park and water park. Hon Tre island is known for its amazing beaches of soft white sand, calm turquoise waters, spectacular fauna and flora — including, of course, natural habitats of bamboo, and hospitable and welcoming locals.



NEWSPLASH

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert
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Kalahari Resorts & Conventions has been working with the board of supervisors in the city of Spotsylvania, Virginia, to build a hotel resort there. In July supervisors approved rezoning nearly 135 acres from agricultural to commercial to allow Kalahari to build a new property.

Plans call for a resort with more than 1.38 million square feet of commercial space, a 267,429-square-foot indoor water park, a 10-acre outdoor water park, a 900-room hotel and a 156,278 square-foot convention center.

Kalahari has committed to spend more than \$885 million to build the resort. The company is seeking a loan through a Virginia tourism program that requires the state and county to help cover the costs with tax revenue earned by the resort. In an effort to draw Kalahari to Spotsylvania, the overall agreement includes big tax breaks on revenue generated through the resort over 20 years, amounting to an estimated \$185 million in savings for the resort.

In order for the project to take place, the city and county will need to expand the water and sewer system. Proposed bonds could provide funding for the projects, including \$22.6 million to expand one facility and \$6 million to upgrade another.

The resort — Kalahari’s fifth — would be located along U.S. 1 near Interstate 95, between Washington D.C. and Richmond, Virginia.

The city of Bettendorf, Iowa, is closer to realizing its plans for a new water park. Two casino and game revenue grant agencies have awarded the city \$5 million in grants to be applied to the project. The proposal calls for a new 20,000-square-foot water park with four slides off a 30-foot tower, splash pad, lazy river, lap swimming pool with leisure pool and zero-depth extensions, concession stand and rest room facilities.

Water Country USA in Williamsburg, Virginia, has announced the addition of Riptide Race for 2023. Similar to slides at sister properties **Aquatica Orlando** and **Aquatica San Antonio**, the Dominion version will feature two side-by-side slides. The **ProSlide** dueling pipeline will have riders boarding double tubes atop a 54-foot tower, then race down 520 feet of slide. Multiple low-wall sections or rally points will allow each pair to keep on eye on their competition.

Although not attached to **Busch Gardens**, **Water Country USA** is just a few miles away. Both are **SeaWorld**

Parks & Entertainment properties and share the same clientele. Multi-park ticket options are available to guests wishing to visit both parks.

The city of Bellevue, Nebraska, wants citizens to consider a new water park to replace its aging city pools. The city has four full-size swimming pools but three have closed waiting for repairs. Refurbishment estimates are approximately \$4 million for each pool. **Doug Clark**, the director of public works for the city, has proposed that the city use that money to build a significant water park that can serve the whole region. He has proposed a facility that would have a water park, year-round pool and connected hotel. The entire project would cost the city \$50 to \$60 million.

The city has started an online survey asking citizens if they would support a sales tax to help fund it. The advantage of a sales tax is that other people in the region coming into the city will help fund it.

Clark said he envisioned a public-private partnership, but since this is in the early stages, a hotel or management partner has not yet been established.

The **JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa** just completed the first phase of an \$80 million renovation to coincide with its 20-year anniversary. The next phase of the renovation involves an \$18 million investment that will transform the resort’s pool area, making it more water-park like with the addition of three waterslides. One of the slides, a Boomerango from **WhiteWater West**, will include a transparent horizontal loop and finish with the two-person rafts climbing a near vertical wall.

The pool area already includes five pools and a 1,600-foot-long lazy river. A new family zone will surround the lazy river and have five cabanas, lounge seating, a splash pad, playground and a food truck area.

Adults will have their own area with Sky Island, which will feature an infinity pool, hot tub, four cabanas, lounge seating and fire pits.

A third new area, Sedona Spa, described as a VIP family-friendly sanctuary, will include an infinity edge hot tub, three cabanas, five shaded day beds, lounge and fire pit seating, a waterfall and a stargazing area.

Work on the water park expansion started in October. The plan is to keep at least three of the resort’s main pools open during construction.



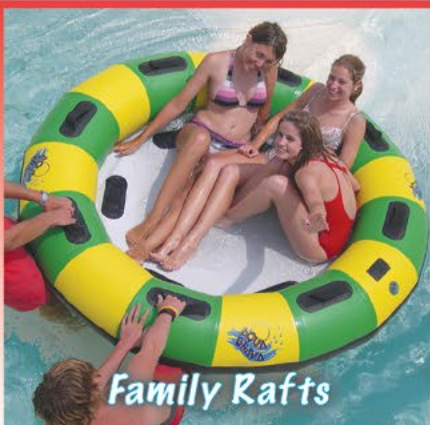
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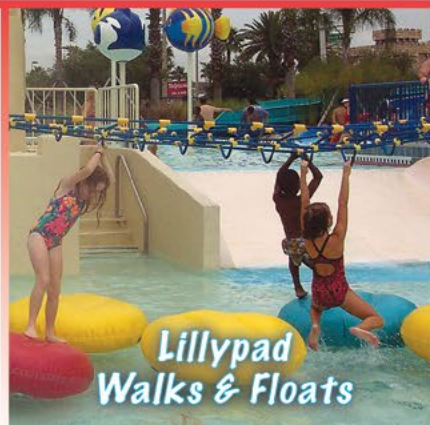
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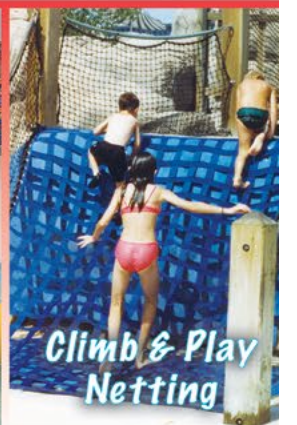
Family Rafts



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Climb & Play Netting

Wiegand updates South Korea water park with new Fusion Slide

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

CHEONAN, South Korea — This past July, **Ocean Adventure** water park opened an impressive fusion waterslide supplied by **Wiegand.Waterrides GmbH** of Germany. With a height of 69 feet, it is the largest fusion slide that Wiegand has ever built.

Utilizing large rafts — more than 8.8 feet across — that can accommodate up to five people, the family slide begins with an enclosed tube chute highlighted with translucent stripes. After completing a 270-degree spiral, riders emerge into daylight and suddenly accelerate as they plummet down a steep drop leading into the largest stainless steel big bang element ever built by Wiegand. This massive U-shaped half-pipe has guests sliding back and forth several times without any braking water accumulation. This guarantees maximum swings, multiple



Guests waiting in line have a perfect view of the rafts negotiating the huge Big Bang element (above). The Double Boomerang (right) fuses Wiegand's Big Bang and Lotus elements into the largest slide the company has ever built. COURTESY WIEGAND.WATERRIDES

moments of weightlessness and more than 15 seconds of action in this spectacular first element. Guests waiting in line on the slide tower have a perfect view of the entire gigantic funnel element.

Eventually, the oscillations subside, and the rafts are funneled into a second enclosed tube emblazoned with nautical images, followed by translucent arrows leading into a second exciting

element — Wiegand's signature Lotus. This steeply rising curve in the shape of a leaf gives guests another brief feeling of weightlessness in a parabolic curve before they are funneled into a third enclosed tube that leads to a runout pool. From the start of the slide to the runout pool, guests will have traversed more than 600 feet of slide.

Loosely translated to "Double Boomerang," the



attraction is the culmination of a slide replacement program that began last year. Older attractions were removed and Wiegand was brought on board to supply new products. Three slides opened in 2021. A three-lane mat racer tumble wave slide that features a series of small airtime drops along its 252-foot length. Another three-lane mat racer fea-

tures a 360-degree helix.

Both of the mat racers are fabricated of stainless steel — Wiegand's forte — but the company can also supply slides constructed of fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) or a combination of both. The final slide is a body bowl attraction, constructed from FRP with translucent patterns which create colorful daylight effects.

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► New S&S President Jason Mons looks toward future — page 56 / NRCMA Progress Report — page 58

Florida amusement industry deals with Hurricane Ian's aftermath

AT: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

FLORIDA. — As Hurricane Ian closed in on the west coast of Florida on Sept. 27, Teresa Rimes, trade show secretary, International Independent Showmen's Association, which has clubgrounds in Gibsonton, Florida, was in Virginia. Her home is in Gibsonton. She had no idea what the situation would be when she returned.

The large, high-end Category 4 storm was in the Gulf of Mexico and looking to pass its eye over the Tampa Bay area, just north of Gibsonton. Tampa Bay officials, residents and volunteers were making their preparations.

Amusement and theme parks in the area, such as **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay**, were in weather preparedness mode.

But later on Sept. 27, it looked like Hurricane Ian would take a more easterly turn. And it did. Its eye-wall hit the barrier island of Cayo Coast near Sanibel and Captiva around 3:05 p.m. on Sept. 28, with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph.

A storm surge with inundation of an unprecedented 12 to 18 feet above sea level was reported along the southwestern Florida coast. The city of Fort Myers was hit particularly hard with a 7.26-foot surge.

The Tampa Bay area had been spared the worst of it.



Flooding at Gatorland from Hurricane Ian was significant enough to cause the park in Orlando to stay shuttered for almost two weeks after the storm.
COURTESY ORLANDO FOX35 NEWS

A reverse storm surge where the sea had actually been sucked out into the Gulf of Mexico had helped the area flooding even though there were still high winds in the area with inches and inches of rain. Streets flooded and some were impassable for a short time.

