

INSIDE:
Cedar Fair's CEO
bullish on Calif.'s
Great America
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Immersive land raises the bar for park theming Harry Potter crowns makeover of Universal Studios Hollywood

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. — For thousands of *Harry Potter* book and movie fans in Southern California and beyond, the arrival of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios Hollywood (USH) happily ended five years of anticipation.

In fact, many who were lucky to have purchased the advance (and sold-out) tickets had camped outside the park's entrance in hopes of being the first to set foot inside the new themed land. So when the Wizarding World's gates finally swung wide early on the morning of April 7, the surge was at once physical and emotional as the crowd flooded faux snow-

capped, costume character-populated Hogsmeade Village.

The darkly majestic Hogwarts Castle, set appropriately against an overcast sky, both loomed and beckoned — a brooding, 200-foot-tall magnet promising not only new experiences but the coming-true of so many popular fiction-inspired dreams.

Despite the cloud cover, it was clearly one of the sunniest days in the career of Larry Kurzweil, president of USH. He could hardly contain his enthusiasm as he welcomed *Harry Potter* film stars Warwick Davis (Professor Filius Flitwick), Tom Felton (Draco Malfoy), Evanna Lynch (Luna Lovegood), James and Oliver Phelps (Fred and George Weasley), and the Hogwarts Express conductor onto a

makeshift stage to officiate the Wizarding World's unveiling.

"Today is a very exciting and historically significant day for us," Kurzweil said. "This incredible event to celebrate the opening of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter marks the pinnacle of years of hard

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Hogwarts Castle — the 200-foot-tall centerpiece of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter — was aglow with fireworks and lighting effects during its VIP preview on April 5. Film composer John Williams conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic during the ceremony.
COURTESY UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD



Kings Dominion opens season with new Mondial thriller Delirium is second of its kind in North America



AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

DOSWELL, Va. — To kick off the 2016 season, King's Dominion added a pendulum type flat ride to the delight of its visitors. Delirium is located in the Candy Apple Grove section of the park on a piece of land formerly occupied by Shockwave, the TOGO stand up roller coaster that closed last August after a 29-year run.

The 115-foot-tall attraction accommodates

Kings Dominion's 2016 season opener included this new Mondial thriller, Delirium. The ride is only the second of its kind in North America.

COURTESY KINGS DOMINION

up to 40 guests each time with a 90-second ride cycle from start to finish. The ride swings and rotates to 120 degrees with a moment of hang time at the highest ride cycle point. Delirium is painted in a bright orange, red-and-blue. The red and blue theme continues on the queue canopies.

The Mondial ride (Revolution as the company refers to it) was brought in by Leisure Labs, LLC, the U.S. ride broker for the Netherlands-based company. Bob Dean, president of Leisure Labs, has a long standing association with the park and their parent company. "I have been calling on Kings Dominion for almost 29 years now, as a rookie in the industry, so a long relationship

▶ See DELIRIUM, page 6

NEWSPAPER

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NEWSTALK

EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

In the news



Slade

In this issue, *Amusement Today* presents its annual Park Preview Guide — highlighting various industry projects that will be opening in time for, or during, the 2016 summer season. You'll find it on pages 10-18.

Thanks to staffers Jeffrey Seifert (parks and attractions) and B. Derek Shaw (carnivals), this year's listing is the biggest

ever with 382 entries from around the world.

The list includes attractions at 145 North American facilities and 49 traveling shows or cruise ships. Internationally, 188 facilities from Algeria to Wales made the list.

As always, this compilation can also be found archived at amusementtoday.com for the next year as a easy reference tool. So, if you find yourself traveling to Vala's Pumpkin Patch in Gretna, Neb., or to Sideland in the Czech Republic, AT has you covered on the attractions that are making news this year.

Also making news is AT staffer Dean Lamanna, who has been named the publication's new Social Media Editor. Along with his normal print editorial duties, Dean is ramping up the electronic media postings on AT's Facebook and Twitter accounts — and the response has been immediate and enthusiastic, with large numbers of new followers joining our social media pages every day.

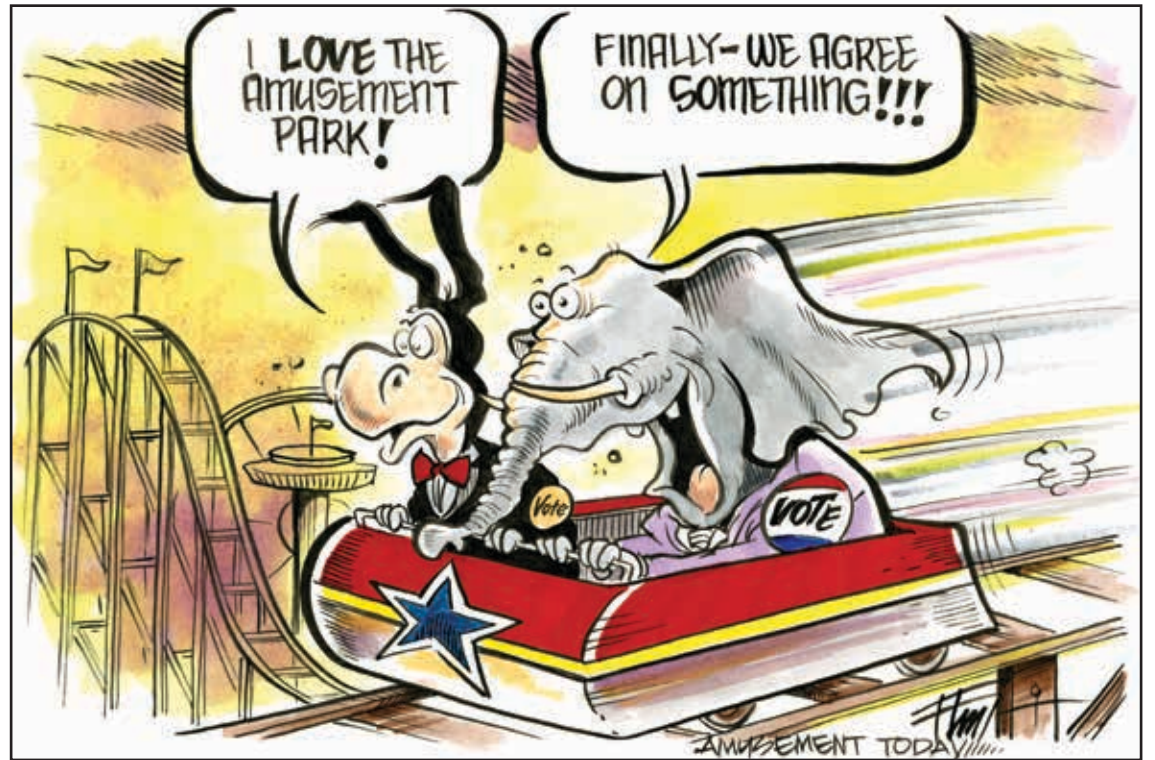
If you have not visited us on Facebook and Twitter lately, you're missing out on additional, sometimes offbeat news items and plenty of fun. So please take a few moments to check in with us online and "Like" us to see AT in your newsfeed. Our Facebook and Twitter pages are easily accessed through the corresponding icon buttons at amusementtoday.com (just under the masthead, right side).

Meanwhile, AT graphics whiz John Robinson has been implementing changes to AT's online version of our print edition through our newspaper partner, Olive Software. The development of the AT app is about one month away from rolling out to our paid print subscriber base.

And finally, planning and coordination are well underway on the 2016 Golden Ticket Awards, scheduled for Sept. 9-11 at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio. Look for complete details on this exciting event to be released near the end of May.

Kudos to these AT team leaders, and to all of our readers, for making *Amusement Today* your amusement industry NEWS leader!

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



INDUSTRY OPINION: Andrew Mellor, amellor@amusementtoday.com

Contrasting times in the Middle East

It was interesting to hear recently from a fellow industry writer about the FEC sector in the Middle East and how this is shaping up at the moment.

As a key part of the continuous, seemingly unstoppable development of shopping malls in countries throughout the region, the FEC sector has enjoyed enormous growth during the past 10 years and more as the combination of retail and entertainment continues to prove extremely popular with the local populations and visitors.

But things have, apparently, slowed somewhat in the past 12 months or so, with challenging political times and the much lower price of oil in particular impacting on the sector, leading developers to be more cautious. Growth is still happening and new FECs are opening and being planned, but at a considerably slower rate than previously.

Investments are still being made by the big operators but it is no longer mainly in the more traditional territories; other areas and countries are coming into play as operators look to new opportunities in as yet relatively untapped markets and also seek to generally spread their wings.



Mellor

This is, of course, in sharp contrast to the developments taking place in Dubai at the moment, specifically with the unprecedented Dubai Parks and Resorts projects. I don't think there has ever been a situation where a company has opened three major theme parks — as well as a host of other facilities — all at the same time. But this unique occasion is not far off with the openings of Legoland Dubai (including a water park), Motiongate Dubai and Bollywood Dubai all set for October, along with Riverland Dubai and the Lapita Hotel.

There is talk of additional theme park development, too, as Dubai looks to capitalize on the sector as a key element in its bid to attract 20 million visitors by the year 2020 — today, the figure is approximately 12 million. On the face of it, that would appear to be a challenging prospect but there is no doubt that the initial phase of Dubai Parks and Resorts will go a long way to helping attract those numbers. They are expecting more than five million visitors in the first year, but exactly how many of these will be visitors to the region remains to be seen. I guess it's a case of "Watch this space."

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2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

Karen Oertley, AIMS International

For **Karen Oertley**, a career in the amusement industry began in 1978 when she took a job at *Amusement Business* where she would eventually become publisher and editor-in-chief of the live entertainment news-weekly. Today, Karen applies her vast industry knowledge, experience and relationships to her position as executive director for **AIMS International**, the non-profit association dedicated to improving amusement safety through leadership in education. She has served on several IAAPA committees, written countless articles on the industry and has been a featured speaker at various industry events. Karen has a love of travel, family and friends, the outdoors and for her hometown of Nashville. Her efficiency and leadership most certainly contribute to her success.



Enjoying time together in Vancouver are (at the front): Chuck and Karen Oertley and (back of table), John and Sherry Wood.

Title:
Executive Director.

Number of years in the industry:
I started working at *Amusement Business* in May of 1978, so that would be almost exactly 38 years. My first IAAPA convention was in Atlanta, 1978.



Oertley

Best thing about the industry...

Everyone who is asked this question says it's the people. It is the people, lifelong friendships and shared experiences. Also, whenever you meet someone and tell them what industry you work in, they always respond with a smile. That about sums it up.

Favorite amusement ride...

Back to the Future (RIP).

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

In some sort of entertainment or hospitality business.

Biggest challenge facing our industry...

Safety is the No. 1 priority in the industry, and I think guest behavior is the biggest challenge to safety.

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

In parts of the world where weather dictates seasonal operation, the opening of a park signifies summer, endless possibilities, vacation, and FUN! Year-round parks get to celebrate all year long.

Favorite pizza topping...

I usually go for a good white pizza.

The view from my office window is...

Trees and a creek, my front yard.

All-time best road trip...

It's been a while, but when I was in college eight of us packed into a van, drove from Illinois to the Grand Canyon, took a raft trip down the Colorado River, and returned home across Route 66. I think we ran out of gas more than once.

It's May. My favorite summertime drink is...

Tanqueray & Tonic can be quite refreshing!

The song that always puts me in a good mood is...

Most anything sung by Al Green or Stevie Wonder.

When I need to decompress I go to...

The mountains or the beach.

The best thing about living in Nashville is...

It's a great place to come home to.

Three things on my "to do" list this week are...

Planning next year's classes in Orlando for our 2017 Safety Seminar with our Education Committee and Holly Coston AIMS' Seminar Manager, remembering to check in 24 hours before my Southwest flight back to Nashville, and meeting with our board president, Timo Klaus, who is in Orlando this week from his home in the Netherlands.

In one word describe Lady Gaga...

Smart.

The magazine I find myself reading most often is...

The New Yorker.

The last time I rode a bike was...

A few weeks ago.

Coollest animal at the zoo...

The sea lions at the Central Park Zoo seem to have the most fun of all the animals.

The ring on my cell phone is programmed to...

Whatever was preset on the phone.

Favorite place to people-watch is...

I love watching people and families experiencing all the attractions at an amusement park.

It is 9 p.m. Where can we typically find you?

Most weekdays you'll find me on the couch with the TV on and an iPad on my lap.

The longest I have ever gone without sleep is...

At least 24 hours, but a long time ago. I like my sleep!

The first concert I ever went to was...

The Young Rascals at the old Madison Square Garden in New York.

Favorite outdoor activity...

Hiking. I'm on the trail with friends almost every weekend.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Roller Coaster Museum

COMPILED: Richard Munch



MAY

•**1911:** During the evening of May 6 a fire at **Riverview Park**, Detroit, Michigan initiated heavy losses for the resort. The fire started in the canoe sheds on the Detroit River adjacent to Belle Island, damaging yachts and other vessels as it spread rapidly into the interior. A large portion of the park was laid to ruin, including the **Riverview Hotel**, the dance pavilion and vaudeville theater. Some parts of the park's scenic railway were burned, as well as other ride structures before firefighters stopped the onslaught. Thousands were in the park and in the theater when the fire broke out, creating a small panic as the public fled to the local streets surrounding the park. Word of the fire spread and a great throng came out to watch the flames. The estimated loss was more \$130,000.

•**1912:** **Riverview Park**, in Detroit, Michigan, reopened for the season on May 4. After a limited 1911 season due to the previous fire, the reconstructed park was publicized as the "Beautiful New Park" which included a new auditorium to replace the theatre and dance pavilion lost a year earlier. To bring more attention to the rebuilt park, the **Riverview Park Company** management dedicated the new Auditorium to the people of Detroit. Constructed of steel, concrete and brick, it covered an area of 30,000 square feet and was, at the time, one of the "most pretentious amusement structures in Detroit." While safe from future fires, it would not survive the political turmoil that would eventually close all amusement entertainment at the foot of the Belle Island Bridge in 1927.

•**1923:** **Arlington Beach Amusement Park**, in Arlington, Virginia, opened on May 30 near Highway Bridge (close to the present 14th Street Bridge), directly across from Washington D.C. Construction was rushed up until its opening (it was to originally open May 19). The location offered the only public bathing beach in the area, with lighting for night swimming in the Potomac River, as well as a dance pavilion, merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, and many other features. The park's only roller coaster would be installed in 1924. Arlington Beach Park's downfall was likely attributed to its location adjacent to a burning dump and two airports, wherein the property was acquired in June 1929 for airport expansion. Today the park essentially lies at the bottom of the Yacht Basin, directly in front of the **Pentagon**. Ironically, a 1923 brochure stated: "In all the world, no view like this."

•**1956:** With **Disneyland's** tremendous success during its first year of operation, management announced on May 12 that an additional \$2 million was earmarked for expansion of its Anaheim, California, property to help handle the increased daily attendance, then approaching 4 million annually. In June, some of the new rides that would open during the second year were announced, including the Disneyland Skyway, the Rainbow Caverns Mine Train Ride, the Indian Village and War Canoes, Storybook Land and Tom Sawyer's Island. In the press release, it stated "In keeping with **Walt Disney's** policy, the park will continue to expand and refine its operation to offer unparalleled entertainment to its millions of visitors each year."

•**1998:** A new roller coaster, Roar, opened May 2 at **Adventure World** (later rebranded as **Six Flags America**) in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Designed by **Michael Boodley** and built under **Clair Hain's** supervision, it would be **Great Coasters International's** second major wood roller coaster and first project for the **Six Flags Corporation**. The tight action-packed twister topped out at 95 feet high, with a curved first drop of 85 feet, utilizing 3,291 feet of track. As the park's second wood coaster, it had an immediate impact on attendance and created a tremendous buzz amongst coaster enthusiasts. A similar version, affectionately called Roar West, opened the following May in Vallejo, California.

► DELIRIUM

Continued from page 1

exists. The same lengthy relationship exists with Cedar Fair — the park's parent company. The direct relationship between Cedar Fair (Paramount Parks at the time) and Mondial started many years ago with Canada's Wonderland's purchases of multiple Mondial rides," Dean said.

FAST FACTS

Name/Park

Delirium/
Kings Dominion
Doswell, Va.

Height/Swing

115 feet structure height;
riders swing 120 degrees
during the 90 second ride

**Capacity/
Height Restriction**

40 riders per cycle;
approx. 600 pph/54 inches

Supplier

Mondial World of Ride,
Switzerland, represented
by Leisure Labs LLC, Fla.

Opened

March 2016

This is not the first time a Mondial ride has been installed at the Virginia theme. In 2012, WindSeeker, a high flying swing ride, was added to the ride line up.

The only other place to experience this ride is outside the United States.

"Canada's Wonderland is the only other Mondial Revolution in North America," said Dean. "This Cedar Fair park has four Mondial rides Delirium (Revolution); Wind Seeker; Top Scan and Splash Over."

Construction started last November and finished just in time for opening day March 25. "It was a fast process," said Katelyn Sherwood, public relations and communications manager for Kings Dominion.

Dean added, "It's always tight at the end, but it went very smoothly. The staff at Kings Dominion is awesome."

Sherwood said response to the new attraction has been well received. "So far, so good. Everybody loves it. People

don't realize how much hang time you actually get." Dean added his thoughts as well, "The ride is already very large, and the park staged it beautifully. Delirium delivers a lot of visual impact, is programmable as to seating rotation and swing height and has proven itself over many years. Cedar Fair has an eye for quality rides. Many parks would have opted for a less expensive and lower quality alternative. Cheers to Cedar Fair!" said Dean.

The opening of Delirium marks our continued commitment to providing those thrills for the entire family to enjoy," says Pat Jones, vice president and general manager of Kings Dominion. "Delirium is a unique, exciting ride unlike any other in our park and it's a fantastic addition to Candy Apple Grove."

Additional upgrades were made to that area, including a renovated restroom complex and the addition of a shaded garden seating area.



Sherwood



Jones



Standing an impressive 115 feet and seating 40 riders per cycle, Kings Dominion's new Delirium, from Mondial, swings thrill-seekers 120 degrees up on each side of the center structure during their 90-second ride. COURTESY KINGS DOMINION



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with the successful opening
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► POTTER

Continued from page 1

work and the beginning of a new generation of Universal Studios Hollywood. With over 75 percent completely reimagined, [it] is an entirely new theme park destination...."

The new land is the largest USH improvement within the six-year, \$1.6 billion NBCUniversal Evolution expansion plan greenlit by the Los Angeles City Council more than three years ago. In addition to the theme park, the plan encompasses new studios, offices, retail and hotel space.

The April 7 ceremony was the climax of a week-long Wizarding World celebration at the park, with Kurzweil having already hosted a spectacular April 5 evening media and VIP preview party — complete with fireworks, phantasmic projection-mapping across Hogwarts Castle, and live orchestral music conducted by award-winning Hollywood composer John Williams with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Filmmaker and longtime resident USH creative consultant Steven Spielberg joined the top brass from Universal Parks & Resorts and neighboring Warner Bros. Studios to acknowledge the park's achievement. The normally competitive studios have worked closely and very successfully over the years to bring this and other *Harry Potter* attractions — Warner Bros. holds the screen rights to the J.K. Rowling book series — to three-dimensional life at Universal's parks stateside and abroad.

Stealing some of the park honchos' spotlight during the preview was Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who, as a former member and president of the city council, has championed the mammoth expansion and reinvention of USH since before he took his current office in 2013.

"In Los Angeles, tourism is surging; we've set records each of the last five years and we're just getting started," Garcetti said. "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter... is monumental in expanding our city's global reach.

"I'm proud to see this game-changing world-class attraction open. [The park's] epic transformation will create new jobs, stimulate hospitality revenues and make our economy stronger."

Wizardry in the details

Taking its inspiration not only from the best-selling novels and beloved characters but



The gateway to Hogsmeade Village (left) leads to a world themed to the smallest detail, including its food offerings, such as the savory Beef, Lamb & Guinness Stew (above). COURTESY UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD



Among the VIPs attending The Wizarding World of Harry Potter's April 5 preview were (from left) Larry Kurzweil, president, Universal Studios Hollywood; Kevin Tsujihara, chairman and CEO, Warner Bros. Entertainment; Ron Meyer, vice chairman, NBCUniversal; Eric Garcetti, mayor of Los Angeles; and Tom Williams, chairman and CEO, Universal Parks & Resorts. COURTESY UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD

the stylized production design of the hit Warner Bros. film series, The Wizarding World of Harry Potter is an impeccably detailed real-world interpretation. It is faithful to the visual landscape and historic British sensibilities of the fiction and films, with Hogwarts Castle serving as its iconic focal point.

Upon entering the six-acre land through an archway, the cobblestone streets of Hogsmeade bustle with a vitality akin to a quaint local village: merchants hard at work, a train conductor welcoming new arrivals and a pub packed with hungry patrons. It's an environment unto itself but for the invading guests eager to experience it all.

Of course, no new land within a theme park would earn its place without rides. The Wizarding World has two custom-designed attractions that provide both cutting-edge and traditional theme park fun, and each represents a "first."

The signature ride, Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey, is housed within the imposing Hogwarts Castle. The multidimensional experience features a groundbreaking robotics system that moves four-person vehicles in synchronization with elaborate filmed action sequences and visceral special effects.

The ride differs in some cosmetic and technical ways from its predecessors at Universal's theme parks in Orlando, Fla., and Osaka, Japan — most notably, it is the first such Harry Potter attraction in the U.S. to utilize hyper-realistic 3D-HD. For this updated adaptation, guests sport Quid-ditch-inspired 3D goggles as they embark on the journeys experienced by Harry and his friends, spiraling and pivoting 360-degrees along an elevated track.

The Wizarding World also is home to the first outdoor roller coaster at USH: Flight of the Hippogriff. This scenic family steel coaster, manufactured by Mack Rides of Waldkirch, Germany, skirts Hogwarts Castle and overlooks the San Fernando Valley. Guests enter the attraction through the Care of Magical Creatures grounds and Hagrid's pumpkin patch, where unearthly animal sounds can be heard in the distance while approaching to the coaster.

Back in Hogsmeade Village, a variety of eclectic, window shopping-only storefront facades accurately captures the craftsmanship and aesthetics of the Harry Potter movies. They include Dogweed and Deathcap, seller of exotic plants and flowers; Madam

teractive windows throughout the themed land, can be purchased.

•**Owl Post** — a fully functioning post office where visitors can mail postcards and letters with a Wizarding World stamp postmarked from Hogsmeade.

Magical munchables

The detail with which the Wizarding World resonates extends to the traditional English fare it offers at several themed eateries, including the rustic, musty rafter-filled Three Broomsticks tavern and Hog's Head pub. And all of it can be washed down with the ubiquitous Butterbeer, an alcohol-free, butterscotch-flavored beverage.

At Three Broomsticks, which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, sample entrees include Bangers & Mash (grilled English sausages with mashed potatoes and minted peas), Shepherd's Pie (ground beef and vegetables topped with potatoes), Beef, Lamb & Guinness Stew, and Fish & Chips.

For dessert: decadent treats such as Butterbeer Potted Cream and Sticky Toffee Pudding.

The adjoining Hog's Head pub features original draught beers and spirits created exclusively for the land, including Hog's Head Brew, Dragon's Scale, Wizard's Brew and Fire Whisky.

J.K. Rowling herself offered an appreciative toast to USH for its brilliant realization of her work.

"I am delighted to see The Wizarding World of Harry Potter brought to life in a way that is so close to what I imagined when writing the books," the author said.

•universalstudioshollywood

Puddifoot's, a tearoom serving sweet treats; Tomes and Scrolls, a specialty bookstore; and the self-explanatory Ceridwen's Cauldron Shop.

Actual retail venues also abound. Some highlights:

•**Dervish and Banges** — a general store stocking supplies for those attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. On display is *The Monster Book of Monsters*, which snarls at passersby.

•**Gladrags Wizardwear** — a place for fashionable apparel, hats and accessories. Prop replicas from the 2005 film *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* are displayed here.

•**Honeydukes** — a shop filled with colorful confections, including Bertie Bott's Every-Flavour Beans, Cauldron Cakes, Fizzing Whizzbees and Chocolate Frogs.

•**Ollivanders** — an interactive experience located within a dusty shop filled with floor-to-ceiling boxes of wands. Here, the Wandkeeper engages guests in magic as each wand selects its wizard. Traditional and interactive wands, which operate 11 in-



Flight of the Hippogriff, a steel family coaster from Mack Rides that has been themed right down to its "antiqued" footers, is the first outdoor coaster at the movie theme park. It offers scenic views of Hogwarts Castle and the San Fernando Valley. COURTESY UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD

New race park comes to central Pennsylvania

Autobahn franchise extends their footprint to nine

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

LEMOYNE, Pa. — Autobahn Indoor Speedway, a suburban Maryland-based company, opened its first Pennsylvania indoor high-speed go-kart track in late February. The 54,000-square-foot building has a 48,000-square-foot European-style racetrack. Ride equipment consists of 24 adult plus 10 junior Formula One-inspired vehicles. The adult karts are capable of reaching speeds of up to 50 mph. The junior karts for ages 8 to 12, can go up to 25 mph. Both electric karts are from Italian manufacturer OTL Elektrokart.

Savannah Waye, assistant general manager, explained details of this racing experience. "The adult races are 14 laps each and take about 10 minutes to do. The junior races are 12 laps and take about the same time. We are geared toward racing and being family oriented. Our track is really easy. It is also really fun. This one is really good for the kids, so it makes it easier for them." What makes the track European style racing is that it is a very technical track with a good mix of corners for skill testing.

