

## Adventureland Long Island brings Gosetto Mystery Mansion to U.S.

Two-level, suspended dark ride from Italy is a hit with park guests

AT: Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — They didn't really want a total scare, so when Adventureland Long Island officials began looking into what they wanted in a new dark ride, they came up with Mystery Mansion.

They also came up with a hit, according to the park's Steve Gentile. Not only did Adventureland get an attraction for all ages, but also a first in the U.S. The new dark ride, which opened Memorial Day weekend, is the first two-level, suspended-gondola attraction in the U.S. from the Italian manufacturer Gosetto.

"It is a beautiful piece that we got from Gosetto," Gentile said. "We are extremely happy with it and we are seeing our guests are happy, too."

Gentile said there is a huge amount of substance to the new attraction.

"Everything is magnificent," he said. "And, the Gosetto family is a class act. They are wonderful to work with."

The new attraction has something for everyone. Adventureland is a family park, said Gentile, so they



A new Gosetto two-level, suspended-gondola dark ride, the first of its kind in the U.S., opened at the beginning of this season at Adventureland Long Island, Farmingdale, N.Y. The ride features 12 suspended gondolas and 531 feet of track. Park officials said the response to the new attraction has been great.

COURTESY GOSETTO & ADVENTURELAND LONG ISLAND

wanted to make sure Mystery Mansion didn't just scare. Replacing the Ghost Mansion, Mystery Mansion offers the young and young at heart new thrills, chills, and laughter.

"We wanted people to have fun, a few scares and a few laughs," he said.

It seems Mystery Mansion has fit the bill.

The attraction features 12 suspended gondolas, which can hold two adults or one adult and two chil-

dren. Gosetto supplied the complete building, ride system and 12 animatronics/tricks.

Gentile said the park is working on scenery to fill in between the Gosetto tricks, but that part is not finished yet. He expects once the season is over and his staff is able to take a breather, they will be able to get it done.

The attraction has many unique features, not the

▶ See GOSETTO, page 4

## Pixar Pier delivers dazzle at Disney California Adventure

AT: Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ANAHEIM, Calif. — As if the parades and party hats weren't enough, the plethora of Pixar Animation Studios characters unleashed June 23 at the official opening of Pixar Pier at Disney California Adventure (DCA) made certain the revamped attractions area impressed kids and adults alike.

The celebration, occurring during the Disneyland Resort's already amped-up Pixar Fest summer celebration, which runs through Sept. 3 (*Amusement Today*, June 2018), showed off DCA's newly burnished, mostly-reimagined and cleverly spot-enhanced former Paradise Pier section.

Pixar Pier's producer, Jeffrey Shaver-Moskowitz of Walt Disney Imagineering (WDI), said planning and completion of the project took barely one year. "We went around and around on it, asking ourselves, 'Can we really pull this off?'" he told AT, explaining that the accelerated pace was necessary to coincide with the theatrical release of *Incredibles 2* and the launch of Pixar Fest, both already in the works. "We had hundreds of Imagineers

▶ See PIXAR, page 5



Pixar Pier has added beloved animated characters, eclectic design touches and diverse dining options to the former Paradise Pier at Disney California Adventure.

COURTESY  
DISNEYLAND RESORT



NEWSPAPER

POSTMASTER: Dated material.  
PLEASE RUSH!  
Mailed Tuesday, July 24, 2018

PRSRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
FT. WORTH TX  
PERMIT # 2069



AMUSEMENT VIEWS  
Page 2



PARKS & FAIRS  
Pages 8-27



WATER PARKS  
Pages 28-31



BUSINESS  
Pages 32-40



SAFETY  
Pages 41-46



CLASSIFIEDS  
Page 47



# AMUSEMENT VIEWS

**AT NOTEBOOK:** Gary Slade, [gslade@amusementtoday.com](mailto:gslade@amusementtoday.com)

## Free skin cancer screening



Slade

Hopefully, the hot summer sun is blessing all our amusement and water-based facilities with good weather and good attendance. As we are always warned of the damage the summer sun can do to our skin (one only needs to be reminded of our late, great friend George Millay and his skin cancer battles), AT was notified that our local Texas Rangers baseball team recently offered to give its entire full-time and seasonal staff the opportunity to come to the stadium (on a non-game day) for a free skin cancer screening — with no appointment needed.

What a great thing to give back to your team of employees who work long hours in the sun during the schedule of games. Perhaps this is a promotion fitting not only for our water park operators to offer, but our amusement park operators as well.

The opportunity to help a fellow employee catch the early signs of this ugly disease should bring a sense of goodwill to any owner or manager. And hearing the words "no signs of cancer" surely will bring a sense of relief to those employees. After all, if the employee took the time to take the free screening, then there is no doubt that skin cancer has crossed the mind of that employee. I'm sure our water park lifeguards would be among the first to attend the free screening.

If your facility decides to conduct a free skin cancer screening, be sure to let us know about it — we'd love to share it with others in the industry. Email us at: [editorial@amusementtoday.com](mailto:editorial@amusementtoday.com).

Just a quick reminder that if you have not yet registered to attend the Golden Ticket Awards on Sept. 7 & 8 at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Mo., you can do so by going to [GoldenTicketAwards.com](http://GoldenTicketAwards.com). Thanks to our host park and our supporting sponsors (Mack Rides, Rocky Mountain Construction and S&S Worldwide), this event remains free to all industry professions to attend. We hope to see you there!

**FLINT'S VIEW:** Bubba Flint



**INDUSTRY OPINION:** Tim Baldwin, [tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com](mailto:tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com)

## What is the queue telling the guest?

I recently attended a convention where someone was telling a story about an experience he had with a park general manager. The gentlemen had developed a good relationship. During one visit, the manager suggested they ride a coaster. The person telling the story suggested they use the queue line instead of short-cutting through the exit.

The manager noticed a foul odor in the queue building. He asked his friend, "Does it always smell like this?" The response: "Sometimes worse." The manager then noticed gum covering a wall later in the queue. Within a week, he had concealed the gum wall and rerouted the queue away from the smelly area until it could be corrected.

Standing in the queue can be a learning experience. What does the guest see and feel? And from a safety standpoint, what can guests get their hands on?

Here's a challenge every park manager or management team should take. Before the



Baldwin

park opens, walk each queue to check its condition. Later in the day, check again when there are guests. Has trash built up? How comfortable is it? Is it shaded, and how cool is it on a hot afternoon?

I often wonder if people "at the top" ever stand in a line. When a manager has the ability to walk up the exit to consult with employees or hop on a ride, why would he or she ever stand in a line?

The truthful answer: To see what it is like. Park guests spend more time in lines than probably any other activity. What are the queues telling the guests? "We care about you"? "We want you to be comfortable"? "We're glad you're here"? Or... "Deal with it"?

As someone who loves this industry and has stood in many lines, I have witnessed extremes wonderful and horrible. This Saturday, set an alarm for 3 p.m. to remind yourself to go stand in a line. Your experience probably will be the same as that of the thousands of park guests who do so every day.

*Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.*

**AmusementTODAY**  
Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

Amusement Today is an independent, privately-owned trade newspaper published 14 times per year by Amusement Today Inc., P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005. Print issues are \$50 per year and are mailed Presort Standard Postage (permit No. 2069) Pre-Paid Fort Worth, Texas. The entire contents of this newspaper, and its related websites, are Copyrighted and Trademarked 2018 by Amusement Today Inc., all rights reserved.

**Address:** P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005-5427, USA

**Deliveries:** 2012 E. Randol Mill Road #203, Arlington, Texas 76011, USA

**Phone:** (817) 460-7220

**Fax:** (817) 265-NEWS (6397)

**Websites:** [www.AmusementToday.com](http://www.AmusementToday.com), [www.GoldenTicketAwards.com](http://www.GoldenTicketAwards.com)

Call **(817) 460-7220** for advertising, circulation or editorial inquiries



**Founder, Publisher & Editor**  
Gary Slade • (817) 460-7220 x3  
[gslade@amusementtoday.com](mailto:gslade@amusementtoday.com)

**Accounting & Classified**  
Sammy Piccola • (817) 460-7220 x1  
[spiccola@amusementtoday.com](mailto:spiccola@amusementtoday.com)

**Assistant Office Manager, Circulation**  
Savannah Breen • (817) 460-7220 x5  
[sbreen@amusementtoday.com](mailto:sbreen@amusementtoday.com)

**Advertising**  
Sue Nichols • (615) 477-5432  
[snichols@amusementtoday.com](mailto:snichols@amusementtoday.com)

**Managing Editor**  
Dean Lamanna • (817) 460-7220  
[dlamanna@amusementtoday.com](mailto:dlamanna@amusementtoday.com)

**Editorial**  
Tim Baldwin • (972) 697-9745  
[tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com](mailto:tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com)

Jeffrey Seifert • (817) 460-7220 x4  
[jseifert@amusementtoday.com](mailto:jseifert@amusementtoday.com)

B. Derek Shaw • (717) 650-8330  
[bdshaw@amusementtoday.com](mailto:bdshaw@amusementtoday.com)

Pam Sherborne • (615) 308-3310  
[psherborne@amusementtoday.com](mailto:psherborne@amusementtoday.com)

**Production Manager**  
John Robinson • (513) 256-1441  
[jrobinson@amusementtoday.com](mailto:jrobinson@amusementtoday.com)

**Monthly Contributors**  
Dan Feicht, Bubba Flint,  
Richard Munch, Janice Witherow

**Association Memberships**  
ACE, AIMS International, ASTM, IAAPA, IISF,  
IRT/iROC, NAARSO, NEAAPA, NJAA, OABA,  
PAPA, PACE, TTIA, WWA

**Industry Affiliated Charities**  
Give Kids the World Village, Morgan's Wonderland,  
National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives

# 2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow

## Stephen Ball, Frontier City

**Stephen Ball** started his full-time career in the entertainment department at **Frontier City**, holding various positions at the Oklahoma City amusement park before landing in his current role as general manager. Stephen is known for developing character in the workplace and as a high-energy leader who “goes the extra mile.” He also serves as Frontier City’s resident historian, which is an especially important role now that the park is celebrating its 60th season. He credits his strong faith and love of family as keys to his success.

**Title:** General Manager

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

**Best thing about the industry:** Our job is to create fun!

**Favorite amusement park ride:** I love park trains.

**If I wasn’t working in the amusement industry, I would be...** Spending summers with my family.

**Biggest challenge facing the industry...** The negative effects of social media. As a society, we seem to be addicted to any form of outrage. If something doesn’t go as planned in our industry, the whole world finds out about it in an instant. And anything perceived as negative can leave a long-lasting impression on our visitors, even when nothing bad actually happened.

**The thing I like most about amusement park season is...** The first day of the season, followed closely by the last day of the season.

**Favorite junk food:** Chocolate.

**I typically celebrate my birthday by...** Trying to keep it a secret.

**The best place I have ever watched a sunset is...** On the white sand beach at Marco Island, Fla.

**The last time I cooked a meal, I whipped up...** Steaks on the grill.

**When going somewhere, are you usually early, on time or late?** Being an Eagle Scout taught me that being early is being on time; being on time is being late; and being late is being in trouble.

**I wish I could be paid to...** Fill out this survey.

**If I could visit anywhere in the world, it would be...** I’ve always wanted to visit Ireland.



**A 28-year amusement industry veteran, Stephen Ball is Frontier City’s general manager and resident historian.**

AT FILE

**You’re at the beach. Do you stay on the sand or hit the waves?** I’m more of a landlubber. I’d rather sit in the shade and read a book or take a nap.

**I would describe my backyard at home as...** A place to work when I’m not at work.

**The worst movie I’ve seen lately is definitely...**

*No Escape.* I like most of **Owen Wilson’s** movies, but this was not one of them.

**Favorite spectator sport:** College football, especially when the **Oklahoma Sooners** are playing!

**When drinking water, do you like yours with or without ice?** Lots and lots of ice.

**On a rainy day, I like to...** Watch the weather radar to see when it’s going to end.

**If you could be in a band, what instrument would you play?**

Drums, because I tend to be the loudest person in the group.

**My all-time best “bloopers” moment would have to be...** Losing the train when I was the engineer.

**The habit I would most like to break is...** Learning when to stop talking and just listen.

**The TV show I can’t live without is...** I’m excited for the return of *Last Man Standing*. It’s one of my all-time favorite TV shows.

**Favorite breakfast food:** Cheesy scrambled eggs and bacon from **Waffle House**.

## OBITUARIES

### John Holer, founder of Marineland in Niagara Falls, passes at age 83

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., Canada — John Holer, founder and owner of Marineland, died at home on June 23 at age 83 after an extended illness.

A regional tourism industry leader who believed attraction alternatives were needed around the falls, Holer established the earliest incarnation of his park in 1961 and grew its success and size through a combination of marketing savvy, emphasis on animals and, in 1983, a sprawling Arrow Huss steel roller coaster called Dragon Mountain.

Over the decades, the park’s performing and exhibit animals included dolphins, beluga whales and orcas (one, named Keiko, later appeared in the 1993 movie *Free Willy*), as well as land-based animals such as birds, bears and deer. Holer considered all of them “family.”

A native of Slovenia who immigrated to Canada in the late 1950s, Holer worked with a circus that traveled in Europe and North America. After he opened his park, he earned a reputation among his employees for generosity and hard work. He resisted several offers by large amusement companies to buy the property.

While credited with creating thousands of jobs and giving back to the community, Holer and Marineland faced controversy periodically — particularly in recent years, when allegations of animal mistreatment surfaced. Whistleblowers fueled investigative reports in 2012, and animal welfare activists worked to get the park closed.

Marineland, which complied with changes mandated by the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA), maintained that there was no truth to the allegations. Animal cruelty charges later filed by OSPCA were dropped during court proceedings last year.

The park subsequently filed a \$21 million suit against OSPCA for what it alleged were the agency’s attempts to damage its business.

Holer is survived by his wife, Marie, and son, Peter. He is predeceased by another son, John Mark, Jr., who died in 2013.

On June 27, Marineland was closed for the day while funeral services for Holer were held at Our Lady of Peace Church in Niagara Falls. Holer’s attorney said operations at the family-owned park were expected to continue without change through this season.



Holer

## MAILBAG

### To the Editor:

I want to say “Thank you” for featuring me as the first Woman of Influence [featured in *Amusement Today*, May 2018]. I have been overwhelmed with the positive and uplifting responses.

**Mary Christine Smith, President  
Allied Specialty Insurance, Inc.  
An XL Group Company  
Treasure Island, Fla.**

### To the Editor:

Thank you so much for featuring my book, *All Clear*, in the [June] issue of *Amusement Today*! Such an honor!

I sincerely appreciate the depth of the article and how you captured so many of the critical themes of the book. If anyone was on the fence about this book being for them or not, I think you cleared that up!

Thanks again!  
**Matt Heller, ICAE  
Performance Optimist Consulting  
matt@performanceoptimist.com**

## ERRATA

In our 2018 What’s New Guide (*AT*, May), the supplier named for the i-Ride Panoramic Flight Simulator listed with **Dreamworld** on Australia’s Gold Coast and **Amikoo Theme Park** in Quintana Roo on Mexico’s Mayan Riviera was incorrect. The supplier of the ride at all locations is **Brogent**.

In our July People column (p. 34), a photo of **Ralph S. Alberts, Co., Inc.**, team member **Andy Vogelsson**, who has been promoted to customer sales and service representative, was misidentified.

*AT* regrets the errors.

## ►GOSETTO

Continued from page 1

least which is the U-shaped portion of the 531-foot track that takes riders bursting through a door on the second level, and out and over the park's major midway thoroughfare. Then, they are back inside for more scares and thrills.

Mystery Mansion stands 40 feet tall and is 98 feet long by 44 feet wide. The cycle time is three minutes. The capacity runs between 480-600 riders per hour depending on the number of riders in each gondola.

Safety features include: adjustable lap bars, anti-



Guests at Adventureland Long Island, Farmingdale, N.Y., are enjoying a brand new attraction this year. Mystery Mansion, from the Italian manufacturer Gosetto, is the first two-level, suspended-gondola in the U.S. COURTESY GOSETTO & ADVENTURELAND LONG ISLAND

rollbacks on the uphill, magnetic brakes on the downhill, uninterrupted power sup-

ply (UPS) and rack systems, ATSM compliant, and fire resistant fiberglass on the gondolas.

Gina Guglielmi, U.S. sales representative for Gosetto, said the appeal of Gosetto dark ride systems is they can be built for any size park.

"Gosetto can supply just the ride system with animatronics, tricks and interactive features supplied by others or Gosetto supplying the complete ride system," Guglielmi said. "This offers customers an affordable and completely customized dark

ride option built for their needs and budget."

Adventureland's suspended dark ride is the fourth Gosetto has built with a fifth in production now.

Other Gosetto U.S. plans this summer include a traveling version monorail dark ride for Bob Myers, an independent mobile ride operator.

"We are in discussions for Gosetto dark rides and fun house systems with customers in North America for 2019 and beyond," Guglielmi said.

- adventureland.us
- gosetto.com

### FAST FACTS

**Ride/Park**

Gosetto  
Suspended Dark Ride,  
Adventureland Long Island

**Opened**

May 2018  
(Memorial Weekend)

**Dimensions**

98 feet long by 44 feet,  
40 feet tall

**Structure**

2 levels, with uphill and  
downhill track

**Suspended Gondolas**

12, seating  
1 adult and 2 children  
or 2 adults

**Ride Time/Capacity**

3 minutes with 480-600  
people per hour,  
depending on the number  
riders in gondolas

**Track Length**

531 feet

**Animatronics/Stunts**

12 Supplied by Gosetto,  
additional enhancements  
by park



Mystery Mansion features 12 animatronics/tricks supplied by Gosetto, with additional enhancements by the park. COURTESY GOSETTO & ADVENTURELAND LONG ISLAND

*Congrats Adventureland long Island for the opening of Mystery Mansion!*



12 Suspended gondolas  
on 162 mt of track



Vehicles leave the dark ride, travel outside  
& re-enter the dark ride

**GOSETTO**  
excellence & fun  
Represented in North America by  
**IRG**  
Intermark Ride Group

## ▶PIXAR

Continued from page 1

working on it. It's kind of a miracle."

Not all of the changes arising from WDI's close collaboration with Pixar are evident on first glance across Paradise Bay, DCA's manmade lake; the area has kept some of its early-1900s seaside resort look. But on closer approach, the new details emerge in both subtle and pleasantly surprising ways.

WDI's **Debbie Gonzalez**, Pixar Pier's creative director, told *AT* that a research trip along the California coast helped jump-start the process. "We pretty much went to every boardwalk and pier along the way," she said. "We were really struck with **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk**. We loved the architecture — not just the color of what's there now but looking back at research photos from the turn of the [last] century. What we wanted to do was marry some of the colors they have on the pier today with the architecture of that time.

"Pixar is fun — it's irreverent, it's colorful. We were looking at how to bring all the color from the films into Pixar Pier."

### Cinematic scenery

Guests enter Pixar Pier through a miniature light-dotted marquee and over a bridge flanked by flag-tipped, Victorian-era cupolas, beyond which lie four whimsical "neighborhoods."

The first is Incredibles Park, inspired by Disney-Pixar's *The Incredibles* and home to the



**The Incredicoaster, formerly California Screamin', now sports a Pixar-themed narrative, a midcentury-style loading station and newly repainted trains, among other enhancements.**

AT/DEAN LAMANNA

Incredicoaster, formerly known as California Screamin.' (The 6,072-foot-long multi-launch, single-loop steel roller coaster was custom-built for DCA by **Intamin** and originally opened with the park's debut in 2001.)

"The coaster was very popular, but it really didn't have a story to it," Shaver-Moskowitz said. "This was a really great chance to tell a new story."

Billed by the resort as the first ride-through attraction in the world to feature characters — Mr. and Mrs. Incredible, Violet, Dash and Jack-Jack, along with Edna Mode — from the hugely popular movie franchise, the Incredicoaster takes guests on a wild adventure involving a chase after the elusive baby Jack-Jack. With the coaster's four-second acceleration to 55 mph, the effect for

riders is that of being pulled into the action scene.

The storyline connects fans with the latest feature installment, *Incredibles 2*, which hit theaters in mid-June. The coaster's new lighting, character figures and special effects add to the thrills, as does a new soundtrack by Academy Award-winning composer **Michael Giacchino**.

The greater highlights of the more thematically realized ride — aside from its unusually generous, airtime-packed course — include a new mid-century-style queue and wing-roofed loading station, as well as scenes featuring Pixar characters at the start and end of the experience and inside three midcourse tunnels (the extension and full enclosure of which required adding 50 tons of steel to the coaster's structure).

Adjacent to Incredibles Park is Toy Story Boardwalk, home to the existing, interactive Toy Story Mania! 4D attraction. Jessie's Critter Carousel, inspired by cowgirl Jessie's wilderness friends in the "Woody's Roundup" TV show from *Toy Story 2*, is slated to open here next year.

Next to Toy Story Boardwalk is the lakeside Pixar Promenade, which celebrates several Pixar stories. The former Mickey's Fun Wheel has been transformed into the Pixar Pal-A-Round, taking guests for a scenic spin on its 24 Pixar character-adorned gondolas (some gliding Coney Island / Wonder Wheel-style on closed-loop coaster rails, some stationary) adorned with Pixar characters. The area also features the new Games of Pixar Pier, where guests can test their skills and win a prize at pay-for-



play booths.

Scheduled to open in late summer, Bing Bong's Sweet Stuff will offer traditional boardwalk confections such as saltwater taffy and rainbow cotton candy.

Just past Pixar Promenade is Inside Out Headquarters. Inspired by Joy, Sadness and the emotions of Disney-Pixar's *Inside Out*, this neighborhood will open a new flat ride in 2019 called Inside Out Emotional Whirlwind, to be tucked inside the Incredicoaster's west-end turnaround.