"We had a lot of rain and wind," Rimes said, regarding her home area just south of Tampa Bay. "But the clubgrounds weren't flooded and neither was the museum."

The **IISA Museum of the American Carnival**, located across the street from the club, houses many historical items from the carnival industry's past. None were damaged. The new canopies installed outside of the museum over some of the exterior exhibits remained unscathed.

"As far as any damage at

my home, my potted plants were missing," Rimes said.

In addition, she had a missing birdhouse that was hanging with others from a wooden pole cemented into the ground in her back yard.

"One of the bird houses was missing," Rimes said. "And this is about it. I have walked all over the neighborhood looking for my pots and for that bird house, but haven't found them."

Rimes said the area was without power for almost two days.

"Since the hurricane, we have barely had any rain," Rimes said.

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay announced that it would close its gates on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 28 and 29, respectively. Depending on what happened with the storm, the park would make an-

nouncements as they could.

By the time the park posted that statement, animals at the park were already making their treks to their safe places. A news clip from a local CBS television affiliate showed the park's flamingoes being led by a park staff member to a room where they would remain and ride out the storm. All the animals were being tended by zoological teams from the park. These teams remained with the animals and rode out the storm with them.

Because of the storm's easterly turn on Sept. 28, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay was spared basically a direct hit from the storm. The park was able to reopen Saturday, Oct. 1.

Hurricane Ian devastated Fort Myers and surrounding areas, such as

Sanibel and Pine Islands. Millions were left without power in the storm's wake. On Oct. 13, the official death toll in Florida reached 108 with most being in that area.

In Fort Myers, a video posted on social media showed the Times Square, a colorful area of shops and restaurants, leveled by the storm. Sanibel, a barrier island dotted with resorts and connected to Fort Myers by a causeway, also was devastated.

Experts anticipate some parts of the area taking years to return to what it was before the storm.

Yet, a family entertainment center in North Fort Myers had already reopened by mid-October after completing repairs from the storm. **Sky Zone Tram-**

► See IAN, page 55

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▶ IAN Continued from page 54

poline Park opened up less than two weeks after Hurricane Ian passed through. Another Sky Zone location, however, was not so lucky. That location was in Fort Myers. It was still closed in mid-October and was not expected to reopen until at least mid-December, according to an employee there.

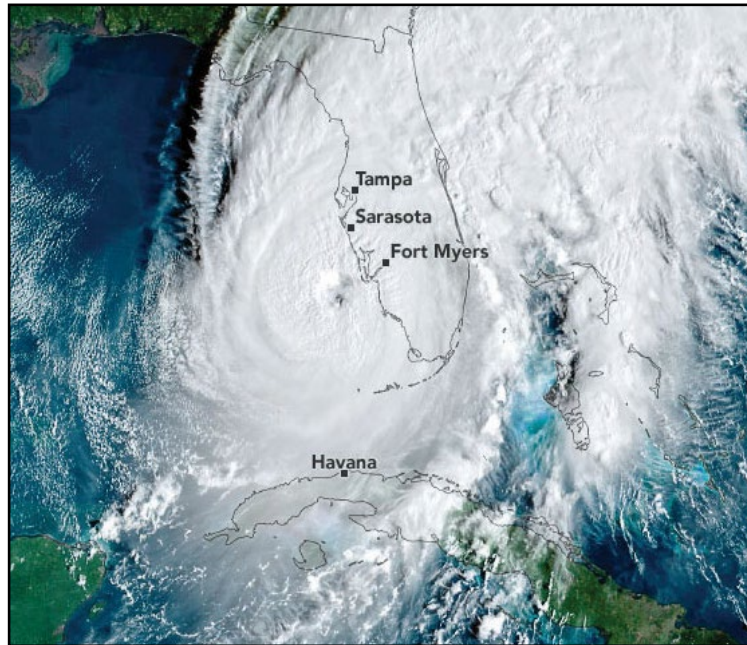
As the storm moved inland and weakened, eventually to a tropical storm, high winds and heavy rains continued. Theme and amusement parks in its path as it crossed Florida moving northeast closed ahead of the storm. **Legoland Florida Resort**, located just southwest of Orlando and east of Tampa, closed Sept. 28 - 30. This included Legoland's water park and **Peppa Pig Theme Park**. Once the storm passed, all properties, except the water park, reopened Saturday, Oct. 1, after debris was cleared and flood waters were gone. The

water park was able to reopen on Oct. 8.

Further north from Legoland but also in Central Florida, **Walt Disney World Resort**, **Universal Orlando Resort** and **Seaworld Orlando** announced closures in preparations for the inevitable as the storm continued its way. The theme parks announced on Tuesday, Sept. 27, they were shuttering for Wednesday through Thursday, Sept. 28 and 29.

Although there has not been an official announcement of damages and/or costs associated with the storm by these major theme parks, the fact that they were mostly completely open for business by Saturday, Oct. 1, indicated no significant damage to the resorts was felt.

Reports of flooding streets and parking lots seemed to ebb quickly. Residents in the resort hotels mostly sheltered in place. Reports of damage to Universal's Jurassic Adventure River Ride surfaced on



At about the time the image was taken on September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian had sustained winds of 155 mph, putting it near the threshold of a Category 5 storm. COURTESY NOAA

Twitter and Facebook with a photo showing a portion of the siding on the building had blown off. Another photo showed a submerged part of a coaster.

There were reports in the area by bloggers of more catastrophic damage, but that was found to be untrue. In fact, some bloggers

stayed in resort rooms that had been booked by guests who didn't show, received a tremendous amount of social media blow back.

Gatorland in Orlando, ended up with more flooding. It took this family-owned facility about two weeks after the storm to get up and running.

Gatorland is situated between two swamps. When flood waters began to pour into the park, the two swamps almost merged.

Before the storm arrived, Gatorland teams helped move many of the vulnerable animals at the park into shelters and into the park's backstage commissary, where teams monitored and cared for them around the clock. The alligators and crocodiles, however, rode out the storm just fine in their watery enclosures.

Fortunately, according to a local news report, there is an eight-foot-tall safety fence that surrounds the entire park that never went under water.

Fun Spot America in Orlando and Kissimmee announced it would be closed on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 28 and 29. On Fun Spot America's Facebook page, officials posted they hoped to be back up and running on Friday, Sept. 30.

They were.



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MARKET WATCH

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 10/14/22	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	84.12	149.78	79.55
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	39.78	62.56	37.78
Comcast Corp./NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	30.05	54.88	28.39
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	94.45	179.25	90.23
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	36.69	56.38	34.58
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	JP:9010	TYO	4715.00	5110.00	3650.00
Haichang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	7.00	8.57	1.53
Lefoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	16.25	19.95	15.40
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	30.64	51.17	26.41
Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.	RCL	NYSE	44.61	98.27	31.09
Sansei Technologies, Inc.	JP:6357	TYO	756.00	926.00	702.00
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	49.37	76.57	40.01
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	19.56	47.24	16.83
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	686.00	900.00	650.00

STOCK PRICES ABOVE ARE GENERALLY QUOTED IN THE FOREIGN CURRENCY IN WHICH THE COMPANY IS LOCATED
 *Dubai Parks and Resorts halted trading on the Dubai Financial Market due to an acquisition by Meraas Leisure and Entertainment LLC earlier this year.

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

BUSINESS WATCH

Falcon's Beyond awarded workplace honor

ORLANDO — **Falcon's Beyond** has been awarded a Top Workplaces 2022 honor by the **Orlando Sentinel Media Group**. The list is based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey administered by employee engagement technology firm **Energage, LLC**. The anonymous survey uniquely measures 15 culture drivers that are critical to the success of any organization: including alignment, execution and connection, just to name a few.

"Earning a Top Workplaces award is a badge of honor for companies, especially because it comes authentically from their employees," said **Eric Rubino**, Energage CEO. "That's something to be proud of. In today's market, leaders must ensure they're allowing employees to have a voice and be heard. That's paramount. Top Workplaces do this, and it pays dividends."

Headquartered in Orlando, Florida, Falcon's Beyond is a fully integrated, top-tier experiential entertainment development enterprise focusing on a 360° IP Expander model.

Leisure travel revenue surpassing 2019 levels

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. hotel leisure travel revenue is projected to end 2022 14% above 2019 levels, while hotel business travel revenue is expected to come within 1% of 2019 levels, according to a new analysis released today by the **American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA)** and **Kalibri Labs**.

The projections are not adjusted for inflation, and real hotel revenue recovery will likely take several more years.