The most popular racing format at all Autobahn tracks is the "Arrive and Drive" program. This allows customers to arrive individually or in small groups and race. Others who visit are looking to be part of a racing league. Autobahn will help facilitate those requests.

Each driver must be licensed for the day. Waye explained the process. "The li-

cense is good for the equipment rentals we provide, helmets, and head socks for those that don't have their own. If people do have their own, [it has to be] full-faced and DT certified or Snell certified. They still have to get the license though. The license also gives them online scoring, where they can go on our website to check out all their scores and their points, their times for each race that they did and it also gives them monthly e-mail offers. It's really easy to get. All you have to do is pay the \$6.00. You don't have to go through any course. After you buy it, you just have to watch a quick two-minute video that just goes over all the rules, safety — those kinds of things."

Waye explained the difference between Autobahn Indoor Speedway tracks and many competitors' tracks. "We are more family oriented. Most other karting facilities have extras in their facilities; they have restaurants, arcades, bowling alleys. We are more geared to just the racing. We try to make sure that that's the best experience in racing that we can provide for the public. We want to make this a world famous experience." Autobahn also helps facilitate customers who want to join leagues.

"At all of our tracks we have different track layouts, so none of the layouts are ever the same," Waye said. "If we are here for three years, the track could change two or three times, maybe more. There's always something we can change and something we can do better."



Autobahn Indoor Speedway Lemoyne, located in the Harrisburg, Pa., metro area, is run by Savannah Waye, assistant general manager, and Jeff Witmer, general manager.
AT/B. DEREK SHAW

In addition to the track, Jeff Witmer, general manager, described a few of the other amenities at the metropolitan Harrisburg location.

"We have a large meeting area. We can do corporate

events, team building events and birthday parties." Autobahn is open year round, seven days a week, only closing on Christmas.

Witmer talked about the history of the company, going

back to June, 2013. "The first track was in Jessop, Maryland, the second track in Jacksonville, Fla., and the rest just came along. (The Jacksonville location offers two tracks.) (We) plan on doubling in size this year." Savannah Waye talked about the other tracks, "We also have more locations in White Marsh, Maryland; Memphis, Tennessee; and Birmingham, Alabama. We are also getting ready to open one up in West Nyack, N.Y., in the Palisades Mall, another one in Tucson, Ariz., and another in the Manassas Mall in Manassas, Va., and one in Hadley, Mass. That one is at a mall as well."

Competitors include K-1 Speed with 35 locations nationwide and Pole Position with 14 locations.



The checkered flag means the end of each race. This is the ninth Autobahn the company has opened. The metropolitan Harrisburg facility has a 48,000 square foot European-style racetrack. The 24 adult and 10 junior Formula One-inspired electric karts are from Italian manufacturer OTL Elektrokart. Four more Autobahn courses are scheduled to open later this year. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

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CANADA

British Columbia

Revelstoke Mountain Resort, Revelstoke...Brandauer Mountain Coaster

Ontario

Canada's Wonderland, Vaughan...Skyhawk — Gerstlauer Sky Roller; Flying Eagles — Larson Flying Scooters; VR experience on Thunder Run coaster

Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington...Wattman Trains Maxi XT Train

Prince Edward Island

Shining Waters Family Fun Park, Cavendish...Buccaneer Bay Bullet — Zierer Tivoli coaster relocated from Crystal Palace

Quebec

Canyon Sainte Anne, Beaufort...Soaring Eagle Zipline

Granby Zoo, Granby...WhiteWater SuperBowl, Body Slides

La Ronde, Montréal...Gravitor — Zamperla Air Race; Phoenix — Larson Flying Scooters; Le Vampire Backward — Backward train on B&M inverted coaster; New Revolution — VR experience on Goliath coaster

Super Aqua Club, Point-Calumet...ProSlide RocketBlast + Flying Saucer

GUATEMALA

Mundo Petapa, Guatemala City...Zamperla Watermania, Jumping Tower, Windstarz, Merry Go Round

MEXICO

Distrito Federal

Six Flags Mexico, Mexico City...Justice League Battle for Metropolis — Sally Corp, Oceaneering and Alterface interactive dark ride

Nuevo León

Bosque Magico, Guadalupe...Policías y Ratones — Zamperla spinning mouse

Quintana Roo

Ventura Park, Cancún...Hurricane — relocated steel Zyklon or Galaxi

UNITED STATES

Alabama

Alabama Adventure, Bessemer...Zamperla Jump Around, Jumping Star, Mini Teacup

Lake City Amusement Park, Guntersville...new park; Cyclone Coaster — Ital International Super Cyclon; Orient Express — Wisdom kiddie ride

Spring Valley Beach, Blountsville...ProSlide 3x Twister

Arizona

Keepers of the Wild Nature Park, Valentine...Speciality Vehicles/Chance Rides Tramstar LFT

Legoland Discovery Center, Tempe...Zamperla Magic Bikes

Wildlife World, Litchfield Park...Family Roller Coaster — Chance Rides family coaster; Soaring Eagle Zipline; ARM Vertigo; Larson Flying Scooters

Arkansas

Eureka Springs Tram Tours, Eureka Springs...Speciality Vehicles/Chance Rides Tramstar

Fast Lane Entertainment, Lowell...E&F Miler family coaster relocated from Zonkers, Kansas

California

Boomers, Fountain Valley...R&R Creative rehab and theming

Boomers, Fresno...R&R Creative rehab and theming

Boomers, Irvine...R&R Creative rehab and theming

Boomers, Upland...R&R Creative rehab and theming

California's Great America, Santa Clara...Mass Effect — Electronic Arts interactive 4D holographic theater

Castle Park, Riverside...R&R Creative new ride area theming

Disney California Adventure, Anaheim...Luigi's Rollickin' Roadsters — choreographed flat ride; Soarin' Around The World

Disneyland, Anaheim...Star Wars tie ins — multiple retheming of existing rides including Hyperspace Mountain

Emerald Glen Aquatic Center, Dublin...WhiteWater AquaPlay AP 300, Freefall, AquaDrop, body slides, Champagne Bowl, AquaSpray

Facebook Shuttle Bus, Menlo Park...Speciality Vehicles Metro Trams

Fiesta Village Family Fun Park, Colton...Dragon Roller Coaster — Wisdom Rides Dragon Coaster

Great Wolf Lodge, Garden Grove...New resort/indoor water park ProSlide Tornado 60, Mammoth, 4-lane OctopusRacer, SuperLoop with SkyBox, CannonBowl 30, Pipeline, RideHouse 360, Kidz slides

Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, San Jose...Zamperla Magic Bikes

Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Park...Ghostrider — retracking by GCI with new style of track; Millennium Flyer trains; rebuild of Mrs. Knott's Chicken Dinner restaurant

Legoland California, Carlsbad...Ninjabo the Ride — Triotech and ART Engineering interactive gesture recognition dark ride

Ravine Waterpark, Paso Rablos...ProSlide TurboMammoth

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Vallejo...Joker — RMC steel coaster rebuild of former Roar; Pacific Rim 5-D motion simulator

Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia...New Revolution — new trains on Schwarzkopf revolution and New Revolution VR experience

Sunplash, Roseville...R&R Creative project graphics and theming

Universal Studios Hollywood, Universal City...Wizards World of Harry Potter with dark ride; Flight of the Hippogriff — Mack Rides YoungStar Coaster; Speciality Vehicles Classic American Trolley

Colorado

Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park, Glenwood Springs...Soaring Eagle Daring Drop ride

Great Wolf Lodge, Colorado Springs...ProSlide Tornado 45, Pipeline, 4-lane OctopusRacer, SuperLoop with Skybox, Kidz ProRacer and Twister

WaterWorld, Hyland Hills...R&R Creative project theming

Connecticut

Lake Compounce, Bristol...Phobia Phear Coaster — Premier Sky Rocket

Quassy, Middlebury...Reverse Time — SBF-Visa spinning platform ride; Splash Away Bay — ProSlide 5-slide Kidz complex

Florida

Busch Gardens Tampa, Tampa...Cobra's Curse — Mack Rides spinning coaster

Daytona Lagoon, Daytona Beach...Baynum repainting of water slide complex

Disney's Animal Kingdom, Orlando...Rivers of Light — new nighttime show; operating hours extended into evening

Epcot, Orlando...Frozen Ever After — redesign of former Maelstrom flume ride; Soarin' Around the World

Gulf Breeze Zoo, Gulf Breeze...Chance C.P. Huntington

Legoland Florida, Winter Haven...The Lego Movie 4D - A New Adventure

Rapids Waterpark, West Palm Beach...Brain Drain — ProSlide 2x SuperLoop with SkyBox

SeaWorld Orlando, Orlando...Mako — B&M Hypercoaster

Universal's Islands of Adventure, Orlando...Skull Island Reign of Kong — multi-sensory dark ride; Incredible Hulk Coaster — complete rebuild of B&M multi-element coaster

Georgia

Lake Winnepesaukah Amusement Park, Rossville...Twister — Moser Maverick

Six Flags Over Georgia, Austell...2 new kids area — DC Super Friends and Bugs Bunny World with 12 new attractions including Zamperla Watermania, Jump Around, Sky Tower; New Revolution — VR experience on Dare Devil Dive coaster

Six Flags Whitewater, Marietta...WhiteWater Whizzard Twist

Hawaii

Kualoa Ranch, Kaneohe...Speciality Vehicles/Chance Rides Safari Tram

Idaho

Silverwood's Boulder Beach, Athol...Riptide Race — WhiteWater 8L Whizzard

Wahooz Family Fun Zone, Meridian...WhiteWater Ballocity BallPlay attraction

Illinois

Magic Waters Master Blaster, Cherry Valley...WhiteWater Master Blaster

Raging Waters Water Park, Yorkville...Wonambi — ProSlide TornadoWave

Six Flags Great America, Gurnee...Justice League Battle for Metropolis — Sally Corp, Oceaneering and Alterface interactive dark ride

Skokie Water Playground, Skokie...ProSlide Pipeline twister

Indiana

Holiday World, Santa Claus...Track work and new elements on The Legend roller coaster

Indiana Beach, Monticello...Refurbishment of Tig'rr coaster including repainting by Baynum Painting; Baynum repainting of water slide complex; Rehab, design and graphics from R&R Creative

Mesker Park Zoo, Evansville...Chance Rides 36' Carousel

Potawatomi Zoo, South Bend...Chance Rides 28' Carousel

Iowa

Adventureland, Altoona...The Monster — Gerstlauer Infinity Coaster

Bridges Bay Resort, Arnolds Park...Soaring Eagle Zipline

Kansas

Dodge City Aquatic Facility, Dodge City...WhiteWater SuperBowl, Inner-Tube slide, Boomerango, Body Slides

Garden City Waterpark, Garden City...WhiteWater SuperBowl, Body Slides, Inner-Tube Slide

O.J. Watson Park, Wichita...Chance C.P. Huntington Train

Power Play KC, Kansas City...Soaring Eagle Zipline

Kentucky

Beech Bend, Bowling Green...Splash Kingdom expansion with ProSlide Cyclone Saucers, PipelineWave, 2x Tornado 24; Cannonbowl 40; Spinning Out — SBF spinning coaster

Kentucky Kingdom, Louisville...Storm Chaser — RMC steel coaster rebuild of former Twisted Twins

Louisiana

City Park New Orleans, New Orleans...Chance C.P. Huntington coaches

Maryland

Six Flags America, Largo...Superman VR experience on Superman Ride of Steel coaster; WhiteWater AquaPlay RainFortress

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, Largo...WhiteWater AquaPlay Rainfortress

Trimper's Rides, Ocean City...Zamperla Endeavour 24

Massachusetts

Edaville USA, Carver...Kersplash — E&F Miler water coaster relocated from Washington State Fair

Six Flags New England, Agawam...Fireball — Larson Giant Loop; Superman VR experience on Superman coaster (formerly Bizarro)

Michigan

CJ Barrymore's FEC, Clinton Township...Looping Zyklon ZL42 from Playland's Castaway Cove; Soaring Eagle Zipline

Jeepers, Sterling Heights...Python Pit — relocated from Jeepers Auburn Hills, Mich.

Legoland Discovery Center, Auburn...Zamperla Magic Bikes

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2016 NORTH AMERICA PARK PREVIEW

Minnesota

Nickelodeon/Mall of America, Bloomington...Chance Revolution 20; Fly over America — Vekoma I-Fly (in Mall)

Valleyfair, Shakopee...Flying Eagles - Larson Flying Scooters (previously in storage)

Missouri

Kansas City Zoo, Kansas City...Specialty Vehicles Eco-Star shuttle

Mountain Adventure Resort, Branson...ADG Mountain Coaster

Six Flags St. Louis, Eureka...Fireball — Larson Giant Loop; New Revolution — VR experience on Ninja Coaster

Worlds of Fun, Kansas City...Planet Snoopy expansion with five new rides including Larson Flying Scooters; Zamperla Jump Around, Kite Flyer, Rio Grande Tooner train, Flying Tigers

Nebraska

Vala's Pumpkin Patch, Gretna...WhiteWater Attractions Foam Factory

New Hampshire

Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford...Wiegand Alpine Coaster

New Jersey

iPlay America, Freehold...SBF spinning coaster

Land of Make Believe, Hope...ProSlide SuperLoop with SkyBox

Playland's Castaway Cove, Ocean City...GaleForce — S&S launched extreme coaster; Wild Waves — E&F Miler steel coaster; Whirlwind — SBF spinning coaster

Sahara Sam's Oasis, West Berlin...Indoor water park expansion with ProSlide 2x Pipeline; family leisure pool

Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson...Joker — S&S 4-D Free Spin Coaster

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, Jackson...Caribbean Cove — WhiteWater AquaPlay ; new beach area with additional 300 lounge chairs

Steel Pier, Atlantic City...Soaring Eagle Zipline

The Funplex, Mount Laurel...WhiteWater Body Slides, Champagne Bowl, AquaDrop, AquaPlay

New Mexico

Albuquerque BioPark Zoo, Albuquerque...Chance Rides endangered species carousel

New York

Coney Island, New York City...Baynum repainting of Cyclone roller coaster

Darien Lake, Darien Center...RipCurl Racer — ProSlide 6-lane KrackenRacer

The Great Escape, Queensbury...Greezed Lightnin' — Larson Giant Loop; New Revolution — VR experience on Steamy Demon coaster

Zoom Flume Waterpark, East Durham...ProSlide CannonBowl 30

North Carolina

Carowinds, Charlotte...Plants vs Zombies interactive 3d motion-based theater; Boomerang Bay expansion with WhiteWater 3x Flatline Loop, Constrictor, innertube slides and AquaPlay Rainfortress

Frankie's Fun Park, Raleigh...Zamperla Windstarz

Ohio

Cedar Point, Sandusky...Valravn — B&M Dive Coaster; Baynum repainting of Top Thrill Dragster

Kings Island, Kings Mills...Tropical Plunge — WhiteWater 3x FlatLine Loop, Constrictor, innertube slides

Oklahoma

Frontier City, Oklahoma City...Gunslinger — Zamperla Power Surge

Plaza at Wheeler, Oklahoma City...Chance Rides Giant Wheel

Turner Falls Zipline, Davis...Soaring Eagle Zipline

Water-Zoo, Clinton...WhiteWater Slideboarding

White Water Bay, Oklahoma City...WhiteWater AquaPlay

Pennsylvania

Dorney Park, Allentown...New PTCI trains for Thunderhawk roller coaster

Hershey Lodge, Hershey...ProSlide 2x Twister

Kennywood, West Mifflin...Remodel of Noah's Ark for 80th season

Knoebel's Amusement Resort, Elysburg...Zamperla Galleon

Waldameer, Erie...Walley & Wendy's Kidz Zone — ProSlide Kidz Slides Twister, MiniRiver, 2x and 4x ProRacer

South Carolina

Frankie's Fun Park, Greenville...Zamperla Discovery 360

Ocean Lakes Family Campground, Myrtle Beach...WhiteWater 4L Mat racer, Inner-tube Slide, AquaPlay

South Dakota

Rush Mountain Adventure Park, Keystone...Rushmore Mountain Coaster — Wiegand Mountain Coaster

Tennessee

Dollywood, Pigeon Forge...Lightning Rod — RMC launched wooden coaster

Smoky Mountain Alpine Coaster, Pigeon Forge...New Wiegand vehicles with magnetic brakes

Top Jump, Pigeon Forge...REG Clip 'n Climb challenge course

Texas

Abilene Zoo, Abilene...Wattman Trains Maxi XT Train

Boomers, Houston...R&R Creative rehab and themeing

Grand Texas Big Rivers Water Park, New Caney...New water park with WhiteWater attractions: AquaPlay Rainfortress, Family Raft Ride, Innertube slide, AquaDrop, body slide, 6L Whizzard Twist, AquaSpray, Freeride Plus, Constrictor+Rattler, Manta, Master Blaster+Boomerango, Speed Slide, Slideboarding

Joyland Amusement Park, Lubbock...Mini Express — Advantage Rides Mini Himalaya

Landry's Downtown Aquarium, Houston...Chance C.P. Huntington

Meridiana Recreation Center, Iowa Colony...WhiteWater AquaPlay

NRH20, North Richland Hills...WhiteWater Champagne Bowl, Flatline Loop, body slides

Rock 'N River Family Aquatic Center, Round Rock...WhiteWater AquaPlay

Schlitterbahn Galveston, Galveston...Massiv — WhiteWater Master Blaster water coaster

SeaWorld San Antonio, San Antonio...Discovery Point — new dophin interaction experience

Six Flags Fiesta Texas, San Antonio...Fireball — Larson Giant Loop; Spinsanity — Larson Tilt-A-Whirl; Hurricane Force — Zamperla Disk'O Coaster; Superman VR experience on Superman Kyrpton Coaster

Six Flags Over Texas, Arlington...Riddler Revenge — Zamperla Giant Discovery; Catwoman Whip — Zamperla Endeavour 48; New Revolution — VR experience on Shock Wave coaster

Trader's Village, Houston...Larson Super Shot (fall 2015)

Typhoon Texas Water Park, Katy...New park with theming from R&R Creative; WhiteWater attractions: Aquasphere+Constrictor, AquaPlay Rainfortress, innertube slides, wave pool, AquaDrop, AquaLoop, body slides, Boomerango, Constrictor, Rattler, Slideboarding, SuperBowl, 8L Whizzard

Wonderland, Amarillo...Fiesta Swing — Chance YoYo refurbished, Morgan Balloon ride, Sail Shade structures

Utah

Liberty Park, Salt Lake City...Wattman Trains Mini Express Trains

Virginia

Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Williamsburg...Refurbishment of Das Festhaus with new shows and new restaurant

Kings Dominion, Doswell...Delirium — Mondial Suspended Frisbee

Wisconsin

Acuity Insurance Corporate HQ, Sheboygan...Chance Rides Century Wheel

TRAVELING SHOWS/CRUISE SHIPS

ABC Rentals...Scat

All Around Amusements...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride, Tea Cups

Amusements of America...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride

Amusements of America...Kolmax Plus Tea Cups

Beauce Carnival...Fredrickson Fun Slide

Boos Brothers...Fabbri 55m. Portable Booster

Brown's Amusements...Kolmax Plus Tea Cups

Butler Amusements...KMG Inversion; Chance Rides Zipper rebuild

Carnival Cruise Line Vista...SkyRide Technologies elevated fitness bike. WaterWorks — Polin waterslides

Cole Shows Amusement Company...Wisdom Himalaya

Deggeller Attractions...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride

Frazier Shows...Wadkins Expo Wheels Expo Wheel

Fundways of Illinois...SBF/Visa Mini Pirate Ship

Funtastic Shows...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride

Funtime Carnival...Kolmax Plus Tea Cups

Gold Star Amusements...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride

Houghton Enterprises...KMG Inversion

Jeremy & Kate Floyd...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride

Jessop Amusements...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride

Majestic Midways...SBF/Visa Mini Pirate Ship

Mauricio Safie...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride

Modern Midways...Kolmax Plus Tea Cups

Mr. Ed's Magical Midways...KMG Inversion, SBF/Visa Compact Spinning Coaster

Paradise Shows...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride

PBJ Happee Day Shows...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride, Tea Cups

Penn Valley Shows... Mardi Gras Two Story Fun House

Playworld Unlimited...SBF/Visa Mini Pirate Ship

Poor Jack Amusements...Wadkins Expo Wheels Expo Wheel

Powers' Great American Midways...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride

Powers' Great American Midways...Kolmax Plus Tea Cups

Pride Amusements...Owen Trailers, Inc. Dark Ride

Ray Cammack Shows...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride

Rockwell Amusements...Eli Bridge Scrambler

Royal Caribbean Harmony of the Seas...Polin 2x Aquatube, 2x Space Shuttle

Royal Caribbean Oasis of the Seas...WhiteWater 2x Double FlowRider

Royal Caribbean Quantum of the Seas...WhiteWater Double FlowRider

Russ Kissel...Owen Trailers, Inc. Surf Shack

S&S Amusements...Kolmax Plus Tea Cups

Skelly Amusements...Wadkins Expo Wheels Expo Wheel

Skerbeck Entertainment Group...Kolmax Plus Tea Cups, Luna Park Flying Elephants

Sonshine Amusements...Luna Park Gondola Wheel

Spectrum Entertainment...SBF/Visa Groovy Bus

Spectrum Entertainment...Zamperla Rockin' Tub

Toby's Carnival...S&S Sensei Frog Hopper

Tufano Amusements...Wadkins Expo Wheels Expo Wheel

Wade Shows...Kolmax Plus Dumbo Ride; Chance Rides Zipper rebuild

Wilson Family Shows... Mardi Gras Fun House, Kolmax Plus Tea Cups

Wonderland Midways...Wadkins Expo Wheels, Expo Wheel



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ALGERIA

Paradis des Zibanes, Biskra...Polin Rafting Slide, Black Hole, Family Rafting Slide, Tsunami, Space Boat, Space Hole, Multislide, Compact Slide, Freefall, Aquatube, Multisurf, Freefall, Kamikaze, Tunnel Freefall, body slide, multiple kid's slides

AUSTRALIA

Dreamworld, Queensland...Hot Wheels Sidewinder — rethemed Arrow Coaster formerly known as Cyclone

Funfields Water Park, Whittlesea, Victoria...Kraken Racer — ProSlide 4-lane KrakenRacer

Prairiewood Leisure Centre, Prairiewood, New South Wales...Polin Tunnel Freefall, Tunnel Body Slide, Compact Slide

The Strand, Townsville...WhiteWater AquaPlay and Aqua Spray

Sea World, Southport, Queensland...Zamperla Family Gravity Coaster, Demolition Derby, Magic Bikes, Rocking Tug

AUSTRIA

Wiener Prater, Vienna...Olympia Looping — BHS/Schwarzkopf multi element looper operating at Prater for the 250th anniversary

BAHRAIN

Lost Paradise of Dilmun, Bahrain...Polin Looping Rocket

BANGLADESH

Blueland Water Park, Dhaka...Polin Rocket Freefall+Kamikaze+Freefall, Kamikaze+Freefall, Wide Slide, Aquatube, Space Boat, Black Hole+Turbolance

BARBADOS

Simpson Motors, Warrens...Wattman Trains Mini Express Train

BELGIUM

Bobbejaanland, Lichtaart...Mount Mara — VR experience on existing Mount Mara Coaster; Nightmare Hotel — escape room

Plopsa de Panne, Adinkerke-De Panne, West-Vlaanderen...Heide the Ride — GCII wooden coaster

Walibi Belgium, Wavre, Walloon Brabant...Pulsar — Mack Rides PowerSplash

BRAZIL

Beach Park, Aquirez...Vaikuntudo — record-breaking ProSlide Tornado 60

Flamboyant Mall, Goiania...Wattman Trains Mini Express Train

Parque Downtown, Rio De Janeiro...Radar Play indoor coaster (relocated)

Sirlene Aqua Paradise, Barao de Cacaís...WhiteWater AquaSpray, Constrictor, Multi-lane Mat racer, SuperBowl, wave equipment

BULGARIA

Duni Royal Aquapark, Sozopol...Polin Black Hole+Rafting Slide+Flying Boats, Multislide, Kamikaze Body Slide, Aquatube, compact slide combinations

CHILE

Fantasilandia, Santiago...Tren Minero — Vekoma Mine Train relocated from Ratanga Junction (November 2015)

CHINA

Chimelong Paradise, Guangzhou, Guangdong...Zamperla U-Drive, Demolition Derby, Magic Bikes, Air Race, Rocking Tug

Discoveryland, Dalian, Liaoning...Zamperla Thunderbolt Coaster

Disneyland Hong Kong, Hong Kong...Iron Man Experience — combination walkthrough and simulator

Dragon Elephant Water Park, Nanning, Guangxi...WhiteWater Boomerango, Abyss, 8L Whizard, 2x AquaLoop, Rattler, SuperBowl, InnerTube slides, Dueling Master Blasters, 3x Speed Slides, 4-person inline tube slides, AquaSpary, AquaPlay Giant RainFortress, Kid's slides

Fantawild (Nanning), Nanning, Guangxi...Vekoma Boomerang

Great Mall of China, Sanha, Langfang, Hebei...Premier Rides Sky Rocket II coaster; Vekoma Dive Pretzel Coaster; Vekoma Motorbike Coaster