### Animated eats

Guests looking for food and beverage with a side of story will find them at the Lamplight Lounge (formerly Ariel's Grotto and Cove Bar), just inside Pixar Pier's main entrance. The two-level, lakeside restaurant / bar serves California-casual gastro-

pub cuisine and signature cocktails.

The Lamplight Lounge celebrates the artists and storytellers who have brought Pixar stories to life. Guests will discover the artistic marks that Pixar "regulars" have left throughout the lounge, including concept art, memorabilia and collectible Pixar character toys.

Creative food and beverage locations extend all along Pixar Pier. Adorable Snowman Frosted Treats, offering soft-serve cones and parfaits, was inspired by the lovable monster from *Monsters, Inc.* Jack-Jack Cookie Num Nums in Incredibles Park features baby Jack-Jack's favorite chocolate chip-studded treat.

At Toy Story Boardwalk, guests can sample the fare at Poultry Palace and Señor Buzz Churros. Poultry Palace, which looks like the fun, oversized meal box and juice box featured in the Pixar short, "Toy Story Toon: Small Fry," offers turkey legs and chicken drumsticks. Señor Buzz Churros offers the quintessential Disneyland Resort treat. Farther along the path, guests will discover Anger from *Inside Out* at Angry Dogs, where hot dogs with spicy ingredients are served piping hot.

The remaining areas of the original Paradise Pier, including Paradise Gardens, Silly Symphony Swings, Jumping Jellyfish, Goofy's Sky School, Golden Zephyr and The Little Mermaid — Ariel's Undersea Adventure, have been spun off into a new DCA land called Paradise Gardens Park. Because the riches at Disneyland's once less-favorably regarded sister park now are copious enough to spread around.

• [disneyland.com](http://disneyland.com)



Walt Disney Imagineering's **Debbie Gonzalez** and **Jeffrey Shaver-Moskowitz** led the Pixar Pier creative team. Early renderings, including those for the Poultry Palace, and a scale model of the entire project are displayed in the park's **Blue Sky Cellar**.

AT/DEAN LAMANNA; COURTESY DISNEYLAND RESORT



**The Lamplight Lounge offers California-casual fare, including the savory Carne Asada Roll, along with Pixar memorabilia and a relaxing lakeside atmosphere.**

COURTESY  
DISNEYLAND RESORT



# Amusement Today, Silver Dollar City invite industry to Golden Ticket Awards

Attendees encouraged to register for event and reserve hotel now

Registrations are being received for the 2018 Golden Ticket Awards. As the "Networking Event of the Year," the celebratory weekend is sure to be filled with worthwhile experiences and numerous takeaway opportunities.

While visiting host park Silver Dollar City, attendees will not only be able to experience behind-the-scenes tours spotlighting the park's award-winning Christmas event, culinary department and craftmaking, but also two days to enjoy all the one-of-a-kind attractions that make Silver Dollar City so unique, including the new-for-2018 Time Traveler. Event tours require advance registration. It is recommended to claim your spot soon as to not miss out! For first-time visitors, a tour into Marvel Cave below the park is highly recommended. It is the attraction that started it all, and it is a wonderful journey.

Amusement Today invites working industry professionals — park owners, operators, managers, ride manufacturers, suppliers and vendors — to register for the Golden Ticket Awards soon and, in particular, to secure hotel reservations. In years past, host hotels have sold out. Visit [goldenticketawards.com](http://goldenticketawards.com) for detailed information and rates. Hilton Branson Convention Center and Hilton Promenade



The ceremonies will be held aboard the *Showboat Branson Belle* (above). Attendees of the 2018 Golden Ticket Awards will get up close and personal with the Silver Dollar City's new *Time Traveler* (right). COURTESY SILVER DOLLAR CITY



at Branson Landing Hotel are the two event host hotels.

Concluding the two-day event will be the awards show on the *Showboat Branson Belle*. Onboard attendees will enjoy dinner, entertainment and the presentation of the acclaimed awards while touring Table Rock Lake.

While in the area, Branson provides an abundance of industry attractions, shows, the beautiful new Top of the Rock facility and plenty of shopping to extend your stay to make it even more meaningful.

Silver Dollar City and Amusement Today are pre-

paring a weekend nothing short of spectacular. The 21st annual Golden Ticket Awards are calculated from an international poll conducted by Amusement Today. The celebration will be an event like no other. Dates of the event are September 7 and 8, but Branson welcomes you to sit back and stay as long as you like.

—Tim Baldwin



**V.I.P. Amusement TODAY GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS 2018**  
BEST OF THE BEST!  
**SEPTEMBER 7 & 8, 2018**

## 2018 Event Itinerary

### Friday, September 7

- 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Registration at hotel, enjoy Silver Dollar City & Branson!
- 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. – Ride time on Outlaw Run and Barn Swing
- 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Ride time on Time Traveler and Thunderation
- 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Silver Dollar City welcome reception
- 9 p.m. – Return to Hilton Hotel for networking

### Saturday, September 8

- 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Registration
- 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. – Silver Dollar City open (GTA badge valid for park admission and exit line privileges)
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. – Silver Dollar City Christmas Tour
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. – Silver Dollar City Crafts Tour
- 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. – Silver Dollar City Culinary Class
- 6:15 p.m. – Buses depart hotel for Branson Belle
- 6:45 p.m. – Boarding and pre-reception on the Branson Belle
- 7:30 p.m. – Dinner on the Branson Belle
- 8 p.m. – Amusement Today's 2018 Golden Ticket Awards Ceremony
- 10:30 p.m. – Reception and fireworks on the Branson Belle's top deck



**Sponsored by**





**Register today for the 'Networking event of the Year!'**

[www.GoldenTicketAwards.com](http://www.GoldenTicketAwards.com)

**WANTED**

**THE BEST OF THE BEST!**

Amusement TODAY

**V.I.P. GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS**

**2018**

BEST OF THE BEST!

**September 7 & 8, 2018**



**REGISTRATION OPEN!**

**[WWW.GOLDENTICKETAWARDS.COM](http://WWW.GOLDENTICKETAWARDS.COM)**

# PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Frontier City turns 60 — page 14 / Peppa Pig joins Gardaland — page 16 / Midway Scene — page 26

## Pavilion Park at Broadway at the Beach purchases new rides

AT: Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — For the last several years, the entertainment complex **Broadway at the Beach** has consistently ranked as one of the top tourist spots in South Carolina.

Apparently, **Bill Prescott**, owner of **Pavilion Park**, the amusement park on the premises, doesn't want passers-by to forget that, nor does he want them passing by.

Toward this effort, for the 2018 season, Prescott purchased and installed two very visible rides, the **KMG XXL** pendulum swing ride named **The Beast** and a **Lamberink RL33** wheel called **Broadway 360 degrees**. He also installed a themed KMG Discovery called **Tsunami**.

Pavilion Park at Broadway at the Beach features three different areas spread out across the 350-acre complex. There is Pavilion Park East, where many of the original rides from the **Myrtle Beach Pavilion Amusement Park** have been relocated from the Ocean Blvd. site. Pavilion Park Central is where riders will find most of their thrills. Pavilion Park West has been created specifically with the younger set in mind.

The 130-foot-tall **Beast** is located in Pavilion Park Central. The Netherlands-based company describes the XXL as the "big brother of the Afterburner and the Freakout." This is the first KMG XXL in the U.S. and it was built as a park model. KMG traditionally specializes in rides that can be easily set up and torn down for the mobile market.

It has four gondolas with each being able to carry five riders for a 20-person capacity. Depending on ride time, **The Beast**



Pavilion Park at Broadway at the Beach (top right), Myrtle Beach, S.C., installed three new rides for the 2018 season, two of which are very visible. The park has seen a very positive response from the new KMG XXL ride called **The Beast** (above). This is the first KMG XXL ride in the U.S. and was built as a park model. The park also installed a new Lamberink RL33 wheel (below) this season. It stands 157 feet tall and has 36 enclosed gondolas. COURTESY BROADWAY AT THE BEACH

has a potential hourly capacity of 600 people. The ride swings 120 degrees and the gondolas can reach a height of 150 feet.

"The **Beast** opened in April," said Prescott. "We have been very, very happy with it. It is a big ride. The lighting package is great."

**Len Soled, Rides 4-U**, the company that brokered the sale between the Netherlands-based KMG and Prescott, is happy to be receiving such positive responses from park management.

"It is a great piece," Soled said.

The fact that it was built as a park model certainly gives it a broader range.

Pavilion Park's new **Tsunami** ride is also located in the Central area. This ride has one gondola, which can hold up to 20 riders. Depending on its ride time, it is capable of an hourly throughput of 800 people.

The **Tsunami**, which is almost 33 feet high, is a gondola mounted between two independently moving arms so that

the gondola somersaults.

It also is hard to miss the park's new 360-degree **Observation Wheel** named **Broadway 360**. This is an RL33 wheel from Lamberink, The Netherlands. It stands 156 feet in the air and sports 36 enclosed gondolas. Each gondola can hold up to six riders. It is located in Pavilion Park West. The lighting package includes more than one million lights synchronized with music.

The total number of rides at Pavilion Park, including all areas, is now close to 30.





**IRG**  
Intermark Ride Group

- Gosetto
- Moser Rides
- RES-WillTec
- Used Rides
- Wattman Trains

www.intermarkridegroup.com  
TEL 615.370.9625



**Gosetto Dark Ride Interactive**



**RES-WillTec Air Loop Coaster**



**Moser Rides Super Sidewinder**



Congratulations to Bill Prescott & Broadway at the Beach  
for unleashing... **The Beast!**



221 EVANS WAY, SUITE E • SOMERVILLE, N.J. 08876 • (908) 526-8009 • [www.RIDES4U.com](http://www.RIDES4U.com)

Multiple manufacturers provide new capital — wet to dry

# Six Flags opens several new rides across the continent

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Theme Parks** had a wide launch of attractions across the nation this summer. The assortment boasts multiple suppliers making for a diverse array of additions, some being world's firsts.

**Six Flags New England** in Agawam, Mass., enjoyed a Memorial Day weekend debut of **Harley Quinn Spinsanity**, a giant pendulum ride with guests seating outward. As seen at other parks, **Harley Quinn** has become one of the most popular DC-branded characters. Manufactured by **Zamperla**, **Harley Quinn** came with its own set of colors compared to previous models that had been named after **The Riddler** and **Wonder Woman**.

"With regards to the continued partnership of Six Flags Theme Parks, it has been an honor to be included in their capital plan for 2018," said **Ramon Rasario**, director of sales, **Zamperla**. "Collaborating with them and the DC brand they bring to the table has made for some really recognizable and thrilling attractions over the years. Between the **Harley Quinn Spinsanity** in New England and the record-breaking **CraZanity** at **Six Flags Magic Mountain**, we're proud to be a partner in providing thrills to the masses at Six Flags parks."

Speaking of **CraZanity**,



**CraZanity** at **Six Flags Magic Mountain** is a record-setting, 17-story-tall pendulum ride that reaches speeds of 75 mph. AT/DEAN LAMANNA



**Six Flags Great Adventure** debuted the world's first park model of a **Tourbillon**, dubbed **Cyborg Cyber Spin**.

COURTESY MARK BRUNNER

**Six Flags Magic Mountain** in Valencia, Calif., debuted the larger pendulum mid-July. **Six Flags** has opened four **Giant Discovery** rides within the chain in the past three years. The operational swing height of those attractions is 147 feet. Dubbed a **Giga Discovery** by **Zamperla**, the new **CraZanity** swings to a height of 170 feet, making it a record for a pendulum ride. Both types of rides seat 40 passengers. The speed of the **Giga** version is 75 mph in contrast to 70 mph with a **Giant Discovery**.

The new attraction comes as the centerpiece to a newly revamped boardwalk games area, which also sees the return of a bumper cars ride.

**Six Flags Great Adventure** in Jackson, N.J., debuted **Cyborg Spin**, the first park installation of a gyroscopic thrill ride. Supplied by **abc rides**, the ride name is **Tourbillon**. **Great Adventure's** attraction is the first ride named after the DC character **Cyborg**. It opened mid-June in a revamped DC Comics area anchored by last year's **Justice League** dark ride.

**Six Flags Over Texas** in Arlington, Texas, opened a similar ride in mid-July. It, however, is named after **Harley Quinn**, once again called **Harley Quinn Spinsanity**. Part of the allure of these rides is the visual impact as three rings rotate on their own axis making for a dramatic show that borders on the artistic.

On a related note, **La Ronde** opened **Tourbillon** in Montreal, Quebec, but

this attraction is a modern **Tilt-a-Whirl** from **Larson International**. From French, "tourbillon" translates to "whirlwind."

"One of the unique items about the new **La Ronde Tilt-A-Whirl** is converting the manuals and warning decals into French with English being the smaller, less dominant language," **Jeff Novotny**, president, **Larson International** told *Amusement Today* with a smile. "Utilizing a Google translation program worked fairly well in converting the language. The new **Tilt-A-Whirl** also has one dedicated ADA accessible vehicle with a side door for ease of transfer."

Also from **Larson** is the world's largest **Fireball** loop at **Six Flags Great America**. Such looping rides are no



**Harley Quinn Spinsanity** at **Six Flags Over Texas** is the second gyroscopic thrill ride to open from **abc rides**. AT/TIM BALDWIN



**Larson International** supplied the world's first **Giga Loop**, **Mardi Gras Hangover**, to **Six Flags Great America**.

COURTESY DUANE MARDEN

strangers to **Six Flags** parks, but **Mardi Gras Hangover** stands above the others. Not only does this loop tower 100 feet tall, the dubbed **Giga Loop** is equipped with a counterweight opposite of the train which helps reduce the horsepower required to operate the ride. Two inertial rings tied together side by side are utilized on **Mardi Gras Hangover**.

"The team here at **Larson** can't emphasize enough how much of a fun challenge this project was," said **Hunter Novotny**, engineer. "Although we've manufactured well over 100 of these coaster-like loop rides, this one in particular required us to rethink a lot of how we do things in our production line simply due to its mass. In addition to com-

ing up with new ways that we are able to handle the components, the all-electric drive and controls is an aspect that we are excited about because of the reduction in noise and smoother ride it provides."

As the largest loop ride **Larson** has ever produced, a programmed, all-electric drive system including an automatic system to feed air to release the passenger restraints and electric feed for monitoring the restraint positions was used.

"A big thank you goes out to **Tom Iven** with **Six Flags** who pushed us to build the bigger ride along with naming the new ride the **Giga Loop**," said **Jeff Novotny**.

The sections of track were

► See **SIX FLAGS**, page 12



**THANK YOU**  
**Six Flags Great Adventure**  
and  
**Six Flags Over Texas!**



**TOURBILLON**

**3 Axis of Rotation • Unpredictable • Intense Movement • 24-Seat Gondola**



6021 MORRISS ROAD, STE 105 • FLOWER MOUND, TX 75028 • (972) 539-3051 • INTLAMUSEMENTS.COM

► **SIX FLAGS**

Continued from page 10

so heavy that Larson had to invest in larger forklifts just to handle the increased weights.

New attractions also found their way into Six Flags' water parks.

**Six Flags America** in Upper Marlboro, Md., completely replaced its aging lazy river with the new **Wahoo River**, a larger and longer river that has interactive elements along the way. The upgrade was courtesy of **ADG**.

**Six Flags Hurricane Harbor** (Arlington, Texas) reworked an underused area of the park. What was once a shallow wading pool with little activity is now alive with smaller children, as well as the entire family, running through and splashing in 40 play features supplied by **Splash Pads USA**. The new area is called **Splashwater Beach**.

**Six Flags St. Louis** installed a fusion of two water-slide attractions at Hurricane Harbor included with park admission. Built by **ProSlide**, **Typhoon Twister** features a 50-foot plunge into a 40-foot diameter bowl slide that sends riders into a wave wall that delivers weightlessness.

Following its opening in late June, an innertube concern delayed operation of the new ride. As *AT* goes to press, it was uncertain if the ride reopened.

*Amusement Today* reported on two of Six Flags coasters in previous issues. **Wonder Woman Golden Lasso Coaster** from **Rocky Mountain Construction** opened at **Fiesta Texas** (San Antonio, Texas) in May and appeared in our June issue. **Six Flags Over Georgia** (Austell, Ga.) opened a second RMC project, **Twisted Cyclone**, in May and was reported last issue.

**Six Flags Mexico** (Mexico City) has debuted the chain's most recent coaster thriller. **Wonder Woman Coaster** from **S&S Worldwide** is the sixth version of this 4-D Free Spin genre of ride to open for Six Flags. This is the first to be themed to **Wonder Woman**.

"It was great opportunity to work with Six Flags on another successful 4D Free Spin Coaster opening, said **Preston Perkes**, executive director of administration, S&S. "Bringing the unique thrill of free spinning on a coaster to Mexico is something we were excited to do. The **Wonder Woman** theme



**Six Flags Hurricane Harbor** in Arlington, Texas (left), reimagined an underutilized kids area into a more interactive splash zone with 40 features. **Six Flags America** introduced an entirely new **Wahoo River**, a lazy river that is longer and larger than the park's aging original version. AT/TIM BALDWIN; COURTESY S. MADONNA HORCHER

couldn't have fit better with its unique structure forming a 'W' which we were able to highlight by painting the structure blue on one side and red on the other making it clear what the theme was. The **Wonder Woman Coaster** is the smoothest and quietest 4D Free Spin to date as we've been able to master the art of this type of coaster manufacturing and installation."

Yet to open as this issue went to press is **Harley Quinn Crazy Train** at **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom**. That installation will be covered in a future issue.



**Wonder Woman Coaster** at **Six Flags Mexico** features the letter "W" in the supports of the ride painted in red and blue. COURTESY SIX FLAGS MEXICO

Every smile starts with one BIG Idea....

- MARKETING
- GRAPHIC DESIGN
- PRESS RELEASES
- TV PRODUCTION
- RADIO PRODUCTION
- PROMOTIONS
- PRINTING

WILLIAM H. ROBINSON, INC.

The Big Idea People!

513.737.9012 • [www.TheBigIdeaPeople.com](http://www.TheBigIdeaPeople.com)



**"EVERY SECOND IS A THRILL!"**

**"THE RIDE WILL TAKE YOU  
HEAD-OVER-HEELS!"**



**"THE BLOCKBUSTER HIT  
OF THE SUMMER!"**



LARSON INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS  
NEW LOOPING ATTRACTIONS AT VALLEY FAIR & SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA  
PO. Box 638 • PLAINVIEW, TEXAS 79072 • (806) 293-1353  
LARSONINTL.COM

# Frontier City celebrates 60 years with new ride, upgrades

New Soaring Eagle zipline generating thrills for park guests

AT: Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Frontier City management took on the 60-year celebration of the park with gusto, installing a new Soaring Eagle zip line and providing a multitude of other upgrades and renovations for park visitors this season.

The most visual addition is the 520-foot-long zipline, which is located near the front of the park, running over the main walkway guests take from the Mystery River Log Flume to the Old 89'er Express East Train Station.

Soaring Eagle's Vice President Cody Davis said he received a very positive response from park management.



"I spoke with park manager Stephen Ball a couple of weeks ago and he said they had had a great weekend with the ride," Davis said. "They are super happy."

The installation is a fairly typical one for the company, located in Logan, Utah. It does have an elevated platform, which is done on installations that need clearance underneath for people to pass.

The company is currently working on a large project in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., and has already installed two other ziplines in 2018. They have several more to build this year.



This season, Frontier City is celebrating 60 years of fun and thrills with plenty of What's New throughout the park. The Soaring Eagle (above) delivers aerial thrills. At right from top, the Mystery River Log Flume received a new coat of paint. The Savoy Cafe was just one of many building in the park to get spruced up while the family favorite Winged Warrior received new artwork.

AT PHOTOS



Since the inception of Soaring Eagle in 2010, there are about 65 ziplines in various locations.

The O.D. Hopkins-built Mystery River Log Flume received a new paint job for this season. The painting was done by MicroCor Technologies, Inc., Odessa, Texas. Until the Frontier City job, the company had only done work on salt mines, aquatic marine equipment and oil field equipment. But Steve Rivas, a partner in the company, said this won't be the last one.

"One of our sales persons was just calling around and ended up calling Frontier City," Rivas said. "They were interested in what we did so we went down, met with them, took some samples and ended up with the job."

Rivas said his staff began the job by sandblasting the entire structure with a water vapor blasting system. This blasting produces the finish the company looks for to start applying paint.

The paint used is manufactured by MicroCor exclusively. Rivas is the inventor. The company has used the paint for the last six years. Multiple coats are normally needed. Each coat is applied before the prior coat dries, creating an interlaced single coat.

In other park news:

•To celebrate the park's 60 years, both in a short video with

historic B&W film footage, and a live music and dance show, David Blackburn Productions produced "Celebrate — A Musical Revue," performed daily in the the Opera House. Other new-for-2018 shows include the "Red Hot Country" and rotating new shows in the Two John's Saloon.

•Multiple buildings were refurbished in the front half of the park. Adding to the western thematic experience for park guests are improvements to The Savoy Cafe; Two Johns Saloon; Homesteader Supplies; The Bonton Confectionary; Trappers Trading Post, T.J. Ivens Boarding House and the Overland Stage & Freight.




•New Indian bird-themed artwork was added to the parks Winged Warrior (Larson Flying Scooters ride). The layout was designed by Cincinnati-based

William H. Robinson, Inc.

•An extra section of staircase/safety catwalk was added to the park's Schwarzkopf-built Silver Bullet roller coaster. The new catwalk is located at the very top/crown of the lift hill and extends the next support column junction, giving the park extra safety if the leading cars of the train were to ever stop beyond the chain lift. The engineering work on the safety design was performed during the last year for Premier Parks by long time industry engineer, Mark Glynn, Glynn Geotechnical Engineering in Lockport, N.Y. The park has also purchased, earlier in the year, the former Greezed Lighting train from Cliff's Amusement Park with plans to add a second operating train to the historic coaster.