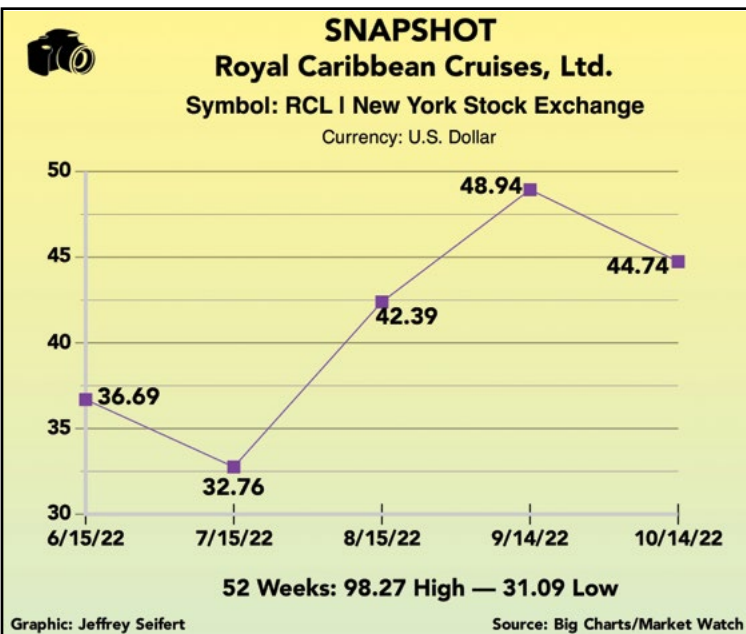
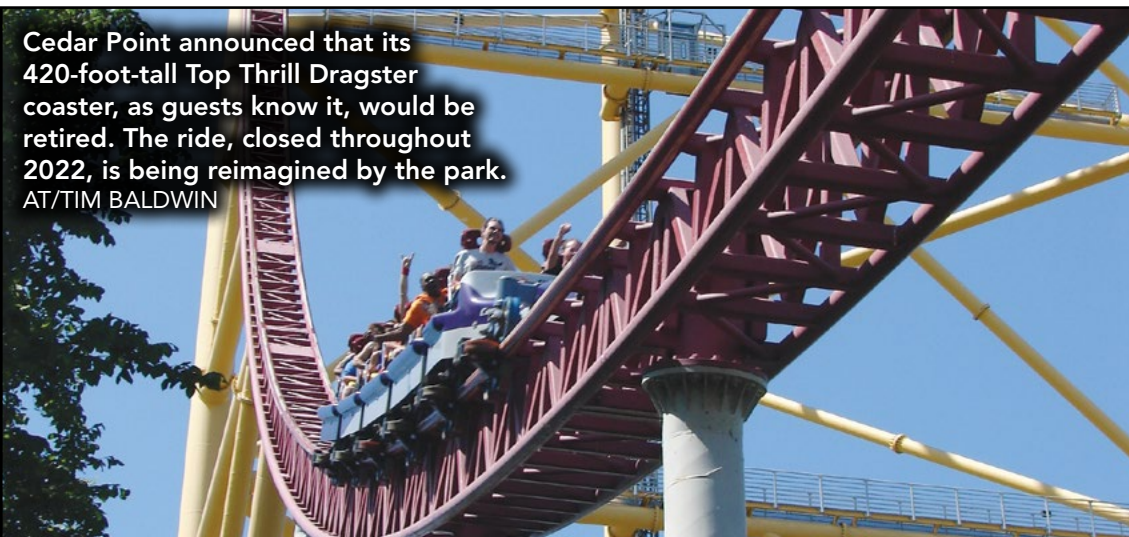
Post-pandemic recovery remains uneven, particularly in many major cities and destinations where business travel continues to lag. Among the top 50 U.S. markets, 80% are projected to see hotel leisure travel revenue exceed 2019 levels, but just 40% are expected to reach that milestone for business travel revenue. Many urban markets, which rely heavily on business from events and group meetings, are still on the road to recovery.

"The hotel industry continues its march toward recovery, but we still have a way to go before we fully get there," said AHLA President & CEO **Chip Rogers**. "That's why AHLA remains focused on working with members, lawmakers and stakeholders in markets that are rebounding more slowly to ensure the full return of meetings, conferences, and group travel in addition to leisure and business travel."

Bowlero shows strong fourth quarter results

RICHMOND, Va. — **Bowlero Corp.** provided financial results for the fourth quarter of and the full annual results for the 2022 fiscal year, which ended on July 3, 2022. Bowlero announced revenue grew in the quarter to nearly \$267.7 million, driven by continued strong growth in walk in retail and accelerated further by significant growth in event revenue. Total revenue grew by 72.2% compared to pre-pandemic performance and by 68.3% on a year-over-year basis. Same-store sales rose by 53.0% relative to pre-pandemic.

"We are very pleased with our performance in the fourth quarter and during fiscal year 2022. We achieved world-class results in our first year as a public company, while simultaneously laying important groundwork for sustained growth. We are excited about the future, and we are looking forward to continuing to provide unforgettable experiences for our guests," said **Thomas Shannon**, founder and chief executive officer.



DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S)	As of 10/10/22	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$5.130	\$1.568
Midwest	\$5.270	\$1.732
Gulf Coast	\$4.897	\$1.562
Mountain	\$5.199	\$1.526
West Coast	\$5.521	\$1.737
California	\$6.489	\$2.064

CURRENCY

On 10/17/22 \$1 USD =

1.0277	EURO
0.8937	GBP (British Pound)
148.72	JPY (Japanese Yen)
1.0051	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.6105	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3877	CAD (Canadian Dollar)

ON THE MOVE

Triotech announced the selection of **Ryan Engles** as business development director — parks. Engles will be responsible for the development of Triotech's position in the amusement and theme parks segment in the U.S.



Engles

"We are excited having Ryan joining the team to help strengthen Triotech's global leadership position in media-based attractions," said **Yannick Gemme**, vice-president of sales and marketing for Triotech. "His experience in business development and marketing as well as his customer focus will be an asset."

Engles has a strong industry experience in developing and selling cinematic attractions such as 4D Theaters and Flying Theaters.

"I'm looking forward to tapping into Triotech's innovative and ROI focused product lines to grow existing relationships and start new ones," commented Engles.

Martin & Vleinckx has appointed **Nathan Jones** as the company's new president.

"We are very excited to have Nathan join the Martin & Vleinckx team" said **Alain Vleinckx**, founder and chairman of Martin & Vleinckx. "Nathan's depth of exper-

tise and respected industry leadership will usher in an exciting new chapter for Martin & Vleinckx that will build on our successful track record in the industry."

As an active contributor and participant within the **Themed Entertainment Association (TEA)**, Jones currently serves as vice president on the Executive Committee, board member on the International Board and chairperson of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility Committee.



Jones

Chuck E. Cheese Entertainment, LLC, announced **Mario Centola** as executive vice president & chief operating officer of international operations and Chuck E. Cheese worldwide franchise development.



Centola

In his new role, Centola joins the senior leadership team and will be responsible for directing the company's growth internationally. He brings extensive experience in the entertainment, theme park and international development space. Prior to joining CEC Entertainment, Centola served as the senior vice president of in-park services at **Six Flags Entertainment**.

Quassy's Ron Gustafson announces retirement

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. — **Ron Gustafson** has been **Quassy Amusement Park's** marketing and public relations director since 2002. However, after two decades with the Connecticut amusement park, Gustafson has announced his retirement from the popular venue.



Ron Gustafson

Gustafson has worn many hats at the park. Aside from being the go-to guy for all things marketing and public relations, he was an educational programs coordinator, photographer and developed some major special events like the Quassy laser lightshow and the Ripley's Believe It or Not Summer Sideshow.

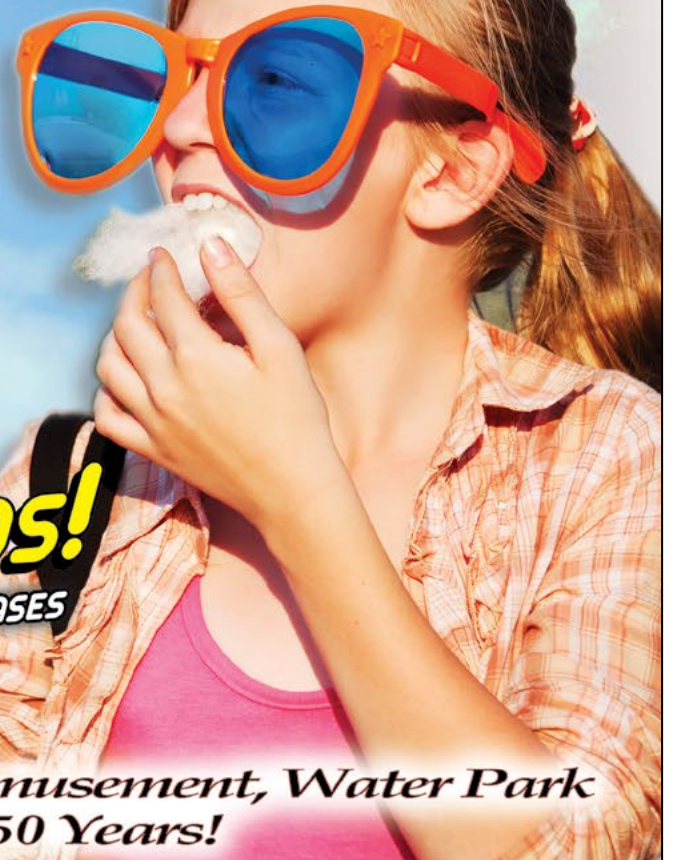
Out of all the Quassy activities, additions and events that he has been involved in, when asked what his greatest memory is Gustafson responded: "Watching the park transition into what it is today: an amusement park and a water park. When I arrived, there was no water park.

"Ron will be missed," said Quassy President **Eric Anderson**. "He was so much more than a marketing director. He was a resource for all aspects of the amusement park world, he helped decide what rides we would purchase, he helped source out hard to find parts, he worked on all custom merchandise and much, much more."

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New S&S-Sansei President and COO Mons looks toward future

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

LOGAN, Utah — **Jason Mons**, newly appointed president and COO of **S&S-Sansei**, is excited about what's on the horizon. With the company's rich history of more than a quarter century, he feels the industry is headed toward great things. One of his goals is to be an integral part of the industry's success, not in just sales but as innovators and working with parks, the enthusiast community and operators to help the business of amusement parks, theme parks and operators reach its full potential.