Guian Wonderland Happy World, Fuzhou...WhiteWater AquaPlay, AquaSpray, AquaCourse, Raft Battle, No Boundaries

Happy Valley Wuhan, Wuhan, Hebei...Zierer Jet Ski

Happy World, Jiangyou, Mianyang...Fourth Ring Roller Coaster — multi-element looping coaster; Hanging Roller Coaster — inverted coaster

Hot Go Dreamworld, Fushu, Liaoning...B&M Wing Coaster; Preston & Barbieri racing coaster; WhiteWater Attractions No Boundaries

Huashan Mountain, Huayin...Wiegand Alpine Coaster

Joypolis, Putuo, Shanghai...Music Coaster — Golden Horse spinning coaster

Lewa Adventure, Jingyang, Xianyang...Flash — Mack Rides multi-element coaster

Liuzhou OCT Cultural and Scientific Experience, Yfeng, Liuzhou...Roller Coaster — manufacturer unknown

Mega Fun Water Park, Anji...Polin King Cobra, multiple kid's slides

Oriental Heritage (Xiamen), Tong'an, Xiamen...Jungle Trailblazer — Martin & Vleminckx/Gravity Group wooden coaster; Galaxy Express — Vekoma Family Suspended Coaster

Oriental Heritage (Zhejiang), Cixi, Ningbo...Jungle Trailblazer — Martin & Vleminckx/Gravity Group wooden coaster; Night Rescue — Golden Horse indoor coaster; Stress Express — Vekoma Boomerang

Phoenix Park Land, Tengzhou, Zaozhuang...Family Roller Coaster — Jungle Mouse; Five Ring Roller Coaster

Popsea at Joyfulland, Shaoxing Mirror Lake...New park with ProSlide Tornado 60, TornadoWave, CannonBowl 40, Turbo Pipeline, TurboMammoth, Mammoth River, Water Kingdom, more

Quisby New Century Grand Hotel, Hainan...Polin Uphill Flying Boats, Black Hole, Navigatour, Sphere, Space Boat Combo, Black Hole+Turbolance, Black Hole+Rafting Slide, Compact Slide, Wide Slide, Kid's Freefall

Shanghai Disneyland, Pudong, Shanghai...New park with hotel resort; multiple rides including Seven Dwarfs Mine Train — family coaster; Tron Lightcycles Power Run — roller coaster

Sun Tzu Cultural Park, Guangrao, Dongying...Catapult — S&S - Sansei air-launched coaster; Mine Car — Golden Horse roller coaster; S&S Double Tower

Tieling La Viva Water Park, Tieling, Liaoning...New water park with ProSlide Tornado 60+Tornado 24, Tornado 18, CannonBowl 40, SuperLoop with Skybox, FreeFall

Wanda City, Binhu, Wuxi...B&M Wing Coaster; Intamin Accelerator Coaster

Wanda City Theme Park, Xinjian, Nanchang...Giant Caterpillar — family coaster; Havoc in Heaven Palace — Intamin Hypercoaster; Soaring Dragon & Dancing Phoenix — Beijing Shibaolai multi-element looping coaster; Viper — GCII wooden coaster; spinning mouse coaster; Lagotronics Interactive 3-D dark ride; Zamperla 10-ride package

Wanda Group (park name unknown), Harbin, Heilongjiang...New park with Mack Rides Blue

Fire coaster and a mouse coaster from an unknown manufacturer; S&S 12-seat Space Shot

Wanda Hefei Cultural Tourism Center, Baohe, Hefei...Flip Coaster — multi-element coaster; Beijing Shibolai Wacky Worm; Intamin launched mega coaster; Wild Mouse; Lagotronics Interactive 3-D ride with motion base vehicles; S&S 12-seat Space Shot

Wanda Hefei Indoor Water Park, Baohe, Hefei...ProSlide Hydromagentic Rocket, Tornado 60, Mammoth, 6-lane KrakenRacer, 2x SuperLoop with SkyBox, Freefall; WhiteWaterAquaPlay;

SuperBowl, Boomerango, Kid's Slides, Body Slides

Wayaha Perfect Park, Yanzhou, Guyuan...Hanging Roller Coaster — Beijing Shibolai suspended looping coaster

Windmill Park, Nanhu, Jiaying...Roller Coaster — Chang Long family coaster

Wuhang Zhongshan Park, Jiangnan, Wuhan...Boomerang Roller Coaster — Hebei Zhongye multi element coaster

Xiantao Happy Valley, Xiantao, Hubei...Zhipao double loop/double corkscrew coaster

Yinj Kaifeng Water World, Henan...WhiteWater Attractions Shoot the Chute

Yinj Xinmi Water Park, Zhegzhou...WhiteWater largest single waterpark contract in history including AquaSphere+Manta, Family Raft Ride, AquaSphere+Master Blaster, Abyss 71, Abyss 55, Dueling Master Blasters, Constrictor+SuperBowl, Boomerango+Manta, AquaPlay Giant Rainfortress, additional slides

Zhu Hai Ocean Park, Zhuhai...WhiteWater Attractions Adventure Trail, Contained Play, Toddler Play+AquaSpray

COLUMBIA

Parque Comfama Copabana, Medellin, Antioquia...WhiteWater AquaCourse

Piscilago Parque Recreativo, Villanueva...ProSlide TornadoWave

COSTA RICA

Parque de Diversiones, La Uruca, San José...Splash Caribe — WhiteWater Attractions Shoot the Chute

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sideland, Lipno nad Vltavou...Bobovou Dráhu — Wiegand Alpine Coaster

DENMARK

Djurs Sommerlan, Nimtoffe...Soulken — Gerstlauer Polyp

Fårup Sommerland, Saltum...New themed hotel

Legoland Billand, Billund...Ninjago the Ride — Triotech and ART Engineering interactive gesture recognition dark ride

Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen...Fatamorgana — Huss Park Attractions Condor 2GH

Tivoli Friheden, Århus, Jylland...Bee Swarm — SBF spinning coaster

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Karisma Hotels, Punta Cana...WhiteWater AquaPlay and Aqua Spray

ENGLAND

Alton Towers, Alton, Staffordshire...Galactica — VR experience on Air flying coaster; Food Loop restaurant

Big Sheep, Bideford, Devon...Big One — Zierer custom Tivoli relocated from New MetroLand

Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Blackpool...Wattman Trains Maxi XT Train

Chessington World of Adventures, Chessington...Lagotronics Products upgrade of existing Tomb Blaster dark ride

Funland Amusement Park, Hayling Island, Hampshire...Runaway Mine Train — L&T Systems Wild Mouse relocated from Gulliver's Warrington

Legoland Windsor, Windsor, Berkshire...The Lego Movie 4D - A New Adventure

Old MacDonald's Farm, Brentwood, Essex...Doggy Dog — SBF MX48 family coaster

Olympia Park, London...ArcelorMittal Orbit — Wiegand tunnel slide from top of tower — longest in the world

Paulton's Park, Romsey, Hampshire...Flight of the Pterosaur — Vekoma Suspended Family Coaster; Raptor — Vekoma Family Boomerang; Dinosaur Tour Company — Jeep ride; Alive! Dinosaur Encounter

The Sands, North Yorkshire, Scarborough...ProSlide Tornado 24+BehemothBowl, 40, Tornado 18, Pipeline, 2x TurboTwister

Thorpe Park, Chertsey, Surrey...Derren Brown's Ghost Train — darkride with visual effects

EGYPT

Dahabiya Radisson Blu Resort, Sharm el Seikh...Polin 2x Black Hole, Turbolance, Space Boat, Rafting Slide, Body Slide, Aquatube, Freefall, 2x Twister, multiple kid's slides

Jaz Mirabel Club Resort, Sharm el Seikh...Polin 2x Black Hole, Turbolance, Family Rafting Slide, Uphill Flying Boat, Tunnel Freefall, Freefall, Kamikaze, Wave Slide, Rafting Slide, 2x Flying Boat, 2x Space Boat, Aquatube, Body slide, multiple kid's slides

Rahma Sharm Resort, Nabq Bay, South Sinai...Polin Freefall, Multislide, Flying Boats, 2x compact slide; mushroom

FRANCE

Disneyland Paris, Marne la Vallée, Ile-de-France...Big Thunder Mountain — renovation and new Vekoma trains

Futuroscope, Chasseneuil-du-Poitou...La Forge aux Étoiles — Aquatic and pyrotechnic show created by Cirque du Soleil

Kid Parc, Gujan Mestras, Aquitaine...Boulet de Canon — roller coaster

Le Fleury, Wavrechain-sous-Faulx...Spinning cars roller coaster

Le Pal, Dompierre Sur Besbre, Auvergne...Zierer Wave Swinger

Mer de Sable, Emmenonville, Picardie...Bandidos — SBF spinning coaster

Nigloland, Dolancourt, Champagne-Ardenne...Donjon de l'Extreme — Funtime 100m. Freefall Tower; La tour des Petits Fantomes — Zierer Family Freefall

OK Corral, Cuges-les-Pins...Zierer Wave Swinger

Parc Astérix, Plailly, Picardie...Discobélix — Zamperla Disk'O

Puy Du Fou, Les Espresses...Le Dernier Panache — Ultra HD show on 100m screen

Walibi Rhône-Alpes, Les Avenières, Rhône-Alpes...Timber — Gravity Group wooden coaster

FINLAND

Särkänniemi Amusement Park, Tampere...Zamperla Discovery Revolution 360

GERMANY

Bayern Park, Reisbach, Bavaria...Dell der Adler — Gerstlauer Sky Fly

Eifelpark, Gondorf, Rhineland-Palatinate...Metallbau Emmeln tractor ride

Europa-Park, Rust...Ireland — New children's area with Mack Rides kiddie coaster; Zierer Kontiki; indoor playground; VR experience on Pegasus coaster; Zierer Freefall

Fort Fun Abenteuerland, Wasserfall, North Rhine-Westphalia...Fort Fun L.A.B.S expansion with two new rides

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INTERNATIONAL™

2016 INTERNATIONAL PARK PREVIEW

Hansa Park, Sierksdorf, Schleswig-Holstein...Kleine Zar — Preston & Barbieri small coaster
Heide-Park, Solau...Drchenzäman - Die Insel — new themed area with boat ride; Zamperla Giant Sky Chaser
Holiday Park, Hassloch, Rhineland-Palatinate...Airshow 71 themed area with Gerstlauer Sky Fly; Zierer Wave Swinger
Legoland Deutschland, Günzburg, Bavaria...The Lego Movie 4D - A New Adventure; hotel expansion
Movie Park Germany, Bottrop...The Walking Dead Breakout — horror show attraction
Phantasialand, Brühl, North Rhine-Westphalia...Taron — Intamin multi-launch Blitz Coaster; Rik — Vekoma Family Boomerang
Rodel- und Freizeitparadies St. Englmar, Sankt Englmar, Bavaria...Voglwuide Sepp — Zierer Force coaster utilizing natural terrain
Skyline Park, Bad Wörishofen, Bavaria...Sky Dragster — Maurer motorbike coaster

INDIA

Amaazia Water Park, Surat...Polin Up Looping Rocket, King Cobra, Kamikaze, Freefall+Body Slide, Twister Racer, Windigo, Black Hole, Uphill Navigator+Black Hole, Black Hole+Turbolance, Space Boat, Tipping Bucket
Malpani House Club & Resort, Sangmner...Zamperla Air Race, Z-Force, Vertical Swing, Mega Disk'O, Flying Carousel, Watermania, Galleon
Wet 'n Joy Water Park, Lonala...New water park with WhiteWater Master Blaster, Rattler, Boomerango and AquaPlay Rainfortress, Dual Waves, 4L Mat Racer, Speed Slide, FreeFall Skide
Wonderla, Hyderabad, Telengana...Termite Coaster — Big Apple / Wacky Worm coaster; Termite Train — kiddie powered train; Wonder Splash — water coaster
Wonderla (Bangalore), Bangalore, Kamatka...Vekoma Boomerang relocated from Alabama Splash Adventure

INDONESIA

Kid City, Jakarta, West Java...Vekoma Junior Coaster
Ocean Park Water Adventure, Tabgerang...ProSlide Tornado 24+Tornado 24, Tornado 18, Pipe-LineWave, CannonBowl 40
Smiley World, ...Wattman Trains Mini Express Train
Trans Studio Mini, Balikpapan, East Kalimantan...Vekoma Junior Coaster

IRAN

Eram Amusement Park, Tehran...Funtime Starflyer; Zierer Star Shape

IRAQ

Baghdadland, Baghdad...Polin King Cobra, Black Hole+2x Uphill Navigtour, Racer Slide+Space Boat+2x Turbolance, Surf Safari, Looping Rocket, Space Hole Bowl, 4x Windigo, Aquatube+Body Slide, Black Hole+Flying Boats, Rafting Slide+Flying Boats, 2x Kamikaze, 2x Freefall, multiple kids attractions

IRELAND

Tayto Park, Ashbourne, Meath...Zamperla 48-seat Endeavour; Power Surge, Windstarz

ISRAEL

Luna Park, Tel Aviv...Funtime Starflyer

ITALY

Etnaland, Belpasso...ProSlide BehemothBowl 40+TornadoWave, 2x SuperLoop with SkyBox
Gardaland, Castelnuovo del Gardo...Kung Fu Panda Master — Fabbri Spinning Mouse; Second themed hotel
Leolandia, Capriate San Gervasio, Lombardy...Expansion of kids areas with Thomas the Tank Engine and Masha the Bear
Mirabilandia, Savio...Far West Valley — new themed area; Zamperla Midi Disk'O Coaster KiteFlyer

JAPAN

Nagashima Spa Land, Nagashima...WhiteWater AquaPlay Giant RainFortress, 8L Mat Racer; New PTCI train
Parque Espana-Shima Spain Village, Shima, Mie...Kiddy Montserrat — family roller coaster
Shibamasa World, Sakai, Fukui...WhiteWater Abyss
Universal Studios Japan, Osaka...Flying Dinosaur — B&M flying coaster
Yomiuriland, Tokyo...Spin Runway — Gerstlauer Spinning Coaster

KUWAIT

Kuwait Magic, Al Manbulah...Golden Horse spinning coaster

MALAYSIA

Desaru Water Park, Lotus...ProSlide Tornado 24+Tornado 24 +Tornado 24, Tornado 60, Tornado 12, CannonBowl 30, RideHouse 500, Kidz Slides
Legoland Malaysia, Nusajaya, Johor...Ninjago the Ride — Triotech and ART Engineering interactive gesture recognition dark ride
Movie Animation Park Studios, Ipoh, Perak...Asteroid Attack — SBF Spinning Coaster; Mr. Peabody & Sherman's Time Adventure — indoor roller coaster; Casper — Sally Interactive dark ride
Sunway Lagoon, Subang Jaya, Selangor...Interlink Water Coaster; new Nickelodeon Lost Lagoon with WhiteWater AquaLoop, FlatLine Loop, Boomerango, Innertube Slides, Raft Ride, AquaPlay RainFortress, AquaCourse

MONTENEGRO

Aquapark Budva, Budva...Polin King Cobra, Looping Rocket

MOROCCO

Seafront Promenade, Agadir...Fabbri 40m Ferris Wheel (late 2015)

Tamaris Aquaparc, Casablanca, Maroc...ProSlide CannonBowl 40

NETHERLANDS

Adventurepark Hellendoorm, Hellendoorm, Overijssel...REG upgrade to Discovery Club dark ride

Drievliet Family Park, The Hague, Zuid-Holland...Zierer kiddie freefall tower

Duinrell, Wassenaar, Zuid Holland...Gerstlauer Sky Fly

Efteling, Kaatsheuvel, North Brabant...Pinokkio — new story land in fairytale forest

Walibi Holland, Biddinghuizen, Flevoland...Lost Gravity — Mack Rides multi-element coaster

Wildlands Adventure Zoo, Emmen...Vekoma I-Ride; Mack boat ride

NORWAY

Tusenfryd, Vinterboro, Oslo...Ragnarok — Hafema rapids ride

OMAN

Marjarat Oman, Al Sawadi...New 25,000 square-foot indoor water park

POLAND

Energylandia, Zator, Malopolskie...Rollercoaster Formula 1 — Vekoma launched multi-element coaster

Robland, Leszno...Fabbri 30m Ferris Wheel

Zatorland, Zator, Malopolski...Dinocoaster — family coaster

PORTUGAL

Slide and Splash, Estombar, Lagoa...ProSlide TornadoWave

RUSSIA

Kvarsis Indoor Water Park, Novosibirsk...New water park, largest in Russia with WhiteWater attractions: Manta, AquaCourse, AquaLoop, AquaSphere, SpaceBowl, Constrictor, AquaPlay, body and tube slides

Sochi Park Adventureland, Sochi, Krasnodar Krai...Zamperla Galleon

SINGAPORE

Wild Wild Wet, Singapore...ProSlide BehemothBowl 40+TornadoWave, 4-lane KrakenRacer, FreeFall, TurboTwister, Kidz slides

SLOVAKIA

Thermal Kesov, Kesov...Polin Multisurf, Tsunami Slide, Looping Rocket, Space Shuttle, 3x Windigo

SOUTH AFRICA

Bajo Brand, ...Wattman Trains Mini Express Train

Sun City Resort Valley of Waves, Sun City...WhiteWater AquaLoop and Boomerango

SOUTH KOREA

E-World, Daegu Metropolitan City...Zamperla Air Race, Discovery Revolution 360

Everland, Yongin-si, Gyeonggi-do...Thunder Falls — WhiteWater Attractions Super Flume

Habio Park, Seoul...ProSlide CannonBowl 30, PipeLine, Twister

Tongdo Fantasia, Yangsan-si, Gyeongsangnam-do...ProSlide BehemothBowl 40+TornadoWave

SPAIN

Terra Mitica, Benidorm, Alicante...Funtime Star Flyer; New boutique hotel

SWEDEN

Daftlöland, Stromstad...Fabbri Crazy Pots

Kneippbyn, Visby, Gotland...SBF/Visa MX49 Cyclon coaster

Kolmården, Norrköping, Östergötland...Wildfire — RMC wooden coaster

Liseberg, Gothenburg...Aero Spin — Gerstlauer Sky Roller; Bertazzon double decker carousel

Skara Sommerland, Axvall...ProSlide 3x Twister

SWITZERLAND

Mount Gurten, Bern...Wiegand summer toboggan

TAIWAN

E-Da World, Kaohsiung...Fabbri 30m Ferris Wheel

Formosan Aboriginal Cultural Village, Yuchr Shiang, Nant'ou...Hafema Rapids Ride

Shang Shun Plaza, Miaoli...WhiteWater Attractions Ropes Course, toddler Play, Clip 'N' Climb,

Ballocity, Adventure Trail, Sky Tykes and Skyrail Zipline

Shang Shun World, Miaoli...WhiteWater Attractions play structures

Suzuka Circuit Park, Suzaka, Mie...Zierer family tower

THAILAND

Alpine Coaster, Chiang Mai...Alpine Coaster — Wiegand Alpine Coaster

Ramayana Resort, Pattaya...WhiteWater Flume-through-Flume Python, AquaPlay Rainfortress,

AquaSpray, Double Python, Family Raft ride, Dueling Master Blaster, Boomerango, 4L Whiz-

zard, Freefall Plus, AquaLoop, duel wave pool, lazy river

Santorini Water Fantasy, Perissa...ProSlide Tornado 60

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Macoya Waterpark, Chaguaramas...ProSlide RideHouse 250 with 2x Twister; Kidz slides: ProRa-

cer, MiniRiver, Twister, Tornado 12, Bowl, Twister

Park name unknown, Chaguaramas...WhiteWater Constrictor, Boomerango, Rattler, SpaceBowl,

6L Mat Racer

Tunisia Hotel Miramar Djerba, Djerba...Polin Space Hole, Multislide, Kamikaze Tunel, Freefall,

Rafting Slide, Black Hole, Turbolance, Black Hole+Flying Boats, multiple kid's slides

TURKEY

Ankapark, Ankara...New park with 15 coasters and multiple rides from Levent Lunapark, Intamin,

Zamperla, SBF-Visa, Zierer, Beijing Shibaolai, and Interpark

Rixos eko Tamali Park, Antalya...JRA associates new park with water park, aquarium, dolphinar-

ium, hotel and spa; Polin Windigo, Kamikaze, Free fall, Looping Rocket, Magicone, Family Raft-

ing, Navigatour, Uphill+Rafting+Black Hole, 2x Black Hole, Black Hole+ Rafting, Space Boat,

Space Shuttle multiple kid's slides.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi...Flying Aces — Intamin hypercoaster; Mission Ferrari

— Dynamic Attractions multi-launch coaster; Vortex — Intamin Shuttle; Benno's Great Race —

interactive dark ride

Hub Zero Dubai, Dubai...WhiteWater Attractions Climbing Zone with Ropes Course

IMG Worlds of Adventure, Dubai...Velociraptor Mega Launch Coaster — Mack Rides launched

looping coaster; Mack Rides spinning coaster; Huss Top Spin

Legoland Dubai, Dubai...Dragon — Zierer Force Five roller coaster with darkride component;

Dragon's Apprentice — family coaster; Zierer Jet Skis and Duplo Planes

Motiongate, Dubai...New park. Gerstlauer LSM coaster, bobsled coaster; Mack rides suspended

dark ride; S&S 16-seat combo tower

Sega Republic, Dubai...WhiteWater Attractions ropes course

UKRAINE

Levina Mall, Kiev...Vekoma Suspended Family Coaster; Zamperla Air Race, Disk'O, Jumpin'

Tower, Windshear

Respublika, Kiev...Maurer Spinning Coaster; Vekoma Junior Coaster

VIETNAM

Alpine Coaster, Halong Bay...Wiegand Alpine Coaster

Asia Park, Đà Nang...Garuda Valley — Vekoma Junior Coaster; Port of Sky Treasure — Vekoma

Mine Train; Premier Rides suspended coaster; Premier Rides Ferris Wheel lift coaster; all

relocated from Hard Rock Park

Ocean Park, Ha Long, Quang Ninh...B&M multi-element coaster relocated from Hard Rock Park;

Vekoma Junior Coaster; Vekoma Family Suspended Coaster

WALES

Barry Island Pleasure Park, Barry Island, Vale of Glamorgan...Sharky & the Pirates — SBF Big

Apple/Wacky Worm; Go Gator — Wisdom Rides powered coaster

Coney Beach Pleasure Park, Porthcawl, Bridgend...Crazy Mouse — Reverchon spinning mouse

relocated from Bundoran Adventure Park

Snowdonia National Park, Penrhydeudraeth...Alpine Coaster UK — Wiegand Alpine Coaster



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INTERNATIONAL

▶ **Movie Park Germany adds movie live entertainment for 20th anniversary— Page 22**

Liseberg reveals record profits for 2015; new attractions planned



Left, Italian manufacturer Bertazzon has supplied the new double-decker carousel at Liseberg. Above, the Children's Paradise play area is incorporated within the new Liseberg Gardens. COURTESY LISEBERG

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

GOTHENBERG, Sweden — Following a record profit for the second consecutive year in 2015, Swedish park Liseberg is set to introduce a brand new area containing one of Gothenberg's largest playgrounds and incorporating a new double-decker carousel and Victorian garden, all at no extra cost to visitors, in addition to a brand new thrill ride.

As part of a total investment for the year of SEK 170 million (U.S. \$20.8 million), the new area on Liseberg hill will stretch from the AtmosFear ride in the north to the Flume ride in the south. Called Lise-

▶ **See LISEBERG, page 21**

Gardaland teams with DreamWorks for new Kung Fu Panda area

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

CASTELNUOVO DEL GARDA, Italy — Gardaland Resort in northern Italy has secured a deal with animated movie company DreamWorks Animation to create a brand new, fully themed area at the park based on the well-known Kung Fu Panda IP.

Set to make its debut this month Kung Fu Panda Academy will be dedicated to fun and entertainment for the whole family and is inspired by the characters from the new *Kung Fu Panda 3* movie, which opened in Italian cinemas in mid-March following its opening in the U.S. in January. The new addition to the park will provide an up-close and memorable experience following the footsteps of the heroes of the Kung Fu Panda trilogy created by DreamWorks.



The area will feature attractions, interactive games and lots of live entertainment throughout. Youngsters will be able to dive into the land of Po and meet the charismatic martial arts fan and his friend Tigress. A colorful pagoda will act as a stage where the characters will perform for audiences of all ages, while a new family spinning roller coaster from Italian company Fabbri will offer descents and rotations to give guests the courage of true Dragon Warriors. Using four, six-seater cars it will take riders around a Wild Mouse style track and to a maximum height of just below 14 meters (46 feet). Merchandising outlets will also be featured.

"We are delighted to present Kung Fu Panda Academy to our public," said Aldo Maria Vigevani, CEO of Gardaland Resort, part of Merlin Entertainments plc. "As the first theme park in Italy, Gardaland develops every year great new projects to ensure to its guests the best possible experience. Setting up Kung Fu Panda Academy in our park adds, for 2016, another prime offer to our current portfolio of incredible and fantastic attractions."

In addition to the new themed area, Gardaland will also open a new sushi restaurant for the new season, claimed to be unprecedented among European theme parks, offering all ages an exclusive alternative in theme park dining. The park is also due to debut its new 101-room Gardaland Adventure Hotel in June.



The new Kung Fu Panda Academy area at Gardaland will feature a host of new attractions, including a Fabbri Spinning Coaster. COURTESY GARDALAND

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International happenings...