•frontiercity.com

## Zipline Ride

## Simply Profitable

Safest, Simplest, & Most Efficient Zipline operation available!



Logan, Utah 84341 • 435-754-7807  
www.soaringeagle-inc.com



# RMC OPENING 2018



208-772-8181 — [WWW.ROCKYMTNCONSTRUCTION.COM](http://WWW.ROCKYMTNCONSTRUCTION.COM)

# Peppa Pig, other new additions enhance Gardaland's season

AT: Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

VERONA, Italy — Cartoonish pigs, pirate adventures and 4D seismic thrills featuring Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson are among the highlights at **Gardaland** this summer. The 43-year-old amusement park, owned by **Merlin Entertainments**, has introduced new forms of fun for every member of the family.

At the forefront of Gardaland's latest attractions, and representing a nearly \$6 million investment, Peppa Pig Land is an area inspired by the animated, British-produced television program *Peppa Pig*, which is broadcast in 180 countries.



The new section, next to Fantasy Kingdom, has allowed Gardaland to expand the park's children's offerings “so that families and younger ones alike can enjoy an even more involving and unforgettable experience,” said **Aldo Maria Vigevani**, Gardaland's CEO. “In Italy, Peppa Pig is adored by children, but it is also very appreciated by adults as a bearer of important educational values. Which is why we have deemed her to be perfect for Gardaland.”

He added that Merlin's



Attractions at Gardaland's new Peppa Pig Land, inspired by the popular children's animated TV show, include a kiddie train and a pirate-themed boat ride. COURTESY GARDLAND RESORT

partnership with Peppa Pig brand owner **Entertainment One** extends to other parts of the resort property, including themed rooms at the Gardaland Hotel.

In Peppa Pig Land, guests can see and interact with the show's characters in tangible, life-size form at Peppa Pig House and within the theming of three children's rides: Peppa's Big Balloon Ride, with eight balloon-shaped gondolas; Grandpa Pig's Train Ride, with five colorful carriages (each capable of holding two adults and two children); and Pirate Island Boat Ride, which carries passengers in small watercraft around a whimsical pond.

Staying on the pirate

theme, Gardaland's landmark, 1992-built *I Corsari* attraction, a dark boat ride from **Intamin** housed beneath a giant pirate ship-shaped entrance, has undergone upgrading that includes new audio, music and sound effects, plus the addition of projection mapping along parts of its course. The ride also has been given a fresh storyline titled “*I Corsari: La Vendetta del Fantasma*” (“The Corsairs: The Revenge of the Ghost”), featuring buccaneering apparitions.

The park has raised its thrill factor further with a brand-new attraction: *San Andreas 4D Experience*, a 15-minute, action-focused distillation of the 2015 **Warner**



**Bros.** disaster movie about a massive California earthquake. It applies 3D technology, moving / vibrating seats and an array of physical effects (airbursts, explosive flashes, sprays of mist) to footage of actor Dwayne Johnson facing toppling skyscrapers and a raging tsunami. **SimEx-Iwerks** created the experience.

There is no shortage of

shows at the park, with two new stagings this season: “Gardaland on Broadway,” presenting a medley of memorable musicals, and “5 Elements,” a journey into a secret world at the heart of Planet Earth. Through Sept. 9, the park is extending its operating hours until 11 p.m., providing five extra hours for exploration and adventure daily.

•gardaland.it/en

## 'Panda'-monium reigns at Uni Hollywood's new DreamWorks Theatre

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. — Some high, and lively, kicks have been unleashed on the **Universal Studios Hollywood** backlot, courtesy of a popular animated panda bear.

Following a soft opening on May 29, a new attraction formally named DreamWorks Theatre Featuring *Kung Fu Panda: The Emperor's Quest* officially debuted June 15. The technologically advanced immersive experience is the movie theme park's first major addition since **NBCUniversal's** acquisition of **DreamWorks Animation** in August 2016. It replaces the *Shrek 4D* theater experience, which opened in 2003 and closed last year.

Created and produced by DreamWorks Animation and **Universal Creative**, and inspired by the *Kung Fu Panda* film franchise, the multi-sensory attraction incorporates interior projection mapping designed to envelop guests in 180 degrees of adventure. The technique depicts a series of visually dynamic scenic designs that transform theater space and frame the screen story.

The plot unfolds on the morning of *The Emperor's Great Feast of Heroes*, when the drag-



The new DreamWorks Theatre, featuring a special effects-filled *Kung Fu Panda* film experience, officially opened in mid-June at Universal Studios Hollywood. COURTESY UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD

on-warrior panda, Po, embarks on a perilous mission involving raging rapids, river pirates, magic and, of course, kung fu to deliver the rare Liquid of Limitless Power to the Palace. Coupled

with seven **Christie** 4K Boxer cinema projectors and 360-degree surround sound, physical effects including water and wind make viewers feel more like participants in the tale.

The storyline actually begins as guests enter the theater's preshow area, where they meet an array of DreamWorks characters who kick off the attraction's narrative. From there, guests enter the main auditorium, now outfitted with ultra-plush, fully articulated seats that pivot and swivel in tandem with the projected action. (Special glasses are not required for the five-minute theater experience.)

The structure housing the DreamWorks Theatre has been redesigned in Mission Revival-style architecture that recalls 1920s Hollywood.

“We are thrilled to bring exciting new entertainment options to our guests,” said **Karen Irwin**, park president and COO. “*Kung Fu Panda: The Emperor's Quest* is a fun, spirited story and the ideal attraction to kick-start Universal Studios Hollywood's collaboration with DreamWorks Animation.”

—Dean Lamanna



# 'Being Dolphin 4D' offers journey of exploration, conservation

**AT:** Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

TORONTO, Canada — **SimEx-Iwerks Entertainment**, a global leader in 4D theater experiences, has partnered with Pacific Grove, Calif.-based **Talbot Films** to create a new cinematic attraction: *Being Dolphin 4D*.

A visually ambitious look at one of the ocean's most complex and charismatic animals, the film features a first-of-its-kind photography approach from the perspective of the dolphin — encouraging viewers to (per its promotional tagline) “dream, dive and discover” during the aquatic journey.

The film moves from the dark, temperate Pacific waters off the California coast to the vivid-blue Caribbean Sea. An orchestration of light, sound and 4D effects enhances the viewer's sensation of swimming beneath and leaping through the waves.

The **National Aquarium** in Baltimore, where SimEx-Iwerks maintains regional offices, hosted the world premiere of *Being Dolphin 4D* in late April. Shortly thereafter, it began showing at theme parks, zoos, aquariums and other venues.

**Bob Talbot**, the film's award-winning director and co-producer (the IMAX films *Oceanmen — Extreme Dive*, *Dolphins*), is a renowned photographer and cinematographer who also advocates for marine conservation. He designed the production specifically for 4D presentation in order to transport viewers into the world of wild dolphins.

“This truly was a passion project for all involved,” Talbot

said. “I am grateful to have such incredible partners that made it possible — from the shooting of wildlife scenes in challenging open-ocean conditions to the extremely complicated post-production process, everyone brought their all.”

Talbot enlisted the help of motion picture industry leaders, many of whom were working concurrently on Hollywood film projects.

**Spinvfx** (*Game of Thrones*,

*Suicide Squad*) created computer-generated scenes that allow viewers to experience how dolphins are able to “see” with sound. Visual effects designer **Boyd Shermis** (*Fear the Walking Dead*, *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island*) rendered echolocation from the dolphin's perspective, while composer **Cliff Eidelman** (*Oceanmen — Extreme Dive*, *Free Willy 3*) delivered an ethereal musical score.

**Vision Research** provided

a Flex4K camera that captured several extreme slow-motion sequences; it was carried by custom underwater propulsion vehicles that allowed the recording equipment to “fly” with dolphins. The team at **Prime Focus** (*Pacific Rim Uprising*, *Beauty and the Beast*) converted the original footage into the highest quality 3D, and expert colorists and editors at **Efilm** (*A Wrinkle in Time*, *Blade Runner 2049*) provided the finishing work.

“Dolphins are incredibly popular, and we are always looking for new ways to bring our guests stories that help them learn more about these amazing animals,” said **Mike Frueh**, senior vice president of licensing and distribution for SimEx-Iwerks. “Bob Talbot's experience and success gave us great confidence that he would create a beautiful and unique film.”

•iwerks.com

**Sunkid**  
we move. you smile.

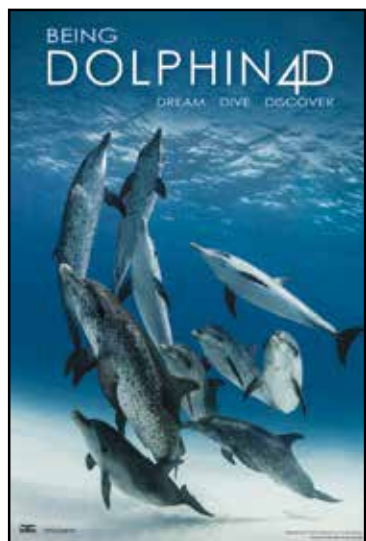
**RIDE: LOOPSTER**

Loved by	5+ years / 105 cm (4'1")
Fun	★★★★★
Thrill	★★★★★
Interactivity	★★★★★
Seats	8 / 16
Capacity	240 - 480 pers./h
Location	Indoor & Outdoor

Sunkid – Interactive Family Rides!

We make your guests smile for over 40 years

Representative North America: Leisure Labs | leisurelabsllc.com



*Being Dolphin 4D* uses cutting-edge film and exhibition technology to give viewers a sea mammal's-eye view of underwater “flight.” COURTESY SIMEX-IWERKS ENTERTAINMENT



## New virtual reality experience offers bird's-eye view of Paris

*FlyView attraction in downtown utilizes HTC Vive headsets*

AT: Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

PARIS, France — Since spring, a VR attraction has been offering thrill seekers a new way to experience the City of Light.

**FlyView Paris**, located at Place de l'Opéra in downtown, provides 360-degree views of the famous monuments, scenery and skyline of the city without computer graphics. The 11,000-square-foot indoor "launch area" for the experience can accommodate up to 50 guests in standing position in stationary, individual jetpacks mounted on actuators — making it one of the world's largest VR installations.

The simulated adventure begins in the attraction's lobby, which resembles an airport terminal complete with check-in counters, flight attendants and screens announcing upcoming flights. Once the "passenger" steps into the backpack and is outfitted with a VR headset (supplied by **HTC Vive**), it's takeoff time for a flight above the rooftops of Paris.

The synchronization of authentic visuals and platform movement conveys



After three years in development, **FlyView Paris** debuted in its namesake city in late March. The jetpack flight-themed VR experience, which provides an aerial tour of the City of Light, represents the realization of a childhood dream for its founder, **Arnaud Houette**. COURTESY FLYVIEW PARIS

the physical sensation of soaring, including flying forward, slowing for panoramic views, moving sideways and dropping down for closer looks at monuments. The experience lasts 13 minutes.

For **Arnaud Houette**, founder of **FlyView Paris**, the unique aerial tour represents a childhood dream come true.



Houette

"I want to offer Parisians and visitors an exhilarating adventure that is both accessible and unforgettable," he said. "This incredible experience

brings together poetry and innovation to create another high-quality cultural activity in Paris. I hope to share it with as many people as possible."

About 100 technicians worked for three years to create **FlyView Paris**. The project won the city's first-ever permission for filming via drone over and in close proximity to various monuments, including the **Arc de Triomphe**, **Champs Elysees**, **Eiffel Tower** and **Notre Dame de Paris**.

The attraction is open seven days a week. It is suitable for visitors at least four feet tall and is accessible to those with reduced mobility.

• [flyview360.com](http://flyview360.com)



## Sprawling VR theme park opens in China's Guizhou province

*Striking sci-fi design adds otherworldly atmosphere to \$470 million project*

GUIYANG, China — **Oriental Science Fiction Valley**, an elaborate and expansive (and expensive) theme park devoted almost entirely to virtual reality-based attractions, recently debuted in the capital city of China's Guizhou province.

At present, the property has a total of 35 VR attractions. Virtual roller coasters and shooting-action scenarios are among the offerings.

A dramatic focal point of the property is a 53-meter-tall, 750-ton **Transformers**-inspired robot structure, which provides a panoramic view of the surrounding terrain along with a number of VR activities — plus a bungee-jumping platform on its massive, outstretched arm.

The park is a collaboration between the province and **Shuimu Animation**, a subsidiary of **Oriental**

**Times Network Media**. Reports have placed the initial cost of the 330-acre project, portions of which are still being developed and completed, at \$470 million. It welcomed its first guests in late April.

**Chen Jianli**, park CEO, said fierce competition in the Chinese theme park market, particularly in the VR attractions sector, made building the destination good business sense.

"We are trying to give customers a new experience by combining modern technologies such as VR and AR [augmented reality] with traditional recreational facilities," Jianli told **Reuters**. "The sci-fi part of it is important for the feeling it creates."

Jianli also expected the unusual theme park to bring major tourist spending and a range of supporting businesses to the otherwise poor region.

"It will change the entire tourism structure of Guizhou province as well as China's southwest," he said.

—Dean Lamanna



The futuristic architecture of **Oriental Science Fiction Valley**, including an impressively looming robot structure containing several attractions, is a good fit for the VR and AR activities that fill the high-tech theme park. COURTESY ORIENTAL SCIENCE FICTION VALLEY

# Colorado's Heritage Amusement Park closes for good

GOLDEN, Colo. — It was rarely smooth sailing for the particular site. What once started in 1960 as a grand plan to be the Disneyland of Colorado, that project was downsized to a smaller venue called **Magic Mountain**. The first theme park outside California was not a success. It shuttered the gates after the first season.

Ten years later, the 600-acre site was purchased and opened as Heritage Square in 1971. Themed to a Victorian Village, there were various shopping and entertainment options. A Music Hall and alpine slide are attractions fondly remembered by longtime residents. And while it has operated since then, the facility has had numerous tenants.

**Heritage Amusement Park** has operated the last 20 years by **Alan Bader**.

Three years ago, the property's owner closed everything but the amusement park. In 2015, Bader indicated there were



**A Victorian flair was given to the shopping village when it opened as Heritage Square (right). This E & F Miler coaster (left) was one of the rides available to visitors.**  
COURTESY KEVIN KNAPP; MAC RUSH

no plans to close its doors. In reality, it was seen as an opportunity for potential expansion. However, the landlord required the park owner to stop using the name "Heritage Square." Bader knew the landlord wanted the park out, despite the lease not running out until 2039. Obstacles seemed to be placed in the park operator's way in an attempt to force Heritage Amusement Park to close.

Via Facebook, the amusement park owner eventually announced the park's closing in late June:

*We have recently reached a settlement with our landlord, Martin Marietta Materials. After 20 years in business, it is with both sadness and excitement that we announce Heritage Amusement Park and the Garden Grill will permanently close its doors on Saturday, June 30th, 2018 at 7pm.*

Not wishing to speak to the media, the landlord simply let the final days play out, giving local fans one last time to visit. With the removal of other entertainment options at the Square in 2015, the attendance at the park continued to decline. Perhaps indirectly affecting that was the landlord's removal of the sign for the amusement park. The park operator's response was to put

up a banner in its place. Public perception, however, was that everything had closed.

Rides on offer included several children's rides, an **Eli Bridge Scrambler** and Ferris wheel, a classic **Sellner Tilt-A-Whirl**, and two junior coasters from **E & F Miler** and **Wisdom**. The future of those rides is uncertain at this time.

Other activities included go-karts, ziplines, bumper boats, pony rides and miniature golf.

Although notice was short, many headed to the park for one last look. A family deal was offered at a special price of \$58 for four passes during the final week.

"There's a long history of generations that have had fun at that location. To see it go, for a lot of these people, is to see a part of their life go," said Bader. "Of course, you can keep the memories, but you can't share it with the next generation. So, it's been hard; it's been sad."

—Tim Baldwin

**We look forward to meeting you at:**

**Euro Attractions Show 2018**  
in Amsterdam  
September 25 - 27  
Booth: 1-1612



Gerstlauer Amusement Rides GmbH  
Industriestraße 17  
D-86505 Münsterhausen  
Tel. (49) 8281 - 99 68 0  
Fax (49) 8281 - 99 68 33  
www.gerstlauer-rides.com  
info@gerstlauer-rides.de



**Infinity-Coaster**

Experience our new Infinity-Coaster:

**„HangTime“**  
Knott's Berry Farm, USA

**Versatility:**  
**The Thrill is Yours!**



## American Coaster Enthusiasts celebrates 40th anniversary



At the recent Coaster Con 41, seven of the nine living presidents of American Coaster Enthusiasts were present, the largest number ever for one event. The organization was celebrating its 40th anniversary in Virginia, the birthplace of ACE, the world's largest coaster enthusiast organization. Above (from left): Jerry Willard, Dave Altman, Mark Cole, Carole Sanderson, Bill Linkenheimer III, Randy Geisler and Richard Munch. Below, Amusement Today's Tim Baldwin moderated a Q&A of the presidential panel during the portion of the convention at Kings Dominion.

COURTESY S. MADONNA HORCHER





### Kay Park Recreation

Making Places People Friendly  
since 1954

Outdoor Ping Pong

Solar Powered Device Charging Station

www.kaypark.com

1-800-553-2476



## Park Post-its



**AT: Pam Sherborne**  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

A new \$7.9 million home for three North American River Otters opened earlier this summer at the **Milwaukee County Zoo** in Milwaukee, Wis. Called Otter Passage, the outdoor exhibit combines nearly 1,700 square feet of grass, rock and mulch with a 6,000-gallon pool and a 4,000-gallon pool to create a dynamic environment for the highly social and energetic animals.

One-year-old female otters Emerald, Clover and Shamrock arrived at their new home from separate zoos. The Milwaukee County Zoo intends to welcome a male otter in the near future, with the hope of establishing a sustainable breeding colony.

The otters have the comfort and opportunity to explore their new environment, which comes complete with a splash pad, a 15-foot slide and a flowing stream connecting the pools, all providing numerous up-close viewing opportunities for visitors.

The zoo also has a new entry plaza that reinforces its brand and key messages of conservation while also offering guests new comforts, such as expanded and closer parking, beverage and snack opportunities, and otter-themed merchandise. The expansion is the latest effort of the zoo's 20-year master plan, which addresses improvements in animal exhibits, visitor attractions, amenities, service facilities and operations.

The Milwaukee County Zoo is home to more than 2,100 mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles with more than 345 species represented.

In other zoo news, officials at Florida's **ZooTampa** (formerly the **Lowry Park Zoo**) kicked off the season by launching Roaring Springs, presented by **Pinch A Penny** pool supplies and service. Representing the zoo's largest expansion in 10 years, the attraction debuted June 9 following the introduction of a refreshed, contemporary identity for the zoo featuring a new logo and revitalized vision. Roaring Springs allows guests to become explorers, boarding boats and gently drifting along a crystal-clear spring surrounded by native landscape and wildlife. The journey takes a sudden turn when the elevation drops and guests experience a three-story splashdown. Afterward, the journey continues along a trail showing Florida's largely hidden wildlife, with glimpses of black bears, alligators, panthers, Key deer and other native species.

The expansion is part of an ongoing effort by officials to remain an integral part of the Tampa Bay community while also promoting wildlife preservation. In addition to this year's new expansion, plans are already underway to improve life-support systems at the David A. Straz Jr. Manatee Critical Care Center, which accepted 35 injured manatees in 2016. The

zoo dedicates about \$1 million a year to manatee rehabilitation.

The 65-acre ZooTampa features more than 1,300 animals and draws nearly one million visitors annually.

**Iowa City Parks and Recreation** announced last month that the rides in **Lower City Park** will close permanently on Sept. 23 to make way for a city-owned adventure playground. The playground is scheduled for construction next year in late spring and early summer. No specifics have been given about the playground components.

The 107-plus acres of the Lower City Park include trails, two ponds, sports facilities, picnic and play areas and a variety of other activities.

The main reasons for closing the rides include the repair challenges and the lack of **Americans with Disabilities Act** compliance. The four rides are a merry-go-round dating to the early 1900s, a train ride, a small kiddie Ferris wheel and a kiddie plane swing ride. According to the parks and recreation department, manufacturer information about the rides could not be found in its records.

The attractions were sold to the city in 1999 by the **Drollinger** family, which had operated the rides for decades.

Free weekend rides will be offered in August and September to commemorate the impending closure.

A new family entertainment center has opened in Manteo, N.C., on the Outer Banks. Featuring activities suitable for all ages, **Jumpmasters Trampoline Park**, offers trampolines at ground level and surrounded by padded floor / deck space. The mechanisms that provide the bounce are positioned beneath the bed of the trampolines, reducing the risk of exposed springs and hard landings on floors.

In addition, there are three American Ninja-style obstacle course lanes, climbing walls, a trapeze swing where one can let loose and land on a large airbag, a foam cube pit and sparring with foam sticks in cushioned gear. There are fitness classes daily and a Toddler Time, which allows the younger set can jump without competition from their older siblings.

Jumpmasters also promotes trampoline dodgeball, and during the winter it will sponsor adult and youth leagues. The sporting activity involves trampolines that are screened in so that players can bounce aggressively to escape or attack the ball.

Food service at the FEC includes pizza-by-the-slice from a local pizzeria, as well as hot dogs and nachos.

**Fantasy Island** in Grand Island, N.Y., opened the season with a new children's area, Fairy Tale Forest. The newly reimagined section features rides and attractions for kids and families.

The project was inspired by the former "Garden of Fables" area, which debuted at the park in 1961.