With 18 years at S&S, he feels he has an emotional connection. Mons sat down with *Amusement Today* to discuss his outlook.

Amusement Today: You're following in the footsteps of Tim Timco. What are your reflections of where he took the company?

Jason Mons: Tim had 40 years in the industry. He started with National Ticket, spent time volunteering with various committees at IAAPA, and owned his own consulting business — because of that, Tim knew everyone. It was an amazing honor to walk with him on the show floor and see all the people he knew professionally and personally. He brought strength to this company



Jason Mons

that we didn't have before to that degree. He brought in a customer-oriented perspective. We communicated very well with our parent company Sansei, and Tim led us through the creation and the building of a brand new [facility] that has allowed us to expand our operations to meet our customers' needs more easily.

AT: What is the position of the company as it has now been handed over to you?

JM: Obviously, the entire industry has been through COVID the past two years. It was great to see everyone back up and operating. [S&S] has weathered that storm and made it through without having to borrow a penny. We are set up now to move forward into the future. That is a fantastic thing to inherit a company that is ready and poised for growth.

AT: S&S has been



Jason Mons oversees a 4D Free Spin from atop the coaster. COURTESY S&S

known for innovation since day one. Stan Checketts came in with ideas not seen before with air-launched technology. The company continued to innovate with its Screaming Swing and roller coaster design. Speak on the importance of innovation to the company.

JM: When you talk about the heritage of so many companies in our industry, almost everybody broke off from somebody else. S&S started completely on our own with Stan Checketts asking "Why? Why can't I do something like this? Why can't I as an adult have the same fun as a kid who is thrown up in the air?" Which was the start of the towers. He created that air system. We turned it on its side and launched roller coasters unlike anything that had ever been seen before. That excitement can't be imitated through magnets or any other means. S&S acquired Arrow in 2002 and the legacy of innovation that they left — from the beginnings of [tubular steel] track through the X project. We are definitely committed to innovation and that is seen today through the Axis coaster. Through our 4D Free Spin, we were able to develop some technologies and incorporate them with existing technologies

to make that a fun and exciting ride.

AT: From the manufacturers' side, what is the industry like now seen through the lens of the global pandemic?

JM: First and foremost, ride suppliers are used to cycles in the industry. It's happened before in 2008. We've seen the ups and downs. This one, of course, completely caught everyone off guard. However, I haven't heard of any ride manufacturer that hasn't been able to weather the storm.

We've come out of COVID, and inflation has hit the United States as well as the rest of the world. We are seeing pressure on labor costs and material costs that we have to respond to. We see labor shortages, and that trickles down into the amusement industry like any other. We're all feeling that together. The nice thing is that S&S has a solid core group of people who are dedicated to the company and dedicated to the industry. I couldn't be happier than to work with these people on a daily basis.

In addition to all that though, a war has broken out. Our European counterparts are feeling more pressure, but there is a shortage of steel and aluminum that we all feel. Luckily in

the U.S., we don't feel those material shortages as heavily.

Coming out of COVID in 2022 is a pent-up demand for rides after so many things were suspended. Contracts are restarted and everyone is essentially starting at the same point. I liken it to driving down a road and traffic getting backed up at a stop light. Once it turns green, we're all starting out together. I don't expect any long-term effects on the supply of rides.

AT: What is your vision for S&S?

JM: My vision is to connect with the industry as a whole — from parks to park guests to enthusiasts. I want to connect with them from a ride perspective as well as emotionally. I want them to know who S&S is and what S&S has to offer the world.

We've increased our social media presence and plan to continue that. While I know people don't buy rides off of Facebook, it gives them the opportunity to understand who S&S is.

We've got to be creative, and we've got to listen to our customers. We've got to provide rides that they want. I haven't been brought in from the outside; I have a connection with the employees and a connection to the heritage. I want to see us carry that on.



In recent years, S&S built an entirely new, ultra-efficient headquarters in Logan, Utah. AT/TIM BALDWIN



MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

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

Canobie Lake, Europa-Park donations arrive at museum facility

PLAINVIEW, Texas — Over the last two months, the **National Roller Coaster Museum** (NRCMA) has been busy! The NRCMA received a track section from the **Canobie Lake Corkscrew** and placed it into its permanent collection thanks to a donation by the park. The ride's iconic Corkscrew element is included in the donation and will have a featured location as the icon for the museum building in the future. The museum accepted the second corkscrew inversion with matching support structure and other key artifacts from the ride.

The Corkscrew started its life at **Old Chicago** theme park as the Chicago Loop. It was Arrow Development's number two and the second coaster built to turn riders upside down twice. The ride was also featured in the 1978 **Brian DePalma** movie *The Fury* starring **Kirk Douglas, John Cassavetes** and **Carrie Snodgrass**.

"This is an incredible opportunity to have an important piece of roller coaster history represented at the museum," NRCMA Historian **Richard Munch** said. "As one of the first four models manufactured at Arrow's Utah plant in 1975, it went to Illinois, then was moved to Alabama and later to New Hampshire. This last piece will have its final home at the museum and is expected to be a major calling card for the facility



Track sections from the **Canobie Lake Corkscrew** (above) is on property at the NRCMA facility in Plainview, Texas. The coaster operated at **Canobie Lake Park** (right) in Salem, New Hampshire, from 1987 through 2021.

COURTESY NRCMA; AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT

on State Highway 194, just northwest of Plainview."

Canobie Lake Park purchased the coaster in 1985 and then opened the ride in 1987 after being granted a height waiver.

"The effort to bring this section of the ride to Texas can't be overlooked. It required five flat beds to move the cars, track and supports, which came with a hefty bill for shipping the equipment 2000 miles from Salem, New Hampshire to the Texas Panhandle," Munch continued.

"Besides the generosity of Canobie Lake's ownership, I am thrilled that our board made this possible, especially with the work of **Gary Slade** and **Hunter Novotny**, and financial sup-

port of **Jeff Novotny**. It's going to be a great billboard to those visiting for the first time, as well as the locals who will finally discover the purpose of this growing facility in Plainview."

The Museum also added a key European addition to the collection. **Europa-Park's** Eurosat roller coaster was restored and donated into the NRCMA permanent collection, courtesy of the **Mack** family. This donation marks the first time a ride vehicle will be added to the museum's collection from outside North America.

"It is truly a blessing for our first donation from Europe to be from the **Mack** Family and from such an iconic attraction," said Jeff



Novotny, president of the NRCMA Board of Directors. "It shows that this is truly an international industry with so many wonderful people who have dedicated their careers to ensuring generations of guests have memorable experiences."

"To see one of the Eurosat trains now exhibited and preserved in the National Roller Coaster Museum — showing visitors a piece of history from Europa-Park — is a special honor and a great remembrance of my father," said Europa-Park

owner, **Roland Mack**.

While construction continues at the museum's main facility in Plainview, Texas, the NRCMA is still reliant solely on the generosity of industry fans and facilities. Unique souvenirs can be purchased at rollercoastermuseum.org/store with the proceeds going to the museum or donations can be made online at rollercoastermuseum.org. Donations can also be made by mail to NRCMA at P.O. Box 5424, Arlington, Texas 76005.



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Golden Ticket Awards' return to in-person event is a huge success

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

"Coming out of the pandemic, this event felt very warm and intimate — it was so nice to visit and talk to colleagues and friends that I haven't seen since 2019," said **Gerald Ryan, Ride Entertainment**.

Attendees at the 2022 Golden Ticket Awards all felt the same. It was a much-needed connection that global circumstances had interrupted. Not since 2019 had *Amusement Today's* Golden Ticket Awards been an in-person networking event.

"There were many industry owners, operators and manufacturers that after a waaaay too long break came together to share experiences and successes," said **Bill Ossim, Zierer**. "The Golden Ticket Awards Ceremony represents the fabric of a rather large industry that operates as a very close-knit group of passionate people creating fun and lifelong memories. The ceremony appropriately recognized many parks that deserve to be called out for their great contribution to our industry."

Attendees came from all facets of the amusement industry. Some were returning regulars while others were first-time attendees.

"With the Golden Tickets being in nearby San Antonio, we were fortunate to be able to attend this event for the first time," said **Sarah Donhauser, ZDT's**. "The experience was so enjoyable, as we were able to visit with other industry friends for several days in a row. Though we all love entertaining guests and making memories for others, it was



Winners showcase their victories following the Golden Ticket Awards ceremony (above).

Attendees who took advantage of the Morgan's Wonderland Camp tour were impressed with the activities the facility was able to provide for all abilities (right).

AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

quite wonderful to have the tables turned where the park representatives were the ones that got to relax and have all the fun! The most special moment though was the awards presentations, seeing several inspiring and very deserving individuals being honored for their excellence. Heartwarming!"

While the **National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives** board and **AIMS International** board met on Thursday, September 8, prior to the start of the event, more than 250 industry professionals were on hand Friday and Saturday for the official event. After picking up cre-



dentials and materials at the JW Marriott host hotel, some opted to enjoy the resort, explore San Antonio or take advantage of a special tour of nearby **Morgan's Wonderland Camp**, a new facility in the hill country that welcomes groups of all abilities to camp and enjoy fellowship together. Several spent much of the day in the first-ever Golden Ticket Golf Tournament.