New book on U.K. roller coasters released

ATGLEN, Pa. — Schiffer Publishing, Ltd. has announced the release of *Coasting Around the UK: Roller Coasters of the United Kingdom* by Peter Andrews.

The United Kingdom has been entertaining the public with its amazing selection of parks and roller coasters since the late 19th century. This book features in-depth profiles of 80 roller coasters, from the 7,442-foot-long Ultimate in Lightwater Valley to Thorpe Park's Stealth, which goes from 0 to 80 mph in 1.9 seconds. A compelling series of photographs, gathered from 38 of Great Britain's most famous amusement parks, includes many behind-the-scenes perspectives and rare views that prove these compelling structures are not merely fun rides but also mechanically magnificent and, at times, visually stunning machines. Covering the length and breadth of the U.K., this photographic and historic guide takes readers from Brighton up to Glasgow, and from Gwynedd over to Great Yarmouth and provides the ultimate adrenaline rush.

The book features 397 color photos over 224 pages printed hard cover in a 11 inch by 8 1/2 inch format, Book cost is \$34.99.

•schifferbooks.com

Filmmaster Events inks Genoa Aquarium deal

GENOA, Italy — Filmmaster Events, with the artistic direction of Alfredo Accatino, has been hired to oversee the renovation process of Genoa Aquarium, during its 25th anniversary, creating a format based on experiencing and entertainment.

The agency, which will be working on Rio 2016 Olympic Ceremonies, has developed the concept called "The aquarium is a ship travelling through the world seas." The result is an enchanting experience focused on edutainment.

Filmmaster Events has created new interactive installations, reorganized the sound and light design and the scenography and re-named the tanks. It was a great challenge for one of the most important aquariums of the world, which reinvented itself to become one of the top destinations of next summer.

The aquarium underwent several changes. In the Sala Blu, the first room seen by visitors, Filmmaster Events installed a spectacular video mapping showing the entire itinerary using a captivating storytelling. Other installations will be present at the Eels tank, the Penguins Area and the Jellyfish tank.

The hi-tech part of the aquarium will be upgraded with interactive stations, especially developed for the aquarium. Filmmaster Events developed the creativity of the new App which will be launched during the anniversary celebrations.

•filmmaster.com

Euro Attractions Show 2016 set for Barcelona

BRUSSELS, Belgium — In 2016, the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) is hosting its annual Euro Attractions Show (EAS) for the first time in Barcelona. EAS is the largest conference and trade show for the attractions industry in the EMEA region and will take place September 20-22 at the Gran Via Convention Center in Barcelona. This three-day event will feature a vibrant trade show floor filled with the latest products and services and more than 20 hours of educational sessions, forums, facility tours, professional development, and networking events. The event is expected to attract more than 9,000 industry professionals from more than 100 countries. EAS is owned by IAAPA and produced by IAAPA's EMEA office.

•IAAPA.org/EAS

In brief...

•DUBAI, U.A.E. — The 22nd edition of the Dubai Entertainment Amusement and Leisure Show 2016 (DEAL) is scheduled for April 19-21 at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

•dealmiddleeastshow.com



The flying coaster previously known as Air is now called Galactica. COURTESY ALTON TOWERS RESORT

Alton Towers' flying coaster gets the VR treatment, renamed Galactica

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

ALTON, England — A new experience on a familiar ride awaits visitors to the U.K. park Alton Towers Resort this year, which is claiming a world first in the process.

Opened in late March, the flying coaster Air, built by Bolliger and Mabillard, has been transformed into Galactica, which the park claims is the world's first roller coaster entirely customized for a full virtual reality experience, transforming riders into astronauts and plunging them into outer space with a G-force more powerful than a real rocket launch.

The ride now offers guests an experience that combines the physical exertion and adrenaline rush of



the flying coaster with the emotive experience of travelling through space. Lying in the prone position, riders wear a special VR headset through which an on-board artificial intelligence guides them from the launch pad up into "space" to fly and loop beyond the stars, banking through wormholes and speeding across undiscovered galaxies.

The visuals have been exactly synchronized to the twists, turns and loops of the coaster to recreate the sensation of hurtling through space as riders travel along the 840-meter (2,760 foot) long track. The total G-force

is 3.5 G and the height of drop is 20 meters (65.5 feet). The attraction's maximum speed is 75 kph (46.5mph) and ride duration is 189 seconds. Capacity per train is 28 passengers in seven rows of four lying face down.

"Galactica uses groundbreaking technology to give riders a breathtaking and completely unique roller coaster experience," said Alton Towers Resort Marketing Director Gill Riley. U.K. astronaut Tim Peake captured the imagination of millions of Brits last year when he set off on his mission to the International Space Station — and now our visitors can become astronauts too. Our guests will be transported into space and we believe Galactica showcases the future for theme parks around the world — it's a complete game changer!"

The coaster was first opened in 2002 and is situated in the Forbidden Valley area of the park.

In other news from Alton Towers Resort, the park announced at the end of February that the Smiler roller coaster was to reopen on March 19. This follows the accident last year in which a number of riders were badly injured and the subsequent investigations around this which have now been concluded. Additionally, the park has announced that one of its longest serving rides, The Flume, is to be retired after 34 years' service and will not open for the new season.



Riders on the Galactica coaster will ride in the prone position with VR headsets for an immersive journey into "outer space." COURTESY ALTON TOWERS RESORT

► **LISEBERG**
Continued from page 19

berg Gardens, it will feature Victorian gardens, a walking path, a garden café, the carousel and a huge children's playground. The area covers a total of 6,310 square meters, of which 1,900 square meters is made up of plant beds and other greenery.

"The new area is our way of giving back to the residents of Gothenburg. Liseberg is their meeting place above all," says park CEO Andreas Andersen.

The area will also incorporate the new AeroSpin aeroplane ride from Gerstlauer, one of the company's Sky Roller attractions. This features a 35 meter high rotating tower with 12 arms, each arm holding two planes. The planes have two levers for riders to operate, one

for each wing, with the guest controlling the plane to make it rotate sideways around its own axle.

"The passenger in the plane controls their ride and decides what will happen. That's what's so great about AeroSpin," commented Andersen. "The ride is what you make it – a pleasant trip with a sensational view of Gothenburg, a frenzied ride in a tumble drier or anything in between."

AeroSpin carries up to 24 passengers in 24 planes and has an hourly capacity of approximately 480. At Liseberg it requires three coupons for a ride.

Liseberg Gardens is one of the largest sections of the park. Also, 6,300 square meters on Liseberg hill have been converted from unused land into well-groomed, inviting gardens. With beautiful plant beds and shady greenery the gar-



The new AeroSpin ride (above) at Liseberg has been supplied by German manufacturer Gerstlauer. Right, the new Liseberg Gardens is part of an investment of SEK 170 million (U.S. \$20.8 million) in the park for 2016. COURTESY LISEBERG



dens have a Victorian feel, and a new winding pathway has been built up the hill to make the climb easier. The new garden is part of the Gothenburg Green World project, in which Liseberg is one of the six main partners.

While the more courageous visitors can enjoy AeroSpin, younger visitors can sample Children's Paradise, an exciting, 500-square-meter playground with a wide range of play elements created by Monstrum ApS of Denmark,

and the Venetian Carousel, an 11-meter diameter, double-decker carousel from Bertazon. The area also includes a new café and a picnic area, while the Waltzer, which was already in situ, has been given a makeover.

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International briefs

Sanderson increases share holding in RSG Maps

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Sanderson Group's CEO Steve Sanderson and Peter Sanderson have been appointed to the board of Directors of RSG MAPS as part of a corporate restructure.

Sanderson Group has increased its equity shareholding to 80-plus percent in RSG MAPS Sdn. Bhd. (formerly known as Sanderson Project Development (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd).

RSG MAPS is a 49 percent shareholder in Animation Theme Park Sdn. Bhd, which was established in 2013 as a joint venture with PCB Developments Sdn. Bhd. as co-developers of the RM520 million Movie Animation Park Studios (MAPS), in Ipoh, Malaysia.

The MAPS Perak theme park is positioned as Asia's First Animation Theme Park and is expected to entertain 1.4 million visitors in its first year of operations with state-of-the-art animation based attractions.

Animation Theme Park Sdn. Bhd. IP License agreements for MAPS include Animonsta Studios, International Merchandising Promotion and Services (Smurfs), and DreamWorks Animation.

As part of the Sanderson corporate restructure Mr. Steve Sanderson has accepted a position on the Animation Theme Park board of directors and will be part of the ATP management committee to oversee an additional RM 60 million investment in additional entertainment and attractions within the Theme Park. MAPS opening is now scheduled for December 2016.

•sandersonintl.com

Jim Seay to speak at Asian Attractions Expo

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia — The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) recently announced Jim Seay as the Asian Attractions Expo (AAE) 2016 Leadership Breakfast keynote speaker. Seay is a leading expert on amusement ride safety around the world. The breakfast is Wednesday, June 15, during AAE 2016, which takes place June 13-16 at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre in Shanghai, China. AAE is the premier international business event for attractions industry professionals in the Asia-Pacific region, and is owned and produced by IAAPA.

Seay is chair of the IAAPA Global Safety Committee and is a member and immediate past chair of ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices. The committee develops and refines ride safety standards that are used globally. He has promoted the use, application, harmonization, and adoption of ASTM amusement standards around the world, and has testified before the U.S. Congress about industry safety.

Seay's background gives him a unique perspective. A Cornell University graduate, he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering and completed graduate studies at California State University Long Beach. He was an aerospace engineer at Hughes Aircraft and then an engineering and maintenance executive at Six Flags Theme Parks Inc., before joining Premier Rides Inc. in 1995 as executive vice president of engineering. He was named president of the company the following year.

•IAAPA.org/AsianAttractionsExpo

Draton Manor planning to add more lodging

FAZELEY, U.K. — Drayton Manor Theme Park is presenting plans to local authorities for permission to build 40 new "holiday style lodges" in an effort to expand guest overnight stay choices. The park added an on-site hotel in 2011.

In its presentation, the park stated: "Failure to offer new accommodation options could lead to Drayton Manor falling behind rival attractions. If the park is not able to move forward and offer a greater choice of accommodations we run the risk of potential customers, unable to find suitable, available accommodation at Drayton Manor Park, choosing to go to an alternative theme park instead."

Drayton Manor's nearest competitor is just 45 minutes away.

Movie Park Germany adds more live entertainment for 20th anniversary

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

BOTTROP-KIRCHHELLEN, Germany — Movie Park Germany is 20 years old this year and to mark the anniversary will be introducing a number of new attractions and facilities for 2016.

Well known for its live shows and entertainment, the latest additions to the park's line-up will include *The Walking Dead Breakout*, a new permanent horror attraction scheduled to open during the season. This will offer guests a one-of-a-kind live experience unique in Germany based on *The Walking Dead*. Covering an area of 700 square meters, it will feature all the elements of one of the most popular and successful U.S. TV series in the world. Movie Park is collaborating with the AMC channel in the USA and pay TV channel FOX in Germany to deliver true-to-the-original reproductions of scenes that appeared in the TV series, real actors and state-of-the-art technology so that guests can enjoy an authentic and intensive live experience.

"Guests visiting the park this year can look forward to a brand new attraction, a new *Ice Age* 4D movie, new walking characters, a great events program, an even bigger Halloween Horror Fest and new shows," said General Manager Thorsten Backhaus.

Innovative Leisure opens high ropes course

OADBY, Leicester, England — The U.K.-based adventure attractions specialist Innovative Leisure has announced the official opening of a 17-meter-high, four-level ropes adventure course at the Tees Barrage International White Water venue in Stockton on Tees in northeast England.

Tees Active Leisure, operators of the venue in conjunction with Stockton Borough Council, opened the new Sky Trail High Ropes Course, called Airtrail, on February 13. This now complements the existing substantial offering of adventurous activities available and adds an exciting new high ropes facility for the whole family, incorporating as it does a junior Sky Tykes course too. And in just its first week of operation, February half-term, more than 1,500 participants enjoyed the attraction — and the views!

The impressive, 17-meter-high structure is visible from surrounding roads and is built on a peninsular in the middle of the River Tees. The eight-pole, four-level attraction has more than 40 activity elements between four



Movie Park Germany CEO Thorsten Backhaus with two park 'residents' Sid and Diego from the new 4D film at the Roxy Cinema — *Ice Age: No Time For Nuts*. COURTESY MOVIE PARK GERMANY

"We're proud to have another famous licensed attraction and a powerful brand in our park. We noticed that there was high demand for this kind of (scare) attraction and responded to it, reflecting our strategy of making a day at the park as exciting as possible for both families and young people."

There are also several new attractions in the park for non-horror fans. The Roxy 4D Cinema will be screening a new family movie from the start of this season, *Ice Age: No Time For Nuts*, while new shows are also on offer.

"We've changed the whole concept of our famous stunt show," said Backhaus. The Crazy Cops New York — The Action Stunt Show now has a live presenter interact-

ing with the audience during the show instead of playback dialogue. There will be more car and motorbike stunts from a new Italian stunt team and the set has been redesigned. And on the central New York Plaza guests can enjoy a new dance and song show, *We Can't Stop The Beat*.

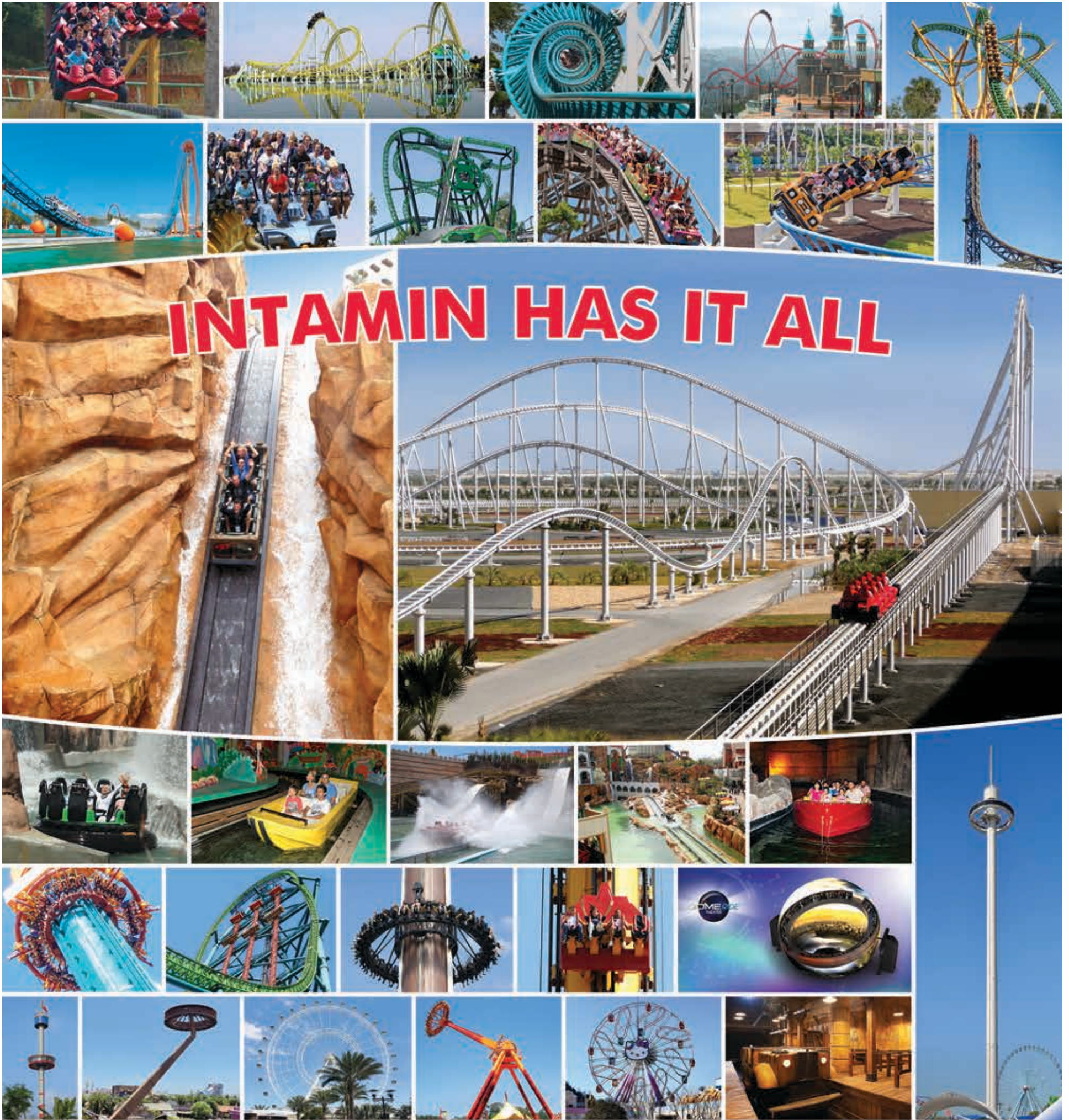
"We're also continuing the concept of offering more street entertainment this year. There are three new street shows and a new Nickelodeon show will be introduced over the course of the season," Backhaus said.

A range of other events will also add to the live entertainment on offer throughout the season, these to include special one-off events as well as live music, artists and light and laser shows.

meters and 15 meters off the ground.

The course can cater for up to 70 participants per session, with 60 able to enjoy the main Sky Trail experience at any one time (minimum height for users being one meter accompanied by an adult or 1.22 meters unaccompanied). Additionally, this 'zip experience' installation also features the U.K.'s first Sky Rails, the latest in zip line technology. The patented, fully automated zipping experiences run parallel to the course on levels one and two and allow users to zip from one launch pad to the next without disconnecting from the ropes system at any time. A traffic light system and mechanical gates control the flow of users, while magnetic brakes slow "zippers" as they reach the landing platforms.

"We are delighted to have completed the highest Sky Trail High Ropes Course in the U.K. and to have installed the very first Sky Rail zip experiences in Europe within the same installation," said Innovative Leisure's Managing Director Phil Pickersgill.



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WATER PARKS & RESORTS

▶ Raging Waves adds ProSlide TornadoWave — Page 26 / World's Largest Swim Lesson date set — Page 28

Wet N Joy Water Park opens in Lonala, India

Malpani Group owns park; equipment by WhiteWater West

AT: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

LONALA, India — Wet N Joy Water Park recently opened to the public, hosting a grand opening on March 18, 2016, entertaining over 2,000 specially invited guests for the evening. It is allegedly the largest water park in India.

Located in Lonavala, in the state of Maharashtra, the new water park provides a nice complement to the multitude of tourist activities in the area. Maharashtra draws tourists from all over the world with its natural lakes, historic caves and picturesque mountains. Lonavala is surrounded by Green Valley, and is a popular tourist destination with over 300 hotels and the famous ancient Buddhist shrines carved into the mountains. It is connected by train and a highway to the nearby population center of Mumbai. The beauty of Lonavala is the perfect backdrop for the largest water park ever built in the country.

Wet N Joy Water Park was built by real estate developer Malpani Group, which also owns the park. Malpani is diversified with multiple industries in India including renewable energy, education, health, finance, hospitality, tourism, water parks and amusement parks. The waterslides, play structure, wave river and wave pool were all supplied by WhiteWater West of British Columbia.

Wet N Joy Water Park is introducing many firsts to

the region, including India's first Master Blaster and India's largest wave pool which spans 60,000 square feet. In the middle of the impressive Dual Wave pool is an entertainment stage, and surrounding that is over 12,000 square feet of beach space. The surging ocean-like wave pool is framed with the natural lush landscapes of Lonavala, creating a beautiful atmosphere for playing all day and even into the night. The entertainment stage and beach space provide a distinctive place to host corporate events and private parties.

Other attractions supplied by WhiteWater include a Wave River and an Extreme River known as Xtreme Volcano. Multiple waterslides such as the Rattler and Boomerango, a dark tunnel Nightmare slide and a tiki-themed AquaPlay RainFortress which covers 10,000 square feet round out the attractions list. Malpani selected a range of WhiteWater attractions to provide fun for guests of all ages and levels, from the adrenaline-junkies looking to be thrilled on the Freefall and Skyfall body slides to parents with young children wanting to play together in the dedicated children's area. Another distinctive attraction is Disko H2O, a 2,000 square dance floor with thundering music, lighting effects in the floor and a gentle rainfall. There's also an exclusive section just for women. The attraction adds a whole new dimension to "singing in the rain."

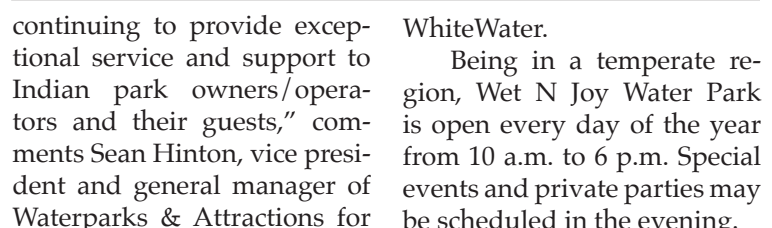
The water park also features a number of food and beverage options including the Ocean Retreat Restaurant

with food from across the globe; Italia, an Italian restaurant; and of course, Maharashtra Maaza, featuring local Indian delicacies — all strictly vegetarian. Fast food, beverage and frozen confection stands also dot the water park. No alcohol is served, and tobacco, alcohol and outside food are all prohibited. RFID cashless wristbands can be purchased upon entry, allowing all in-park transactions, such as food, clothing, souvenirs, or locker rentals to be conducted via the wristband.

"We are happy that our Wet N Joy Water Park at Lonavala has come together so well thanks to WhiteWater. Their product design, quality and project assistance has been outstanding. WhiteWater has proved to be the epitome of professionalism," commented Manish Malpani, director, Malpani Group.

"I am honored to be able to contribute to this landmark project for India. This high quality water park will bring years of entertainment to deserving families, making memories that will last generations," says Pradeep Sharma, vice president of Business Development India for WhiteWater.

"We are extremely proud to have worked with the Malpani family to help bring their vision of Wet N Joy Water Park to life while continuing to support the family in the development of future projects. It's amazing to think that WhiteWater's first project in India was 20 years ago! We are thrilled to see the water park and attractions industry continuing to grow and thrive in India and we look forward to



Top to bottom:
A large AquaPlay Rainfortress offers fun for the whole family. The dual wave pool increases overall capacity with more than 60,000 sq. ft. The colorful combination slide provides thrills for teens, tweens and adults in multi-person rafts.
COURTESY
WHITEWATER WEST

continuing to provide exceptional service and support to Indian park owners/operators and their guests," comments Sean Hinton, vice president and general manager of Waterparks & Attractions for

WhiteWater.

Being in a temperate region, Wet N Joy Water Park is open every day of the year from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Special events and private parties may be scheduled in the evening.

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Chicago-area water park adds ProSlide TornadoWave

Raging Waves to tighten squeeze on funseekers with Wonambi

YORKVILLE, Ill. — Raging Waves, self-billed as the largest water park in Illinois, will see a fiendishly serpentine new waterslide slithering onto its grounds by the start of its season May 28.

In keeping with the 45-acre park's Down Under theme, the new attraction is called Wonambi — named after an ancient constrictor snake native to Australia that squeezed the breath from its prey.

The ProSlide TornadoWave waterslide model, which sends a four-person raft through a coiled, high-speed course with near-vertical, zero gravity-producing elements, will be one of just three installed in U.S. water parks and 17 worldwide. Aside from gathering honors both stateside and abroad, the TornadoWave has been featured on the Travel Channel series *Xtreme Waterparks*.

"Wonambi is one of the most dynamic and thrilling rides that a water park has to offer," said Randy Witt, co-owner of Raging Waves, noting that the new ride represents the largest addition to the family-owned property since it opened in 2008. "It truly does take your breath away."

Located 45 minutes southwest of Chicago, Raging Waters has drawn some media accolades of its own over the years — with *USA Today* and *Midwest Living* magazine naming it a top Illinois summer destination. The park attracts more than 300,000 visitors a year with its rides and amenities, including 20 waterslides, a wave pool, multiple kiddie areas, private cabanas and a quarter-mile-long lazy river.

"Raging Waves is all about family, and we love that families can enjoy the adrenaline rush of Wonambi together in the large rafts," said Raging Waves co-owner Dawn Witt. "We offer families a safe, clean and affordable water park experience with a lot of thrills."

—Dean Lamanna



Wonambi, a TornadoWave supplied by ProSlide, will be lying in wait for visitors at Raging Waves when the park opens Memorial Day weekend. Construction on the new waterslide was well underway in early April. COURTESY RAGING WAVES





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World's Largest Swimming Lesson set for June 24, 2016

Organizers announce new 24-hour window for the global event

OVERLAND PARK, Kansas — Registration for the 2016 World's Largest Swimming Lesson (WLSL) is now open. This year's WLSL event will take place over the course of 24 hours at an estimated 500 locations in more than 20 different countries. The new time format allows individual host locations to conduct the 30-minute lesson anytime of day on Friday, June 24th. Organizers have restructured the program to make it easier for aquatic facilities to participate.

Aquatic facilities can be a part of the global, life-saving event by registering as an official 2016 WLSL Host Location at wsls.org.

Tragically, drowning remains the leading cause of unintended, injury related death for U.S. children ages 1-4, and the second leading cause for children under 14. Drowning is an even greater threat in other countries around the world. Research shows participation in formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by 88 percent among children aged one to four, yet

About the World's Largest Swimming Lesson

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

• www.wsls.org

many kids do not receive formal swimming or water safety training.

Since its inception, more than 155,000 children and adults have participated in WLSL lessons generating more than half a billion media impressions about the vital importance of learning to swim. The 2015 WLSL event took place on June 18, 2015 and included 38,170 participants from 22 countries.