New entertainment offerings include Oakley the Talking Tree, an interactive story time adventure; "If the Shoe Fits," a live show where guests are introduced to Fantasy Island's newest aspiring royalty; and Tea Time with the Princess, a meet-and-greet experience in Fairy Tale Fortress, the park's newly renovated gift shop.

Fantasy Island features over 40 rides and attractions.

BUILDING FUN

CHANCE  
RIDES

SINCE 1961

The next generation of interactive rollercoasters is here!

# Unicoaster™ 2.0

*All the thrills  
of a looping  
rollercoaster at  
a fraction  
of the cost.*



The Unicoaster™ 2.0 gives you the feel of a looping rollercoaster AND an interactive family coaster in the same space!



Designed by US Thrill Rides and manufactured under license by Chance Rides, Inc.



SALES@CHANCERIDES.COM • 316.945.6555 • CHANCERIDES.COM

New Parts Store PARTS.CHANCERIDES.COM

# San Diego County Fair sees large gate, food revenue numbers

AT: B. Derek Shaw  
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

DEL MAR, Calif. — As in previous years, the **San Diego County Fair** — the largest county fair in the U.S. — once again saw a lively attendance and tallied some impressive numbers in various areas of its operations.

The 26-day event, which ran June 1 through July 4, saw 1,561,236 guests push through its turnstiles. However, the number fell short of the record of 1,609,481 fairgoers in 2016.

“The economy helped the fair in the sense that there’s low unemployment and people seem to have money to spend,” said **Tim Fennell**, fair general manager and CEO. “It hurt the fair in the sense that there is low unemployment and we had difficulty filling positions.”

This year’s theme, “How Sweet It Is,” was evident throughout the grounds. Observed **Annie Pierce**, the event’s public information officer: “Whether it was sampling rainbow-colored unicorn foods, soaking up the ocean views from atop the Ferris wheel, discovering how nature’s sweet fruits grow and ripen, petting adorable farm animals or riding scream-worthy carnival rides, it was truly one sweet fair.”

Thrill seekers enjoyed more than 80 rides on an independent midway. Ride midway revenue increased up two percent over last year, total-

ing approximately \$10.6 million. The top ride was **The Big Wheel**, brought in by **Ray Cammack Shows** and manufactured by **Carousel Holland**. **The Crazy Mouse**, owned by **Steve Vander Vorste** and manufactured by **Reverchon**, came in second; following in third was **G-Force**, owned by **Southern Cross Rides** and manufactured by **KMG**.

Special promotions numbered no less than 29 deals and discounts. The annual **Care N’ Share Toy Drive** broke existing records, with more than 15,500 stuffed animals collected for children in need.

Three specialty drink festivals included the **San Diego International Beer Festival** with over 6,800 attendees over three days. The **Toast of the Coast Wine Festival** entertained 1,762 guests at two tasting sessions, while **The Distilled Spirit and Cocktail Festival** hosted 1,539 guests. Other special events included a two-day **Bloom n’ Art Garden Party**, a one-day **Asian Festival**, **Festival de Mariachi** and, for the **LGBTQ+ community**, **Out at the Fair**.

**KultureCity**, a company that provides sensory inclusion programs in public venues across the U.S., partnered with the fair for the first time. Two locations on the grounds provided safe spaces for guests with sensory needs as well as calming, low-key sensory input activities. The fair also provided free sensory toolkits that included noise-



The **Big Wheel** (right), from **Ray Cammack Shows** and **Carousel Holland**, was the top ride at this year’s **San Diego County Fair**. A spectacular variety of rides and attractions has long characterized the event. COURTESY STEFAN HINZ (TOP); AT/SUE NICHOLS



canceling headphones, fidgets and weighted lap pads.

New attractions included the **Cocoa Cabana speakeasy**, with candy-infused cocktails in a tropical oasis, and multi-sensory display called **A Tasty Journey**. This exhibit featured sugary scents and treats as well as interactive games and colorful candies.

Among the many new food offerings were deep-fried filet mignon, ramen burritos, bacon-wrapped baklava, cinnamon roll sundaes, lasagna nachos, doughnut grilled-cheese sandwiches, lobster tacos, chocolate-dipped jerky, spaghetti donuts and macho nacho bacon unicorn dogs.

Nearly 48,000 ears of corn were prepared by **Corn Star**, while an estimated 35,000 turkey legs were sold by **Juicy’s**. The signature draft beer was **Tangerine-A-Fair IPA** from **Mike Hess Brewing**; the company went through 86 kegs. **Candy Factory’s** **Unicorn Nitro Popcorn** used 2,640 liters of liquid food-grade nitrogen to freeze the candied popcorn to minus-321 degrees. **Pink’s** sold 3,000 pounds of hot dogs and 7,900 pounds of French fries. Food revenue was up well over two-and-a-half percent, totaling about \$24.5 million.

Entertainment was plentiful. Major grandstand acts included **Sugarland**, **Hanson**, **Nancy Wilson** of **Heart**, **Kansas**, **Barenaked Ladies**, **Little Big Town**, **The O’Jays** and **Larry the Cable Guy**.

The July 4th finale showcased a patriotic “Hometown Heroes” parade, featuring **Lee Greenwood**, best known for singing “God Bless the USA.” Nearly 100 people who were recognized by the community for their service as teachers, volunteers and first responders participated in the event.

The annual meeting of the **California Portable Ride Operators Association** (CalPRO), was held during the fair. In addition to CalPRO members, guests included **Scott Prather** and **Bobby Park**

from the state’s **Division of Occupational Safety and Health**. **Che Salinas** from **Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP**, attended as well. **Jim Hall** of **Butler Amusements**, who serves as president of the CalPRO Steering Committee, led the meeting. A large part of the discussion focused on the re-inspections of amusement rides that already had an annual permit to operate. (Info: dir.ca.gov.)

The **San Diego County Fair**, established in 1880 to bring the county’s farmers together to share ideas, compete for the best pies and citrus fruits, and stage horse races, continues to celebrate agriculture and community pride.

•sdfair.com



Funhouses and fun foods always are among the fair’s most anticipated offerings. The event’s theme this year, as indicated right at the entrance: “How Sweet It Is.” COURTESY STEFAN HINZ (LEFT); AT/SUE NICHOLS



The annual meeting of the **California Portable Ride Operators Association** was held mid-June at the **Del Mar Fairgrounds** during the **San Diego County Fair** in mid-June. AT/SUE NICHOLS



**ITAL**  
International  
LLC

## Major, Family and Spectacular Rides



Bertazzon: Park Model & One-Trailer Rides



Technical Park: Park Model & One-Trailer Rides



Check out the hundreds of new and used rides at [www.italintl.com](http://www.italintl.com)



Technical Park: Park Model & One-Trailer Rides



**Ital International LLC | Phone: 615-383-3986 | Fax: 615-383-9244 | E-Mail: sales@italintl.com**

# Serving Montgomery Inn Barbecue is as easy as:



Heck, we even fold the wet naps for you.

## WE'RE MONTGOMERY INN, AMERICA'S #1 RIBS RESTAURANT\*.

We've been providing great meals, featuring our world-famous Montgomery Inn Barbecue Sauce, for theme parks and other attractions for years. We know how the aroma of smoked barbecue pulls in the customers. We know how important it is please your guests with delicious, nutritious meals. We know how our pulled pork barbecue and pulled smoked chicken barbecue sandwiches melt in your mouth and we know how incredibly easy these meals are to prepare.

Make your guests happy. Make your food servers happy. Make the easy choice of Montgomery Inn.



# Carnival struts some of its stuff at 2018 Fair Park Fourth

## Talley Amusements ramps up for 2018

AT: Pam Sherborne  
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

DALLAS, Texas —**Talley Amusements** went all out at this year's one-day Fourth of July event on the grounds of the **State Fair of Texas**.

Well, close to it anyway, said **Mary Talley**, who along with her husband, **Tom Talley**, owns the show.

Talley Amusements provided 35 rides for the **Fair Park Fourth**, including four wheels and a **Pinfari Zyklon** coaster. It also provided between 13-14 food locations and a large beer tavern that has approximately 60 taps.

The carnival also brought its **Magic Money** system, an RFID-based cashless digital ticketing and event management system.

"It is a lot of work for one day," said Talley, who has played the event for the last five years. Gates opened at 12 noon and it is pretty much over with the fireworks show at 9:30 p.m. The midway crowd usually comes between 5-9 p.m.



Talley

But, is it worth it?

"Yes," Talley said. "It's a good deal."

There was a good crowd there that day, said **Rusty Fitzgerald**, senior vice president, operations, State Fair of Texas.

"We probably had about 10,000 on the midway,"



The lighting package on Mary Talley's new **Lamberink** wheel (left) lights up the sky during **Fair Park Fourth, State Fair of Texas, Dallas**. The **Top O' Texas Tower** (right) was one of four rides owned by the State Fair of Texas operated during the **Fair Park Fourth** celebration. Manufactured by **Intamin AG**, the observation tower has a height of 500 feet. AT/GARY SLADE

Fitzgerald said. "There were probably about 40,000 for the whole event."

Fair Park Fourth entertainment, along with the carnival, included patriotic performances, live music, strolling performances, water inflatables, a zipline, face painters and the fireworks shows.

The State Fair of Texas operated four of its rides during the event: **Top O' Texas Tower**, manufactured by **Intamin AG**; the **Dentzel** carousel; **Texas Skyway**, **Dopplemayr** and **Log Ride**, **Arrow**.

The workload for this one-day event is enormous, but those with Talley Amusements have never been ones to shy away from challenges.

"We aren't like other big shows," Talley said. "Tommy and I didn't inherit the family show. We began our business 20 years ago with four rides and we worked up from there."

But, Talley said, their

show incorporates the fourth and fifth generation of their family in the carnival business. Her great grandfather, **Bill Hames**, was the first beginning in the business in the early 1900s with a single ride.

"Our sixth generation is in school right now," she said.

So, now with an empty nest at home, Talley Amusements is ready to take the bull by the horns and give everyone a good look at what their show is about.

"We are innovative and agile," she said. "We have invested a tremendous amount of money into the show for this season. We have 50 plus rides, enough to do the job."

Among the new equipment purchased this season was a new **Lamberink RL33** wheel. This was one of the four wheels at the July 4 celebration. The show also brought a **Mulligan Wheel**, by **Mulligan Engineering**, and a **Century Wheel**, by **Chance**. The **Texas Star**, manufactured by **S.D.C.**



and owned by Talley Amusements, is a permanent ride on the grounds. It also was operating during the event.

The carnival also purchased a **Spider** from **Battech** and a new **Super Sizzler** from **Wisdom Rides**. The show's **Wisdom Starship** was completely rebuilt.

Additional generators and new trucks and trailers were purchased.

"We had to have new trucks and trailers to move our new rides," Talley said. "The new Ferris wheel is a five-trailer ride just in itself."

Talley Amusements is sporting new canvases from **Waterloo Tent and Tarp**.

Talley has been extremely happy with her new **Magic Money** RFID-based cashless system. For the 2018 season, she purchased ticketing vending machines, two new five-man booths and several single booths.

"I did a lot of research before I went with **Magic Money**," she said. "I went online and spoke with carnival owners that had other cashless systems. I looked at everything I could find. This one, by far, has the most updated technol-

ogy. We are the first carnival to use this technology."

She took the system to **Fair Park Fourth**. During those five hours when the midway is packed, there was not one single problem.

And, with **Magic Money's** RFID-based rider safety technology, Talley is outfitting her rides with chips that are located at crucial areas.

"The ride operator has to scan each chip before the ride will open," she said. "Of course, all of our rides are manually inspected. This just gives us another check and balance."

Safety is a huge focus for the carnival.

"We have a crisis management plan for every situation," Talley said. "We have our rides inspected many times, and every year I hire **National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Operators (NAARSO)** level three inspectors to come on-site for safety training. They do group training as well as one-on-one training."

"We are dotting every 'i' and crossing every 't.'"

•talleyamusements.com

**"The #1 Leading Slide Manufacturer in America"**  
**"World's Largest 5 Lane, One Trailer Slide - 108 Ft."**

- Financing and Leasing Available
- Trades Considered
- Order Slide Bags or "New Rain" Bags
- 6 New Slides In Stock
- Have 20 Used Rides
- 90 Ft. Fiberglass Slide
- 65 Ft. Fiberglass Slide

STATE FAIR  
FUNSLIDE  
FUNSLIDE  
FUNSLIDE  
FUNSLIDE

FREDERIKSEN INDUSTRIES, INC.  
5212 St. Paul St.  
Tampa, Florida 33619  
(813) 628-4545  
FAX (813) 621-3679  
www.funslide.com



Talley Amusements brought its **Beer Haven** stand to this year's **Fair Park Fourth**. There are about 60 taps found in the tap room area. AT/GARY SLADE





1506 Fernwood Rd. • Wintersville, Ohio 43953 • (740) 264-6599 • [www.armrides.com](http://www.armrides.com)

# MIDWAY MARKET PLACE

**WISDOM RIDES**  
 P.O. Box 238 Merino, CO 80741  
 970-522-7515 800-634-6097 Fax: 970-522-2902  
 info@wisdomrides.com www.wisdomrides.com

**WATERLOO**  
 Handcrafted Quality Canvas Since 1884  
**GET YOURS TODAY!**  
 www.waterlootent.com  
 1-800-537-1193

Whatever your Industry...  
**ITC**  
**INDIANA TICKET COMPANY**  
 Design / Quality / Security  
 Manufacturers of Quality Tickets For over 70 years  
**1-800-428-8640**  
 • Redemption Tickets • Reserved Seating  
 • Admission Tickets • Wristbands  
 • Direct Thermal Tickets • Credentials  
 www.muncienovelty.com A MUNCIE NOVELTY INC. COMPANY  
 info@muncienovelty.com We've got your Ticket.

**WAPELLO is the One!**  
 Built in the USA to Your Needs!  
 Let Wapello high-performance products go to work for you. Give us a call or write today. Custom sizes, shapes and colors.  
 Wapello Fabrications Company  
 201 North Second Street • Wapello, IA 52653  
 (319) 523-8371 • wafabco@louisacomm.net



# MIDWAYSCENE

AT: B. Derek Shaw  
 bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

Kansas Gov. **Jeff Coyer** has signed a bill that allows all state sales taxes collected during the 10-day **Kansas State Fair** to go toward capital improvements. Five percent of the 6.5 percent tax now will go directly into the State Fair Capital Improvements Fund. Coyer signed the bill on the condition that the fair would remain in Hutchinson, where it has been located for 105 years. Based on 2017 revenue, the projected amount would be worth more than \$400,000. The monies will be used to remodel, refurbish and construct new buildings. Running Sept. 7-16 this year, the fair uses **North American Midway Entertainment** as ride provider.

**G. Kent Yelverton**, a civil engineer who worked 26 years with the **N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**, has been named manager of the **North Carolina State Fair** in Raleigh. He replaces **Wesley Wyatt**, who recently retired. In addition to the 11-day fair, the 344-acre fairgrounds host more than 500 events annually. The fair runs Oct. 11-21, with rides supplied by **Powers Great American Midways**.

**DRS Skinnners' Amusements** of Crystal Lake, Ill., recently took delivery of a **Battech Enterprises** Downdraft ride. The attraction, sporting an LED lighting package from Winston-Salem, N.C.-based **CMD Enterprises**, is a newer version of a Hurricane ride and represents a total investment of more than \$500,000. Last season, Skinnners' purchased a Black Widow ride from Battech. The carnival, dating back to 1910, is one of the oldest in the region and mostly plays locations within 40 miles of its home base.

The **Erie County Fair** in Hamburg, N.Y., has partnered with Buffalo-based **Flying Bison Brewing Co.** to provide a limited-edition adult beverage named for the fair — a first in New York State. Erie County Fair American Pale Ale is the winning brew of two local homebrewers who participated in the fair's annual Home Brew Competition. **Try-It Distributing** is making the product available through Buffalo-area **Tops Friendly Markets** and 17 Western New York locations of **Consumers Beverages** (both partners of the fair), as well as other retail outlets. The fair's 2018 edition takes place Aug. 8-19. For the 94th year, **James E. Strates Shows** is delivering the midway by rail.

**Reithoffer Shows** will play for the first time in Tennessee at the **Wilson County Fair** in Lebanon, Aug. 17-25. Family-owned-and-operated for five generations, the show will provide 23 kiddie rides, 18 major rides and 14 spectacular rides (with nine classified as "super spectacular"). New this year is a Euroslide from **SBF-Visa Group** that will play Wilson and three other dates on Reithoffer's route: **New Mexico State Fair** in Albuquerque; **Georgia National Fair** in

Perry; and the **National Peanut Festival** in Dothan, Ala. At 65 feet tall with seven slide lanes, it is billed as the tallest portable slide in the U.S. The carnival also plans to supply 100 new park benches.

Three new rides will appear at the 2018 **State Fair of Texas**: **Orbiter** (**Tivoli Mftg./Amtech**, via **Talley Amusements, Inc.**), **Haunted Castle**, (**Gosetto Srl** via **Fair Ride Entertainment**, formerly **Myers International Midways**) and **Airmaxx** (**KMG Rides**, via **Mr. Ed's Magical Midways**). The independent midway fair runs Sept. 28-Oct. 21.

**California Exposition & State Fair** has appointed **Joe Robillard** as acting chief of police. Robillard, who has been with Cal Expo since 2007, will hold the interim position until a successor for **Robert Craft** is named. Craft served with the fair for 40 years. The **California State Fair** took place July 13-29, with **Butler Amusements** providing the rides.

A **Huss Pirate**, billed as the largest traveling pirate ship ride, "rocked" its debut at the **State Fair Meadowlands** in East Rutherford, N.J., in early July. The German fairgrounds ride was restored by **Strates Shows** after a long absence from the midway.

The **Montgomery County Fair** held its first fair at its new 72-acre site in Dayton, Ohio, in mid-July. Two of several large buildings in the planning were completed and unveiled at the event: a 26,000-square-foot main event center and a 16,000-square-foot exhibit hall. Large tents were used for exhibits that could not be housed in either building. **Big O Amusements** brought 24 rides to the location, which has 2,000 parking spaces. The new site is more than twice the size of the former location adjacent to **Miami Valley Hospital** in downtown Dayton.

Seventy **Texas FFA Association** (Future Farmers of America) members were presented with \$1.4 million in scholarships from the **Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo** during the 90th **Texas FFA State Convention** in Fort Worth on July 11. Each student will receive a \$20,000 scholarship from the rodeo to apply toward a four-year undergraduate degree at a Texas college or university of their choice. The recipients represented 59 cities in the Lone Star State and will major in 25 different fields of study, with the top three majors being animal science, agribusiness and biology. The Texas FFA was chartered in 1929 and contributes to a model of secondary agricultural education in which students take part in classroom instruction and supervised agricultural experiences. Scholarship recipients were selected by association officials based on the students' involvement with the program, academic achievements and financial need.

Keep our amusement park industry strong!  
 Buy products and services from these suppliers.

# America's Fun Park finds its niche on the Branson Strip

BRANSON, Mo. — The tourist destination of Branson is no stranger to newly developed attractions. In the case of **America's Fun Park**, fate had its hand in the creation of the new recreation spot. In 2012, a tornado hit the city of Branson and caused irreparable damage to a shopping outlet called **Branson Heights Shopping Center**. It was the end for that business venture.

The intent of the nine-acre site is to evoke memories of county fairs enjoyed by so many families for generations.

Director of Operations **Joe Cadmus** had spent time with other recreation attractions in the area. The owners of the property approached him for ideas. As somewhat of a middleman, Cadmus brought in **Steve and Brian Vander Vorste**, who own and operate traveling midway rides. Vander Vorste is a partner in the America's Fun Park facility.

Cadmus describes the park's niche as "a carnival with park appeal."

"Our all-day wristband is \$20," said **Jason Reynolds**, general manager. "It's a great deal. We see our busiest hours after the sun goes down. There is a buildup around 8:00 and 9:00. The a.m. crowd tends to return in the evenings."

The initial lineup of attractions is very family friendly and not aimed at the daring thrill seeker. Represented in the mix: an **Eyerly Spider**, **Zierer Wave Swinger**, **Majestic** bumper cars, **Wisdom Tornado**, a **Sellner Tilt-A-Whirl** and a **Manco Giant Slide**. Offerings for the little ones include: **Eli Bridge Little Scrambler**, **Allen Herschell Sky Fighter**, **Venture Granny Bugs**, **Fajume Wacky Worm**, **Sartori Road Runner** and an **SBF Duck Boat**.

Three rides are standouts. The **Windstorm**, built by **SDC**, is regularly scheduled at the **State Fair of Texas**. The park also features a dark ride by **Mack** and a 50-foot **Chance** carousel.

"The biggest draw is the coaster. The **Wave Swinger** is up against Highway 76. It and the **Windstorm** have high visibility," said Reynolds. **Groovy Train** is another large coaster, this one a **Super Cyclon** model from **Interpark**.

Fair food and midway games help complete the guest experience.

"Except for (one), we built all the midway games ourselves," said Reynolds. "We did it in-house." Games are not ticket redemption, but prize-oriented.

One of the advantages of working with a carnival operator is the ability to keep things continually changing. As *Amusement Today* spoke to Cadmus, he reported they were already in the process of setting up multiple new rides at the park. Other pieces will arrive after Labor Day. "The flexibility of a carnival gives us the freedom to move things in and out," he said.

The **Windstorm** is contracted to play the **State Fair of Texas**

again in 2018. Cadmus reported to *AT* that when the fall arrives, a walk-through haunt will take the coaster's place for an autumn flair at the park, as well as a hay maze installed for the festival. "There will be a 'pumpkin park' type of atmosphere," he said.