Soon, the activities began. Shuttles transported attendees to **Morgan's Wonderland** in San Antonio. Immediately, industry pro-

fessionals were taken by the park's beauty and special message. Networking began in earnest, but Mother Nature threw a surprise curveball with an unexpected deluge of rain, keeping many visitors captive in various locations throughout the park. If there is a group of individuals that know how to take weather issues in stride, it is the amusement industry.

"Morgan's Wonderland was an amazing experience (despite the rain), said **Pete Owens, Dollywood**. "The attractions and thinking can

be applied to every park if the effort is made and that was exciting to see in person. The story of its founding and its continued expansion was inspiring, and as the father of a daughter with special needs as well, it was a personally emotional experience."

Keynote speaker **Gordon Hartman** shared the mission of the park over dinner, and countless hearts were touched.

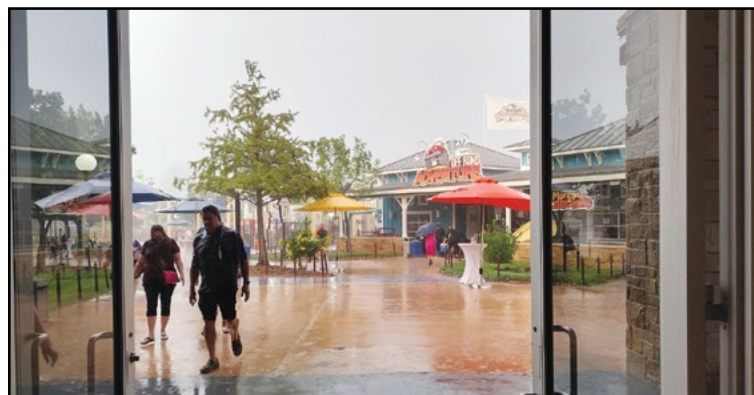
"Morgan's mission — one word — *Inclusivity*," said **Gina Guglielmi, Intermark**. "A park built to accommodate everyone regardless of age, disability or financial obstacles ... a stunning park! I wish I could have seen more of the customized attractions before the deluge of rain hit!"

"The visit to Morgan's Wonderland was a revelation," said **Drew Hunter, Sally Dark Rides**. "I was not familiar with the park, but once I walked in, I could tell it was a VERY special place. The spirit of inclusion for people of all ages and abilities was evident everywhere. All of the Golden Ticket Award attendees were made to feel right at home. And the speech by the park's founder was highly inspirational and so very moving. Visiting the park was an enjoyable, enlightening and very emotional experience."

"What a pleasure to see a park that is totally designed and dedicated to safely serving people of all ages with disabilities," said **Pat Hoffman, The Hoffman Consulting Group**. "I was truly amazed by the efforts it took to produce one-of-a-kind attractions. It was fantastic to see people with disabilities as staff members."

On Saturday, a full day of networking, fun and learning took place at **Six Flags Fiesta Texas**.

"It was wonderfully exhausting for all of us," said Park President **Jeffrey Siebert**. "It was truly an honor and humbling to be chosen as the host location for the first time that all of us could return in person. We hope everyone enjoyed the experiences we had together. At the end of



An unexpected rain shower caused temporary — but memorable — changes to the evening's activities (above left). Breakfast and morning tours at Six Flags Fiesta Texas kicked off the second day of event opportunities (above right).

AT/SUE NICHOLS; COURTESY RICHARD MUNCH

► See **GOLDEN**, page 62



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During the ceremony, Six Flags Fiesta Texas provided the first of many opportunities to see the park's award-winning entertainment. AT/TIM BALDWIN

► GOLDEN Continued from page 60

the day, it exemplifies why we do what we do. We hope our industry representatives had a fantastic time while they were in San Antonio."

Opportunities were plentiful throughout the day. Special behind-the-scenes tours of culinary facilities, haunts and roller coasters — and on top of the park's quarry cliff! — in addition to sampling park food and endless networking conversations kept the day relevant.

A key event to the weekend is the awards ceremony itself, this year held inside the park's beautiful Zaragoza Theater. Industry suppliers were the main presenters during the ceremony. The park also included some of its award-winning entertainment.

"It felt very good getting back together for the Golden Ticket Awards," said **Jack Mendes Jr., Bob's Space Racers**. "It was my pleasure and honor to be a presenter."

"I was honored to be a presenter at the Golden Tickets this year," added **Andrew Mowatt, WhiteWater West**. "It was great to be paired with Jack

Mendes of Bob's Space Racers as a co-presenter. His experience and time in our industry bring so much to the table. Thanks, Jack, for coaching me!"

The ceremony contained a pair of surprises. **Dick Knoebel's Legend** award was kept secret by his own sons, and he graciously accepted it in his signature fashion on stage. Siebert was caught off guard winning the Leadership Award, not knowing he was even nominated.

Paul and Alethea Roads, founders of **Wonderland Park**, were also recognized as Legends for their work with small-park owners. The award was accepted by their daughter, **Paula Borchardt**, and her husband, **Paul Borchardt**, the current owners of Wonderland Park.

"We are so glad we made it to the Golden Ticket event," Paula Borchardt said. "We enjoyed the beautiful tribute to Mother and Daddy. I'm so glad three of our four girls were there to see the slide show and touching tribute. Thank you for all the hard work that goes into this event."

"I have so many memories as a kid going to Wonderland," said **David Dean, Joyland**

First annual GTA golf tournament a success



The first annual Golden Ticket Awards Golf Tournament took place at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort. COURTESY RON GUSTAFSON

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The morning of registration of the Golden Ticket Awards, several foursomes hit the fairways and greens of the **JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort**.

"This is the first year we did the tournament formally," said **Walt Bowser** of **Baynum Amusement Solutions**. "We had done it just as a group of people one year, but this is the first time we've ever done it to tie it to the awards show and make it a fundraising opportunity for the **National Roller Coaster Museum and Archives**."

Bowser served as organizer of the golf outing and was pleased with the participation.

"I think we originally thought we might get 15 to 20. At its peak, we had 32 signed up," he told *Amusement Today*. "I think we had 29 that played.

Amusement Park. "That's where we all got the bug!"

Following the last of the awards, attendees moved to dinner in a cooled outdoor venue. Conversations were plentiful, so much so that many opted to continue even though a concert performance and fireworks finale

We were very happy with the turnout."

The competition was light-hearted and all in fun. When asked who won, Bowser laughed and said, "I should remember, but I don't. Probably someone who cheated."

One of the fundraising opportunities was an auction of the original artwork used for producing souvenir posters (also a fundraiser) for the NRCMA. **Andrew Mowatt** of gold sponsor **WhiteWater West** took the prize following a bidding battle with a top bid of \$700.

"It was fun seeing people have fun with the bidding and jacking the price up," laughed Bowser.

Online donations were continuing to come in, so a final figure on funds wasn't determined as of press time. Bowser hopes to see the event and tournament grow so that in the future a goal of around \$2,500 can be a target.

were available with special seating for attendees. Those still eager to enjoy the park were given an opportunity for late night rides, beverages and snacks.

"I have wanted to visit Six Flags Fiesta Texas for many, many years, said **Susie Story**, communica-

tions consultant. "The park has a legacy of exceptional theme park entertainment and even more so under Jeffrey's leadership. I am also a huge fan of Halloween, so it was an extra treat to see the park fully decorated

► See GOLDEN, page 63



Two Legend awards were given. The first was to Wonderland Park founders, Paul and Alethea Roads (above left). The second recipient, Dick Knoebel, was caught off-guard as his sons had kept it a secret (above middle). Industry suppliers and professionals gathered for a presenters group photo following the ceremony (above right). AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

2022 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS**► GOLDEN**

Continued from page 62

for Fright Fest. The Zombie Prom was funny, and I was amazed by the talent in Monster Mash Bash. The Frightful Finale fireworks were among the best I have ever seen. I think it's easy in our industry to think we've done or seen it all, and my experience reminded me I haven't! Kudos to everyone at the park. I really do look forward to returning."

"We had an absolute blast with the tours, award ceremony, meeting new faces and catching up with familiar ones!" said **Fofo Laskaris Backhaus**, Mt. Olympus Water & Theme Park. "We were able to learn so much from Morgan's Wonderland and Six Flags; it's amazing to be able to get

Jeffrey Siebert was a second surprise of the evening, winning the Leadership Award, unaware that he had been nominated.

AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

another perspective."

"Like with any industry event, when we have time to sit down and talk — as in Thursday, Friday and Saturday — with industry peers, there are always things of value shared at discussions," said **Ron Gustafson**, Quassy Amusement Park. "Of particular interest was how other parks were dealing with the labor situation and rising costs of doing business."

► See GOLDEN, page 64

**Miss, Mr. Golden Tickets assist with ceremony**

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — During the Golden Ticket Awards ceremony, three young professionals assisted *Amusement Today* with the orchestration of the presentations. These individuals were hand-selected to serve at the event as Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets. *AT* asked these host facilities to be represented by those who exemplified the industry's cornerstones and consistently exceeded job expectations. With the organization of awards and envelopes backstage, Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets aided in keeping the proceedings flowing smoothly.

James Brown currently serves as a ride operations lead at **Six Flags Fiesta Texas**. Brown is an avid roller coaster enthusiast and enjoys visiting parks with his family. He's in his senior year at **Westlake High School** and anticipates studying mechanical engineering in college.

