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The New Texas Giant - an old legend reborn

Rocky Mountain Const., Ride Centerline and Gerstlauer supply new hybrid coaster to Six Flags Over Texas

STORY: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

ARLINGTON, Texas — In 1990, wooden coasters were making a strong resurgence, thanks to the partnership of Charles Dinn working alongside Curtis Summers. A new team made the old nostalgic attraction available and affordable. Within this new rise of woodies was Texas Giant, one of four Dinn/Summers coasters for that season. In true Texas fashion, it was big — to be exact, the tallest wooden roller coaster in the world. It was huge news for the park and an attraction that was bringing worldwide attention. It's popularity endured for many years. The Giant topped many enthusiasts' favorite lists, and various polls at the time found Texas Giant at the top. In fact, when *Amusement Today* introduced the Golden Ticket Awards in 1998, Texas Giant reigned at the top of the chart for two years.

But as time has shown, mammoth wooden coasters have come with more than their share of headaches. With great size came great maintenance. Rabid fans soon became guests who would skip their rides on the mega-woodies as the ride experience became vigorously

rugged. The monstrous woodies of that era have either undergone continual change and modification, or have been lost completely. After 20 operating seasons, Six Flags Over Texas knew they had to address the situation head on. Even though the park had invested in more than 1,200 feet of trackwork for the 2009 season, admittedly making the Giant more rideable that season, the decision was made for a more permanent solution. It was announced in the spring of that year that the gigantic woodie would run its last ride as Fright Fest came to a close. With fanfare and fireworks, Texas Giant became silent at the close of 2009 and did not operate at all in 2010 as a new transformation took place.

Reports had previously indicated that the Giant might come down and be replaced with another coaster within the system. When directly asked how close Texas Giant came to being torn down, Steve Martindale, park president of Six Flags Over Texas, replied "Never." Martindale admits he could never picture the park without it. "It's too much of an institution to this park and this clientele that there is no way we could have just taken it out."

Changes

Over the course of the past two years, details had been revealed in small increments. Now, opened to the public officially on April 22, the New Texas Giant is unleashed, and

▶ COMING IN JUNE

A look at the in-house theming effort given to the New Texas Giant

the transformation is nothing short of extraordinary.

The track changing from a wood bed to all steel has accomplished the goal of the park, and that was to deliver a super smooth ride. New wood has been incorporated not only to increase the height of the ride by 10 feet — now 153 — but also to create a whole new layout using existing structure. Steel supports have also been added to secure some of the more dramatic banking.

Previously, Texas Giant had a lot of flex in the structure, so much so that guests often noticed the sway. So how does new steel track work with a wooden structure? Ride Centerline engineer Alan Schilke says, "I look at the steel track as a giant steel brace holding the wood structure together. It's not relying on the structure to hold itself together." He continues, "Six Flags wanted us to start with the drop. And we went from there. Six Flags didn't really give us restrictions."

Amusement Today asked Six Flags why they opted for the new Iron Horse track over a new wooden track proposal. Mike Sossamon, the park's director of maintenance and construction responded, "We knew we had an opportunity to

▶ See GIANT, page 5



After a 17 month make-over, the New Texas Giant has returned to Six Flags Over Texas, taller, steeper and faster than ever before. The steel tracked, wooden structured hybrid coaster officially opened on April 22.
AT / GARY SLADE



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FASTFACTS

This month SeaWorld San Antonio is retiring its massive Arrow-built log flume. AT looks back at the five longest flumes produced by Arrow Development/Dynamics:

1. 2,370 feet, Cedar Point Hydro Flume, closed 2005
2. 2,349 feet, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, closed 2006
3. 2,304 feet, Six Flags Magic Mountain, operating
4. 2,300 feet, SeaWorld San Antonio, closing May 13
5. 2,182 feet, Ontario Place, operating

▶ SEE STORY: PAGE 15



NEWTALK

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EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

Texas Giant reclassified



Slade

Wood, steel or hybrid?

That's the debate Six Flags Over Texas has caused with the opening of the New Texas Giant. Following 17 months of re-construction, the original 1990-built Texas Giant wooden coaster, has been transformed into a hybrid that blurs the lines of classification.