The park will then transition starting Nov. 4 to a Christmas atmosphere. January and February will serve as a brief off-season to prepare for a re-opening for Spring Break.

— *Tim Baldwin*



America's Fun Park will continue to move different rides in and out to keep its lineup fresh.. COURTESY JOE CADMUS/AFP

*Masters in the art of insuring  
amusement risks.*

Since 1983, we've crafted risk management solutions solely for the Amusement, Entertainment and Leisure industries.

That's expertise we bring to your business.

We find the perfect mix of innovative and affordable insurance programs for each and every individual client, then add 24/7 claims service to give you peace of mind.



Call and see how we can help:  
**800.235.8774**  
[www.alliedspecialty.com](http://www.alliedspecialty.com)

XL Group and Allied Specialty Insurance are global brands used by XL Group Ltd's insurance subsidiaries. Coverages are underwritten by the following XL Group Ltd insurance companies: Greenwich Insurance Company, Indian Harbor Insurance Company, XL Insurance America, Inc., XL Specialty Insurance Company and T.H.E. Insurance Company. Coverages not available in all jurisdictions.

# WATER PARKS & RECREATION

► Funtasticks Family Fun Park adds water play structure — page 30 / News Splash — page 30

## Three Wibit inflatable obstacle courses now afloat in Texas

AT: Jeffrey Seifert  
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

COLLEYVILLE, Texas — From its award-winning water parks to its Gulf Shore beaches and numerous inland rivers and lakes, Texas is known for its wide variety of water activities. So it should come as no surprise that inflatable, floating obstacle courses are popping up around the state.

Three such installations have been supplied by **Wibit Sports**, headquartered in Bocholt, Germany. The company, founded in 1996, specializes in the installation, operation and maintenance of aquatic playgrounds.

**Altitude Trampoline**, a Colleyville-based operator of trampoline parks across the U.S. and U.K., is the newest supporter of Wibit products to the Lone Star State. The company recently ventured into the water park arena with the equipment, opening two **Altitude H2O** parks — one in Grapevine, between Dallas and Fort Worth, and the other at **Wake Nation Houston** in Rosharon.

The Grapevine location, just off the shoreline of Grapevine Lake at Meadowmere



**Altitude H2O parks, utilizing the inflatable, floating obstacle course from Wibit Sports, recently opened in Grapevine and Houston, Texas (above, top right). The Wibit product is also featured at Lake Travis Waterloo Adventures (right).** COURTESY ALTITUDE H2O; LAKE TRAVIS WATERLOO ADVENTURES

Park, is a city-owned recreational area that also offers camping, picnic spots, sandy beaches and water paddle sport rentals. Wake Nation Houston, as its name implies, offers cable wake-boarding and waterskiing. The fun (and exercise) of the Wibit equipment finds visitors, after donning safety swim vests, swimming out to the floating courses, where they can bounce-leap over hurdles, climb and generally try to maintain their foot-

ing on the pillow structure.

Altitude H2O offers obstacle course activities in blocks of time. Sessions begin on the hour and include 15 minutes of instruction followed by 45 minutes of playtime. The first session typically starts at 10 a.m. and the last session at 6 p.m.

The third obstacle course in Texas has been installed at **Lake Travis Waterloo Adventures**, just outside Austin. The park has partnered with Wibit Sports to bring the 600-foot-



diameter, multi-obstacle attraction to the lake.

Admission includes a boat ride, Adventure Island, and 45 minutes on the obstacle course itself. Guests have unlimited access to the Island, which includes a free fall slide, jumping

tower, trampoline, picnic areas and lounge chairs. The water park is a sister park to **Lake Travis Zipline Adventures**.

For more information on Wibit Sports and its products, visit the website below.

• [wibitsports.com](http://wibitsports.com)

## Two new attractions wash in at Raging Waves this summer

**58-acre Illinois water park adds waterslide, themed kids' 'island'**

YORKVILLE, Ill. — One of the largest water parks in Illinois, with nearly five dozen acres of slides, a lazy river, a wave pool and more, **Raging Waves** completed its largest expansion to date this summer.

New this season, is a pair of brightly colored waterslides called Wild Wallabies. Guests over 42 inches can indulge their competitive spirit as they race one another on the twisting, turning 600-foot-long chutes.

Quokka-Nut Island is an addition geared toward the park's littlest mates (ages two to five). Located within Kidziebunga Bay, the water play

area includes four new kiddie slides and a zero-depth pool which is more than double the size of the park's existing kiddie pools. Additional interactive play features include a coconut rain curtain, palm tree sprayers and a large octopus that spouts water.

Raging Waves is also taking the opportunity to give guests a little education. A Quokka (rhymes with "mocha") is a small, teddy bear-sized marsupial that is exclusive to the island of Rottnest off the coast of Australia. The soft, furry animals interact well with humans and have become popular with tourists.

"Since opening in 2008, we have continued to bring in new and innovative attractions for Raging Waves guests to enjoy," said **Randy Witt**, park founder and co-owner. "From



**The dual-slide Wild Wallabies, with its eye-catching magenta-and-green color scheme, opened to the public at Raging Waves on June 27.** COURTESY RAGING WAVES

our award-winning waterslide, Wonambi, to our latest additions with Quokka-Nut Island and Wild Wallabies, Raging Waves provides fun, enjoyment and lasting memories for guests of all ages."

Both of the new attractions were supplied by **ProSlide** of Ottawa, Canada. Quokka-Nut is a customized KidZone and Wild Wallabies is a body slide.

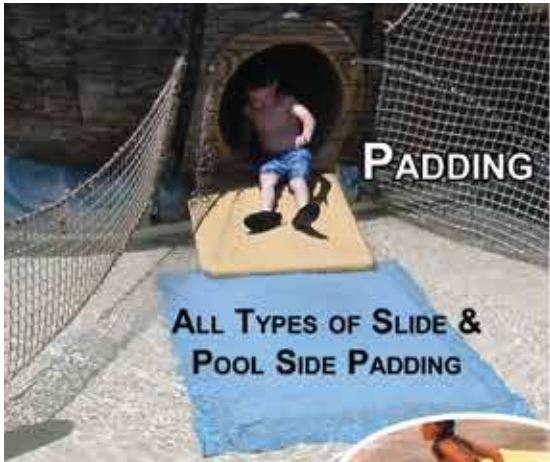
Boasting 26 waterslides in all, Raging Waves also offers a quarter-mile long lazy river and private cabanas.

When hunger strikes, guests can visit one of park's several food outlets, including Shark Bite, Hungry Croc and Surfside Subs. The park also has snacks kiosks featuring pizza, ice cream and other treats.

Located 45 minutes

southwest of Chicago, Raging Waves, which opened in 2008, was named "Best of the Midwest" in 2010 and 2011 by *Midwest Living* magazine, while *USA Today* rated it "the top Illinois Summer Destination" in 2009 and MSN anointed it "Best Waterpark in Illinois" in 2017. It attracts more than 300,000 visitors a year.

— Jeffrey L. Seifert



**PADDING**

ALL TYPES OF SLIDE & POOL SIDE PADDING



PADDING FOR ANY LOCATION



**WATER TRAMPOLINES**



**TUBES**



**FLOATATION COLLARS**

+1(513) 829-5533  
 FAX +1(513) 892-7466  
 ZEBEC@ZEBEC.COM  
 WWW.ZEBEC.COM



**INLINE RAFTS**



**UPHILL RAFTS**



**ROUND RAFTS**



**RAFTS**



**SIDEWINDER BUMPER**



**SIDEWINDER TUBES**



Heavy-Duty Single, Double, Tear-Drop, 3 and 4 Person Clover Tubes made in USA with extra heavy material and overlapped, heat-welded seams

**HEAVY DUTY TUBES**



**Diamond Raft**



**BUMPER BOAT TUBES**



**INFLATABLE BARRIERS**



**HT Heavy Triple Tube**



**RAPID RIVER RAFT**



**FOAM MATS**



**SNOW TUBES & RAFTS**



**LILY PAD WALK**

**COMPLETE LILY PAD WALK SETUP**

- FOAM Lily Floats
- Overhead Netting
- Entry Pool Side Padding



**PLAY NETTING**



**ROPE & NETTING**

## Funtasticks family park adds water play structure

TUCSON, Ariz. — Bringing more “cool” to its attractions mix, **Funtasticks Family Fun Park** has installed an interactive water play attraction.

The new multi-activity structure, called **Cactus Springs**, has several levels featuring waterslides and giant tipping water buckets that dump 1,000 gallons on fun-seekers every 10 minutes. The attraction also has bubbler jets, water wheels, water curtains and waterfalls, which are ideal for children and families to enjoy together.

“Cactus Springs is an amazing new water attraction that guests will love and are sure to get wet,” said **Bill Pegg**, park general manager. “It adds an interactive, family-friendly attraction to beat the heat, and it complements the excitement... of the ‘clean-safe-fun’ experience we provide to each of our visitors.”

Owned and operated by **ProParks Management Co., LLC**, of Orlando, Fla., Funtasticks unveiled Cactus Springs in late June. The structure was supplied by **WhiteWater West Industries, Ltd.**, of Richmond, B.C., Canada.

In addition to Cactus Springs, attractions at the park include kiddie rides, go-karts, bumper boats, laser tag and an arcade.

•funtasticks.com



Cactus Springs brings an array of all-ages water play activities to Funtasticks' menu of family amusements.

COURTESY FUNTASTICKS FAMILY FUN CENTER

## Galaxy Multi Rides stirs interest with Inflatapark

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. — **Galaxy Multi Rides**, a maker of mechanical and inflatable attractions based in the U.S. and U.K., with an additional sales and service location in Australia, turned heads with the unveiling of its Inflatapark concept at a conference of the **International Association of Trampoline Parks** in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in May.

The sprawling indoor inflatable attraction is formed of interconnected sections that contain multiple inflatable games and interactive mechanical activities.

“The Inflatapark concept is on trend throughout the U.K.,” said **Mike Whincup**, the company's marketing director. “We offer a unique combination of inflatable



play combined with interactive electronic games and mechanical attractions. Inflataparks are destined to be the next big thing in indoor play venues.”

Whincup added that Galaxy is installing three Inflataparks in the U.K. and four additional units in the U.S. by the end of the year.

•galaxymultirides.com



## NEWS SPLASH

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert

jseifert@amusementtoday.com

**Hyland Hills Water World**, the venerable water park just north of Denver, has added Glacier Run to its impressive line-up of more than 50 water-based attractions.

Glacier Run officially opened to the public on June 14, 2018, with a spirited dance party that included Denver-area mascots such as Rocky from the Denver Nuggets basketball team, and Water World's own new mascot, Walliver. Water World introduced Walliver, the nephew of famous Wally the Walrus, as his successor. After 38 years of representing Water World, Wally is going to retire.

Unlike most mat racers, Glacier Run takes advantage of the natural hilly terrain at Water World. Instead of a slide tower and lots of stairs, guests walk up a meandering path built alongside the attraction. Water World opted to install a mat conveyor system that delivers the slide mats to the top of the attraction, so guests do not have to carry them.

Once at the top, the multilane racer quickly dispatches guests — eight at a time — so riders can race against friends.

Each dip on the slide drops riders into a brief compression, then riders experience weightlessness as they crest the top of the next drop. The low lane separators make it easy for riders to see their friends in the next lane, while keeping them safely contained within their own lane. A long, flat, non-skid runout at the end gradually brings riders to a stop, and provides a safe walking surface for competitors to exit the attraction.

The **Mitchell Indoor Aquatic Center**, Mitchell, S.D., officially opened to the public July 3, just in time for the Independence Day holiday. The \$8 million center includes competition and leisure pools, two diving boards, a rock climbing wall, vortex area, play structures and two waterslides. The facility was designed to feature 50 percent recreational use and 50 percent competitive use. A spectator seating area with 194 stadium seats and five tables is located parallel to the competition pool. The **Mitchell Aquatic Club** provided \$1 million in funding for the new project, the rest comes from a lodging tax approved by the voters back in 2015.

**Great Wolf Lodge**, Gurnee, Ill., held its grand opening on June 21, 2018. An invite-only, grand-opening, ribbon-cutting ceremony featured Grammy-Award winning, Chicago native Chance the Rapper. Great Wolf usually partners with charities and celebrities for its resort openings. Chance raised \$75,000 for the **SocialWorks' Kids of the Kingdom** summer program, Chance's youth-empowerment charity. The resort opened to the public the following day.

The water park originally opened as **Key Lime Cove** in 2008. It was purchased by **Great Wolf Lodge Resorts** in April 2017, renovated and remodeled to give it the Great Wolf theme and expanded by approximately 20,000 square feet.

Great Wolf Resorts invested more than \$60 million into the property to bring it in line with the Great Wolf brand.

**Big Splash Water Slide Park**, in Delta, B.C., just outside of Vancouver was getting ready to open its latest addition just as this issue was going to press. The new CA\$1.5 million Boomerango waterslide is being billed as the largest in western Canada. Supplied by **WhiteWater West** of B.C., the water park is conveniently located about 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the manufacturing facility. Big Splash Water Slide Park opened last year on the site of the former **Splashdown Waterpark**.

“It was important for us to introduce a number of thrilling new features that would make our park unforgettable,” said Harold Frederiks, general manager. “From the Boomerango, to renovated slides and pools, we cannot wait for guests to come experience everything we have to offer this season.”

**Pearls Kingdom** opened on June 3 in the Emirate of Sharjah. The former Al Jazeera Park is undergoing an extensive renovation to become the Al Montazah Amusement and Water Park.

Similar to Abu Dhabi's **Yas Waterworld**, Pearls Kingdom, as the name implies, is also themed to pearl diving and a magical pearl that can save the kingdom from misfortune.

Pearls Kingdom offers 35 attractions including a wave pool, slide towers, water play structures, lazy river and a quiet grotto pool for relaxation for adults 18 and older. The park also features a main food and beverage outlet which can service 1,000 guests per hour, as well as three kiosks around the park serving fast food, desserts and refreshments. Each of the attraction clusters features a mini-theme with a creative name such as Pirate's Den, King's Palace, Great Oasis and Sea of Treasures.

The water park is designed to accommodate 7,000 visitors with up to 200 in the wave pool and 100 children, ages 4 to 14 years, in the specially designed kids areas.

The **Isle of Legends** theme park is scheduled to open later this year.

**Mountain Creek Waterpark** in Vernon, N.J., is setting a new safety precedent by receiving an “exceeds” safety score two years in a row.

The water park received an unannounced observation audit on June 25. Mountain Creek participates in **Ellis & Associates' Comprehensive Aquatic Risk Management Program (CARMP)**, designed to reduce risk in aquatic facility operations. CARMP boasts a mission to eliminate drowning events through Proactive Aquatic Risk Management.

“Our mission as a company is to enhance the lives of our team, guests and partners, and we take the safety of both our staff and each person who walks through our water park very seriously,” said **Cheryl Swift**, Aquatics Manager, Mountain Creek Resort. “The results of this recent audit are proof of that commitment, and something the resort and aquatics team share a tremendous amount of pride in.”



**REGISTER TODAY**  
FOR THE WORLD WATERPARK  
ASSOCIATION SHOW IN VEGAS



**WWASHOW**  
WORLD WATERPARK ASSOCIATION  
OCTOBER 23-26, 2018  
LAS VEGAS, NV U.S.A.

The WWA Show is the one-stop shop for all your waterpark and waterpark resort needs. Our educational program provides you with high impact, ready-to-use content and our registration and hotel pricing are budget friendly.

Register today for our comprehensive Symposium Package for \$449. Then, book your room at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort for just \$129 a night. Questions? Call +1-913-599-0300.

**WWASHOW.ORG**



# BUSINESS & NEWSMAKERS

► **Women of Influence: Adrienne Dixon Rhodes of Lake Winnepesaukah — page 34**

## Marketing savvy shows in Morey's beach bar, signage

WILDWOOD, N.J. — **Morey's Piers** is putting a fresh spin on the dog days of summer with a Fido-friendly food service concept the company introduced in June. The multi-pier seaside amusement park has also signaled its marketing savvy this season with a new public information system.

Welcoming patrons with dogs, the PigDog Beach Bar is Morey's newest family-friendly dining venue. Located at the eastern end of Mariner's Landing Pier and accessible through Raging Waters Water Park, the casual, open-air eatery serves up barbecue classics, cocktails and local beers on tap.

The menu offerings appeal to sand-and-surf activity-fueled appetites — including the signature PigDog Dog, a foot-long all-beef hot dog topped with smoked pulled pork and jalapenos on a potato roll.

This summer, Morey's also strengthened sales and marketing across its 18 acres of beachfront fun with the installation of a digital signage network from **Mvix** of Sterling, Va. The system connects more than 30 screens and video walls mounted on ticket booths and restaurant facilities at Morey's.

The remotely managed, easily updated information platform has solved a problem for the park's sales staff, which often found that they spent more time explaining pricing options to visitors than selling tickets.

"The digital signs are increasing incremental revenue while decreasing expenses," said **Tim Samson**, director of marketing at Morey's, noting that transaction times have been reduced 50 percent while tickets sales have increased. "It's really become a significant revenue center for us."

—Dean Lamanna

Morey's Piers introduced PigDog Beach Bar, offering pooch-friendly, open-air casual dining, in June. COURTESY MOREY'S PIERS



## Southern Amusement Expo extends to all U.S. Southeast

DULUTH, Ga. — On Sept. 13-14, the 10th annual **Southern Amusement & Entertainment Expo**, sponsored by the **Georgia Amusement & Music Operators Association**, will expand its reach throughout the southeastern U.S. by welcoming amusement industry operators from Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. The expo, to be held at the **Atlanta Airport Marriott**, will feature manufacturers' latest machines as well as live and silent auctions, as well as educational sessions. Visit [gamo.org](http://gamo.org) for registration, lodging and general information.

## Alterface rolls with dark ride coaster

QINGDAO, China — Interactive technology and show control system supplier **Alterface** recently completed work on an interactive indoor roller coaster in the amusement-filled **Wanda Mall** — part of the **Qingdao Oriental Movie Metropolis** film and television production complex.

It is the first such attraction for the company, which collaborated with **Pico Beijing**, a brand activation and themed environment design firm, for approximately half of the two-year project's development and completion time.

Called Qingdao Wanda, the innovative dark ride interweaves ancient Chinese storytelling involving spirits and warriors with thrills derived from both its coaster motion and seven mixed-media scenes, each of which represent a popular Chinese legend about a powerful god. Riders, working together as teams, set out to defeat the preternatural forces in each scene.

"It's a great story with compelling gameplay," said **Louis Vanhomwegen**, project manager for Alterface, which is based in Belgium and has offices in Beijing and Xiamen, China, as well as in the U.S. "This attraction combines interactive shooting and a roller coaster experience plus special effects, including liquid nitrogen and hot wind [to convey fire]. We have not yet found another attraction similar to this."

The immersive environment begins with the queue, which deploys video and audio elements to provide a general sense of the storyline. Guests then enter a preshow area to practice their gameplay and shooting skills at individual screens.

"Alterface designed and installed all image generators and the shooting system across the different scenes, which are



Qingdao Wanda, a new dark ride coaster in the Wanda Mall, located in the port city of Qingdao, incorporates Alterface's interactive and show control technology. The attraction is filled with gameplay, colorful sets and special effects.

COURTESY ALTERFACE



supported by over 40 3D projection screens," Vanhomwegen said, adding that the ride vehicles have "butt-kickers" that vibrate the bench seats and are controlled by the company's show management system. "For example, in the first scene the god is smashing a boat with a big sword. At the moment the boat is hit, the seats are vibrating. It all [makes] the ride more immersive and memorable."

"Alterface regards a strong dark ride not as a collection of components but as a precisely crafted expertise that combines the power of technology with the visitor's cultural background and expectations," said **Ben Cornet**, company founder

and CEO. "Mixed-media rides require a different set of skills, and a lot of companies are currently asking our help to move faster on that learning curve."

"Increased and closer collaboration between manufacturers and customers seems to be the path of the future, and towards success. We are very pleased that we accomplished this with the Qingdao Wanda ride and teams."

Alterface installations can be found in **PhantasiaLand** in Brühl, Germany; **Ferrari World Abu Dhabi**; **Carowinds** in Charlotte, N.C.; and **Legoland Discovery Centers**, among other locations worldwide.

• [alterface.com](http://alterface.com)

EUROPEAN SPARE AND REPLACEMENT PARTS IMPORTER

SINCE 1982

# NAPE

NORTH AMERICAN PARTS INC.  
61C AERO DRIVE,  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK  
USA 14225

PHONE: (716) 839-4791

FAX: (716) 839-4506

EMAIL: [parts@nap-inc.com](mailto:parts@nap-inc.com)  
[www.nap-inc.com](http://www.nap-inc.com)

SERVING THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY

WE'VE KEPT YOUR RIDES IN MOTION SINCE 1982

## The turnstile never lies.

We make the turnstile spin.