Facilities of all kinds, shapes and sizes are encouraged to join Team WLSL in their mission to spread the message Swimming Lessons Save Lives to help prevent childhood drowning.



NEWS SPLASH

COMPILED: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

Inflatable water parks seem to be gaining in popularity with another opening in **Coffs Coast State Park** in New South Wales, Australia, just for the school holidays. Coffs Harbour City Council entered into a temporary license agreement with **Splash WaterParks** to anchor an inflatable water park within the harbor just south of Jetty Beach. After the holidays, the city council expressed an interest in creating a long-term attraction with proposals ranging from six months to a semi-permanent year-round operation.

A long-term operation would require the approval of additional government agencies including the Department of Primary Industries, and Maritime Services.

The city of Edwardsville, Illinois, received a \$133,155 grant from Madison County Community Development to help the city complete its planned **Spray and Play Park**. With the grant in place, construction is on track for a summer opening. Both parks are being built according to Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for improved accessibility. Along with the spray pad, the park will include a fitness track, shade structures, pavilions, rest rooms, changing rooms, also native-plant landscaping with a butterfly garden.

Australia's **Elizabeth Quay Splash Park** in Perth, Western Australia, has become a victim of its own success. The filtration system built into the park was not able to keep the water filtered and clean for the amount of people using it. The park became so popular that it was drawing significantly more people than had been anticipated. As a result of the increased usage coupled with a heat wave, bacteria started building up in the water, forcing the city to shut down the popular park twice at the beginning of February. Two weeks later a decision was made to close the park weeks before the end of the season. The Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority has already approved a plan to upgrade the existing filters, install an additional bank of filters and add two ultra-violet light filters.

The park was scheduled to be closed at the end of the season (April in Australia) to install new hand-painted mosaic tiles. That work is progressing as the filtration system is being upgraded. Everything is expected to be in place at the start of the new season later this year.

The **Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Clearwater Beach S-Harbourside** located on Indian Rocks Beach in Seminole, Florida, has started previewing its indoor water park. Plans for the water park started more than two years ago, with slide parts being delivered to the site back in 2014. Construction of the water park had to wait until construction of an adjacent time share condominium property was completed as the water park is adjacent to the new property.

The water park includes a popular bowl ride with most of the slide sitting outside of

the park. A second twisting slide intertwines with the bowl ride, also outside the building. Inside, guests will find more attractions including a waterfall, spray ground and splash pad, water play structure with tipping bucket and a 600-foot lazy river. Hotel guests have been invited to use the new park since March 20, although a grand opening date has not yet been set.

A floating, inflatable water park has opened at **Muriya Jebel Sifah**, in the capital city of Muscat, Oman. The park, provided by **Wibit Sports, GmbH** of Bocholt, Germany, features a variety slides, swings, trampolines, high and low jumps, climbing towers, balance beams and monkey bars. The water park is located on the **Jebel Sifah Marina** and is fully supervised. The Gulf of Oman is warm enough to swim in all year round and can get very warm in the summer months. Oman, which is located south of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, has been taking steps to increase tourism to the country.

New Forest Water Park in Dorset, England, has expanded its water park offerings on April 28 with the opening of a floating water park from **Wibit Sports**. The park was constructed on the site of three former fishing lakes within view of the famous **Corfu Castle**. Mechanical digging equipment removed 4,000 tons of silt from the main lake in preparation for the park.

The park describes the rectangular course as a big assault course on water, with an action tower, slides, trampolines, gladiator rings, hurdles and several other course activities. Since the course is modular, the park promises to switch it up a bit throughout the season. The aqua park is just one of many features at the property which also includes cable wakeboarding, kayaking, paddle boarding and camping. Once the remaining two lakes are cleaned up, the park plans to add water Zorbing. With the cooler temperatures in England, guests are invited to bring wetsuits, or they may be rented from the park for £5.

Ever since the 2011 closure of the popular **Wild Rivers** water park in Irvine, California, city officials in Irvine and nearby Temecula have tried to get the park rebuilt. Wild Rivers closed after 25 years of operation when the landholder decided to build apartments on the property. An initial plan to rebuild in **Orange County's Great Park** fell through when county officials decided the park did not fit in with their plans.

Now it looks like the city of Irvine is stepping in. City council members and the Great Park Board of Directors have directed city staff to pinpoint a place within the Great Park to accommodate the water park.

The move comes following a hearing in which a number of citizens spoke in favor of having the park return to improve the quality of life for its youth. The park also provided the city at least \$500,000 in annual revenue.

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See for yourself: proslide.com/blast



PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

▶ Six Flags Over Georgia opens multiple new experiences — Page 34 / Fairs — Pages 42-45



Diggerland has opened a grown-up set of rides this season with the debut of Diggerland XL. Adults have a full-sized wheel loader, excavator or bulldozer in which to try their drivings skills.

COURTESY DIGGERLAND

Diggerland unveils attractions for grown-ups

WEST BERLIN, N.J. — Diggerland USA, the New Jersey-based theme park known for letting children and parents operate real heavy machinery, is now offering supersized heavy equipment for adults. The newest, adult-sized addition to the park, Diggerland XL opened April 2 and provides guests who are 18 years and older the opportunity to have unrestricted fun on giant pieces of construction equipment.

"Since we opened in 2014, we've received hundreds of inquiries asking if our construction theme park is suitable for adults," said Ilya Girlya, co-owner of Diggerland USA. "We have

plenty of adults visit without kids and they have a great time so we wanted to take that one step further with Diggerland XL."

The Diggerland XL experience allows visitors to select from a combination of three different machines, a full-sized wheel loader, excavator or bulldozer in either a 90-minute package or three-hour package. Both packages include 30 minutes of one-on-one instruction from a heavy machinery foreman prior to playing on the machines.

"Diggerland XL is for people who want to really experience the big pieces of equipment and see what they

can do," said Yan Girlya, co-owner of Diggerland USA. "If you've seen these massive machines in action, they're really impressive. This is unrestricted, full size equipment!"

Guests operating the machines will get the chance to do more than just move dirt and mimic the activities on a construction site, they will also get to play some heavy machinery games. From excavator basketball to the water wheel loader challenge, Diggerland XL combines the experience of operating real construction equipment with unique, hands-on fun for adults who would otherwise never have this opportunity.

Busch Gardens Williamsburg signs deal for 2017 coaster

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — Busch Gardens Williamsburg officials are utilizing the first-ever "crowdsourcing" approach with some of the details involving InvadR, its new 74-foot wooden roller coaster opening in the New France area of the park. The park already sought the public's input on name selection and will be further engaging them in ride design element ideas and marketing assistance. The coaster will be located near the Le Scoot log flume and the Busch Gardens Railway. However, neither of those attractions will be impacted with extended downtime when construction commences. Great Coasters International is building the 2,118-foot-long ride.

Busch Gardens has used "crowdsourcing" in the past. "We know that we have a passionate and knowledgeable fan base and we've polled our fans for their opin-

ions on park offerings before. For three years now, our fans have helped us choose which new kiosks to feature at our popular Food & Wine Festival — this is simply another great opportunity for our fans to really feel like they're part of the development process," explained Dan Dipiazza, vice president of marketing.

Typically, Busch Gardens public relations representatives, as most other amusement parks, releases new attraction information much closer to the time it will be operational, namely the preceding fall or winter. This earlier announcement allows for on-going guest feedback. "We anticipate asking our fans and guests to help 'Decide the Ride' throughout the development process for the attraction — potentially right up until the ride opens in spring 2017. This could include anything from picking certain theming elements to starring in pre-ride video or audio segments," said Dipiazza. Guests may also



get the opportunity to contribute ideas for the queue experience and also pitch their concepts for consumer-generated advertising to promote the coaster's opening. The first phase of fan input is complete: the naming of the roller coaster. InvadR with 52 percent of the votes, was selected over Viking Raider (32 percent) and Battle Klash (16 percent), the other two name selections that were voted on by over 12,000 people. All Decide the Ride polls will be announced on the Project 2017 website, buschgardens.com/project2017.

With a height requirement of only 46 inches, and a maximum 48 mph speed, InvadR will be rideable for more family members. While a wooden tracked coaster, the structure will be steel. "The steel frame gives the coaster

a stable base that also minimizes the ride maintenance needed, while the wood superstructure provides the classic feel of great wooden coaster," said Larry Giles, vice president of engineering. He continued, "The dynamics of a wooden coaster, combined with the many ways it will interact with the terrain and nearby attractions, will make this a one-of-a-kind thrill." There will be two trains, 16 seats per train. The total ride time is 1:30.

Giles talked about the Pennsylvania company that was selected to build InvadR. "Great Coasters International has a rich history of building thrilling wooden coasters, which made them a natural fit to bring Busch Gardens Williamsburg's first wooden coaster to life." He went on to talk about a bit of ride recycling that will take place with InvadR. "Several of the parks within our company have found ways to repurpose elements of Gwazi, including Busch Gardens Wil-

liamsburg. The trains from Gwazi will serve as a starting point for the ride vehicles for InvadR. Track steel and some hardware elements from Gwazi will also find a new home in the 2017 attraction."

Visitors should start to see above-ground structure later this season. "Site clearing is set to start soon, then ride and building foundations and most excitingly, the coaster framing should be coming out of the ground in September. We'll be documenting the whole process," said Giles. Fans can follow ride development and construction on the park's website.

InvadR's ride theme is about a Viking exploration to North America. The settlers in New France are trying to protect their outpost. Riders will be asked to "join the fight." The overall theming package is still in the development phase.

When finished, this will be the eighth coaster at the Williamsburg property.



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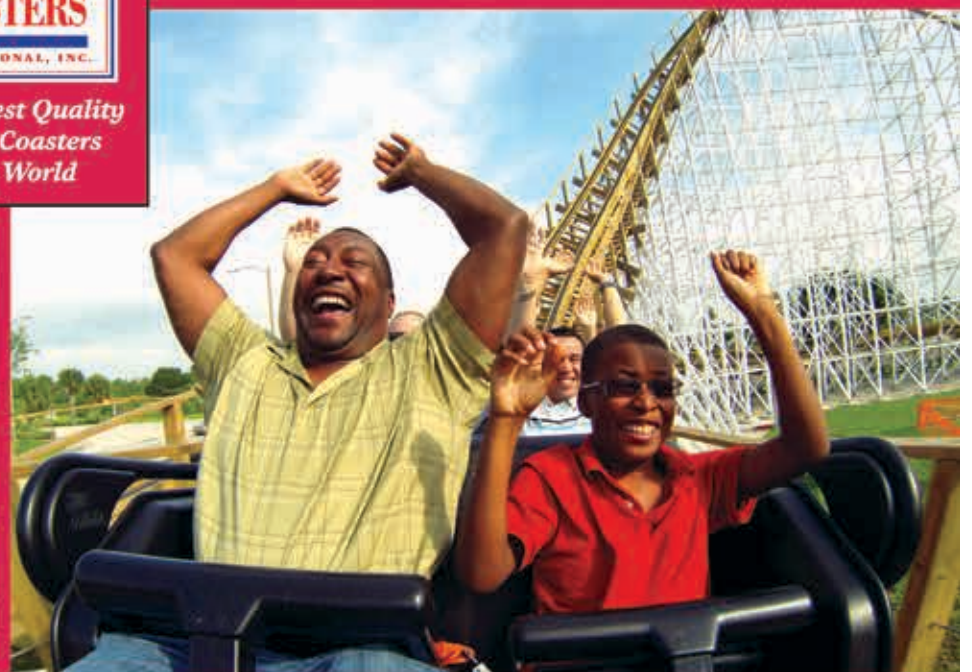
Lightning Racer at Hershey Park 2000



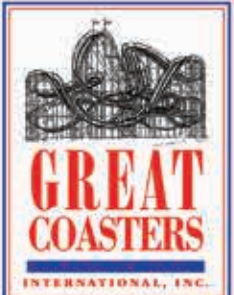
Thunderhead at Dollywood 2004



Gold Striker at California's Great America 2013



White Lightning at Fun Spot Orlando 2013



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Six Flags Over Georgia opens multiple new experiences

Two new kids areas lead the pack for park's 50th season

AT: Tim Baldwin
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AUSTELL, Ga. — Six Flags Over Georgia (SFOG) opened its gates for its 50th season this past March. Contrary to many years where the new capital expenditures arrive later in the spring, the Atlanta theme park's guests are enjoying multiple new attractions that are debuting throughout the spring.

"When we looked at 2016, we wanted to do something for every segment of our audience," said Dale Kaetzel, park president.

From its opening weekend on March 12, one of two new kids' areas was complete and ready to entertain families. Bugs Bunny Boomtown is a complete renovation of an underutilized piece of property in the heart of the park. What was originally "Spain" when the park opened five decades ago based upon the six flags portraying the history of Georgia is now a re-energized area of rides, shade, entertainment and relaxation.

Brand new rides complement rebranded or repurposed attractions. Three of the area's seven options are completely new to the park. Zamperla is the manufacturer of Daffy Duck Bucket Blasters (Water Mania), the area's new centerpiece, as well as Yosemite Sam's Wacky Wagons (Ferris wheel) and Speedy Gonzalez Speed Boats (Jump Around). Looney Tunes Adventure Camp, a Hags Anby AB play structure, has been relocated into the area from a previous location and has been refurbished to look brand new.

"When we selected our new rides, we wanted first and foremost rides that parents could ride with children," commented Kaetzel. "The new Daffy Duck Bucket Blasters is completely interactive and has proven to be very popular." He was delighted just in the early weeks of the season to see so much life in an area of the park that had been pretty much forgotten.

The area also has seen renovation of a small show

venue, previously having primitive seating and no shade, into a newly remodeled show space with dining tables for a new nearby eatery. As people snack while watching a show or take pictures at a meet-and-greet, it is now done completely covered with shade.

"Bugs Bunny Boomtown brings to life the Warner Bros. brands in a way that has never been done before in this part of the country," said Kaetzel. "We're really bringing life to the center section of the park. With two new sections combined with Carousel Hill and with Monster Mansion — all those assets combined — we feel we are offering a family product unmatched in the United States."

Also debuting opening weekend was the VR Coaster experience. The park's Dare Devil Dive has been outfitted with the new Samsung/Oculus headsets to let riders enter the virtual world of The New Revolution. Six Flags Over Georgia is one of nine Six Flags parks to feature this system and was the first to roll it out.

"Guest reaction has been incredible," said Gene Petriello, communications manager. "Words I am hearing are 'epic,' 'awesome' and 'original.' And it really is original. It's in Six Flags' DNA to be innovative, and this cutting edge technology is an example at its finest."

As April approached, the park was gearing up for the opening of its newest restaurant, JB's Sports Bar and Grill. With both indoor and outdoor seating (all shaded) the new outlet serves up specialty burgers (including turkey burgers), boneless wings and other appetizers. Multiple TV screens let adults grab their favorite suds while catching up on the latest scores.

Trent Turner, director of marketing and sales for Six Flags Over Georgia and Six Flags White Water, sees the sports bar as a great addition. "It gives the guests who want to take a little break from the action of the park a chance to get a cold drink and catch a game, which is not something you can do in every park."

Still yet to come is the new DC Super Friends area. This all-new kids/family



Above, Zamperla's Daffy Duck Bucket Blasters is the area's new centerpiece. Right, JB's Bar and Grill is a new sports bar aimed at offering adults and families a shaded place to chill out and catch up on the scores. Below, SFOG's Dare Devil Dive has received a VR coaster addition.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



section is the first of its kind for that IP. It will debut later in May and will offer three new rides in addition to a re-themed children's coaster. Larson Int. is delivering new Flying Scooters being themed to Wonder Woman. Zamperla is providing Superman Tower of Power. The drop tower is a kid-sized version at 30 feet tall that features numerous bounces during the ride experience. I.E. Park is supplying the Batcopters ride. The children's Chance roller coaster is receiving a makeover to become The Joker Funhouse Coaster. A new food outlet and games area will also accent the area, the latter themed to DC character Harley Quinn.

Once open, the two family areas will be connected, making for a total of 11 attractions for kids, the majority of which can be enjoyed with parents. Also of note, all the ground

surfaces in the two new areas and in front of JB's have been renovated for aesthetic looks and ease of navigating in and around the areas.

Following the Memorial Day weekend debut of the Super Friends area, Six Flags will still have one more dynamic attraction up its sleeve. Ninja, a multi-looping Vekoma roller coaster, is receiving a thorough makeover. The "new" Ninja will feature numerous enhancements. New trains that sport comfortable vest like restraints, reworked sections of track and a glossy new paint scheme will give new life to this attraction for its 25th season at the park. "We felt our guests really deserved an upgrade," said Kaetzel. "It will fulfill its full potential. It's going to be an all-new experience. Our guests are going to really appreciate that we listened to them and we are giving them

what they wanted. We're going to surprise a lot of people."

Petriello chimed in, laughing, "We didn't announce anything about Ninja. The park map went online and people noticed the new colors and it said the 'All New Ninja' and they found it themselves and started talking about it. We put up one picture of the ride being painted blue and it has done better than many of our social media posts. It shows us how excited people are about the changes we're making."

Sister park Six Flags White Water in Marietta, north of Atlanta, won't be left out either. Come May, the water park will debut Wahoo Racer, a six-lane head-first racer from WhiteWater. Its vividly colored, intertwined slides will be placed right alongside Interstate 75, giving that park a visual presence like never before. "The placement is fantastic," commented Turner. "People along I-75 are going to see this splash of color that's never been there before. It should have a little bit of a 'wow' factor. In the past, some people may have never really known there was a water park there."

In recent years, SFOG expanded their park with a Hurricane Harbor addition. Industry folks who might have felt this would impact attendance at the water park north of Atlanta can be assured to know that figures were not affected. "Hurricane Harbor isn't necessarily a full day water park," added Turner. "People will come in and cool off for a few hours and then head into the main park to do the rides. They complement each other. Our pass holders have seen the value in the combo pass. Some people who live south of Atlanta wouldn't necessarily make the trip up to Marietta each year, and now they are."

The launch of so many new experiences in one season easily has park management — and guests — excited. As Six Flags Over Georgia works toward its 50th anniversary next season, they are doing so on an invigorated surge of energy and enthusiasm. "Six Flags loves Atlanta, and Atlanta loves Six Flags," smiled Kaetzel.

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Merlin opens its 100th midway attraction

Legoland Discovery Center Michigan newest facility

DETROIT, Mich. — On March 24, Merlin Entertainments opened its one hundredth midway attraction: Legoland Discovery Center Michigan.

Midway attractions are high quality, branded, indoor attractions, where guests typically spend 1-2 hours, and are located in city centers or resorts. There are now 100 midway attractions in the Merlin family spread across 21 countries, with five core chainable brands: Sea Life aquariums, Madame Tussauds wax museums, The Eye observation wheel attractions, The Dungeons and Legoland Discovery Centers. The Midway Attractions Operating Group welcomed over 39 million guests in 2015, and represented 44 percent of Merlin's revenue.

Legoland Discovery Center Michigan is a 32,000 square-foot indoor attraction featuring fun and exciting Lego themed rides, including Kingdom Quest and Merlin's Apprentice, a 4D Cinema that brings favorite Lego characters to life, numerous themed build and play areas, and the highly anticipated Miniland exhibit that displays beloved local Detroit landmarks made from Lego bricks. One of these landmarks — the iconic "Ren-Cen" building — took 296 hours to build and is comprised of 50,172 Lego bricks.

Legoland Discovery Center Michigan is the eighth Legoland Discovery Center in North America, and 14th globally. The first Legoland Discovery Center was opened in Berlin, Germany in 2007.

John Jakobsen, chief new openings officer, said: "We are thrilled to be announcing the opening of Legoland Discovery Center in Michigan, marking Merlin's 100th Midway attraction. Merlin has set out ambitious growth plans, including targeting opening 40 new Midway attractions over the next five years, and the Legoland Discovery Center brand will play an integral role in that."

•merlinentertainments.biz

Giant ape stars in new 3D HD ride attraction

Universal Orlando Resort revives King Kong in high-tech style

AT: Dean Lamanna
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ORLANDO, Fla. — King Kong is readying for his re-emergence at Universal Orlando Resort.

The great ape has been absent as a major draw at the Central Florida destination since 2002, when Universal Studios Florida closed Kongfrontation

— a soundstage-based, animatronics-driven encounter with the beast via an Arrow Dynamics-manufactured mockup of New York City's Roosevelt Island Tramway. That original park ride experience thrilled (and blew a lot of banana-scented breath on) guests during its 12-year run.

The resort reestablishes



King Kong as permanent resident this summer with Skull Island: Reign of Kong. This considerably higher-tech attraction, located at Universal's Islands of Adventure, combines high-definition 3D filmmaking, custom ride vehicles and a variety of multisensory effects to deliver a more visceral, in-your-face creature confrontation. It also promises to be one of the longest ride experiences ever created for a Universal Studios park.

The storyline will transport guests on a 1930s expedition to the mysterious island of the attraction's name, led by a research team called the 8th Wonder Expedition Company. Once beyond the campsite, the terrain grows more menacing and reveals signs of a native presence — including beating drums and an ancient temple replete with a lost shrine.

Guests then board a massive, specially designed expedition vehicle for deeper penetration into the island. Mysterious

sounds and chanting fill the air as the temple's huge wooden doors open, revealing a labyrinth of caves. Suddenly, the expedition rolls into the midst of a raging struggle between gargantuan prehistoric creatures.

As the creatures begin to threaten the vehicle, King Kong makes his chest-beating, earth-pounding appearance.

While Kong tosses vicious beasts about in realistic, full-surround 3D, the attraction's heavy lifting will be done by the ride vehicles. The 40-foot-long, 17-ton bus-like carriers employ a sophisticated positioning system to independently navigate a rough jungle road. The front and back axles supporting each vehicle's 45-inch wheels can be steered individually, allowing it to make sharp turns and perform other maneuvers for a jolting adventure.

Five different human characters — in the best Universal Studios theme park tradition — will serve as expedition guides, including a loose-cannon cowgirl who isn't fazed by danger, a hardened New York City ex-con who is wary of the Skull Island's mysteries and a mystical descendent of the local natives.

•universalorlando.com



Skull Island: Reign of Kong, opening this summer at Universal Orlando Resort's Islands of Adventure, features 40-foot-long, 17-ton ride vehicles that negotiate a 3D film-enhanced, creature-filled jungle course. Posing with the carrier, which holds 72 passengers, is one of the attraction's five in-character expedition guides.

COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

Permanent attraction based on hit AMC series

Prepare to walk with a zombie at Universal Hollywood

AT: Dean Lamanna
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UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. — As if its feverishly awaited opening this month of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter isn't enough, Universal Studios Hollywood (USH) is doubling down on its bid to become the "stalk" of the town this summer with a new — and permanent — immersive experience based on the wildly successful AMC cable television series *The Walking Dead*.

The prime-time drama depicts the struggles of survivors in a post-apocalyptic world overrun by hordes of flesh-hungry zombies. The eponymous walk-through attraction, which has grown out of USH's collaboration with AMC on *Walking Dead* mazes for the park's seasonal Halloween Horror Nights event, will step it up in both authenticity and intensity.

USH is partnering with the creative team behind the TV series, including



executive producer and director Greg Nicotero and his special effects company, KNB Efx. Nicotero's crew, responsible for the show's realistic decaying walkers, will construct prosthetics and utilize original molds as well as paint and detail the attraction's characters.

Sophisticated animatronic walkers will contribute to the scares. The attraction will be located within a new, custom-built structure just inside the theme park's main entrance.

"*The Walking Dead* is a phenomenon that has successfully and consistently affected the psyche of viewers on a global basis since its debut," said

Larry Kurzweil, president of USH. "We're taking its intensity to the next level by collaborating with the show's award-winning production team to create an authentic living representation of the series."

Charlie Collier, president of AMC and SundanceTV, added: "Along with our great partners at Universal, with whom we've shared a successful three-year partnership in Halloween Horror Nights, it means a great deal to us to continue entertaining — and frightening — passionate, loyal fans of *The Walking Dead* for years to come."

The AMC series has been the number-one show on TV among adults age 18-49 for the last four years; now in its sixth season, it is the most highly rated show in cable TV history. The USH attraction will carry a notice that it is not recommended for guests under age 13.

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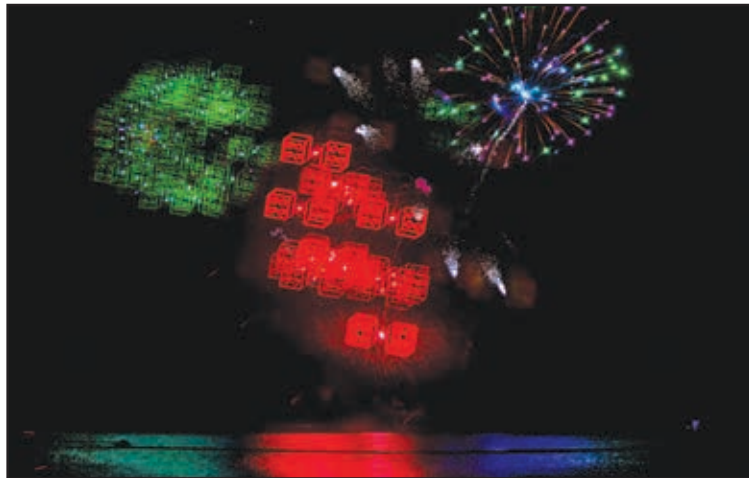
Major growth spurt for Central Florida resort New attractions, shows and hotel to carry Legoland into 2017

AT: Dean Lamanna
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WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — Marking the start of an unprecedented period of growth in its four-and-a-half years of operation, Legoland Florida Resort has announced half a dozen new and upcoming features and attractions.