Blake Dixon is tour guide supervisor at **Natural Bridge Caverns**. Having earned the Eagle Scout award, Dixon is regarded by management as an outstanding employee, a man of character and a true leader. He has been with Natural Bridge Caverns since January of 2021 and moved up quickly. He is already someone the park sees in future management posi-



Blake Dixon of Natural Bridge Caverns, and **Sylvia Merring** and **James Brown** from Six Flags helped facilitate the ceremony as Miss and Mr. Golden Tickets.

AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

tions at Natural Bridge Caverns.

Sylvia Merring currently serves as an operations managerial supervisor at Six Flags Fiesta Texas. She has worked in Aquatics, Admissions, Rides, Park Service and Entertainment. She currently holds an **Ellis & Associates** Lifeguard Instructor license and a CPO certificate. She is pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology at **Texas A&M San Antonio** and hopes to advance her career in operations in theme parks or water parks.

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2022 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS



Many attendees gathered for a fun group photo during one of the behind-the-scenes tours. COURTESY JUSTIN GARVANOVIC

"Both parks were fantastic! Gordon Hartman's story about Morgan's Wonderland's was very inspirational and is definitely a park I will visit again next time I am in San Antonio. Six Flags Fiesta Texas has always been one of my favorites and Jeff and his staff knocked it out of the park!"

—Gerald Ryan
Ride Entertainment



The JW Marriott was a beautiful host hotel for the weekend event. AT/TIM BALDWIN



The unexpected rainstorm became more memorable as many attendees donned dry shirts provided by Morgan's Wonderland. COURTESY RICHARD MUNCH

"The Golden Ticket Awards are incredibly special. You can see that by the enthusiasm of everyone who attends, this year especially as many people made a point to take part before heading directly overseas for Expo Europe. The awards show the personal side behind the accomplishments of industry colleagues, parks and manufacturers, and they've become one of the must-attend events of the year."

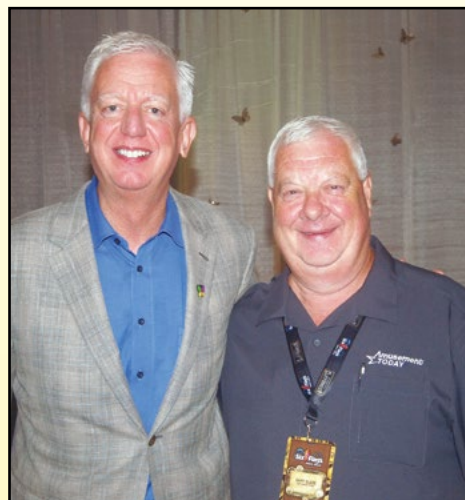
—Susie Storey



Networking began as soon as industry friends arrived at GTA check-in at the JW Marriott. COURTESY RON GUSTAFSON

"The highlight of the GTAs was reconnecting in person with friends, colleagues and customers. Sharing business COVID survival stories during that tumultuous time and feeling a sense of optimism for the future with parks and suppliers. The camaraderie was heartfelt."

—Gina Guglielmi
Intermark



Morgan's Wonderland Founder Gordon Hartman meets with AT Publisher Gary Slade. COURTESY RON GUSTAFSON



The Morgan's Wonderland Camp staff demonstrated how accommodations are made on the facility's zipline. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

"The evening at Morgan's Wonderland was very enlightening and will definitely turn into some great new innovations. It was a very inspiring facility. We all have a lot to learn from their operation."

—Bill Ossim, Zierer



GTA attendees were the first riders that morning on Fiesta Texas' new Dr. Diabolical's Cliffhanger from B&M. COURTESY JUSTIN GARVANOVIC

"The most memorable moment for me was during the awards ceremony when Paul Borchardt and family accepted the award for the Road's contributions to the industry and for their Wonderland Park. The Roads and Borcharts have been dear friends for nearly 40 years — truly deserved!"

—Pat Hoffman
The Hoffman Consulting Group



Golden Ticket Awards Communications Coordinator Tim Baldwin speaks on the Leadership award. AT/JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

►GOLDEN
Continued from page 63

I was speaking with some colleagues that the last time we saw one another was IAAPA 2019. It's just so long ago, so it really was quite special to have everybody 'back together' at the event," said William Buckley, Irvine-Ondrey Engineering.

"I had a wonderful time connecting with amusement industry colleagues and celebrating the best of the best at this year's Golden Ticket Awards in San Antonio!" said MJ Brewer, AIMS International. "Amusement Today went over the top with this one, and it was definitely worth the wait after two years of being virtual. The awards show highlighted some of the most unique parks, rides and attractions around the globe, and it was fun to visit some amazing local properties during the event: Natural Bridge Caverns, Morgan's Wonderland Camp and Theme Park, and of course Six Flags Fiesta Texas, who did a fantastic job hosting the awards show. All in all, it was a fabulous event and I've already added it to my must-do list for next year. Looking forward to Dollywood in 2023!"

"At Dollywood, we are all very excited to be hosting Golden Tickets next year," noted Owens. "I have been every year since 2004 and each host has raised the bar from the humble beginnings of the first few Golden Tickets. Certainly, Jeffrey and his team at Fiesta Texas made a cosmic leap this year, so we have our work cut out for ourselves."

"To me, the return of the Golden Ticket Awards was another step toward normal as we all continue to move past the lingering impact of COVID-19," said Storey. "All of us are making tougher decisions about budgets, business travel and how to use our resources. Having the event return, and so many colleagues and friends attend reminded me how important the awards are to us, on a personal and a professional level."

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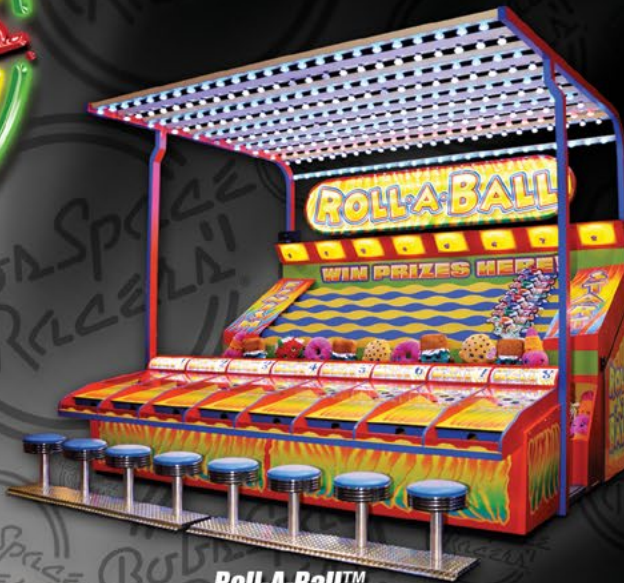
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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

▶ Northwest Coasters tackles construction obstacles — page 70 / Kennywood security procedures — page 78

Enhanced bathrooms address visitor convenience, guest experience

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Not every park visitor plays games or rides the roller coasters. Not every park visitor will get wet on a water ride or indulge in a funnel cake. But every park guest will stop into the restroom.

Most parks would like to upgrade and modernize their restrooms. But as it is challenging to market, nor does it generate any revenue, investments in restrooms are sometimes difficult to make.

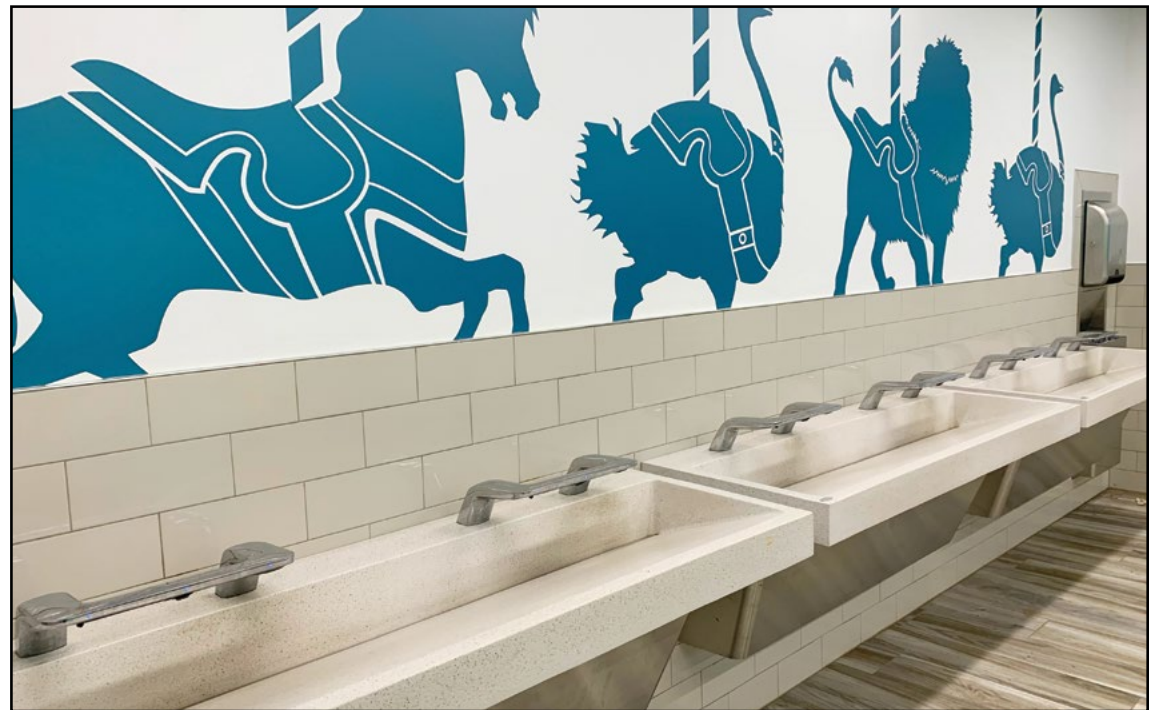
“Park restrooms are a critical part of our focus on enhancing the guest experience at all levels. It’s an automatic to upgrade these as part of park-wide improvement projects as we did for the **Kennywood** 125th Celebration this year. At **Kennywood** and **Idlewild**, this involved investing in refurbishing some historic buildings to elevate a familiar — and important — part of the park and to do so in a way that would be notable for our guests,” said **John Reilly**, COO, **Palace Entertainment**.