TURNSTILE  
ADVERTISING

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL JOHN SEEKER AT (214) 210-5981



**MARKET WATCH**

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 07/13/18	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	35.21	37.52	29.57
Merlin Entertainments Group / Legoland	MERL	LSE	404.70	492.50	317.10
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	60.08	70.82	57.15
Comcast Corp./NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	34.70	44.00	30.43
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	110.00	113.19	96.2
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.35	0.87	0.32
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	66.13	74.15	51.87
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	3160.00	3560.00	2232.00
Haichang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.87	2.30	1.55
Lefoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	6.38	8.51	6.34
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	30.95	38.41	27.88
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	13.58	17.00	11.69
Sansei Technologies, Inc.	JP:6357	TYO	1635.00	1864.00	827.00
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	21.82	22.96	10.42
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	69.52	73.38	51.25
DreamEast Group Ltd.	HK:0593	SEHK	10.34	15.88	8.46
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	660.00	688.00	545.00
Village Roadshow	AU:VRL	ASX	1.77	4.21	1.73

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

**BUSINESS WATCH**

**Cedar Fair revenues dip slightly through holiday**

SANDUSKY, Ohio — **Cedar Fair Entertainment Co.** reported preliminary net revenues through July 8 of approximately \$563 million on 11.1 million guest visits, average in-park per capita spending of \$45.87 and out-of-park revenues of \$70 million. This period represents approximately 40% of the company's total operating days for 2018. When compared with the same period a year ago, net revenues were down 2%, or \$10 million, the result of a 3%, or 314,000-visit, decrease in attendance. This was partially offset by a 3%, or \$2 million, increase in out-of-park revenues, including resort accommodations, and a slight increase in average in-park per capita spending when compared with the same period last year. "Although early-season attendance at our seasonal parks... has not met our expectations, we are encouraged by the positive guest response to our new rides and attractions," said **Richard Zimmerman**, Cedar Fair's president and CEO, noting that out-of-park revenues continued to perform well. "Demand within our resort properties has been very strong, particularly at **Cedar Point**, where we recently opened a new 158-room tower at the historic Hotel Breakers."

**Village Roadshow moves to reduce large debt**

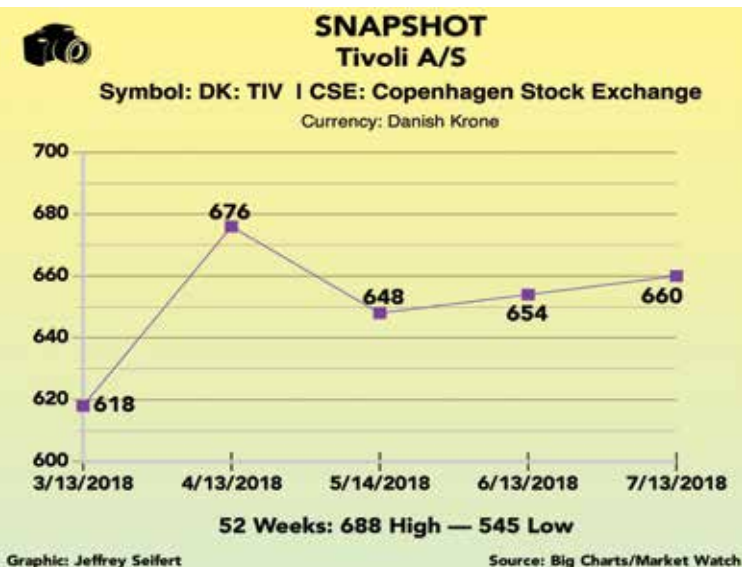
MELBOURNE, Australia — Entertainment company **Village Roadshow, Ltd.**, operator of **Movie World** and **Sea World** theme parks on Australia's Gold Coast, temporarily suspended trading of its shares in July in order to "provide information about a potential capital-raising." It was expected to issue more shares to help pay down its debt, which one report pegged as high as AU\$425 million, in the face of a steep decline in first-half 2017-18 financial year gross earnings — to \$49.8 million, down from the previous year's \$78.4 million. Among the assets the company has unloaded to reduce debt is **Wet'n'Wild Sydney**, which it reportedly sold to Madrid, Spain-based **Parques Reunidos** for \$40 million. As of early July, Village's stock price was at its lowest in eight years; the drop was attributed to low attendance at the company's parks because of weather and other factors. Executives took a 25 percent pay cut as Village wrote down the value of its parks.

**Media company CEOs ruled earnings roost in '17**

NEW YORK, N.Y. — With a median pay of \$28.7 million last year, CEOs at media and telecom companies earned more than twice as much as other chief executives in the S&P 500, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. Atop the list of companies with amusement industry or related holdings, **Jeffrey Bewkes** of **Time Warner, Inc.**, earned \$49 million in 2017, while the **Walt Disney Co.**'s **Robert Iger** earned \$36.3 million and **Brian Roberts** of **NBCUniversal** parent company **Comcast** earned \$32.5 million. **Randall Stephenson**, CEO of **AT&T**, which has acquired Time Warner, earned \$28.7 million.

**Blackpool Pleasure Beach names upcoming hotel**

BLACKPOOL, U.K. — **Blackpool Pleasure Beach** has selected a name for a previously announced guest lodge it is building adjacent the park, set to open next spring. The 120-room, £12 million property will be called The Boulevard Hotel. "We are delighted to announce the name of our new hotel and its facilities, said **Amanda Thompson**, OBE, managing director of the resort. "We want to build on the success of The Big Blue Hotel and be able to offer another stylish hotel which exceeds the expectations of both leisure and business visitors."



**DIESEL PRICES**

Region (U.S.)	As of 07/09/18	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$3.238	+\$0.715
Midwest	\$3.176	+\$0.755
Gulf Coast	\$3.004	+\$0.693
Mountain	\$3.370	+\$0.786
West Coast	\$3.471	+\$0.818
California	\$3.970	+\$1.103

**CURRENCY**

On 07/13/18 \$1 USD =

0.8576	EURO
0.7584	GBP (British Pound)
112.52	JPY (Japanese Yen)
1.0028	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3502	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3169	CAD (Canadian Dollar)

**Amusement TODAY**  
Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

Follow US

facebook and twitter

**SIPPERS BY DESIGN**

(800)395.9980  
www.sippersbydesign.com  
sales@sippersbydesign.com

Shakers	Mason Jars	Shot Glasses	Fish Bowl	Alien Yards	Boots	Barrels	Lemon Wedge
Mugs	Custom Acrylic	Souvenir	Buckets	Hurricanes	Tikis	Pilsner	yards

# Women INFLUENCE

## Adrienne Dixon Rhodes President Lake Winnie Amusement Park Chattanooga, Tenn.

### A view from the top...

Lake Winnepesaukah opened June 1, 1925, to 5,000 visitors. That was one year after Carl and Minette Dixon purchased the land located in Rossville, Ga., just across the Tennessee border. The first attractions were the lake, picnicking, boating and fishing.

Now touting over 40 rides and attractions, as well as Soak Ya, a water park that opened in 2013, it certainly has a different look than in 1925. But, the mission has remained the same: bringing families together.

### Accomplishments and affiliations...

- Member of International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)
- Member of Family Owned Amusement Parks (FOAM)
- Lake Winnepesaukah was awarded the Small Business of the Year in Chattanooga in 2003

### Sticking to principles, tradition

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Adrienne Dixon Rhodes doesn't think she has been influential in the amusement park industry. The granddaughter of the park founders, she said she really hasn't had the time to be active in industry associations and organizations.

She has tried to remain active in her local church and is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

But as president of Lake Winnepesaukah Inc. since 2002 when her mother, Evelyn Dixon White, passed away, she has had very little time for outside participations.

She does have time for her family, of course. That is her focus in work and in play. That has been her family's focus since June 1, 1925, the day Lake Winnepesaukah opened.

"We are in our 93rd season here and what we value most is safety, courtesy and cleanliness," Rhodes said. "We have tried to create wholesome family fun. There is no other language to describe it better than that.

"We stick to our principles," she said. "When I am hiring maintenance and security people, it makes me feel good if they have children and maybe even grandchildren, because I know that they understand.

"We want happy people and smiling faces."

Yet, perhaps, Rhodes has underestimated her influence, her personal legacy.

It is hard to imagine that, now at 86 years old, her positive energy and principals haven't spread beyond Lake Winnepesaukah much like ripples in the water, ripples that are only stopped by the earth but continue on as spreading grains of dirt and sand.

And, just maybe the many words of

appreciation she receives from guests give a glimpse at just how far those ripples have traveled.

"Now, at my age, I ride a golf cart through the park," she said. "People are forever stopping me just to say thank-you. Thank you for keeping the park open. Thank you for keeping the park a wholesome place to bring the entire family. Thank you for facing the challenges over the years and bending only to a certain degree.

"Thank you for all the memories."

There have been so many memories from generations of families the park now has a memories program where people can come together and tell their stories.

In 1924, after spending years in the ice and coal business, Carl and Minette Dixon purchased land in Rossville, Ga., for the sole purpose of creating a family park. They renamed the lake on the property, calling it Lake Winnepesaukah, a Native American word meaning bountiful waters or beautiful lake of the highlands.

The next year when the park opened it included swimming in the lake, picnicking, boating and fishing. In 1927, Carl Rhodes built the park's first ride, the Boat Chute, a ride still operating today. According to the park's website, the National Amusement Park Historical Association has recognized that ride as the oldest mill chute water ride in the U.S.

"My grandfather was not an engineer or anything, he was just that kind of person," Rhodes said. "Over the years, little by little, we have replaced all the wood, but it is still one of our most popular rides."

Rhodes' grandfather passed away in 1933, when she was only eight



months old.

"My grandmother took over and never missed a beat," Rhodes said. "She had been running the office since opening anyway, but she hung on and was very determined."

As Rhodes grew, she said she was always by her grandmother's side.

"I adored her," she said.

Her earliest memories of being in the park are of swimming in the lake. Her family lived with her grandmother until her mother, who had taken over the food operations, built her own home. The path to get to the front door was under the Boat Chute.

Even though Rhodes feels she has never left Lake Winnepesaukah, she did, but only for the time it took to receive a college degree in business administration.

She attended Bradford College located in Haverhill, Mass., just north of Boston for her first two years. Then received her degree from the University of Chattanooga, which is now the University of Tennessee Chattanooga.

When her grandmother passed away in 1958, her mother took the helm.

Her grandmother left Rhodes her home, where she lived with her husband, Leonard "Buddy" Rhodes, and had two daughters, Talley and Tennyson.

In her mother's declining years, Rhodes used to hand deliver documents to her that needed signing, passing under the Boat Chute several times a day.

"One day, my mother looked at me and said she just didn't want to do all that any longer," Rhodes said. "She said, 'Adrienne, just do your job.'"

Rhodes has been grooming the upcoming two generations to take over, her own daughters and her grandchildren, which include two daughters, of course, and one grandson.

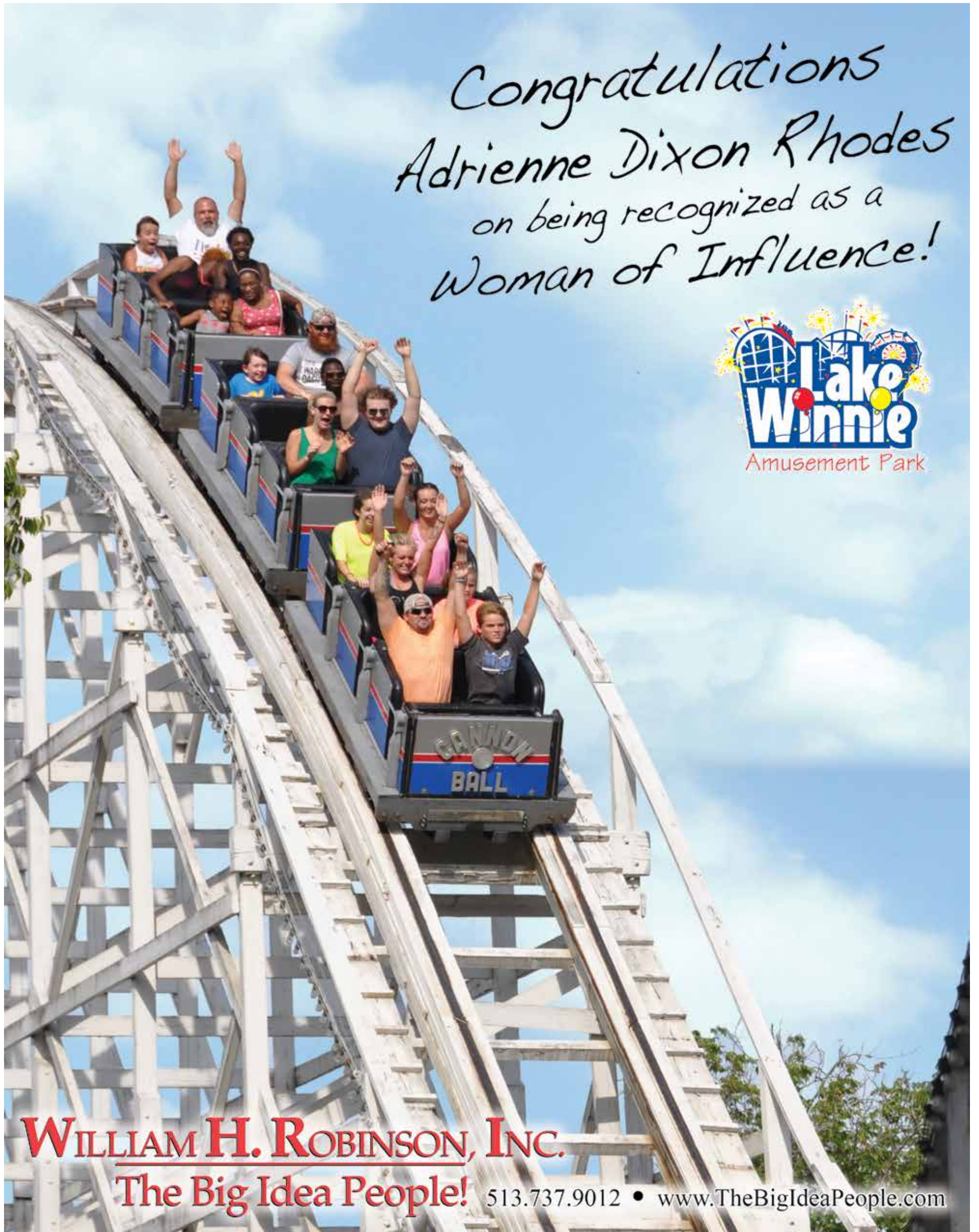
Looking back, Rhodes said there have been many changes to the park. They grew slowly, however, focusing on the good things, staying with the family.

Lake Winnepesaukah's survival has been a labor of love.

"My grandfather gave us the legacy," Rhodes said. "He wanted families to have somewhere to go. We have just tried to continue that."

—Pam Sherborne

*Congratulations  
Adrienne Dixon Rhodes  
on being recognized as a  
Woman of Influence!*



**WILLIAM H. ROBINSON, INC.**

**The Big Idea People!** 513.737.9012 • [www.TheBigIdeaPeople.com](http://www.TheBigIdeaPeople.com)

# IMAX with Laser experience expands via Cineworld and AMC

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

## IMAX

NEW YORK, N.Y. — **Imax Corp.** has announced agreements to install its next-generation immersive laser projection experience in commercial multiplexes across the U.S. and Europe operated by **Cineworld Group, PLC**, including its **Regal Entertainment Group** subsidiary, and **AMC Theatres**.

The announcement coincides with the launch of IMAX with Laser, the company's most advanced commercial projection system designed to transform the premium blockbuster moviegoing experience.

Imax Corp.'s agreement with Cineworld has Cineworld and Regal locations adding IMAX with Laser systems to 26 new IMAX Theatres and upgrading 29 existing IMAX sites, including 15 currently open and 14 sites not yet completed.

The company's arrangement with AMC calls for the installation of the system in

87 of the exhibitor's highest-performing IMAX Theatres at AMC locations in the U.S.

In both cases, the IMAX with Laser systems include renewed 12-year lease terms and are expected to be installed between 2018 and 2022. The exhibitors also will be undertaking the renovation of the locations and adding enhancements such as 12-channel IMAX immersive sound, luxury plush rocker seating, redesigned entryways and in-theater branding.

"In addition to the economics of the new laser system remaining attractive and coming with 12-year lease extensions, we believe this powerful new product will, over time, help ensure that IMAX remains the premium cinematic experience of choice among moviegoers, studios, filmmakers and theater partners alike," said **Richard L. Gelfond**, CEO of Imax Corp.



The next-generation IMAX with Laser experience features a 4K laser projection system for increased resolution, sharper images and a greater array of colors. COURTESY IMAX CORP

"There is no doubt in my mind that IMAX with Laser provides the best blockbuster moviegoing experience and will be our leading premium offering," said Cineworld CEO **Mooky Greidinger**. "Imax Corp. and our collective organization have worked together for more than 20 years, and we both understand how to create best-in-class customer

experiences."

Added **Adam Aron**, CEO and president of AMC: "AMC and Imax Corp. continue to stay at the forefront of presentation innovation, and this announcement represents a momentous step forward for our guests who love seeing their movies in IMAX at AMC."

IMAX with Laser provides audiences with vivid

images when experiencing today's biggest blockbusters. The next-generation 4K laser projection system features a new optical engine and a suite of proprietary technologies delivering increased resolution, sharper and brighter images, and deeper contrast as well as the widest range of colors available.

•imax.com

## Attractions now utilizing Satisfi Labs' AI conversation platform

NEW YORK, N.Y. — **Satisfi Labs**, a leading artificial intelligence (AI) conversation platform creator, has announced its expansion into tourism and attractions.

The company's products create engaging experiences and improved customer service for visitors. Each venue has a custom platform that is designed to enable a superior guest experience including ticketing, exhibit details, food and beverage options, and more. All of the platforms are location-based, so guests are provided answers spe-



cifically related on the attraction they are looking to visit.

Locations that have recently launched the company's technology include **Ripley's Believe It or Not! Odditorium** in Gatlinburg, Tenn.; **Ripley's Aquarium of**

**the Smokies**, also in Gatlinburg; the **Roger Williams Park Zoo** in Providence, R.I.; and the **National Baseball Hall of Fame** in Cooperstown, N.Y.

"Over 375 million people in North America visit theme parks annually, and as that number increases, the demand for a seamless experience grows as well," said **Don White**, CEO and co-founder of Satisfi Labs. "The integration of AI and superior tech is integral for parks, museums and other venues to create valuable and successful interac-

tions with guests. We're ecstatic at the enthusiasm our partners have shown for the platform and the high volume of engagement they've seen from visitors."

Satisfi Labs is known in the sports industry for having created AI conversation platforms for professional teams within organizations including **MLB**, **NHL**, **NFL** and **NBA**. The company also has expanded into the retail space, with launches at **Mall of America**, the **Irvine Company** and other major retailers.

•satis.fi

## MediaMation to build second MX4D Esports Theatre in Chicago

TORRANCE, Calif. — **MediaMation, Inc.**, and **Hollywood Esports** are planning to open an esports theater — their second — at **Cinemas Entertainment Lawndale 10** in Chicago.

The project follows the debut last fall of the partnership's **MX4D Esports Theatre** at **TCL Chinese Theatres** in Hollywood. The inaugural Los Angeles location was designed to convert between "Cinema Mode" and "Esports Mode" in under one hour, allowing cinema operators to enjoy dual revenue streams from MX4D films and esports tournaments and events. (It opened with the launch of **Wargaming's World of Tanks North American Championship** esports tournament.)

The theater's combination of design and equipment is key to its operational versatility.

"Our MX4D Esports Theatre starts with the



company's motion and special effects technology and adds an innovative package of patent-pending features that are designed to support esports," said **Dan Jamele**, co-founder and chief information technology officer of MediaMation, which has been building immersive high-tech theaters for tourist attractions and parks for more than 25 years.

"As esports continues its rapid expansion in the U.S., cinemas have a unique ability to host weekly events and tournaments through Hollywood Esports' utilizing of MediaMation's innovative esports venue technology," said **Henry Leong**, president and CEO of **Cinemas Entertainment**.

Leong expects to duplicate the success of TCL Chinese Theatres' MX4D Esports Theatre, which has been hosting tournaments, events and viewing parties during the week.

"Hollywood Esports has built a loyal following of fans," said **Alwyn Kushner**, president and COO of TCL Chinese Theatres. "We have seen a crowd of over 100 enthusiasts, many of whom are driving more than 30 miles, coming to the theater on weekday nights to participate in events."

—Dean Lamanna

VRstudios, Ashland Technologies contribute

## 'Jurassic World' VR attraction on the stomp at Dave & Buster's

AT: Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

DALLAS, Texas — Since mid-June, virtual dinosaurs have been on the rampage at all 114 **Dave & Buster's** locations in North America.

The family entertainment center chain has introduced *Jurassic World VR Expedition* to its attractions mix. The new virtual reality platform capitalizes on the concurrent feature film release of *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*, the fifth installment of **Universal Pictures'** 25-year-old dinosaur thriller franchise, which had scared up well over \$700 million in global box office receipts by the end of June.

The wireless, commercial-grade interactive gaming system and motion platform of *Jurassic World VR Expedition* incorporate technology and equipment produced by **VRstudios** of Redmond, Wash., and **Ashland Technologies, Inc.**, of Hegins, Pa., among others.

VRstudios, a leading



supplier of wireless, multi-player VR turnkey solutions for location-based entertainment businesses, deployed its VRcade Attraction Management Platform (AMP) to operate and manage the proprietary attraction. AMP's cloud-based architecture and enterprise features enable it to centrally manage and power the attraction at all Dave & Buster's locations, which, according to VRstudios, makes this platform the world's largest deployment of commercial multiplayer VR.

AMP's utilization is the result of a larger project between VRstudios and Dave & Buster's. Working together from the new VR attraction's inception, VRstudios was entrusted to manage the sourcing and integration of its key components, including the proprietary simulator, VR

hardware, motion control software, content and management platform. The two companies are continuing to work together to produce additional content experiences for the system.

"We are honored to be a trusted partner to Dave & Buster's," said **Kevin Vitale**, CEO of VRstudios. "Their new attraction is a breakthrough for extending commercial availability of true multiplayer virtual reality to locations around the country. AMP enables the seamless integration of technology and content from best-in-class providers, including **Hewlett-Packard**, **HTC**, **Universal Studios** and **The Virtual Reality Company**."