The property additions, either already open or set to debut this month and through the middle of next year, include more on-site accommodations, an immersive theme park land with an interactive ride, the first-ever expansion of the resort's water park, a 4D theatrical attraction, and an all-new summertime event with fireworks and live entertainment.

Now open at Legoland Water Park is Creative Cove featuring Build-A-Boat, where children can create and race Lego watercraft through fast-flowing rivers in a setting inspired by the popular Lego City Coast Guard sets. Nearby, the Imagination Station allows



kids to build and play with colorful Duplo bricks in a water-filled activity center.

The water park's general amenities also are being enhanced — with additional dining options, increased seating capacity and complimentary Wi-Fi in place by summer.

Debuting May 26 is a theatrical attraction called *Lego Nexo Knights 4D: The Book of Creativity*. Set in the futuristic Kingdom of Knighton, the storyline pits five young knights against the evil Jestro and his

sidekick, the Book of Monsters, in a battle for control of a rare book of magic that gives its owner tremendous power.

Based on the new Lego series of building sets and the just-launched television show, the 12-minute-plus immersive experience combines 3D computer animation with 4D sensory effects for leap-off-the-screen realism.

Coming next month is Legoland Night Lights, a

▶ See LEGOLAND, page 39



Arriving on Legoland Florida Resort's raft of "What's New?" is Legoland Night Lights (above left), a fireworks show presented weekends from mid-June through July. Already open at Legoland Water Park is Creative Cove featuring Build-A-Boat (above and right), where kids can construct and race Lego watercraft. COURTESY LEGOLAND FLORIDA RESORT



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► LEGOLAND

Continued from page 38

celebration of summertime fun featuring extended park hours, meet-and-greets with Lego characters, opportunities to build alongside Lego Master Model Builders and a spectacular Ninjago fireworks display that will light the night above Lake Eloise with color and music. The show will be presented every Saturday and Sunday from June 18 to July 31.

In early 2017, the resort unveils Lego Ninjago World. Inspired by the popular series of Lego building sets and the long-running TV show *Lego Ninjago: Masters of Spinjitzu*, this themed land invites guests to step into a mystical martial arts kingdom — where they will experience an action-filled adventure called Lego Ninjago The Ride.

Combining 3D computer animation and 4D effects by Triotech of Montreal, Canada, Lego Ninjago will carry up to four guests per vehicle. Riders will blast animated fireballs, lightning, shockwaves and ice using nothing more than their hands as they travel through



dojos — martial arts rooms — mastering their skills before teaming up to defeat the villain. Points are collected and scores are displayed when each quest is complete.

And finally, a new hotel will give visitors added incentive to stay within the property's cleverly toy-adorned confines. The Legoland Beach

Retreat, opening in mid-2017, will offer the appeal of surf, sand and sun — along with plenty of Lego brick-inspired design touches — on the shore of Lake Dexter, adjacent to the theme park.

Distinguished by a colorful Lego lighthouse and designed for families, the village-style resort will feature 83



Coming to Legoland Florida Resort next year are the Legoland Beach Retreat, offering 166 surf-and-sand-themed family accommodations housed in 83 single-story duplex units, and Lego Ninjago The Ride (above), a 3D computer-animated adventure with 4D effects. The ride is from Triotech of Montreal, Canada. COURTESY LEGOLAND FLORIDA RESORT

single-story duplex units containing a total of 166 separate accommodations that sleep up to five. Amenities include a themed pool, a sandy play area, a buffet-style restaurant and complimentary transportation to and from the park.

In addition to providing themed accommodations at the existing Legoland Hotel

and educational programs and services for guests with disabilities throughout the property, Legoland Florida Resort is offering savings to visitors through advance purchase of admission tickets and multi-tier annual passes. Visit the resort's website for more information.

•legoland.com

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International Amusements announces relationship with ABC Engineering

FLOWER MOUND, Texas — International Amusements, Inc., announced that after a successful agreement throughout 2015 with Intamin of Liechtenstein, its cooperation with European companies is now extended to ABC Engineering AG of Switzerland.

Vittorio Fabbri, founder of International Amusements, Inc., drives the company with the experience he's gained after nearly 40 years in the amusement industry. "I started out working through my middle school holidays wiring the cables for ride electrical systems," stated Fabbri. "Now, at International Amusements, Inc., I take the vast knowledge of ride products and the market that I've accumulated over the years and combine it with our prompt customer support and a dedication to our work."

ABC Engineering AG, which is preparing to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2017, has a track record of offering unique attractions in water and amusement parks. Adding these products from ABC to what International Amusements, Inc., already had to offer seemed like a natural fit. "The ABC ride portfolio is a perfect complement to Intamin's products," stated Fabbri. "Their variety of attractions — from water rides to an assortment of family rides like the Maypole or the Swing Glider — allow us to offer a much wider array of attractions to parks throughout North America."

ABC of Switzerland's products have already proved very popular, with their brand of thrills and fun featured at popular parks such as Liseburg and Alton Towers. In 2015, ABC's introduction of the Tourbillon



thrill ride garnered attention worldwide as videos of the ride in action went viral. "It's a spectacular new ride, and one we're eager to now offer to our clients and their guests."

All rides offered, whether from Intamin or ABC, are fully customizable. "We provide our clients the confidence that they'll see their big dreams come true."

International Amusements, Inc., prides itself on being able to bring exciting new projects and products to the North American amusement industry — such as the much-publicized PolerCoaster set to arrive in Orlando in the near future. "International Amusements, Inc., is continu-

ing it's existing cooperation with Intamin to bring this unique attraction to life in the Sunshine State. When it debuts, it will be the world's tallest roller coaster."

The Fabbri family name has been part of building, creating, and providing amusement attractions since 1950. Vittorio Fabbri and International Amusements, Inc., are striving to ensure that tradition continues and that the turnstiles keep moving with dynamic new attractions.

—John Robinson

International Amusements, Inc.

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Popular Von Roll monorail at Dallas Zoo rolls on

AT: Pam Sherborne
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DALLAS, Texas — Dallas Zoo's Von Roll monorail, composed of three trains with 13 cars each, is up and running again after a brief hiatus that has lasted since August 2014 and after a \$3 million overhaul.

The monorail, now called Wilds of Africa Adventure Safari, had run continuously at the 106-acre zoo for 25 years. Its route took passengers through the African exhibit.

But, difficulty in finding parts to maintain the monorail became increasingly challenging leading to several stoppages in 2014 when local fire department rescuers were called to remove passengers from cars stopped along the route.

"It was just time to do something else," said Doug Dykman, vice president of facilities and sustainability at the zoo. "So much of the controls, etc., were just outdated."

The first thing zoo officials did was go out and look at purchasing a brand new monorail.

"But, the costs were so high," he said.

During this time, zoo officials looked at a variety of options for the monorail: lengthen it, shorten it, or reduce the number of trains.

But after discovering the high costs, zoo officials then turned to Wagner Consulting Group, Eden, N.C., a company that provides safety inspec-

tions and consulting services on all forms of portable and permanent amusement devices. Wagner was founded by Clyde Wagner and is now led by Jonathon Brooks, both very active members of NAARSO.

Wagner Consulting Group sent professionals to go through the entire monorail for the zoo officials. What they found was a train in pretty good shape, but with outdated controls and electronics.

"At that point, we decided we would keep our monorail and renovate it," Dykman said. "We went to the zoo board and they approved the project."

The board of the zoo approved the almost \$3 million project. Monies came from Dallas Zoo Management Inc., a non-profit organization that runs the zoo. The zoo is owned by the City of Dallas, but has turned over management to Dallas Zoo Management Inc.

With the board's approval, Dykman said the zoo retained Wagner Consulting throughout the project.

"I would say they took up a quasi management role, constantly watching over the project until it was completed," he said.

The Dallas Zoo also hired Hayward Baker Geotechnical Consultants, Las Vegas, Nev., for the control system design, and Schwager Davis Inc., San Jose, Calif., as the contractor and fabricator on record.

The renovations officially began in February 2015 and were finished 13 months later,



A \$3 million renovation to Dallas Zoo's Von Roll monorail, including three trains with 13 cars each, is complete and visitors can now take a ride through the African exhibit aboard the Wilds of Africa Adventure Safari. The monorail closed for maintenance challenges after 25 years of operation in August 2014. Renovations began the first of 2015 and took about 13 months to complete.
COURTESY DALLAS ZOO



March 25, 2016. Dykman said the tracks were in fairly good shape except for minor repairs and upgrading to the power.

Each of the three trains received upgrades to the mechanical and electrical systems as well as fresh paint and new graphics. In the first week of April, Dykman reported that two of the three trains had the

air conditioning systems complete.

"Even though they are open air, we decided to install air conditioning because it can really get hot here during the summer," Dykman said.

In addition, the ride costs \$5 per ticket.

The train cars are enclosed in the back and open to the

front. This way visitors see the exhibits as they are passing through, but the back of the house of the zoo, like barns, are not visible. The air conditioning passes from the back panels.

"Passengers feel a cool breeze when they are in the cars," he said.

► See MONORAIL, page 41

Hersheypark announces new enhancements for a sweet 2016

HERSHEY, Pa. — This year, Hersheypark celebrates 109 seasons of making guests Hersheypark Happy and there are many new reasons to smile with new offerings this year.

For 2016, new culinary treats include:

- A new Chickie's & Pete's location in Founder's Way with signature burgers and salads on the menu.

- Makin' Whoopie Pies is opening a second location at The Boardwalk at Hersheypark and will offer ice cream sandwiches and smoothies.

- Simply Chocolate will now offer King-Size Shakes, a 32-ounce indulgence in various Hershey's flavors; plus exciting new Chocolate Bark in an array of flavors, and chocolate-dipped favorites like Twizzlers and bacon.

- Three custom-designed souvenir cups, featuring Hershey's Product Characters Hershey Bar, Reese's, and Hershey's Kiss will now be sold throughout the park with discounts given to guests choosing to purchase more than one souvenir cup.

- A new Gatorade stand is now located in The Boardwalk at Hersheypark dispensing beverages and offering guests

a fun photo opportunity.

New food and beverage offerings aren't the only things new to Hersheypark this year. The Entertainment department has two exciting new shows:

- Dance, Dance, Dance: America!, a musical journey beginning with the park's founding roots and continuing right down Main Street.

- Country Roads, featur-

ing boot-stomping tunes that serve up stories of love and dreams.

The Hersheypark Retail Department will now offer a heat press, located at Character Corner. This heat press gives guests the option to customize their Hersheypark apparel with neon, glitter, and glow-in-the-dark letters and numbers.

• hersheypark.com

► MONORAIL

Continued from page 40

Dykman expected the third car to be equipped with its air system soon.

In addition to these improvements, the monorail station also was improved with new handrails, decking, sound system and graphics. There also is a small bird exhibit visible from the ramp leading to the monorail giving those waiting a nice view. The monorail comes into the station making a complete stop to load and unload.

Exhibits along the monorail route have been somewhat rethemed, but it is still the African safari area of the park. There are seven habitats now showing off species such as nyala, gerenuk, less kudu, ibex, oryx, eland, vultures, storks, addox, and red river hogs.

While the monorail was undergoing renovations, the African area had to close and remain that way until the renovations were complete.

"That whole loop is about a mile long and the terrain is up and down," he said. "We couldn't come up with a feasible foot path for visitors during the renovation."

The monorail ride for visitors lasts about 17 to 18 minutes going 3.5 mph. The trains could run up to five mph but they decided to hold it to the 3.5 mph. Capacity is eight passengers per car with 96 passengers per train. One of the 13 cars per train doesn't carry passengers but instead is the control car.

"We ran two trains during the opening weekend," Dykman said. "We had a total of 3,000 guests ride then."

When the original Wilds of Africa opened, it was the first zoo exhibit in the world to include every major habitat of an entire continent, in this case Africa.



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2016 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo draws 2,462,030



Above, the 2016 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo drew 2,483,193 visitors this year during its 20-day run, March 1-20. Ray Cammack Shows provided 78 rides, 55 games, and 38 food stands, including the La Grand Wheel, manufactured by Carousel Holland, seen here. Left, food is a big draw for fairgoers and there was a huge selection offered this year when the event ran March 1-20.

COURTESY HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO

AT: Pam Sherborne
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HOUSTON, Texas — The 2016 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo proved once again that Houston and surrounding areas love western tradition, if total attendance to this year's show is an indicator.

The event drew 2,462,030 visitors this year, down just a tad from the 2,483,193 in 2015. The total attendance record was set in 2013 when 2,506,238 people attended. In 2014, the Houston event went from a 21-day run to a 20-day run and drew 2,485,721.

The Houston Livestock Show hit the two million mark in 2010 and has stayed that way since.

Show officials attributed the 2016 success to the variety of entertainment offered on the grounds.

"The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo offers tremendous value and great family experiences in any economy, and the mostly great weather just encouraged more people to take advantage of everything the show had to offer," said Joel Crowley, president and CEO, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

"We also gave people affordable reasons to staycation in Houston: super stars in concert, extreme sports action, and carnival fun," he said.

Crowley also said that the lower gas prices made it easier on families to drive a little further so they could attend the show.

However, he added: "Lower gas prices in Houston are a double-edged sword. They don't help our oil and gas industry, but they do give families more disposable income. They can enjoy the fun and unique agricultural experiences, all with improved comfort and security."

Paid rodeo/concert attendance this year was 1,345,983. That number also is down a little from 2015's record setting year of 1,377,477.

There was a single-day paid rodeo/concert attendance record set this year. That took place on Sunday, March 13, when 75,508 came out to watch rodeo and listen to a performance by Los Huracanes Del Norte.

Ray Cammack Shows brought in 78 rides including two new ones, the Airmax, manufactured by Monte Hammond, and Twister, manufactured by Guemieri. The top five rides were the Sky Ride, manufactured by Seatrek; Windstorm, owned by Steve Vandervorste and manufactured by SDC; Rave Wave, Cosmot; La Grand Wheel, Carousel Holland; and G-Force, KMG.

The top games on the midway this year included the Mini Basketball, One Ball and Bank a Ball. Ray Cammack Shows' Chris Lopez said the show had a total of 55 games along with 38 food stands. "We had a very good show this year," Lopez said. "We were up 7.5 percent overall."

Also, on the midway, numbers revealed that 250,000 smoked turkey legs were eaten while 10,000 stuffed Minions and 8,000 plush doughnuts were taken home, making them the top two toys won by fairgoers.

The carnival also roasted five acres of corn and four semitrailer loads of Oreos were battered and fried.

Food is a heavily-relied-on attraction at the Houston Livestock Show. There were 100 entries this year to the show's Gold Buckle Foodie Awards, which was held Thursday, March 3.

Local media personalities

► See HOUSTON, page 43

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Large crowds seen at 2016 Florida Strawberry Festival

PLANT CITY, Fla. — Officials at the 2016 Florida Strawberry Festival were very pleased with this year's run which drew one of the highest attendance figures ever reported for the event.

This year's fair, held March 3-13, drew 560,487 visitors, up from 517,427 in 2015.

"We had a phenomenal run, and we are truly thankful," said Paul Davis, general manager of the fair. "We had terrific weather, good crowds, and everyone seemed to be enjoying time with their families."

Lauren McNair, public relations and media representative, said weather can really make a difference.

"Last year we had a Saturday that was rained out," she said. "This year, we almost didn't have any rain. It did start raining on the last evening of the fair, about an hour and a half before we closed."

"Even though temperatures were a little warm, mostly in the 80s, people will still come out," she said. "They won't if it's raining."

Among other things, the visitors were attracted by the live music concerts, livestock shows, free entertainment, rides, food, arts and crafts among other activities.

Belle City Amusements Inc., the carnival company contracted to provide the festival's rides, reported an 18 percent increase in sales over the 2015 gross.

The carnival brought in a total of 88 rides, with 41 of them kiddie rides that



The 2016 Florida Strawberry Festival, Plant City, Fla., March 3-13, drew one of its largest attendances ever this year with 560,487 attendees. Belle City Amusements provided the midway with 88 rides. Left, what would a strawberry festival be without strawberries like these? These berries were seen at the Parkesdale Farms' booth.

COURTESY FLORIDA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

could be found in the Sunybell Kiddie Korral.

Some of the major rides this year included Cliffhanger, manufactured by Dartron; Moonraker by SDC; Ring of Fire, Larson International; Freak Out, KMG; Magnum, Mondial; Disk'O, Zamperla; Techno Power, Tivoli; and Ali Baba, ARM.

The Florida Strawberry Festival holds an abundance of competitions and contests, including livestock, agricultural, fine arts, exhibits, as well as a fried corn on the cob eating contest, a spaghetti eating contest, and, of course, a strawberry eating contest.

The 2017 Florida Strawberry Festival will be held March 2-12.

—Pam Sherborne

►HOUSTON

Continued from page 42

judged wild treats such as pizza garnished with scorpions and popcorn sprinkled with Sriracha, as well as old-time favorites like barbecue potatoes and turkey legs.

"It's like trying to pick which child you love the most," three-award winner Kimberly Revis of Custom Confections was quoted as saying. "My husband and I are always a nervous wreck on this day."

In other news across the Rodeo Houston grounds, show officials committed \$2,172,100 to its contestants in 2016, including the Rodeo Houston Super Series and Rodeo Houston Super Shootout.

The 2016 Rodeo Houston Super Series invited the world's top rodeo athletes to compete in seven events, March 1-19.

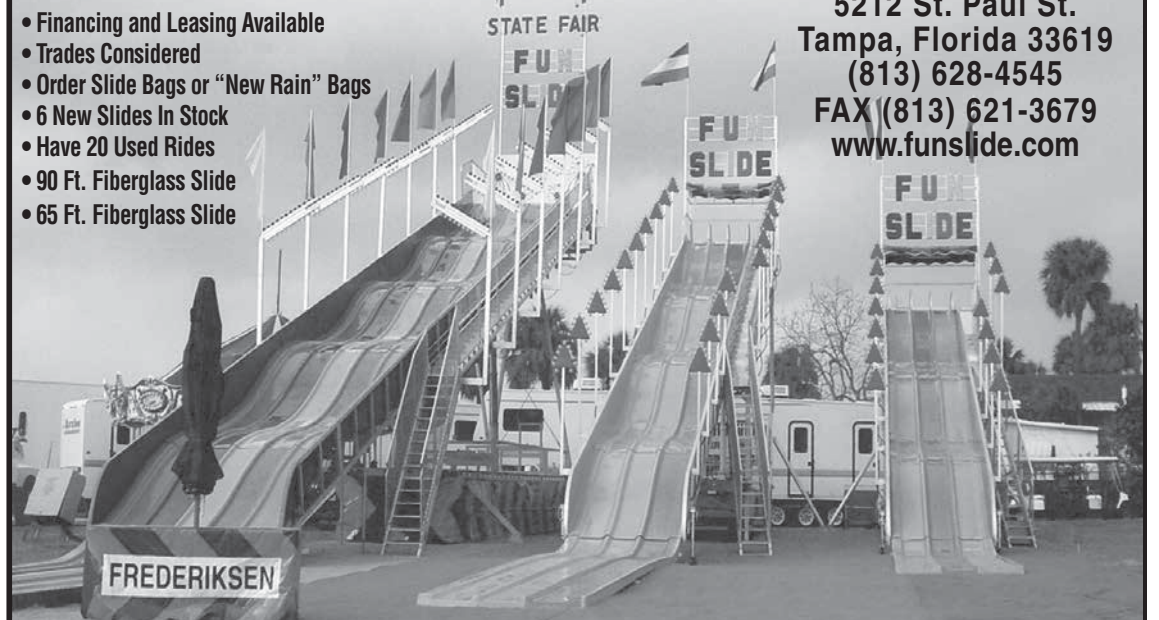
The junior auction totals (unaudited preliminary totals that do not include cash contributions and some purchase commitment amounts) included Barrow: \$2,300,133; Lamb and Goat: \$2,334,850; Poultry: \$1,355,150; School Art: \$1,960,000, and Steer: \$4,400,000

The Junior Commercial Steer Sale totaled \$674,815.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Champion Wine Auction brought in \$1,420,351, while the Ranching & Wildlife Auction totaled \$372,835.

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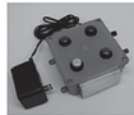


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CARNIVAL LIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

The State of New York will pay a Johnstown company \$32.9 million to expand the **New York State Fair**, Syracuse, midway and recreational vehicle camping area at the fairgrounds.

New York State Comptroller **Thomas DiNapoli** announced last month his office approved the construction contract with the **Wesson Group**.

The work is part of a \$60 million renovation of the fairgrounds that was announced last September by New York Gov. **Andrew Cuomo**. The project includes the demolition of the aging grandstand.

DiNapoli's staff also approved a second contract, for \$3 million, with **C&S Engineers**, of North Syracuse, to design the new expo center and equestrian facility at the fairgrounds.

The 2016 New York State Fair is set for August 25-September 5.

Illinois Governor **Bruce Rauner** wants to create a foundation for the **Illinois State Fair**, held in Springfield, to help with repairs and upkeep without adding a burden to taxpayers.

Raymond Poe, Illinois Department of Agriculture director, said there was \$180 million of deferred maintenance that needed to be done.

Governor Rauner said that by creating a foundation for donors of the state fair, it should help with needed repairs to continue highlighting agriculture in Illinois.

The chief executive of the **Los Angeles County Fair Association**, Pomona, Calif., is stepping down after reports that he received a lucrative salary while the group floundered in debt.

The association announced that **Jim Henwood** is leaving after 20 years as CEO. Board chairman **J. Michael Ortiz** will take over until a permanent CEO is selected. Henwood said Wednesday that's he proud of his tenure, but he's become a distraction from the association's work.

The association operates the **Fairplex** facility in Pomona, which hosts the county fair, concerts and other programs.

Henwood's departure followed a *Los Angeles Times* investigation that found he received more than \$1 million in compensation in 2014, when the group reported nearly \$3 million in losses.

A much-needed infusion of financial support for the **Colorado State Fair**, Pueblo, may be on its way.

During a recent regular monthly meeting, the State Fair Board of Authority heard from **Don Brown**, state agricultural commissioner, on efforts to secure an annualized allotment of \$750,000 from the Joint Budget Committee.

The funding pitch from the Department of Agriculture was first presented to the state budget director in response to a "clear recommendation from the state auditor."

The search for **Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe's** replacement at the **Kentucky State Fair** board has begun.

The fair board approved the issuance of a request for proposals from executive search

firms to lead a national search for a new president and CEO to succeed Rippetoe.

It was not immediately known how long a national search could take to find a replacement.

The decision comes after Rippetoe accepted the position of president of the **San Diego Convention Center** in California. Rippetoe's last day in Louisville was April 1.

The 2016 Kentucky State Fair will be held August 18-28.

Members of the **Showmen's League of America** participated in St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Chicago, where the SLA's headquarters are located.

On Friday, March 11, SLA members **Dave Jaros** and **Patty Grillion** put on their chef hats and treated everyone to corned beef, cabbage and dessert.

Then, on Saturday, March 12, members went on a trolley ride in the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. The after-party was at the club Saturday afternoon.

In a recent newsletter distributed by **Reithoffer Shows**, show officials stated that they are now 85 percent complete in upgrading to LED lighting on all the rides as they began the 2016 season.

Show officials also were looking forward to debuting its new **Pinfari Galaxy Coaster** as well as showing off refurbished rides including **Chance's Yo-Yo**; the Starship, manufactured by **Wisdom**; Western Mouse Roller Coaster, **Fujami**; Pharaoh's Fury, **Chance**; Grand Carousel, **Chance**; and **Wisdom's** Avalanche, which was rethemed and renamed Surf City.

Although he still works for the **Indiana State Fair Commission**, Indianapolis, **Mike Berkery's** title and job description have changed.

In February 2014, Berkery started as the general manager for the **Indiana Farmers Coliseum**. He recently was named as the new chief operating officer for the State Fair Commission.

As COO, instead of just focusing on the coliseum, Berkery will be responsible for all operations for the **Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center**, the production of the Indiana State Fair, operation/production of year-round events, parking and safety and security of the fairgrounds.

South Dakota State Fair officials have hired a company to take care of a gopher problem on the fairgrounds in Huron.

Fair Manager **Peggy Besch** said officials have fielded numerous complaints about the rodents that burrow holes and create tripping hazards. She said getting rid of them will increase safety for both people and livestock.

Brown's Amusements brought two new rides to the **2016 Clark County Fair and Rodeo**, Logandale, N.V., which ran April 6-10. One was a brand new **KMG Freak Out**, making its debut on the carnival's midway for this season. The other new ride was a Groovy Bus, manufactured by **SBF/Visa Group**. In addition, **Wisdom's** Gravitron was brought back after been absent last year due to an overaul.



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► Obituary — Page 50 / MarketWatch — Page 53 / Safety — Pages 54-56 / CLASSIFIED — Page 58

Ride sale conducted by Rides 4-U

Pier Park closing after 2016 season, ride auction already started

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. — Pier Park Amusements of Panama City, Beach, Fla., a part of the Simon Mall of Pier Park, is having its last season this year.

All rides will be sold by silent bid that started at the first of this month, said Len Soled, Rides 4-U Inc., the company handling the auction.

"Those wishing to bid on a ride can email me or call me, give me an of-



fer and the owner will decide whether to accept it or to counter offer," Soled said.