Idlewild & SoakZone in Ligonier, Pennsylvania, made a bold statement with recent upgrades to its main restroom facility with an applaudable creative flair.

“The restroom had not had many significant upgrades since the early 1980s, and the Idlewild team knew it was time, especially during **Palace**

Entertainment’s full potential planning that has seen park upgrades and renovations taking place across the company’s portfolio of parks,” said **Jeff Croushore**, marketing, Idlewild. “The building was completely gutted, and they started fresh by building new walls and installing new plumbing, lighting fixtures, stall partitions, toilets and sinks. Heaters were installed to make the building more comfortable during the shoulder seasons, and roll-down doors keep the building secure overnight. The project was a chance to set this restroom apart from the traditional facilities found in most amusement parks and offer moments of surprise and delight.”

By providing more than just cleanliness, the guest experience is embellished with simple moments. Idlewild is pleased with its design inspiration. Deciding on a carousel theme, the ladies room offers a carousel horse centerpiece, photography of the park’s classic 1931 **Philadelphia Toboggan Company** Carousel and wall art featuring carousel animals, plus a brief story of the Brass Ring — all in the bathroom. The men’s room carries on the theme with the same carousel photography and incorporates molding around a storage cabinet stylized



Idlewild gutted the main restrooms and completely redesigned them. A carousel motif enhances the guest experience by surprising guests and exceeding expectations.
COURTESY IDLEWILD

after the park’s carousel. It’s much more than just attention to simple details. It’s a surprising “moment.”

The renovation at Idlewild was done almost entirely in-house. The team was able to make individual stalls larger than before. Although this reduced the total number, it clearly gave much more space to the customer. The number of handicap-accessible stalls increased as well — with five in the ladies, and two in the men’s — all incorporating individual sinks and baby changing tables.



A separate family restroom was incorporated with an adult changing table. Small touches, like hooks for users to hang bags or jackets, were incorporated, as well as shelving to place small things like cell phones or souvenir cups that the guest may be carrying around throughout their day.

“The renovation is one of the ‘attractions’ of the

park that continues to garner the most positive feedback from guests more than a year later,” said Croushore. “And the park has plans to upgrade the remaining park restrooms over the next few years.”

Sister park **Kennywood** upgraded one of its facilities this year; the historic

▶ See **BATHROOMS**, page 68

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LEGACY RIDE SPARE PARTS



Redesigned bathrooms at Knott's Berry Farm includes consistent theming to the area and family restrooms. COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

► BATHROOMS

Continued from page 67

structure (originally known as the "Ladies Cottage") is among the oldest in the park. The midway and the restrooms were part of a multimillion-dollar renovation this year that also included the park's front gate area and parking lots — the entire arrival experience was the center of attention for upgrades in 2022.

Bill Linkenheimer, local resident and regional representative of American Coaster Enthusiasts, noticed the changes immediately: "I'm thoroughly impressed with the extensive renovations to Kennywood's oldest restroom. The outside of the structure appears nicely restored, retaining its historic appearance, while the inside was completely gutted and redesigned into a modern facility that includes family restrooms along the side of the building."

Knott's Berry Farm recently introduced a new approach to a restroom facility. The renovation saw communal sinks with gendered restrooms on each side. Family restrooms were located on the outside.

"It's located right next to our Bear-y Tales ride and The Factory Store, so with the newest restrooms, we kept the theming consistent," said Kristan Saldivar, public relations.

Nine months ago, Traders Village in Grand Prairie, Texas, renovated its bathrooms in the center of the flea market, which has a rides area.

"We made the decision to renovate our 40-year-old restrooms in conjunction with the creation of the Prairie Playland amusement park," said Steve Thomas, amusement park director. "We resourced materials that would be easier to clean and good-looking fixtures that would require less maintenance as well as match our theming. We also added a custom-

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► See BATHROOMS, page 69



Knott's Berry Farm's redesigned bathrooms feature communal sinks between the men's and women's rooms conserved space with a modern look.
COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

► BATHROOMS

Continued from page 68

Painted mural of our logo to help incorporate the building with the area instead of being an eyesore. An added bonus was that our guests have become more conscious of the facilities, and they have required less cleaning by the staff."

Since being acquired by Cedar Fair, Schlitterbahn has seen upgrades to its restrooms.

"We knew the importance of quality restroom amenities from guest feedback and their positive responses confirmed we hit the mark," said Ayla Lambert, communications manager, Schlitterbahn. "Our guests were vocal in their appreciation of the upgrades that were made throughout our park's restrooms. We have several updates planned in our 2023 capital plans, including new restrooms, and look forward to sharing with our guests."

If upgrading restrooms is an industry trend, it is one that can be applauded by 100 percent of guests.

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Northwest Coasters tackles a multitude of construction obstacles

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

LEWISTON, Idaho — As commonly told by many professionals, some businesses entered the amusement industry by accident. Or to be more specific — personal relationships. Kevin Messick, founder and owner of Northwest Coasters, is just such a person.

Messick's first company was K and G Construction LLC. Established in 2006, the company offered general construction, but in the last 10 years has seen a shift to public works and commercial projects. Through "somebody who knew somebody," Messick was introduced to Fred Grubb, founder of Rocky Mountain Construction. As fate would have it, Messick began working on wood coaster projects.

Establishing Northwest Coasters as a sister company



Dr. Diabolical's Cliffhanger was the third project Northwest Coasters worked on for Fiesta Texas. AT/TIM BALDWIN

was legal advice he received. "When you start into this, insurances are different," Messick said. "Liabilities are different. My attorneys said we couldn't do it through K and G [owing to] life safety."

On Jan. 1, 2016, Northwest Coasters became a reality. Although work had been done in the previous year on the first installation of an S&S 4D

Free Spin coaster, under partnership with Grubb, the sister company was now poised to navigate the construction and repair of roller coasters.

Following the success of the coaster at Six Flags Fiesta Texas, Northwest Coasters was called upon for projects at Tampa's Lowery Park Zoo and

▶ See COASTERS, page 71



Construction on the B&M coaster took place in the center of the park during operating days. COURTESY NORTHWEST COASTERS



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► COASTERS**Continued from page 70**

Kolmården in Sweden on the RMC Wildfire installation. Messick and his team soon learned that in addition to the extremes of seasonal weather conditions, the amusement industry can present some specific challenges for construction.

"Of all our jobs, the one in Tampa was one of our most challenging," Messick told *Amusement Today*. "We had to remove a sky ride, and it went over all these animal exhibits. We had to pull a [support] pole out of the middle of an aviary and not lose any birds! A few of those birds were the only ones in the world. It's the only job I've ever been shut down on because the rhinos were mating."

Messick finds those challenges to be one of the interesting aspects of the amusement industry.

"There are so many

different factors. That's what's fun about it," he said. "It's a unique environment and all the things you get to see."

Northwest Coasters has had projects throughout the United States and has an impressive portfolio of clients.

An estimated 90 percent of Northwest Coasters team are local to the Idaho location. The size of the team varies, depending upon the needs of the ongoing projects. The coaster division can pull in more as needed from the K and G Construction crew.

Northwest Coasters recently finished two projects in Texas. In addition to a new dive coaster from **Bolliger & Mabillard** at Six Flags Fiesta Texas (Northwest Coasters' third project at the San Antonio theme park; see *Amusement Today*, August 2022), a project many years in the making at Six **Flags Over Texas** is test-

ing and undergoing commissioning for a spring opening.

The latter project had numerous challenges.

"It started out great, but then COVID hit. It shut us down," Messick explained. "Track construction was about 95 percent complete to that point. On that project, we were doing the dirt, concrete and the ride. Since COVID, supply problems are a challenge. We've had to learn how to adapt."

During the COVID shutdown, park management at Six Flags re-evaluated the project and pivoted to upgrade to a turntable station that would more than double the ride's capacity. However, the redesign continued to add challenges to the installation.

"That is such a tight site," he noted. "I don't know how many times they tried to make that

► See **COASTERS**, page 72



Aquaman Power Wave, a long-in-the-making project now in testing, has triumphed through COVID, design changes, a confined ride site and supply shortages.

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RDI Technologies Inc. acquires Fastec Imaging Corporation

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — **RDI Technologies, Inc.**, a global provider of vision-based vibration analysis solutions, announced it has completed the purchase of privately-held **Fastec Imaging Corporation**, a leading global supplier of digital scientific high-speed imaging systems. RDI's acquisition of Fastec adds new customers, talent, and intellectual property and it enables RDI to accelerate its product development initiatives. The transaction follows **SFW Capital Partners'** strategic investment in RDI in February 2022.

"Our Motion Amplification solutions, strengthened by Fastec's high-speed expertise and technologies, will give customers the ability to see more and do more than traditional technology allows," said **Dr. Jeff Hay**, CEO of RDI Technologies. "As we continue to invest in building the industry's most comprehensive portfolio of vision-based vibration analysis solutions, we look forward to creating new opportunities and driving innovation with Fastec."