Ashland Technologies, which specializes in machining, fabrication, cutting / welding, powder-coating and assembly for amusement rides and other projects, assembled the motion platform for *Jurassic World VR Expedition*. Ashland's ability to assemble units from raw material for all of



The new *Jurassic World VR Expedition*, now available at all Dave & Buster's locations, ties in with the hit Universal Pictures summer feature *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*.  
COURTESY VR STUDIOS



Dave & Buster's locations in a relatively short time frame was in keeping with the company's deadline-driven reputation among its international park and ride-manufacturing clients.

•daveandbusters.com

## Luna Park aims for higher visitorship with towering new ride

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — **Luna Park** has added more "lift" to its season with a tower ride that further accentuates the iconic **Coney Island** skyline.



Much more than a scenic attraction, the new 137-foot-tall landmark, called **Astro Tower**, provides a dynamic experience filled with dramatic free-fall drops, bounces and rotation. Located next to the **Endeavor** ride and across from **Thunderbolt** roller coaster at W. 15th St. and **Riegelmann Boardwalk**, the **Zamperla**-manufactured thriller opened to the public May 26.

The ride's name honors Coney Island history — con-



tinuing Luna Park's tradition of preserving famous former ride names when introducing new attractions (e.g., **Steeplechase** and **Thunderbolt**).

"From the **Cyclone** to the **Astro Tower**, Luna Park brings together the classic and state of the art in amusement attractions at the heart of the Coney Island," said **Fernando Velasquez**, park general manager. "Only here can you experience the most outrageous thrill rides in the world only steps from the beach, the boardwalk and the subway in America's favorite playground."

Astro Tower has a mini-



Stretching 137 feet skyward, **Astro Tower** provides free-fall thrills and an aerial view of Coney Island's amusement-filled shoreline, as well as another high-visibility lure for Luna Park.  
COURTESY LUNA PARK

mum rider height requirement of 42 inches and seats up to 12 passengers per cycle. During evening hours, riders and spectators can enjoy a dazzling show created by 5,258 LED lights adorning the structure.

—Dean Lamanna



# Dynamic Attractions signs five-year strategic deal with Asian customer

ORLANDO, Fla. — The ride designers and steel workers based at the Central Florida and Vancouver, Canada, facilities of **Dynamic Attractions** are busier than ever, thanks to contracts the company recently signed with a customer in Asia.

The five-year strategic cooperation agreement initially calls for Dynamic Attractions to deliver two large state-of-the-art ride systems over the next two years, with additional rides possibly to be supplied during the agreement's term. While most details of the deal are confidential, the company noted that the customer is a theme park conglomerate with multiple park projects in various stages of development.

Under the ride contracts, Dynamic Attractions will supply one of its proprietary systems to two different theme parks currently under construction. The company completed the design and manufacturing requirements in two prior contracts.

"The ride system they have purchased is significantly more advanced than any other in this genre currently in operation," said **John Kageorge**, communications director for Dynamic Attractions, adding that the initial contracts under the arrangement are valued at USD \$56 million.

The agreement grants Dynamic Attractions preferred vendor status and is expected to result in a third ride system award before the



The All-Terrain Dark Ride and Dynamic Motion Theater are among the multimedia ride systems from Dynamic Attractions garnering international industry attention. COURTESY DYNAMIC ATTRACTIONS



end of the fiscal year.

"We are tremendously honored with the trust that this client has placed in us with the marquee attraction in multiple parks," said **Hao Wang**, company president and COO. "It reinforces Dynamic's strategic product portfolio and operational positioning to support the expanding global theme park industry. Delivering on our commitments is a primary

focus, and having the capability to engineer and deliver iconic ride systems concurrently gives [us] a significant competitive advantage."

Dynamic Attractions, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Empire Industries, Ltd.**, has designed and fabricated top attractions at theme parks operated by Disney and Universal Studios, among others.

• [dynamicattractions.com](http://dynamicattractions.com)

## WhiteWater, Life Floor partnering on global non-slip surfaces distribution

RICHMOND, B.C., Canada — Water parks product and attraction manufacturer **WhiteWater West Industries, Ltd.**, has entered into an exclusive distribution agreement with Minneapolis, Minn.-based **Life Floor** to bring the latter's non-slip cushioned surfaces to the global water park market.

The announcement was made in June during **Asian Attractions Expo 2018** in Hong Kong.

Life Floor's patented foam-rubber flooring system significantly reduces slips and falls — the primary cause of water park injuries. When a fall does occur, bumps and bruises are minimized by the product, which has become a favorite of park operators including **Carnival Cruise Line**, **Cedar Fair**, **Great Wolf Resorts** and **Legoland**.

"The partnership further confirms

WhiteWater's designs and offerings as the safest in the industry," said **Geoff Chutter**, the company's president and CEO.

Added Life Floor CEO **Jonathan Keller**: "Working with WhiteWater, the market leader, was an obvious choice to access a wider market, but we've also found that the missions which drive our companies are very aligned. Both companies are single-minded about delivering fun safely with the highest-quality products available."

While Life Floor's non-slip "soft fall" characteristic is its biggest benefit, its durable tiles also will not absorb water or other liquids. The award-winning product's closed-cell construction also is resistant to staining, chlorine and UV exposure, and it does not support microbial growth.

—Dean Lamanna

## PEOPLE

**Space Center Houston** has welcomed 33-year NASA veteran scientist **John B. Charles**, Ph.D., as the Texas nonprofit's first scientist in residence. Dr. Charles will help interpret space research into guest experiences and education programs via exhibits, presentations, experiential activities and curricula. His role will emphasize and integrate the human health and performance aspect of space exploration into the center's learning environment. Additionally, he will appear regularly at the center's "Thought Leader Series," bringing together the brightest minds in space exploration to speak with the public.



Charles

The **California Attractions and Parks Association (CAPA)** has named **Erin Guerrero** executive director. With nearly 20 years of experience in and around the state capitol, Guerrero will be responsible for advocating on behalf of the organization and its members with the legislature, governor and regulatory agencies. In her most recent role as vice president for legislative affairs for the **California Building Industry Association**, Guerrero was the lead advocate for the home building industry. CAPA represents a wide variety of theme, amusement and water parks throughout the state.



Guerrero

**John Hallenbeck** has joined the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)** as vice president of North American operations. A 25-plus-year industry veteran, Hallenbeck previously served as managing director of project development at **Hershey Entertainment & Resorts**. Earlier positions include vice president of revenue operations at **Dubai Parks and Resorts** and senior vice president of attractions for **Universal Studios Singapore**, **Southeast Asia Aquarium**, **Adventure Cove** and **Dolphin Island**, located within **Resorts World Sentosa** in Singapore.



Hallenbeck

The board of trustees of the **Exploratorium**, a learning laboratory and exhibit space on **Pier 15** in San Francisco, Calif., has elected **Roberta Katz**, Ph.D., to serve as board chair; she assumes the role as the institution approaches its 50th anniversary in 2019. Dr. Katz is a senior research scholar in both the Department of Communication and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at **Stanford University**, where she conducts research on the values, worldviews and behaviors of young people. She holds a doctorate in anthropology from **Columbia University**.



Katz

**Michael Mercadante**, president and senior exhibit designer of **Main Street Design** in Cambridge, Mass., will become international board president of the **Themed Entertainment Association (TEA)** in November after sitting president **David Willrich** of audiovisual and multimedia house **DJ Willrich, Ltd.**, completes his second term. Mercadante has served on the TEA International Board of Directors for the past six years, on the Executive Committee of the Board for the last five years and, most recently, as treasurer and head of the TEA Finance Committee. Mercadante has worked exclusively in interpretive exhibit design since 1983.



Mercadante

**Urban Air Adventure Park** recently added three-decade **Six Flags** veteran **Jay Thomas** to its team as chief commercial officer. In this newly created role, Thomas will work from Urban Air's Dallas, Texas, headquarters — leading commercial strategy as well as the development and optimization of the company's 209 parks currently open or under construction. He will oversee franchise relationships, marketing, sales, operations, safety, product development and customer service to drive global business growth and market share. His previous position with Six Flags was vice president of international park development, which followed his role as president of **Six Flags Magic Mountain** in Valencia, Calif.



Thomas



# MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

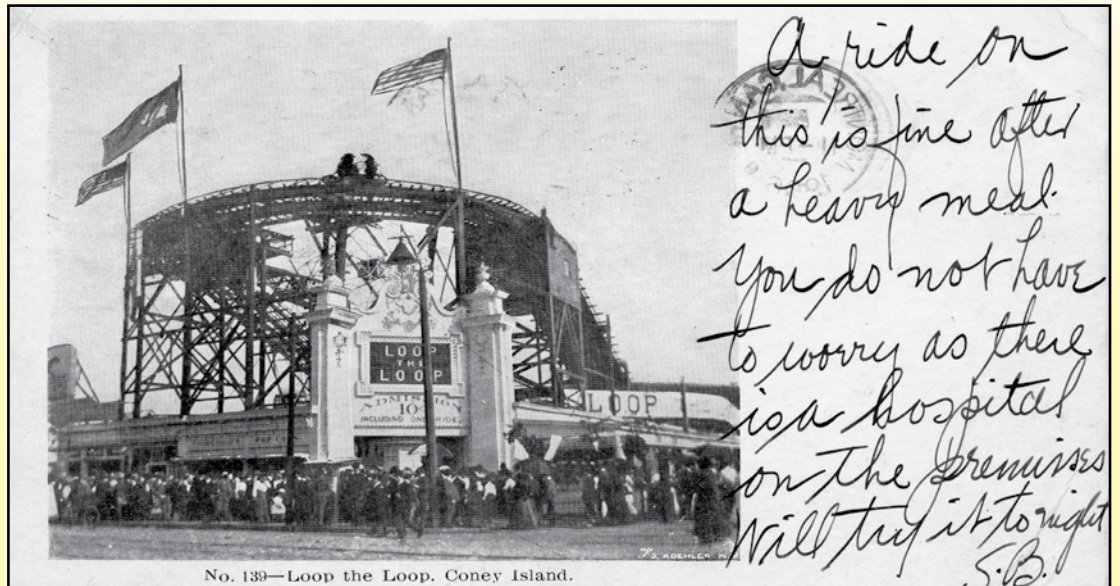
This space is provided courtesy of Amusement Today, a corporate partner of the National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives.

## Idlewild Park's historic coaster cars donated



NRCMA recently accepted the donation of a train from Rollo Coaster at Idlewild & Soak Zone in Ligonier, Pa. It is one of the two original trains that operated on the ride from 1938 to 2016. Built using wood harvested from the property, the coaster, designed by Herbert P. Schmeck of the Philadelphia Toboggan Co. (PTC), is a 1,100-foot-long junior out-and-back model topping out at 27 feet. The coaster has received new PTC trains. — Jeffrey Croushore; COURTESY NRCMA

## FROM THE ARCHIVES COLLECTION



No. 139—Loop the Loop, Coney Island.

## 1906:

Common **Coney Island** postcard depicts the **Loop the Loop** coaster on Surf Avenue, in Brooklyn, N.Y. The creation of Edwin Prescott of Massachusetts, there was an admission price of 10 cents to enter the grounds below the twin loop steel structure. Entry included a single ride, but a majority of the public chose only to watch the coaster (and their more daring friends) go through its paces. Opened during a hailstorm of publicity in 1901 (the public actually implored the local police to close the ride), it remained a fixture in Coney until it was replaced by the **Giant Racer** in 1911. Of interest is the sender's message: "A ride on this is fine after a heavy meal. You do not have to worry as there is a hospital on the premises. Will try it tonight." — Richard W. Munch

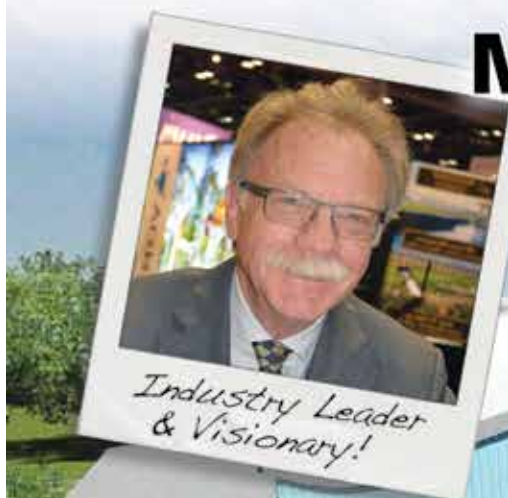
## MARK MOORE PUBLIC SHOWROOM EXPANSION

of the National Roller Coaster Museum

**OVER \$372,000 RAISED**

**TOWARDS OUR GOAL OF \$500,000!**

Donations are still needed from industry suppliers, parks, & individuals.



mail to:

National Roller Coaster  
Museum & Archives  
Jerry Willard, treasurer  
P.O. Box 5424  
Arlington, Texas 76005

Purchase at Amazon:  
select AMAZONSMILE  
and  
.5% of your purchase  
benefits NRCMA





**IAAPA**  
Attractions  
Expo



**FUN**

*Forward*

**Build the Future.**



**2018**

**Conference: Nov. 12–16 • Trade Show: Nov. 13–16 • Orlando, FL, US**

**At IAAPA Attractions Expo 2018, fun is serious business.** Discover everything you need to enhance your guest experiences, make bigger, bolder memories, and drive new revenue opportunities as you connect with experts from the global attractions community. Amplify fun and move your business forward toward a more successful future.

[www.IAAPA.org/IAAPAAttractionsExpo/AT](http://www.IAAPA.org/IAAPAAttractionsExpo/AT)

**REGISTER BY SEPT. 18 AND SAVE UP TO 40%!**

🐦 @IAAPAHQ | #IAE18



# SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

► Fair associations in Ohio launch ride safety initiative — page 44 / AIMS News & Notes — page 46

## Paving the road to success for SeaWorld's Electric Eel coaster

*Planning, practicality play crucial roles in park's new attraction*

AT: Dean Lamanna  
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Before landing **SeaWorld San Diego** firmly on Southern California's thrill ride map this summer, **Electric Eel** — the park's new 15-story-tall, triple-launch steel roller coaster — required two years of careful planning, including the negotiation of state regulations and city codes and various operational considerations.

The result of that collective effort has been a real crowd-pleaser for SeaWorld's guests. The compact yet sensational installation from Baltimore, Md.-based **Premier Rides, Inc.**, also adds a new landmark to the park's skyline and provides the dynamic finishing piece to SeaWorld's three-acre Ocean Explorer attraction and exhibit area.

The road to this success was nearly as winding as the ride itself. But according to the park, it was a smooth one.

"We spent months engaging with the community, as well as civic and business groups, on the ride with informational presentations and open forums," said **David Koontz**, SeaWorld's director of communications, explaining the process to *Amusement Today*. "Throughout, we found there was excitement about the prospect of this new ride at the park.

In addition to complying with SeaWorld's approved master plan, which allows for exceptions to the city's 30-foot coastal zone height limit in



En route to becoming SeaWorld San Diego's newest landmark, the 150-foot-tall **Electric Eel** had to clear city and state building codes in addition to complying with the park's own approved master plan. AT/DEAN LAMANNA

four sites on the property, the coaster's development adhered to the **California Coastal Commission's** Coastal Development Permit. As with all attractions in the park, the ride's foundation was designed to the required building codes and seismic tolerance for the region.

The regulatory adherence extended to the illumination

of the coaster, which fell under the Light Pollution Law of San Diego's municipal code.

"All lighting on **Electric Eel**, other than what is required for safety, was placed below 60 feet and pointed down," Koontz said. "This actually makes for a very dramatic ride after the sun sets."

A combination of fac-

tors relating to guest comfort and information, as well as aesthetics, played into the planning of the ride's queue, which — with its white sand and breeze-swept plantings — resembles a seascape. Koontz acknowledged there were "multiple rationales" for the design.

"While we always design queue lines to anticipate capacity, for **Electric Eel**, guests will notice the ride's queue line also meanders," he said. "The sinuous queue simulates the winding and twisting motion of the eel, and it also allowed us to place a variety of educational information [placards] along the pathway for our guests to take in before they get to the loading station."

Once there, video screens provide further safety information about the boarding procedure, including the securing / removal of loose items and the operation of the restraint system, which positions snugly at the pelvis and incorporates a soft shoulder harness allowing for less-obstructed sightlines.

For physically challenged guests who need assistance

during loading, there is a separate entrance next to the exit gate. A special harness allows amputee guests to enjoy the ride safely.

A ride restraint test seat for larger guests placed at the start of the queue has been well received, according to Koontz. "It has allowed us to clearly explain the restraint system, which has created positive interaction opportunities between our guests and ride staff," he said.

In other SeaWorld San Diego operational news, the park has been honored as "Recycler of the Year" by the city for the 20th time. In 2017, SeaWorld recycled eight tons of E-waste and 850 pounds of neoprene wet suits (twice the 2016 amount), and it achieved a 32-percent increase in overall recycling to nearly 85 percent. The park also diverted 99 percent of construction and demolition waste from local landfills.

•seaworld.com



**Electric Eel's** attractive queue incorporates shaded areas and informational signage, as well as a ride restraint test seat for larger guests. The coaster's snug pelvic restraint and soft shoulder harness promote comfort and improve rider sightlines. AT/DEAN LAMANNA (QUEUE); COURTESY SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO

DEDICATED TO SAFETY 24/7/365



SPARE PARTS | REPLACEMENT VEHICLES | RIDE RELOCATION  
RIDE REHABILITATION | CHAIN & SPROCKET REHABILITATION  
CHAIN & SPROCKET REPLACEMENT | LEGACY RIDE UPGRADES  
SAFETY MODIFICATION SERVICES | QUEUE GATE SYSTEMS  
MAGNETIC BRAKE UPGRADES | CONTACT US FOR A QUOTE

## World's Largest Swimming Lesson raises safety awareness across six continents



On June 21, an estimated 45,000 young swimmers from Boston to Bahrain to Benin, West Africa, teamed up from afar for the ninth annual World's Largest Swimming Lesson (wsl.org). The purpose of the event, which took place over a 24-hour period at more than 700 water parks, pools, YMCAs and swim schools in 44 U.S. states and 29 countries, was to expose kids and parents to life-saving water safety skills — and to build awareness about the critical importance of teaching children to swim to help prevent drowning. Participating alongside instructors and parents, and serving as spokespersons, were Olympians Amanda Beard, Rowdy Gaines and Lenny Krayzelburg. An instructor at Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center in Southern California (shown) was among the hundreds of professionals overseeing swimmers during the event. Program organizers continue working to connect the dots between the real risk of childhood drowning, the need for basic water competency skills and the fact that parents must remain vigilant at all times when supervising children in and around water. The World's Largest Swimming Lesson was launched by the World Waterpark Association in 2010; more than 236,000 children and adults have participated in the event since its inception. COURTESY WORLD WATERPARK ASSOCIATION

## Follett, LLC expands ice machine line

EASTON, Pa. — Follett, LLC, a leader in ice-making and ice storage equipment, has launched a full line of its award-winning Horizon Elite Chewblet ice machines.

The Horizon Elite line has a patented scale-inhibiting design that offers food service operators superior performance at low cost even in challenging conditions. Horizon Elite's design reduces scale buildup while at the same time using 35-50 percent less water than comparable cube-type ice machines.

The latest Elite line:

- Horizon Elite 710, an upgrade of Horizon 700, provides a simple choice for applications with medium ice demand. Available in 115V/60Hz air-cooled models.

- Horizon Elite 1010 and 1410, the line's first releases, are available in air- and water-cooled self-contained and remote single- and three-phase models.

- Horizon Elite 1810, an upgrade of Horizon 1650, joins the company's Elite line with added ice production; while Horizon Elite 2110, already the highest-capacity Chewblet ice machine, has increased production to over 2,000 pounds daily. Both are available in single- and three-phase remote condensing models.

Follett has designed and manufactured ice machines, ice storage bins, refrigeration and ice / beverage dispensing equipment to the food service and healthcare industries since 1948.

•follettice.com



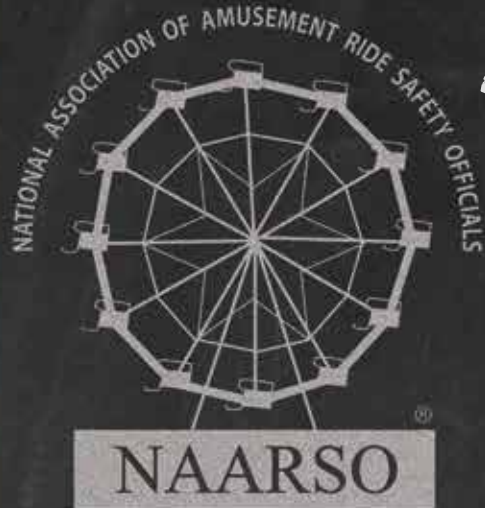
Follett's line Horizon Elite Chewblet line includes (clockwise, from top) the Horizon Elite 710, Horizon Elite 1010/1410 and Horizon Elite 1810/2110 models. COURTESY FOLLETT, LLC



QUALITY  
SAFETY  
VALUE  
ASSURANCE  
since 1975



Load Wheels  
Guide Wheels  
Upstop Wheels  
CNC Hub Manufacturing  
Flume Wheels  
Nylon Wheels & Parts  
Solid Urethane Parts



# 32nd ANNUAL SAFETY FORUM

Jan. 27 - Feb. 1, 2019

KINGSTON PLANTATION HILTON RESORT  
AND BROADWAY AT THE BEACH  
Myrtle Beach, S.C..

Up-to-date training and  
dynamic hands-on activity experience!

**OPERATIONS CERTIFICATION**  
Primary & Advanced Operations Classes  
Exams for both levels offered  
on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019!  
(must meet eligibility requirements)

- Registration begins on Sunday, January 27, 2019.
- Classes end after noon on Friday, February 1.
  - Inspector Level I & Level II certification exams are Friday afternoon.
- Tuition cost is \$475 for current 2018 members of NAARSO, non-member's tuition cost is \$550.