The owner of the park is Stan Manosousos. The park is located on land owned by the Simon Mall. Soled

said the landowners are planning to build another type of venue on the property.

"His lease runs out on August 31," Soled said.

At that time, Soled and Manosousos hope to have all rides sold. They will be moved off the property once the season is over.

Rides up for sale include: Tornado, Wisdom; Sky Tower, Zamperla;

Scrambler, Eli Bridge; Tilt-A-Whirl, Sellner; Tug Boats, SBF/Visa Group; Fun Slide, Frederiksen Slides; Horse & Buggy, Allan Herschell; Kite Flyer, Allan Herschell and a Theel Carousel.

"The owner has another property in Daytona Beach, Fla., with a SDC Galaxy coaster (named the Sand Blaster) that he will include in this sale," Soled said.

—Pam Sherborne

Partnership formed with The Humane Society of the U.S.

SeaWorld ceases orca breeding and will end shows chainwide

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — Just a few months after its surprise decision late last year to discontinue after 2016 the killer whale performances at its San Diego flagship park, SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc., has embarked on a rapid company-wide evolution.

The theme park operator announced that, as of March 17, it was ending its orca breeding program. The killer whales currently in the company's care will be the last generation at SeaWorld parks.

SeaWorld will introduce natural orca encounters, rather than theatrical shows, as part of its ongoing commitment to education, marine science research and the rescue of marine animals. These programs, the company said in a media release, "will focus on orca enrichment, exercise and overall health." This shift begins at SeaWorld San Diego next year, followed by SeaWorld San Antonio and then SeaWorld Orlando in 2019.

In addition, SeaWorld announced a broad new partnership with The Humane

Society of the United States (HSUS). The company is committing to educating its more than 20 million annual visitors on animal welfare and conservation issues through interpretative programs at the parks and expanded advocacy for wild whales, seals and other marine life.

"SeaWorld has introduced more than 400 million guests to orcas, and we are proud of our part in contributing to the human understanding of these animals," said Joel Manby, SeaWorld president and CEO. "As society's understanding of orcas continues to change, SeaWorld is changing with it... [and] we are fulfilling our mission of providing visitors to our parks with experiences that matter."

"We are pleased to join with HSUS on the significant issues facing marine mammals and their ocean homes. The work done by zoological facilities like SeaWorld is critical for the protection of animals in the wild, especially marine mammals. To that end, SeaWorld has committed \$50 million over the next five years to be the world's leading marine animal rescue organization,



SeaWorld's new animal welfare initiatives include replacing marine mammal shows with naturalistic exhibits and emphasizing the company's exemplary wildlife rescue work. SeaWorld San Diego's future includes a killer whale habitat, Orca Encounter (above), and an aquarium-based submarine ride called Ocean Explorer, while SeaWorld Orlando now offers guests an educational look at its Manatee Rehabilitation area (right). COURTESY SEAWORLD ENT.

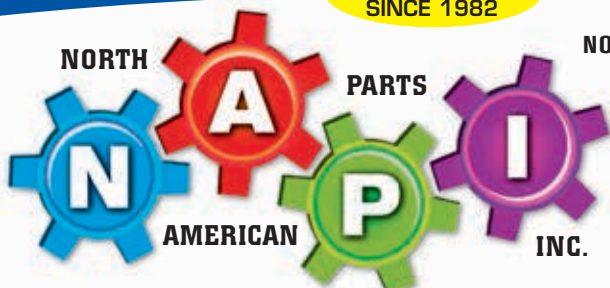
to advocate for an end to the commercial killing of whales and seals and an end to shark

► See SEAWORLD, page 47



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Sanrio and Universal Parks open new Hello Kitty store

TORRANCE, Calif. — Sanrio, Inc., the global lifestyle brand best known for beloved pop icon Hello Kitty, and Universal Parks & Resorts have opened the Hello Kitty Shop featuring Hello Kitty and Friends at Universal Orlando Resort.

The Hello Kitty Shop at Universal Studios Florida marks Sanrio's official retail debut and Hello Kitty's first appearance at a theme park in North America. The supercute retail experience, located along Hollywood Boulevard in the theme park, offers specialty merchandise including stationery, home goods, apparel, accessories, collectibles and confectionery treats. The majority of product will be exclusive to the park. Additional Sanrio characters will also be featured.

"As Sanrio's first official retail debut at a theme park in North America, the Hello Kitty Shop offers a new retail experience for fans of all ages," said Jill Koch, senior vice president of Brand management and marketing at Sanrio, Inc. "Our partnership with Universal delivers a new touch point for the brand through special products, unique merchandising and a fully branded store experience that incorporates many of our beloved characters."



►SEAWORLD Continued from page 46

finning."

HSUS views the partnership within a larger conservation/advocacy context.

"SeaWorld's commitment to end breeding of orcas is a long-held goal of many animal advocacy organizations, and we commend the company for making this game-changing commitment," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of HSUS. "Today we turn a corner, working together to achieve solutions on a wide set of animal issues including sunsetting the use of orcas at existing facilities; maximizing SeaWorld's focus on rescue, rehabilitation and advocacy for marine mammals in the wild; and sourcing food for animals and customers from humane and sustainable sources, in-

cluding cage-free eggs and crate-free pork."

The current SeaWorld killer whale population of 24 — including one orca that became pregnant last year — will live out their lives at the company's park habitats, where they will continue to receive the highest-quality care. Guests will be able to observe these orcas through the new educational encounters and in viewing areas within the existing habitats.

SeaWorld reaffirmed its commitment not to collect marine mammals from the wild. It has not collected an orca from the wild in nearly 40 years, and the orcas at its parks were either born there or have spent almost their entire lives in human care. These orcas, SeaWorld said, could not survive in oceans that include environmental concerns such as pollution and other man-made

threats.

The company launched an extraordinary television advertisement in March explaining both its evolution on the presentation of killer whales and the potential danger of releasing captive orcas to the wild, citing the post-ocean release death of *Free Willy* animal star Keiko in 2003 as an example.

SeaWorld's stock increased nearly 10 percent in the immediate wake of the latest announcement.

The company had been under increasing pressure nationally to end its killer whale shows and captive breeding program since the 2013 release of the negative documentary *Blackfish*. SeaWorld had seen a significant drop in attendance, particularly at its San Diego park, in the interim.

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Annual trade show moves to Dallas next year

Amusement Expo International enjoys another win in Vegas

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Nearly 2,800 exhibitors, buyers and attendees converged on the 2016 edition of **Amusement Expo International**, the annual conference and trade show of the coin-op and revenue-generating amusement, music and family entertainment center industry. The event took place March 15-17 at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Co-sponsored by the **American Amusement Machine Association (AAMA)** and the **Amusement & Music Operators Association (AMOA)**, this year's expo offered comprehensive industry education and a convention floor where well over 100 companies presented their products and services. Vendors specializing in coin-op machines, electronics, go-kart equipment, laser games, photo booths, plush / novelties, redemption equipment / merchandise, sports games, tattoos, token dispensers, video games and more participated.

The third year in which the expo offered a three-day format — featuring a one-day, two-track education program and two days of exhibits — continued the event's pattern of growth. This year, organizers sold more exhibitor booths (385 in all) and saw increased attendance at the education sessions, as well.

Amusement Today was among this year's exhibitors.

This also marked the expo's fifth year of co-location with the **National Bulk Vendors Association (NBVA)**, which had its own pavilion within the trade show floor, and its second year of co-location with the **Laser Tag Museum**, which once again ran its conference and education sessions independently.



Gene Brogowski, director of international sales for Innovative Concepts in Entertainment, Inc., of Clarence, N.Y., demonstrates the company's flashy ICE Ball FX Alley Roller — one of its most popular arcade games. The high-tech variation on Skee-Ball incorporates multicolor synchronized LED lighting.



Jack Cook, president of Bob's Space Racers of Daytona Beach, Fla., shows off his company's Master of the Midway carnival set. Designed for redemption centers and ideal for parties, the fairground-in-a-box contains four favorite midway games: Cover the Spot, Goblet Toss, Ring Toss and Bottle Up.



Mario Haase, representing LaZer Runner, Inc., of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, displays the new GEN3 LED Phaser and Fiber Optic Battle Vest. Haase extolled the company's reliable, durable electronics and the high capacity and affordability of its laser tag attraction. Free 24-hour tech support is included with Lazer Runner's products.



Funovation's Nic Hanzelik, sales manager, North America, and Ryan Borton, director of sales, highlighted the Longmont, Colo.-based company's Laser Maze Challenge. Funovation's cloud-based Laser Link system allows it to monitor and upgrade its attractions for clients worldwide. ALL PHOTOS AT/DEAN LAMANNA

Other event highlights:

- **Wayne E Hesch Scholarship:** This year's program awarded 51 scholarships to college students in the amount of \$1,000 each.
- **AMOA Innovator Awards:** There were 14 companies and 24 entries in competition. The winners were **Apple Industries**, Greenvale, N.Y.; **PayRange, Inc.**, Portland, Ore.;

- and **Rocket Amusements**, New Braunfels, Tex.
- **AAMA Awards:** **American Changer Corp.**, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (Supplier of the Year); **Bay Tek Games, Inc.**, Pulasaki, Wis. (Manufacturer of the Year); and **Betson Enterprises**, Carlstadt, N.J. (Distributor of the Year). The AAMA Lifetime Achievement Award went to its former president, **John**

- Schultz**, who served as president of jukebox maker **Rock-Ola Manufacturing Corp.** from 1998-2008.
- **NBVA Awards:** **Brian Angell** of **Angell Vending**, Golden, Colo., was named Most Innovative Operator for modifying a bulk vending mechanism to accept \$1.50.
- **Play Meter Magazine Award:** **Emily Dunn** of **Tom's**

- Amusement Co.**, Blue Ridge, Ga., was named Operator of the Year.
- **Booth Design Awards:** **AMI Entertainment Network, LLC**, Trevose, Pa. (large booth); **Embed**, Carrollton, Tex. (medium booth); and **AstroSystems, Inc.**, Las Vegas, Nev. (small booth).

Sponsors of this year's Gala included **Incredible Technologies**, Vernon Hills, Ill., and **TouchTunes**, New York, N.Y. (both platinum level); **AMI Entertainment Network, LLC** (gold level); **Firestone Financial**, Needham, Mass. (silver level); and **American Vending Sales**, Elk Grove Village, Ill. (patron level).

In 2017, Amusement Expo International is moving to the **Sheraton Dallas Hotel** in Dallas, Texas, March 14-16. Visit the organization's website for scheduling details and updates.

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During association's 103rd Annual Meeting

Myron Klayman inducted into NEAAPA Hall Of Fame

AT: Ron Gustafson
Special to Amusement Today

MYSTIC, Conn. — The late **Myron Klayman**, a past president of the **New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA)** and manager at the former **Paragon Park** at Nantasket Beach, Hull, Mass., was inducted into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame during the organization's 103rd anniversary Annual Meeting.

Ninety people were in attendance for the April 5 business meeting and dinner at the Mystic Hilton Hotel here.

For nearly 30 years Myron oversaw numerous operations of the seaside resort, which included landmark attractions such as a 1928 **Philadelphia Toboggan Co.** carousel and Giant Coaster, also built by Philadelphia Toboggan.

Operations he was in charge of included games, arcades, souvenir shops, and a miniature golf course. He was also actively involved in merchandising as well as the park's advertising and promotional efforts.

He served as NEAAPA president from 1976-77 as also held the office of secretary for the association for several years.

The park closed following the 1984 season and Myron became a bank examiner for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts until his retirement. He passed away last May in Canton, Mass.

Helped save carousel

A longtime resident of Hull, he took personal interest in saving the classic carousel, which still operates in town to this day and is known as the Paragon Carousel. A plaque honoring his work to save the carousel is displayed at the ride. He was an avid collector of carousel memorabilia throughout his life and donated his entire collection to the **Paragon Carousel and Museum**.

The huge roller coaster was moved to a theme park near Washington, D.C. and also continues to operate today.

Myron served as chairman and member of the Hull Board of Selectman from 1975



Myron Klayman, former Paragon Park manager inducted into NEAAPA Hall of Fame.
COURTESY NEAAPA

to 1983, and was instrumental in assisting to help rebuild the community following the historic blizzard of 1978. He was president of the Hull Lions Club, was a member of the Committee for the Preservation of Hull's History and an active member of both Temple Beth Shalom and Bnai Brith.

Growing up in Roxbury, Mass., he graduated from Roxbury Memorial High School. After high school, he met his wife Dorothy (Winkler) and they were married in 1954.

He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, earning a National Defense Service Medal.

Myron attended Boston University following his military service, where he received a bachelor's degree in business.

Others honored

Association President **Ryan DeMaria, Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H.**, presented the following awards during the evening gala:

President's Award: **Steve Gioe of Sodexo.**

Paragon Award: **Fun-town Splashtown USA, Saco, Maine**, for "unequaled excellence in graphic promotion."

Pinnacle Award: **Christopher Smith, Southwick's Zoo, Mendon, Mass.** The award is presented to a student employee who has demonstrated "peak perfection in guest/customer service." NEAAPA also presented him with a \$500 check.

Alan E. Ramsay Safety Award: **Don Fleck, CLM Entertainment Group, Woonsocket, R.I.** The award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated "an unparalleled commitment to safety in the amusement parks and attractions industry."

Meritorious Service Award: **Joe Montalto, High Mountain Enterprises, White Plains, N.Y.** It was also Joe's birthday during the event with NEAAPA recognizing the occasion.

Educational seminars

More than 50 members participated in a variety of educational seminars during the day. They included: Radical Retention Ideas And The Tough Truth About Turn-over, moderated by **Sodexo's**



Many took part in the educational seminars during the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) Annual Meeting in Mystic, Conn.
COURTESY NEAAPA

Steve Gioe with panelists **Eric Meixler of Canobie Lake Park**, and **Charlene Conway of Carousel Family Fun Centers, Whitman, Mass.**; The State Of Security Within Our Industry, moderated by **Jason Freeman of Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass.**, and **Tom McGhee of Protecting the Homeland Innovations, Pembroke, Mass.**

Also, Anatomy Of A Ride Incident Investigation, moderated by **Erik Beard, Wiggin & Dana LLP, Hartford, Conn.**; Active Shooter – How To Defend Yourself, moderated by **Freeman, McGhee and Bill Bannister**, also from Protecting the Homeland Innovations; PCI (Payment Card Industry) Compliance moderated by **Tina Walker of First Data, Tampa, Fla.**; and S.A.V.E. – Security, Awareness, And Vigilance

For Everyone, moderated by **Freeman and McGhee.**

A vendor showcase was moderated by **Bryan Carney of Dippin' Dots, Derry, N.H.**

Donation

More than 30 prizes were up for grabs – courtesy of **Pepsi Beverages Co.** and **Firestone Financial** – in the annual meeting raffle, including electronic items and Boston Red Sox tickets. In addition, member properties donated tickets and souvenirs for an Explore New England basket.

The raffle raised a record \$2,650 and NEAAPA will donate the proceeds in memory of Myron Klayman to the Paragon Carousel and Museum.

NEAAPA's Annual Summer Meeting will be held July 26 at **Canobie Lake Park.**

Kings Island, Fischer Homes partner on Care Center



The Family Care Center, built by Fischer Homes, will greet guests this season at Kings Island. The center is located on International Street near the park's signature Eiffel Tower.

COURTESY KINGS ISLAND

MASON, Ohio — **Kings Island** has partnered with **Fischer Homes** to offer a new Family Care Center for parents visiting the 364-acre amusement and water park.

The Family Care Center, built by Fischer Homes on International Street near the Eiffel Tower, will fulfill the wants and needs of young families visiting the park to provide a safe, private, comfortable nursing and changing experience with storage areas for personal items and waiting areas for accompanying family members.

"Parents with infants and toddlers will find helpful amenities in our new Family Care Center," Kings Island's Vice President and General Manager **Greg Scheid** said. "It features all the comforts and conveniences of home for our guests."

The façade of the Family Care Center features the unique style of a Fischer Home with

a covered porch while the inside offers restrooms, electrical outlets, charging stations, Wi-Fi services, televisions, refrigeration and ice, and hot water.

"Fischer Homes has listened to the needs of families and designed a unique child and parent-friendly space at Kings Island that allows families to attend to their children in a relaxed home-like setting," said **Steve Whaley**, corporate marketing manager for Fischer Homes.

Privately held Fischer Homes began operations in 1980 in Cincinnati, Ohio and is now the number one builder there. It has successfully expanded into the Indianapolis, Ind., Columbus, Ohio and Atlanta, Ga. markets. The company has sold more than 20,000 homes and has built 150-plus new home neighborhoods. These beautifully designed homes offer choices for people in all stages of life.

• fischerhomes.com

Boysenberry pie-chomping champ named at Knott's Berry Farm

Winner consumes 14.5 pounds of pie in eight minutes: to set world record

BUENA PARK, Calif. — Knott's Berry Farm's Calico Stage became a "berry" messy scene March 19 as pie eaters from across the nation competed for a \$4,000 prize purse and the title of World Boysenberry Pie-Eating Champion.

Internationally top-ranked competitive eater **Joey 'Jaws' Chestnut** successfully defended his ownership of the title, which he first claimed at Knott's last year. Chestnut set a new world record by shoveling down 14.5 pounds of pie in eight minutes. That bested his record of 14 pounds — or seven whole pies consumed — set in 2015.

Chestnut nabbed a \$2,000



World boysenberry pie-eating champ **Joey "Jaws" Chestnut** (above) guarded his title against nine challengers by chowing down seven whole pies in a March 19 contest at Knott's Berry Farm.

COURTESY
KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

prize for his gluttonous gamesmanship. **Steve Hendry**, with 10.25 pounds of pie stuffed, took second and a \$1,000 prize. Landing in third and fourth places by gobbling



9.5 pounds and nine pounds of pie, respectively, were **Miki Sudo** (\$600 prize) and **Michelle Lesco** (\$300 prize).

Rich LeFevre and **Justin Mi** tied for fifth place with

each scarfing down 8.5 pounds of pie, sharing a \$100 prize.

The event, which took place during the park's 16-day Boysenberry Festival, was sanctioned by **Major League**

Eating — a global organization that has developed and oversees the sport of competitive eating and conducts about 80 contests annually.

—Dean Lamanna

HERCO's Herb Brooks, Jr. dies at 66

ELIZABETHTOWN, Pa. — **Herbert M. Brooks, Jr.** 66, of Elizabethtown, Pa., passed away March 26, 2016 in the Hershey (Pa.) Medical Center.

Brooks worked for **Hershey Entertainment and Resorts Co.** (HERCO) for 33 years. He began his amusement industry career as an electrician at **Hersheypark**, Hershey, Pa., and then transferred to **Hershey Lake Compounce**, Bristol, Conn., as assistant general manager, later returning to Hersheypark.

At the time of his retirement in 2010, Brooks was assistant general manager at **Dutch Wonderland Amusement Park**, Lancaster, Pa., transferring there from Hersheypark when HERCO purchased that facility in 2001. (HERCO subsequently sold Dutch Wonderland to **Palace Entertainment** in 2010.)

While employed by HERCO, Brooks was instrumental in selecting the Wildcat, Great Bear and Lightning Racer coasters at Hersheypark, as well as new attractions at Dutch Wonderland after the HERCO acquisition of that park.

"Herb was a hell of a nice guy, very dedicated to his job of entertaining his guests," **Dick Knoebel** told *AT*. "He was also a previous president of **PAPA**, serving a two-year term. He will be missed."

Born in Lebanon on June 19, 1949, Brooks was the son of the late Herbert M. Brooks, Sr. and Dorothy (Ebersole) Brooks. He graduated from Hershey High School Class of 1967.

Before his career in the amusement park industry, Brooks



Herb Brooks, Jr.

enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1968, serving during the Vietnam War at the Korat RTAFB.

Golf was his passion during retirement. He could often be found at Fairview Golf Course in Hershey working in the Pro Shop or with his golfing group.

He was a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hershey, where he served as an usher and had served on Church Council. Herb will be greatly missed by many who loved and admired him.

Herb is survived by his wife of 34 years, Debra (Miller) Brooks, his daughters, Jennifer and Shelly Brooks, whom he loved dearly, and his sister Ann (Brooks) Dunlop, wife of James of Palmyra, Pa.

A celebration of his life was held on March 30, at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Interment with military honors was private at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, Pa.

Contributions can be made to the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hershey or to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

PEOPLE WATCH

Crayola Experience names new GM

ORLANDO, Fla. — **Crayola Experience** has named former Revenue manager **David Norton** as its new general manager, effective immediately.

The position was recently vacated by **Scott Poling**, who came from the brand's headquarters and original location in Easton, Pa. Poling has moved to Bloomington, Minn., to open the family attraction's new facility at **Mall of America** which will open this spring.

Norton joined the Crayola Experience team shortly after its grand opening at **The Florida Mall** last summer. Prior to that, Norton spent many years with **Silverwood Theme Park** and **Boulder Beach Water Park** in Athol, Idaho. He held positions ranging from director of operations and director of revenue and entertainment, to general manager and vice president.

Norton earned his degree at North Idaho College and has a background in culinary arts, having once served as a private chef on yachts in countries from Singapore to Australia.

Vortex appoints Guilbeault

MONTREAL, Qc., Canada — **Vortex Aquatic Structures International**, a manufacturer and world leader in aquatic play landscapes and entertainment solutions, announced that **Virginie Guilbeault** has been appointed vice president, Business Development, Europe/Middle East. Over the past decade, Guilbeault had served Vortex in several business development and marketing functions, playing key roles in developing the company's international business over the past several years.

In her new position, Guilbeault will coordinate with **Kevin Spence**, VP Business Development, North America, to maintain a strong global customer focus. Guilbeault reports to **Stephen Hamelin**, president, Vortex International.



Norton



Guilbeault

Carl Arnett retires from SCBB

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — **Carl Arnett** recently retired from his job as director of Technical Services at the **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk** after an eventful 43 years. Carl began his Boardwalk career as a Giant Dipper ride operator and sign painter while studying electronics. Because of his interest in new technology, he became a technician for new computerized games coming into the arcades. When the park's audio technician left the company, Carl took on that responsibility, transitioning the park from tube type amplifiers and tape loops to solid-state amps and digital recorders. When disco was popular, Carl turned the Grove into a disco palace. Soon after, when electronic cash registers became popular, he supported them. He introduced the park's first two-way radio system and the park's first closed circuit TV (CCTV) camera, earning him the title of director for the company's new Technical Services department. In the 1980s Carl found a multi-user computer at a garage sale for \$125 and convinced Marketing to use it, it was the park's first computer. Carl's department grew to nearly 20 employees and now oversees all technology from rides and games to computer networks, POS systems, phone systems, key-card access control, a cashless payment card for games and rides, and an automated ticketing system for the parking lot. The company celebrated Carl's retirement with lunch, games, and presentations in Neptune's Kingdom.



Boardwalk CEO **Charles Canfield** (left) thanks **Carl Arnett** (right) for his 43 years of service. COURTESY SCBB

CEO Matt Ouimet halts rumors, redoubles park commitment

Cedar Fair's president assures: 'We're keeping Great America'

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Less than a week after California's Great America (CGA) swung open the gates to celebrate its 40th anniversary season, it welcomed a very serious surprise guest: **Matt Ouimet**, president and CEO of Cedar Fair Entertainment Company, the theme park's owner.

It wasn't exactly a drop-in, considering that Cedar Fair's home base is in Sandusky, Ohio. But Ouimet had a very compelling reason to make the trip: persistent regional buzz, fueled by several media reports, that Great America — a fixture here since 1976 — was facing an uncertain future with the eventual sale of the leased land on which it sits.

An official company statement to the contrary distributed weeks earlier to local news outlets had failed to stop the rumors, so the executive felt it was time to tackle and dispel them directly. On the morning of March 30 — accompanied by CGA Vice President and General Manager **Raul Rehnborg** and armed with a large, color-coded diagram of Great America's proposed long-range development plans — he held a press conference in front of the park and did just that.

"It was unfair to our employees to have to deal with the rumor mill, particularly since I knew that the story was essentially the opposite of what was being portrayed out there," said Ouimet in an exclusive interview with *Amusement Today* following the media event. "I've also been in the business long enough to know there are people who have an emotional attachment to parks like Great America, and I didn't want them having to go through that angst, either."

Uncommon ground

How CGA and Cedar Fair arrived at this point is a matter of California's changing redevelopment laws and the Silicon Valley's booming real estate market. The park occupies land adjacent to



Matt Ouimet, president and CEO of Cedar Fair, held a press conference at California's Great America on March 30 regarding plans for the theme park's future. COURTESY CALIFORNIA'S GREAT AMERICA

two-year-old **Levi's Stadium** (home of the **San Francisco 49ers** NFL football team and site of this year's Super Bowl) — and deep-pocketed developers with alternate-use ideas in mind have been circling it for some time

The Great America parcel was formerly owned by the **City of Santa Clara Redevelopment Agency**. After California's dissolution of redevelopment agencies statewide in 2012, the land was transferred to the **Successor Agency to the Santa Clara Redevelopment Agency**, which — under the state's mandate — will be putting it and other former redevelopment holdings up for sale later this year.

The terms and transferability of Cedar Fair's ground

lease, assured Ouimet, are ironclad. The company has the rights to operate amusement and entertainment businesses on the property through 2074.