"We are excited to join the RDI team in delivering even greater value to our customers, partners and the high-speed camera market," said **Charles Mrdjenovich**, president and CTO of Fastec Imaging, who will remain a senior technology executive in the combined company. "Fastec's unique high-speed expertise and technologies combined with RDI's scale and market leading Motion Amplification solutions will unlock growth potential and accelerate time to market, empowering large and small enterprise customers with world-class visualization technologies."

Non-contact high-speed cameras can measure and analyze motion and detail not captured by the human eye for deeper insight into process characteristics, material strength and durability, and component visualization. The high-speed scientific camera market is expected to grow by double-digits annually, according to recent studies.

Fastec's team will join RDI and its technology will integrate into RDI's product roadmap, while continuing to offer Fastec's high-speed cameras to the Manufacturing, Condition Monitoring, Science and Engineering, and Mining markets. Founded in 2003 and headquartered in San Diego, Fastec Imaging high-speed camera solutions complement RDI's suite of Motion Amplification solutions, helping customers increase asset visibility, drive efficiency, and capture more comprehensive data for faster decision making.

•rditechnologies.com

► COASTERS Continued from page 71

ride fit. There is a foot on each side as far as clearances. We don't want to infringe on other areas. We couldn't finish the pool until we had everything on the outside done."

Messick compared the recent San Antonio project to the second installation partnership with the park, RMC's first single-rail coaster: "With Wonder Woman, we had great access. When we were doing Dr. Diabolical [the B&M], we had to have security out there and hold the people while we had a piece of track brought in. Everyone was really good; the guests would wait and be patient. We didn't have anyone get upset. [Being in the middle of the park] didn't slow us down like I thought it might."

Many guests are intrigued with the construction process and didn't find

it an inconvenience to be momentarily delayed.

"We did a façade of a pizza place and redid the whole exterior. We had to make a tunnel for all the customers to go in. Their sales went up 17 percent while we were doing construction," Messick told *AT*. "Because people are curious. They wanted to see it."

Northwest Coasters has two major projects lined up for next year, but until the projects are announced, he couldn't speak about them, although he said they would be fun but would definitely have challenges.

With his beginnings in residential construction, Messick is pleased to see the growth of both of his companies.

"I like the commercial side," he said. "That's why the coasters have been such a good fit for us because it is all commercial. [Those projects] have plans, and I have specs."

•northwestcoaster.com

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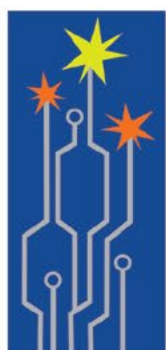
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Pennsylvania Ride Safety Advisory Board holds quarterly meeting

AT: B. Derek Shaw
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HARRISBURG, Pa. — Representatives from the amusement industry and community volunteers selected at large met at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture headquarters in early September for a Pennsylvania Ride Safety Advisory Board meet-

ing. Input from this body is used to help the Bureau of Ride & Measurement Standards determine its course of action on a particular ride approval process. (All communities are in Pennsylvania.)

Walt Remmert, director of the bureau updated board members on the department's (bureau's) sta-

tus on education and public outreach for registering hayride attractions. The bureau began reaching out to Pennsylvania's agricultural groups starting April 2022 with a letter and an information packet explaining what a hayride attraction is and the steps being taken to bring operators into compliance. To date they

have interacted with dozens of individual operators and several agricultural trade organizations/groups.

In July, Anthony Catalano was hired as a new amusement ride quality assurance safety inspector for the bureau. Previously he worked for Nonweiler Amusements, Lehighton.

There were eight ride

and attraction potential approvals to come before the advisory board. Three were major modifications for Kennywood Park, West Mifflin. This was for the park's Kangaroo ride (Aero-Affiliates/Premier Rides) and also The Steel Curtain (S&S Worldwide) and Thunderbolt (National Amusement Device) roller coasters.

Two approvals were a variation of an already approved Go Kart, EKG Kart and Duo Kart for OTL Karts, at Urban Air locations that are coming to multiple Pennsylvania communities. (The first one will be in Lancaster.) Another approval was granted for an overhaul of a zipline attraction at Camelback, Tannersville. This included updating and adding two additional lines for a total of four lanes for a 4,000-foot zip, via ZipFlyer LLC.

A 42-inch open body slide from Avalanche Waterslides, Inc. for the Mechanicsburg Boro Municipal Pool, a brand-new railroad, manufactured by Swanee River Railroad Company for Roba Family Farms, North Abington and a four-seat, solid foundation, VX4 VR Cinema Platform for the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium, manufactured by Beijing Leke VR Technology Company Ltd. All were tentatively approved by the department and received affirmation recommendations from the board.

Hersheypark announced that it is enhancing its fall/Halloween attractions by adding four new walk-through attractions (that opened mid-September). This was offered by a trio of Hersheypark staff members along with a presentation.

Steve Gorman with Waldameer Park & WaterWorld, Erie, Pennsylvania, announced a new water attraction coming to his park in 2023 from ProSlide. It is a rocket blast water coaster with three saucer sections.

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3. Amusement Industry educational partners are back by popular demand! **Ellis & Associates (E&A)**, the leader in aquatics risk management

and safety training, will be delivering the Aquatics Track. Additionally, **International Ride Training (IRT)**, the industry experts in ride operator training, will be creating and delivering new educational content for the Operations Track and the **Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)** will be coordinating the Carnival Track curriculum and courses.

4. The new Academy of Amusement Risk Management, Safety & Security (AARMSS) returns this year. Specifically designed for experienced amusement industry safety and security managers, AARMSS features exclusive courses that fit into four distinct pillars: Safety, Security, Risk Management and Emergency Management. AARMSS applicants must have an OSHA 10 (or greater) card and must submit proof of at least 36 months of experience in a safety and/or security management role. The two-year academy prepares

students to sit for the new Certified Amusement Safety & Security Associate and/or Professional certification exams. Space is limited to just 25 applicants.

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10. There will be opportunities to sit for exams for all levels of the four prestigious AIMS International certifications (Inspection, Maintenance, Operations and Aquatics) during the safety seminar. Applications are available at aimsintl.org/certification.

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Kennywood updates security procedures for Phantom Fall Fest

WEST MIFFLIN, Pa. — Gunfire erupted around 10:46 p.m. Saturday, September 24, at the **Kennywood Amusement Park**.

Witnesses said the shooting occurred in front of the park's popular Musik Express ride and sent parkgoers diving for cover and running to the exits. Police said several people were

injured when they were apparently trampled while attempting to get out of harm's way.

Allegheny County Police Superintendent **Christopher Kearns** said an altercation occurred and the alleged assailant pulled a handgun and started firing.

Police are investigating how the weapon got into



the park. All Kennywood employees and guests must pass through metal detectors at the entrance gate and all backpacks and coolers are subject to

inspection, according to the park's website.

As the park continues to collaborate with law enforcement on their investigation, it shared details about new and ongoing security enhancements that will be in place for the duration of its popular Phantom Fall Fest event.

•Increased Police

Support: In addition to Kennywood's security team, the park doubled the number of police officers contracted through local law enforcement agencies for each night of Phantom Fall Fest. There is a more visible police presence at the entrance and throughout the park. Kennywood leadership is more clearly visible in uniform red jackets, as well.

•Park teams have cut down trees along the fence line bordering Route 837 to improve sight lines. New flood lights and security cameras were installed for better monitoring and ongoing security patrols in that area have been significantly increased.

•Guests age 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years of age (with valid ID) to enter the park at all times during Phantom Fall Fest.

•With the weapons detection system working as designed since its installation this spring, the park's prior screening system has been removed to eliminate guest confusion. New signage is being installed to inform guests they are entering a security screening area. Though the new system is able to screen bags and individuals via cameras and metal detection to identify those in need of further inspection, the park has implemented additional spot checking of bags as a precautionary measure.

•Only bags within the dimensions of 8" x 5" x 1", as well as medical and diaper bags, are permitted.

•Masks that cover some or all of a person's face are not permitted to be worn by any guest after 6 p.m. The only exceptions are surgical masks or N95/KN95 masks as recommended as a precaution against COVID-19. If masks of this nature are worn, they must be free from additional coverings including but not limited to fake blood, makeup or coloring.



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IAAPA FEC Summit

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iaapa.org/events/connections/summit/fec-summit-2023

NAARSO Safety School

January 28 - February 3, 2023
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
naarso.com/safety-seminars

2023 IISF Trade Show & Extravaganza

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International Ride Training Ride Camp

February 5 - 9, 2023
Charlotte, North Carolina
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Pennsylvania Amusement Ride Safety Seminar

February 28 - March 2, 2023
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
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Amusement Expo International

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Las Vegas, Nevada
amusementexpo.org

IAAPA Expo Asia

June 13 - 16, 2023
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iaapa.org/expos/iaapa-expo-asia

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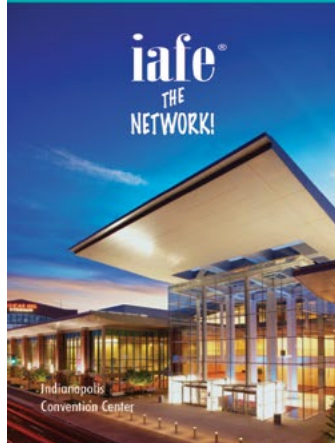
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