KINGSTON PLANTATION HILTON RESORT • 1000 Beach Club Dr., Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29572  
Room rates are \$82 plus tax single/double. •

Attendees call (800) 876-0010 or visit [kingstonresorts.com](http://kingstonresorts.com) and use promo code "AMU" by Jan. 7, 2019, to get the stated room rate.

- Offering LIMITED SPECIALTY and TRAIN THE TRAINER classes on Sat. & Sun., Jan. 26 & 27, for \$100.
- Annual membership meeting will be on Sunday, Jan. 27 (Kingston Plantation Hilton) at 1:30 p.m. Full brochure will be posted later in 2018!

**WWW.NAARSO.COM**

## SAFETY MARKET PLACE

mobaru | park

Why are you still using paper checklists?

Discover digital at: [mobaropark.com](http://mobaropark.com)

### The Hoffman Consulting Group, LLC

Serving the Amusement Industry



- SAFETY & SECURITY
- OPERATIONS
- RISK & CRISIS MANAGEMENT
- INDUSTRY DEFENSE

685 S. Streeter Rd.  
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452  
(419) 607-0431  
[www.thehoffmancg.com](http://www.thehoffmancg.com)



## AUDIO INNOVATORS INC.



**YOUR ONE SOURCE FOR ALL DIGITAL MESSAGE REPEATERS & COMMUNICATING EQUIPMENT NEEDS.**

WATER PARK SAFETY - GO-KART PIT SAFETY - KIDDY RIDES  
FRONT GATE - COASTERS - GROUP GAMES  
SAFETY MESSAGES SYSTEMS OF ALL KINDS.  
ALL ARE WITCH TURN-KEY.



WE SERVE AMUSEMENT PARKS OF ALL KINDS.  
AIRPORTS, WATER PARKS, TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE DETAILS AND VIDEO DEMOS  
[WWW.AUDIOINNOVATORS.COM](http://WWW.AUDIOINNOVATORS.COM)

OFFICE 800.222.9929 - FAX 813.200.4600 - SALES@AUDIOINNOVATORS.COM

## CONTROL SYSTEMS & CONSULTING FOR THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY

- \* NEW INSTALLATIONS
- \* RETROFITS
- \* PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER CONSULTING



IRVINE  
ONDREY  
ENGINEERING

WE CONTROL THE THRILLS!

CALL 734.353.0679  
[WWW.IRVINEONDREY.COM](http://WWW.IRVINEONDREY.COM) \* [BRIAN@IRVINEONDREY.COM](mailto:BRIAN@IRVINEONDREY.COM)

Keep our amusement park industry strong!  
Buy products and services from these suppliers.

# Buckeye State launches ride safety initiative

New four-point Ohio program addresses inspection protocol

AT: B. Derek Shaw  
[bdshaw@amusementtoday.com](mailto:bdshaw@amusementtoday.com)



COLUMBUS, Ohio — The July 2017 Fire Ball ride accident at the Ohio State Fair, determined to have been caused by undetected corrosion inside a gondola support beam, increased awareness among manufacturers, operators and inspectors industry-wide.

In Ohio specifically, the tragedy led to aggressive engagement between government regulators, national safety organizations and makers of amusement rides — resulting in the development of a comprehensive ride safety program. Being promoted via a campaign called **Moving Forward, Safely**, the new program is sponsored jointly by the **Greater Ohio Showmen's Association**, **Ohio Fair Managers** and the **Ohio Festivals & Events Association**.

"The Ohio amusement industry has moved decisively to reaffirm best practices and follow a four-point protocol insuring a system of checks and balances as it pertains to amusement ride safety," said Eric German, spokesperson for the three organizations. "Any ride accident is of concern to the industry. An accident resulting in injury or loss of life is totally unacceptable."

The key points of the checks-and-balances protocol:

•First: Per **ASTM International** (ASTM) standards, ride manufacturers will provide service bulletins addressing the corrosion issue with steel construction to ride owners.

•Second: Ride owners will perform a comprehensive inspection, as mandated by manufacturers, outlined in the service bulletins. Comprehensive inspection records must be maintained and include details on which areas have been inspected; type of inspection method and acceptance criteria; date inspection was performed; specific observations and findings during inspection; and identification of who inspected the ride.

•Third: Ride owners will provide the **Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Amusement Ride Safety**, the service bulletin along with service bulletin inspection records during the inspection process by Department of Agriculture ride inspectors.

•Fourth: As part of the inspection process, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Amusement Ride Safety, will verify that operators are compliant with any new bulletins or updates to manufacturer's specifications issued since the ride's last

inspection.

"These four steps will insure rides identified as having possible corrosion problems will be thoroughly inspected and documented to be in compliance with ride manufacturer's specifications before operating in Ohio this season," German said. "Moreover, [it] will be further enhanced by revised ASTM standards. The organization is currently evaluating new guidelines to address amusement ride corrosion as it pertains to the manufacturer, maintenance and inspection of amusement rides."

"The **Outdoor Amusement Business Association** [OABA] and some 1,000 technical experts who participate in setting **ASTM F-24 Committee** standards are working diligently and quickly to review additional requirements that should be added to pertinent, existing amusement ride standards," noted **Robert Johnson**, president and CEO of OABA and an ASTM board member.

**David Drake**, president of the Greater Ohio Showmen's Association, added that the effort "will produce better regulations, increased testing and specific inspections by Ohio Ride Safety inspectors, and enhanced amusement ride operations — making Ohio fairs and festivals as safe as humanly possible. Our goal this festival season, and every festival season, is zero accidents, and complete public confidence in Ohio's amusement industry."

•[mygosa.net](http://mygosa.net)

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED, RIGHT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!**

- > Touchscreen interface
- > Redundant controls (joystick & touchscreen)
- > Maintenance available onscreen
- > Remote access for troubleshooting
- > Easy to operate & train

**ELI BRIDGE COMPANY**  
Building rides people have enjoyed for over a century.

217-245-7145 • FAX: 217-479-0103 • [elibridge.com](http://elibridge.com) • EMAIL: [info@elibridge.com](mailto:info@elibridge.com)

# Auxel's Unixon software offers ride maintenance, management solutions

ARCUGNANO, Italy — Auxel SRL has been involved in the design of electrical control systems for amusement rides of all types and sizes for the last four decades.

The company's focus on safety and technology development has allowed it not only to use industrial applications to improve ride control systems, but also to invest significantly in the field of asset management.

More recently, Auxel introduced a software product called **Unixon**, a system for asset maintenance and management. According to **Giulia Battistello**, an Auxel sales representative, Unixon arose from the industry's need for enhanced ride maintenance and safety.

"Many years ago, when computerized maintenance systems were not so widespread, we started programming the operator panels with a so-called checklist," Battistello said. "In this way, at each switching-on of the ride, the park team could only operate the ride with guests after the execution of the maintenance checks. The positive response to this application made us decide to invest in the development of a dedicated software."

Customer feedback, indeed, was essential.

"It is precisely from the parks that we can understand our shortcomings, acquire knowledge and study how to make a product as flexible as possible to meet their needs and requirements," Battistello said. "If in the first stages Unixon



Through checklists and reports, Auxel's Unixon system is a multi-functional tool for asset maintenance and management. COURTESY AUXEL SRL

was mainly focused on maintenance planning and checklists, subsequently we have realized the need to expand its functions in order to cover other aspects of fieldwork and even back-office work. Amusement parks, as with any company or operating site, also include [personnel], costing and budgeting operations."

The Unixon software allows for constant monitoring and consistent scheduling, performing and reporting of any maintenance and operations activity through checklists, reports and tasks for an unlimited number of assets. Beyond rides, such assets can include vehicles, buildings, machines, pools and more. The system also allows for storage and viewing of any documentation (files, drawings, schematics, etc.) in digital format, while its interactive fea-

tures can add photos, videos and data taken from fieldwork at any time.

Unixon's user-friendly interface helps ensure accessibility for users of all levels — from administrator to engineer, from technician to operator. "They can access the system from any fixed or mobile device," Battistello said. "Its combination of asset maintenance and management with management of human resources, downtimes, operation activities, budgets, warehouses and spare parts makes it a turnkey solution."

These capabilities, she added, make Unixon "a complete and multi-functional tool for the management of complex operating sites, such as amusement parks, water parks, aquariums and zoos."

•auxelrides.com

## APSP's Commercial Council Meeting meeting sets stage for successful year

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) held its first **Commercial Council Meeting** on May 2 in Denver, Colo. The inaugural gathering of industry leaders marked a new era of advancing the commercial pool and spa segment and addressing its needs.

During this meeting, the council outlined its first-year goals and created strategies to accomplish them. It committed to working toward influencing codes and standards that will affect all code officials, builders, designers and other stakeholders in the segment.

They council set forth a plan to develop courses for contractors and code officials. The courses will be designed to help contractors learn how to work with code officials and help code officials learn to inspect public pools and spas.

The council also indicated that it is looking for ways to protect the commercial pool segment from the often costly burdens associated with overregulation. To move this initiative forward, they established a new task force to work with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** and **National Swimming Pool Foundation** to synchronize the Model Aquatic Health Code with the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code.

"This meeting was instrumental in laying the foundation for the Commercial Council," said **Derek Downey**, principal of Solana Beach, Calif.-based **Legal Pools**, who serves as council co-chair. "We will be able to create important initiatives that will improve this segment and the pool and spa industry."

Industry members are invited to become involved as a council member or task force participant. For more information, visit [apsp.org](http://apsp.org).

—Dean Lamanna

## SAFETY MARKETPLACE

PROUDLY WORKING WITH THE FOLLOWING AMERICAN-MADE COMPANIES:



- Premier Rides
- Sally Dark Rides
- Swanee River Railroad Co.
- Owen Trailers
- Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc.

Facebook.com/IRMRides

## MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE FOR AMUSEMENT PARKS



AUXEL SRL — ITALY — TEL +39 0444.653211 — WWW.AUXELRIDES.COM

## ASTM INTERNATIONAL Committee F24 Amusement Rides and Devices

Celebrates 40 Years 1978-2018

JOIN TODAY!  
[www.astm.org/COMMIT/F24](http://www.astm.org/COMMIT/F24)

## ECo THE ORIGINAL STARLITE MAKER

Tired of LED lamps blowing faster than incandescent bulbs?

T3/E10

- 22 SMD LED T5.5/E14 for highest brightness/best value for customer
- Fits all the fixtures available on the market.
- Totally sealed design with UL listed resin.
- Outperforms all competitors on lifespan.
- UPS delivery from Italy 2-5 working days.
- Direct selling to ride manufacturers.
- T 5.5: 24V - 60V - 230V / T 3: 24V - 60V - 120V

LLE1422120CLS  
120V T 5.5

E-COMMERCE: [www.ecoelettrocomponenti.com](http://www.ecoelettrocomponenti.com)

PROBLY MADE IN ITALY

Keep our amusement park industry strong!  
Buy products and services from these suppliers.



# NEWS & NOTES

[www.aimsintl.org](http://www.aimsintl.org)

Amusement Industry Manufacturers and Suppliers International, Ltd.  
 P.O. Box 92366 • Nashville, Tenn. 37209  
 Phone: (714) 425-5747 • Fax: (714) 276-9666  
**Karen Oertley** • [k.oertley@aimsintl.org](mailto:k.oertley@aimsintl.org)  
**Holly Coston**, (714) 697-6654, [h.coston@aimsintl.org](mailto:h.coston@aimsintl.org)

## Early registration is now open!

The **2019 AIMS Safety Seminar** will be held January 13-18 in Galveston, Texas, at the Galveston Island Convention Center at the San Luis Resort. AIMS has secured a special discounted hotel rate for attendees, \$115 per night at the adjacent Galveston Hilton. The setting is perfect for the AIMS Safety Seminar, with all classes being held in one central area, a great hotel in the beautiful San Luis Resort, plenty of nearby places to eat and shop, plus the added attraction of Galveston's Pleasure Pier and Schlitterbahn Waterpark nearby.

Early registration is now open at [www.aimsintl.org](http://www.aimsintl.org). Registration is \$595 and includes all class materials, two breaks and lunch each day and an opening reception on Sunday night. Students can also sign up now for AIMS Certification Levels I-III testing in Maintenance, Operations, Ride Inspection, and Level I Aquatics. In addition, students can sign up for the following series: Leadership, Aquatics, Security, Carnival, ASTM, and new-for-2019 FEC. OSHA 10 and CPO Certifications are also offered.

Those who register and prepay will have VIP access to class selection when full registration opens in October.

For those who like to plan ahead, we recommend attendees book flights into Houston

Hobby Airport (HOU), south of Houston served by Southwest and other major airlines. From there, it is an easy drive or shuttle ride to Galveston Island. More information can be found on our website.

The seminar is a must attend for both operators and manufacturers, as well as suppliers who need to stay abreast on the latest trends and topics surrounding the industry's No. 1 priority worldwide — SAFETY.

### Scholarships to the Safety Seminar are available!

Thanks to the generosity of two great industry associations, scholarships to the AIMS Safety Seminar are available to qualified individuals.

**IAAPA** (The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions) provides five scholarships to the AIMS Safety Seminar in memory of **Alan Ramsay** who was an avid industry supporter and safety advocate. Applications can be found on the AIMS website at [www.aimsintl.org](http://www.aimsintl.org).

**OABA** (the Outdoor Amusement Business Association) offers four scholarships to the AIMS Safety Seminar for OABA members who are first-time Safety Seminar attendees. One of these scholarships is dedicated in memory of **June Hardin**, owner

of Wapello Fabrications, who strived for quality, safety and ASTM standards throughout her career. OABA members can contact [oaba@oaba.org](mailto:oaba@oaba.org) for more information and AIMS scholarship applications.

All AIMS Safety Seminar scholarships cover the \$595 tuition fee, which includes class materials, an opening reception, all lunches and breaks, a completion certificate, and Continuing Education hours. Additional fees for testing and certification and travel expenses are not included.

### Upcoming events

The **AIMS International Annual Board Meeting** will be held on September 6, 2018 prior to the **2018 Golden Ticket Awards**, presented by **Amusement Today**, at **Silver Dollar City**.

The **AIMS International Safety Award** will be presented during the Golden Ticket Awards on September 8, 2018, aboard the *Showboat Branson Belle*. The award will be presented to an individual or organization that demonstrates leadership, innovation, and foresight in improving safety in the amusement industry.

Come see us at the **AIMS booth #4527** at the **IAAPA Attractions Expo**, November 13-16 in Orlando! **Enjoy your summer and stay SAFE!**

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

**SAVE THESE DATES!**  
**AIMS SAFETY SEMINAR**  
**& Certification Program**  
**January 13-18, 2019**  
**in Galveston, Texas**  
**Galveston Convention Center**

Accommodations at Hilton Galveston & San Luis Resort

*Early registration now open!*



**(714) 425-5747 • [www.aimsintl.org](http://www.aimsintl.org)**  



# CLASSIFIEDS

## AUCTION

### NORTON AUCTIONEERS

**THE INDUSTRY EXPERTS!**

Professional Auctioneers & Appraisers

*Carnivals • Parks • Carousels*

*FEC's • Museums • Tourist Attractions*

P.O. Box 279, Coldwater, MI 49036

**517-279-9063**

Fax: 517-279-4899

www.nortonauctioneers.com

E-mail: Dan@nortonauctioneers.com

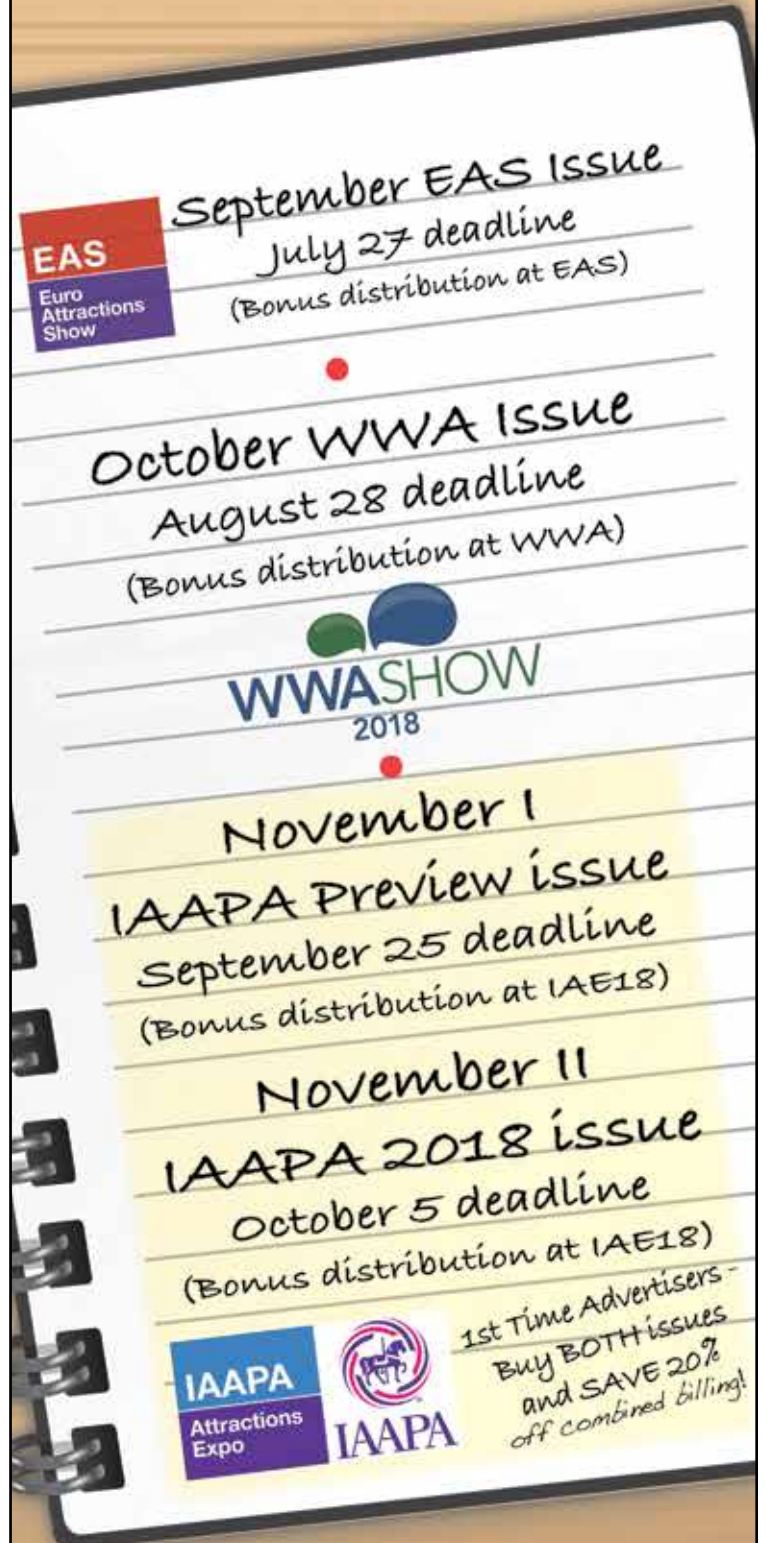
## FOR SALE

Moser Flipping Action Arm P/M....\$99,000  
 Chance Century Wheel P/M....\$199,000  
 Chance Pharoahs Fury T/M....\$550,000  
 Wisdom Tornado T/M.....\$139,000  
 Tivoli Orbiter T/M.....\$399,000  
 2010 ARM Vertigo T/M..... 400,000  
 ARM Happy Viking T/M..... \$89,000  
 Kolinski Slide T/M.....\$39,000  
 Zamperla Tea Cup T/M.....\$49,000  
 2016 KMG Freak Out T/M...\$725,000  
 Zamperla Power Surge T/M....\$299,000  
 Zamperla Shocker T/M.....\$250,000  
 Expo Wheel T/M.....\$299,000

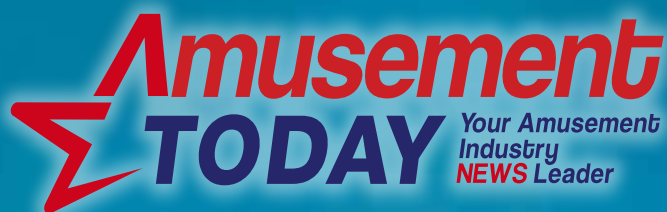
Call Len or John  
 (908) 526-8009  
 FAX: (908) 526-4535  
 www.Rides4U.com



## FALL TRADE SHOW Advertising Deadlines



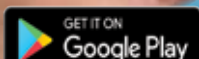
**CONTACT:**  
**Gary Slade • (817) 460-7220**  
**gslade@amusementtoday.com**  
**Sue Nichols • (615) 477-5432**  
**snichols@amusementtoday.com**



*Amusement industry NEWS ...  
 ... at your fingertips!*

*Download our app today!*

- Detailed industry coverage!
- Unparalleled safety reporting!
- Mobile-friendly!
- Instant delivery!
- Back issues!



### CLASSIFIED ADS

- ▶ \$20 minimum, up to 30 words (\$1 per additional word)
- ▶ DISPLAY AD: \$50 per column inch (a 1-point rule will appear around ad)
- ▶ Due the 10th of the month prior to issue date



**Call Sammy**  
**(817) 460-7220**



**ZAMPERLA®**

*The Amusement Ride Company since 1966*



# MUST HAVE RIDEZ

Delivering a hugely exciting ride experience combined with an impressive visual impact Air Race became very fast one of the industry's hottest tickets and a must have family thrill ride for any park.

[zamperla.com](http://zamperla.com)

Antonio Zamperla Spa - Vicenza - Italy - Phone: +39 0444 998400 - e-mail: [zamperla@zamperla.it](mailto:zamperla@zamperla.it)