"Under that lease, we also have the right of first refusal to purchase the land if the land is ever sold," the executive said. "If, when that land is ready to be sold, it is at a rational price, then we intend to exercise our right of first refusal and buy the land. If it isn't at a rational price in our determination, the fact that someone else owns the land will not affect our future plans. And anybody who bought the land would have to first go through us, and then go through the City of Santa Clara, before it could be anything other than an amusement park."

While CGA has been an established use of the land for four decades, Cedar Fair more recently took an opportunity to solidify the terms of the park's lease.

"We updated the lease as part of the deal allowing the 49ers' stadium to go on our prior employee parking lot," Ouimet said. "The update contemplated the fact that maybe someday this lease would be transferred, and if it is, we still want to make sure that, again, we have the rights and privileges that were [originally] contemplated through 2074."

He added with a laugh:

"Great America not only needs to become a great amusement park, but the social center of Santa Clara."

—Matt Ouimet, President & CEO, Cedar Fair

"I intend to be here until 2074 to make sure that they live up to their obligations."

Poised for 'Great'-ness

The media speculation over the future of CGA, combined with the park's inherent potential and the dynamic Silicon Valley environment, has energized Ouimet. The former **Walt Disney Company** executive, who replaced retiring longtime Cedar Fair CEO **Dick Kinzel** in 2012, has taken some bold steps to lead the theme park company to greater levels of success.

"Great America is a unique piece of property, and I don't know that we have another [park] that is surrounded by as much commercial development," he said. "It's also unique in that the amount of multi-family housing that is intended to be constructed within walking distance of the park is several thousand units. So we have literally tens of thousands of people working — and will have additional tens of thousands of people living — within foot distance of the park. That's not something that anybody I could refer-

ence quickly has."

Cedar Fair must step up its game to maximize CGA's synergy with the sports stadium and the impending community development, acknowledged Ouimet.

"This not only needs to become a great amusement park, but the social center of Santa Clara," he said. "It needs to be the place to be to have fun, not just to ride rides."

To that end, Ouimet conveyed that Cedar Fair is seeking zoning adjustments from Santa Clara that will allow the company to exceed current height restrictions (the park's tallest roller coaster is just over 100 feet, while the FAA has a 250-foot cap) and put in larger and different types of attractions. In addition to proposing the expansion and rearrangement of attractions within its boundaries, the park has advanced the concept of carving out a section for a **Downtown Disney**-style entertainment district.

Cedar Fair's future development plans follow its substantial, previously-announced investments in CGA for this season, which include the soon-to-open attraction **Mass Effect: New Earth 4D Holographic Journey** and **Winterfest**, an annual holiday celebration that will extend the park's operating season.

"There's enormous potential here," Ouimet said. "In order to get to that potential, we created a vision and translated it into a master plan — which we've filed with the City of Santa Clara so that it can go through all the entitlement-type processes over the next nine to 12 months.

"After we get these approvals, we have every intention to spend tens of millions of dollars making Great America one of the greatest amusement parks in the country."

•cagreatamerica.com



Among Cedar Fair's proposals for California's Great America, pending local approvals, are a new entertainment district and new and expanded attractions, as presented in this diagram at the press conference. COURTESY CALIFORNIA'S GREAT AMERICA

Ride Entertainment partners with Clip 'n Climb

STEVENSVILLE, Md. — Ride Entertainment announced on March 16 that it has begun representing Clip 'n Climb. The



Climbers enjoy the challenge that this Astroball provides at the Adventure Ropes Course at Jordan's Furniture in New Haven, Conn. COURTESY REG

company, which manufactures and installs adventure zones and full climbing centers comprised of multiple climbing elements, was founded in 2006 and designed with years of climbing experience.

"We are excited to partner with Clip 'n Climb and represent their product to North American amusement parks," said Adam Sandy, Ride Entertainment's chief Business Development Officer. "Parks continue to come to us and request interactive attractions, which is why we wanted to find another partner that can offer our customers safe, fun experiences where the guest experience is active, not passive."

Clip 'n Climb sells groups of climbing challenges that participants climb using the TruBlue auto belay system. Their unique elements like the Astroball and Stairway to Heaven come from a catalogue of over 30 challenges and can be mixed and matched to offer each customer the perfect collection of attractions and climbing routes. All Clip 'n

Climb products are sold turn-key, which means that operators are handed the center ready to operate.

Clip 'n Climb's North American Sales Manager Susan Anderson said, "We are proud to be the innovator and pioneer in family climbing. An enormous amount of thought, climbing expertise and engineering went into each challenge unit we manufacture. We currently have 76 locations worldwide and have 107 new projects underway. The continued growth in the U.S. is a perfect fit for with amusement parks, trampoline parks, FEC's, resorts, and sports complexes or a stand alone family climbing centers."

The Clip 'n Climb system has been a hit with owners around the world because of its fast return on investment and popular with a generation of park-goers looking for a hands-on experience. The company's latest installation opened at Top Jump Trampoline Park in Pigeon Forge, Tenn. on March 30,



Chris Coates, co-owner of Top Jump at the Entre-Prises owned and operated Center in Exeter, U.K., gives a thumbs up after a successful climb. COURTESY REG

2016 and features 21 climbing lines. This is the largest Clip 'n Climb in the U.S. to date.

BRIEFS

VR Arcade meeting set for May 2-4

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — The inaugural VR Arcade Conference has been scheduled for May 2-4, 2016 in Mountain View, Calif.

The VR Arcade Conference has been designed to be the first ever event that addresses the emerging application of Virtual Reality in the out-of-home entertainment sector. It has already gathered an auspicious lineup of speakers and sponsors that will present developments in this highly auspicious market sector.

•vrcardecconference.com

SVN Florida selling Jungle Adventures

ORLANDO, Fla. — SVN Florida Senior Advisor Ali Mushtaq is coordinating the sale of a Christmas, Fla., property that contains the Jungle Adventures theme park. The sale includes the real estate, the business itself and the 501(c) nonprofit organization associated with it. All of the inventory – the alligators, exotic birds, mammals, and other animals – are also included. The sale price is north of \$2 million.

"This is an outstanding opportunity for someone who wants to acquire an existing business and take it to the next level," said Mushtaq, whose office is in Heathrow, Fla. "It's an interesting property, full of possibilities. If you love animals, this is the real estate for you."

The park property contains a gift shop and facilities for refreshments and food.

•svnflorida.com

APSP & NSPF agree to merge

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The boards of the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) and National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF) met the first week in April and agreed in principle to merge the two organizations. Both boards believe that the merge will better support the present and future needs of the aquatics industry.

Rich Garbee, APSP chairman of the board, and G. Bruce Dunn, NSPF chairman of the board, jointly stated, "The aquatics industry has seen dramatic changes over the past 10 years. APSP and NSPF each have a distinguished history of service to our industry. We are excited to build a vision where we can achieve even more together."

A process is underway to plan and implement this merger of equals.

HIG Capital completes sale of Looping Group to Ergon

PARIS, France — H.I.G. Capital (HIG), a leading global private equity firm, announced on March 23 that it has completed the sale of Looping Group to the Ergon Capital Partners III SA investment fund (Ergon).

The theme park operator was created in 2011 following HIG's acquisition of seven amusement parks from Compagnie des Alpes. Since then, the group has further expanded via subsequent build-ups in France and Spain.

Looping is currently one of the leading operators of regional amusement parks in Europe with 11 parks, including seven in France (Planète Sauvage, Mer de Sable, Bagatelle, Mini Châteaux, Grand Aquarium de Touraine, Cobac Parc and Grand Aquarium de Saint-Malo) and four in other European countries (Aquaparc du Bouveret in Switzerland, Hellendoorn in the Netherlands, Pleasurewood Hills in the U.K. and Isla Magica in Spain).

The management team led by Laurent Bruloy will remain at the helm of the company and has reinvested in the transaction alongside Ergon.

Looping Group Managing Director Laurent Bruloy commented: "We thank HIG for their contribution to our company's growth over the past years. Our partnership, founded on trust and sharing, has been a resounding success and has played a crucial role in the creation and development of our group. We look forward to working with Ergon to further implement our growth strategy."

Olivier Boyadjian, managing director of HIG France, added: "We are delighted to have worked alongside Looping and to have driven its growth over the last five years. Throughout this time the company, steered by a highly skilled management team, has expanded its international footprint and diversified its offering. This transaction is a success for both management and HIG. We wish Looping and its teams the best of success in the coming years alongside Ergon."

—AT Staff



SILENT AUCTION

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE:

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- 2008 Zamperla Sky Tower
- 1956 Eli Bridge Scrambler
- 1959 Sellner Tilt-A-Whirl
- 2009 SBF/Visa Tug Boats
- 1997 Frederiksen Fun Slide
- Allen Herschel Horse & Buggy Ride
- Allen Herschel Kite Flyer
- 1972 Theel Carousel



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MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 04/13/16	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	28.59	43.58	22.31
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	460.00	473.30	360.93
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	58.95	60.64	48.45
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	61.95	64.99	50.01
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	99.48	122.08	86.25
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1450.00	1568.00	1021.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	2255HK	SEHK	1.68	2.13	1.09
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	9.73	12.90	8.22
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	23.10	24.41	16.18
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	21.65	22.68	16.86
Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Town Co., Ltd. (OCT)	000069	SZSE	7.00	14.78	5.88
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	59.00	59.92	41.6
Skyocean International	00593HK	SEHK	8.44	12.46	7.5
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	4060.00	4100.00	3304.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	5.15	7.68	5.06

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

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

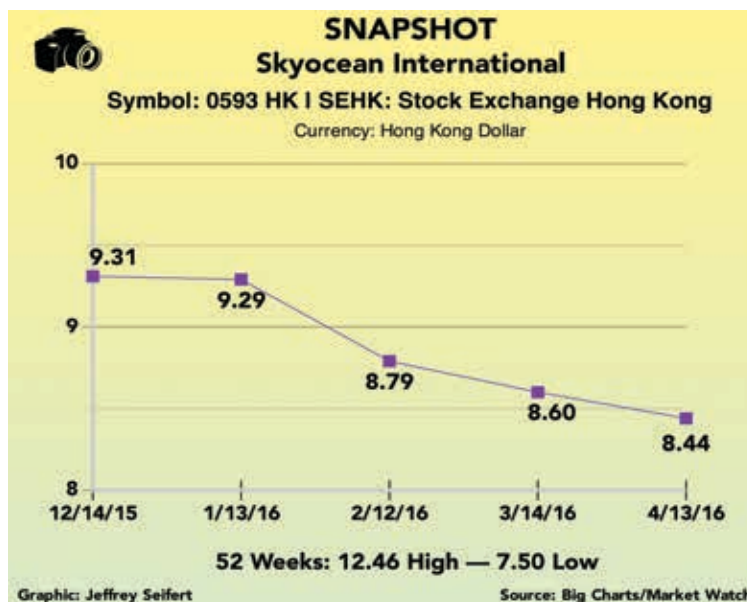
DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 04/11/16	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.187	-\$0.729
Midwest	\$2.082	-\$0.551
Gulf Coast	\$1.992	-\$0.628
Mountain	\$2.142	-\$0.561
West Coast	\$2.200	-\$0.520
California	\$2.437	-\$0.634

CURRENCY

On 04/13/16 \$1 USD =

0.8768	EURO
0.7014	GBP (British Pound)
108.30	JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9542	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3087	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.2861	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

China's Ferrari World announces partners

MARANELLO, Italy — **Ferrari S.p.A.**, a wholly-owned Italian subsidiary of **Ferrari N.V.** (NYSE/MTA: RACE), **Beijing Automotive Group Co., Ltd.** and **BAIC Eternaland Property Co., Ltd.** signed on March 17 a non-binding memorandum of understanding for the licensing of the design, construction and operation of a new Ferrari theme park to be located in one of the primary cities in Mainland China.

Six Flags plans Vietnam parks

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — **Six Flags Entertainment Corporation** (NYSE:SIX), announced on March 21 a new strategic partnership with **NaVi Entertainment**, a private company based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to build a theme park and a water park in Vietnam using the **Six Flags** and **Six Flags Hurricane Harbor** brand names, respectively. Both are expected to open in the next three to four years.

"Our international licensing strategy is gaining momentum and provides strong long-term upside for the company above and beyond the growth opportunity of our North America properties," said **John Duffey**, president and CEO of Six Flags Entertainment.

"We are excited to announce our third international licensing partnership and are honored to work with the highly-qualified team at NaVi Entertainment as we continue expanding the Six Flags brand globally," said **John Odum**, president of **Six Flags International Development Co.**

Polyfab USA now American-owned company

MANHATTEN BEACH, Calif. — **Barry Jamieson**, director of **Polyfab Australia**, has announced that its **Polyfab USA** division has been sold to the American management of that division. Jamieson was one of the originators of developing heavy duty knitted HDPE shadecloth more than 25 years ago, established the American division in 2008. Polyfab USA enjoys a network of highly professional distributors in the USA, Canada and Mexico, and will be expanding into other markets with its wide range of fabrics, hardware, trimmings and cleaners for shade sails and shade structures.

In brief...

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Last year marked a historic milestone for the St. Louis Gateway Arch, as the nation's tallest man-made monument celebrated the 50th anniversary of its completion. The **Gateway Arch** and **Gateway Arch Riverboat Cruises**, embarked on an RFP process for a new ticketing and admission control solution from **Gateway Ticketing Systems** which provided its Galaxy Product Suite to both attractions. •DANIA BEACH, Fla. — A demolition media event was held on the site of the Dania Beach Hurricane wooden roller coaster on March 16 by **Kimco Realty Corp.** (NYSE: KIM) to acknowledge the history of the former amusement facility and roller coaster. Kimco is replacing the site with **Dania Pointe**, a 102-acre mixed use development featuring more than one million square feet of retail and restaurant space.

•JACKSON, N.J. — **Six Flags Great Adventure** has won approval to cut down nearly 15,000 trees to make way for a 21-megawatt solar farm. **Jackson Township's** planning board granted the park's request to move forward with the project that opponents argue will have a devastating effect on the environment. Six Flags attorney **Raymond Shea** says the theme park scaled back its plan, but that was not enough for the opposition.

Correction...

•In our April report on the grand opening of **Great Wolf Lodge** in Garden Grove, Calif., AT neglected to include **ADG (Aquatic Development Group)** of Cohoes, N.Y., in the Fast Facts listing of the property's key contractors and suppliers. ADG, in fact, supplied the wave equipment and Double Flow Rider for the resort project. *Amusement Today* regrets the error.

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PTCI buzzing with multiple off-season safety projects

HATFIELD, Pa.—While most amusement parks enjoyed a long winter's rest, Tom Rebbie and his determined crew at Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc. were hard at work in eastern Pennsylvania making sure many of the world's wooden roller coaster trains are in peak condition and ready to roll for the 2016 season.

Two notable parks receiving brand new PTCI trains this year include Japan's Nagashima Spaland and Pennsylvania's Dorney Park. Spaland's White Cyclone, a massive wooden coaster built in 1994, was in need of replacement rolling stock. During the past three years, PTCI has built a trio of new trains for Spaland. This year, the third train comprised of seven two-seat cars was completed. Like the others, it is articulated and features individual locking lap bars. The trains' paint schemes — green, yellow and red respectively — will offer a striking appearance as they fly along the ride's brilliant white structure.

A bit closer to home, Dorney Park announced last year that it planned to refurbish its classic Thunderhawk wooden coaster for the 2016 season. Along with a fresh, traditional paint scheme, the 1924-built coaster's track

SAFETY

layout will be outlined in white tracer lights. A major highlight of Thunderhawk's facelift will be a handsome pair of four-car, three-seat trains PTCI fabricated to replace the ride's older rolling stock of the same configuration. What sets these new ride vehicles apart is the fact that both lead cars feature open front panels, which is an adaptation of a technique used on trains during the wooden roller coaster's first Golden Age in the early 20th century. The trains also will feature a bold paint scheme, individual lap bars and 3-D Thunderhawk logos.

In addition to the new trains, a large number of operators turned to PTCI for their annual wooden roller coaster train winter rehab and overhaul. This in itself is a massive undertaking for the Pennsylvania team. Once the trains arrive, they are inspected to determine just what degree of attention each requires. Then, the individual cars are broken down into their most basic components. All grease and paint is removed. Everything is cleaned and repaired while worn parts are replaced. Each car is then lovingly

rebuilt, re-painted and buffed until it shines like new before being shipped back to its home park.

PTCI's list of winter overhaul projects include:

- **Funtown Splashtown USA:** 6 two-seat cars for Excalibur;
- **Six Flags America:** 6 two-seat cars for Roar;
- **Six Flags America:** 4 three-seat for Wild One;
- **Holiday World:** 12 two-seat cars for The Voyage;
- **Cedar Point:** 14 two-seat cars for Mean Streak and 8 three-seat cars for Blue Streak;
- **Clementon Park:** 4 two-seat cars for HellCat, and
- **Kemah Boardwalk:** 6 two-seat cars for Boardwalk Bullet.

Along with the new and refreshed coaster train projects, PTCI has also sold more examples of its revolutionary Amusement Ride Transfer Accessibility Device for the Physically Disabled. Unveiled last fall during the IAAPA Attractions Expo in Orlando, this new apparatus allows guests to board a roller coaster train under their own power. Along with a restraint system that helps keep riders upright, the new device was specifically designed by PTCI to allow park guests with certain mobility issues to safely enjoy



Top, two new sets of PTCI trains were recently delivered to Dorney Park's Thunderhawk wooden coaster and feature new open car front (above left). The trains were part of improvements made to the coaster this offseason. Above right, sales of PTCI's Amusement Ride Transfer Accessibility Device remain brisk. COURTESY PTCI

wooden roller coasters.

PTCI's ongoing dedication to quality and tradition is a testament to its longevity. Operating since 1904, this award-winning company continues to be the lead-

ing supplier of rolling stock for the world's wooden roller coasters.

In his customary send off, PTCI Owner and President, Tom Rebbie, stated "We hope everyone has a fun and safe season!"

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Safety first!

Karen Oertley

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Oertley

ORLANDO, Fla. — It's that time of year! The summer season is nearly upon us and amusement industry employees are putting in extra hours to prepare for their guests. With safety as the industry's number one priority, attention is focused on the importance and challenges in keeping people safe from themselves, each other and their surroundings. Continuing safety training and education is of utmost importance to every individual working in the amusement industry and the **AIMS Safety Seminar** continues to grow in response.

The 2017 AIMS Safety Seminar Education Committee, made up of individuals representing different fields and areas of industry knowledge, met in early April to begin planning the curriculum for the 2017 AIMS Safety Seminar. Led by Chairman **Bob Conway** and AIMS Safety Seminar Manager, **Holly Coston**, committee members include



The AIMS board of directors recently met at the Doubletree by Hilton at SeaWorld in Orlando to begin planning for the 2017 AIMS Safety Seminar, Jan. 8-13, 2017 in Orlando.
COURTESY AIMS INTL.

Jeff Alberts, Mike Martin, Andy McNeeley, Michelle Reuter, John Riggleman, Jeff Savelesky, Barry Schiabe, Tracy Shedd, Randy Vakiener, Randy Wilkie, AIMS board president, **Timo Klaus**, and Executive Director, **Karen Oertley**.

"The 2017 Safety Seminar is off to a fantastic start thanks to feedback from students and in-

structors along with fresh ideas and insight from the Education Committee," said AIMS Safety Seminar Manager, Holly Coston. "We continually work to improve and update our classes as well as offer the basics on safety education for maintenance, ride inspection, operations and aquatics. Stay tuned for news on exciting additions to our curriculum as instructors and classes are confirmed."

The 2017 AIMS Safety Seminar will be held January 8-13, 2017, at the **Doubletree by Hilton at SeaWorld** in Orlando, Florida. Early registration is now available at last years price of \$595. Tuition includes class materials, CEUs, a completion certificate, the opening reception, two breaks and a full lunch every day. Pre-paid registrants will have early VIP access to class selection when full registration opens in September.

Rooms at the Doubletree are \$99 per night. Registration and hotel reservations can be made at www.aimsintl.org where you can also add your name to our mailing list for updates and announcements. For more information on the 2017 AIMS Safety Seminar, contact Holly Coston at h.coston@aimsintl.org.

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

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Skynext event continues to seek out creative amusement minds

REVIEW: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — A conversation with **Skyline Attractions' Chris Gray** cannot help but be enthusiastic. Gray's passion for the industry and fondness of the vacation mecca of Orlando will hopefully carry forward to attendees of the annual Skynext industry event, sponsored by Skyline.

In 2015, the team at Skyline Attractions organized the event to attract eager young professionals that have the drive and the love to want to work in the attractions industry. Participants and presenters pay for their own transportation and lodging, hoping to find that direction and synergy that will create a career in the amusement industry.

On March 11 and 12, Skyline Attractions hosted eager participants at the company's facility. With 50 attendees coming from 17 states and two countries, the networking event allowed up-and-coming talent to mingle with some of the industry's key players.

"We've never lost the amusement park 'bug,'" smiled Gray, referencing the team at Skyline Attractions. "What we got to see during Skynext 2016 was every bit as exciting for us as it was for the attendees."

Industry presenters included **Mike Haimson** of **Dynamic Attractions**, who gave an inside look at the development of the SFX Coaster. **Katie Kelly** from **Walt Disney World** connected with the audience, recounting her steps that guided her path, as did **Mark Stepanian** from **Premier Rides**, telling of his own personal journey. An **IAAPA** presentation was given on the ambassador

EDUCATION

program. Other presenters included **Jeff Hornick** of **SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment**, **Jeff Jenson** of **ITEC**, **Marissa Blake** from **TEA** and **Greg Senner** from **Universal**, whose trivia contest seemed to be all the rage.

The event schedule was in a word — busy. Breakfast and light lunch was included both days, with one day featuring the renowned **IAAPA Expo** favorite **Honolulu Hot Dogs**. Along with the various presentations and networking opportunities throughout the day, an opportunity to visit **Fun Spot America** Friday evening was provided by the park. On Saturday, a surprise hard hat tour around and below **SeaWorld Orlando's** new **B&M** coaster, **Mako**, was extremely popular. Following that, attendees enjoyed a reception at the **Orlando Eye** and **Madame Tussauds**.

Amusement Today caught up with Chris Gray following the event and talked with him about the success of Skynext 2016.

How has the Skynext event changed this year?

This was our second annual Skynext. So the first year we had 30-plus attendees and six presenters, and this year we had more than 50 attendees and nine presenters. One was a surprise! We had a construction tour at the Orlando Eye last year and so we actually rode it this year. We are hoping to do the same with **Mako** next year. We will have to wait and see. We also have had night events at **Fun Spot**, **Dave & Busters** and **Madame Tussauds**.

How did the inspiration



Jeff Pike of Skyline Attractions addresses Skynext attendees at the company's facility. COURTESY SKYLINE ATTRACTIONS

for organizing this event come about?

We had started something like Skynext while we worked at **Great Coasters** and we called it **FRED X**. But really it's our way to help young professionals find out what it is they need to do to get into the amusement industry. It also is a great place for them to network with others like themselves and, of course, us. It's us giving back.

How do potential attendees hear about it?

We release info on our website and other amusement industry message boards.

What types of people do you see attending? Engineers, coaster designers, marketing, artists?

We get mostly engineers that want to design coasters. We are looking at combining Skynext with **TEA's** **Gib Gab** event next year, so that should help us get a few more marketing and artist types as attendees. We believe that Skynext can grow to a few hundred attendees in the coming years.

What are the biggest highlights of the weekend?

Our speakers have always been amazing. This year I believe the **Mako** construction tour took the cake. It is always fun to be able to see a coaster under construction and actually get to touch the track and walk under it all.

You've had great speakers. How easy was it to bring people on board to assist with this concept?

It always seems like a bigger challenge that it really is. Most speakers are very excited to speak as soon as they hear the concept.

How do the guest speakers approach talking to the participants?

We ask all presenters to tell their story. How they got into the business and got the bug. Then speak about their company's current projects and what kind of employees they are looking for. After each speaker we allow a few minutes for the attendees to ask some one-on-one questions if they are more interested in working for that particular company.

Following the Skynext event, do you often hear back from attendees?

We do get lots of thank you emails, of course. We also keep a private Facebook page open for all attendees and presenters to ask questions and have amusement related chats.

Having done this more than once, what have the organizers observed and learned to continue to see it improve in the years ahead?

This year we sent out a survey to all attendees. We found that most really think the presenters are all top of the line. They also want to see some other sides of the industry. So next year we will be trying to get someone from the water park side to come and present along with some park operational type folks.

"You know I go back to when I was that young guy looking to get into the industry and **IAAPA** was the best outlet," Gray added. "I will never forget when **Ron Toomer** come out of **Arrow's** **IAAPA** booth office and gave me advice on how to get into this amazing industry. It was a short conversation, but it certainly helped guide me to my current position in life. Skynext is sort of like that short conversation with **Ron Toomer** but it lasts for two-and-a-half days," he smiled.

Looking ahead, Gray said, "We're gonna need a bigger boat. We almost doubled out attendance year-over-year, and we're already looking to bigger venues to deal with the massive brainpower that comes with so many creative minds. We're already in talks with several Orlando companies to help us build that bigger boat in 2017."



Left, a hard hat tour of SeaWorld's new **Mako** coaster being built was a popular activity. Right, one of the event's activities was an evening reception at the **Orlando Eye** and **Madame Tussauds**. COURTESY SKYLINE ATTRACTIONS





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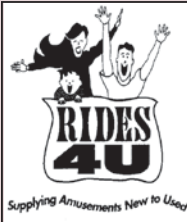
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