The coaster now features an all-new steel track system called Iron Horse Track (think I-beam), all new profile and new trains. The Giant's traditional wooden structure remains, and that's where the debate begins.

The park is marketing the ride as having a record-breaking steepest drop (79-degrees) and a record-breaking bank (115-degrees) for a wooden coaster. Yet the new steel track does not mount to any traditional wood track bed/stack. Steel beams of track mount to steel legs which then mount to steel plates that are bolted to the wooden ledger. Only from the ledger down, does the New Texas Giant resemble a traditional wooden coaster.

Across the way in the same park, their historic Arrow-built mine train has steel tubular rails mounted to a wooden structure made up of telephone pole supports and railroad crossties, creating a wooden structure. The mine train has never been listed or marketed as a wooden coaster, but always as a steel coaster.

Amusement Today contacted some of our competing trade publications as well as numerous coaster clubs and industry historians for their take on this new debate. All agreed with our assessment, the New Texas Giant is a steel coaster, NOT a wooden coaster. *AT* has also made it known the New Texas Giant will be placed in the Steel Coaster category for voting in the upcoming 2011 Golden Ticket survey.

The New Texas Giant is a truly outstanding coaster that delivers an ultra-smooth, fast and fun ride. Parks around the country will soon be calling Rocky Mountain Construction to get in line for this new breed of coaster that does live up to all the hype—yes, it's that good.

Call the New Texas Giant a steel coaster, or call it a hybrid, but don't disrupt history by calling it a wooden coaster.

—Gary Slade

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

CARTOON: Bubba Flint



EDITORIAL: Scott Rutherford, srutherford@amusementtoday.com

Wood or steel: the coaster debate heats up, lines blur



Rutherford

Wooden coasters and steel coasters: The distinct differences between these two have for the most part been fairly clear-cut... until now. The New Texas Giant at Six Flags Over Texas is causing quite a stir since the park has decided to still refer to its revamped signature attraction as a 'wooden' roller coaster.

The typical park guest will accept this definition with little thought; it's the thrill that matters to them. But the coaster and park enthusiast sect—the purists—see it as something very different. Not bad. Just different.

No wooden coaster is fashioned purely of wood. Along with the strap steel attached to the top laminates that makes contact with the load-bearing running wheels, there are plenty of other metal components required to make it a viable operating system. There are several coasters that might cause confusion: Cedar Point's Gemini features a wooden structure with tubular steel running rails, which makes it a *steel* coaster. On the other hand is The Great Escape's historically significant Comet that has a galvanized steel structure topped with laminated wooden tracks. There's no

argument that the Comet is a *wooden* coaster. And then we have the recent rash of prefab hybrids that use a laser-cut, glued form of wooden track that bolts together and offers a ride experience much like that of a steel coaster. Examples include Heide Park's Colossus and Six Flags Great Adventure's El Toro. Though these rides mimic their steel brethren, their track is *still* wood. In the same vein is Rocky Mountain Construction's new Topper Track, which tosses yet another wrench into the mix. Even here though, it's just a little extra steel atop traditional wooden laminates in high-stress areas.

So that leads us back to the New Texas Giant. In its previous incarnation, it was a bona fide, once-top-rated wooden coaster. But its new Iron Horse steel box beam track system is the deal breaker. Though much of this ride's structure remains that of wooden trestles, its day as a true 'wooden' coaster are long gone.

I am very much a traditionalist, and at the end of the day, I feel that the *track* determines the nature of the coaster. If a ride sports a main track made of steel, whether it is tubular or flat, it's a steel coaster. If it has a wooden track topped with a steel running surface, it's a 'wooden' coaster. Period.

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2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Witherow

Sydne Purvis - Six Flags Fiesta Texas

For Sydne Purvis, a career in the amusement industry began while working at Disneyland as a ride operator on attractions such as the Matterhorn Bobsleds and the General Electric Carousel of Progress. She then worked for the Walt Disney Company as a senior publicist and spokesperson for six years before making the move to San Antonio. Now the communications manager at Six Flags Fiesta Texas (since 1993), Sydne relishes in her role and has a polished style of doing business not always found in today's world. She is actively involved with several philanthropic endeavors, including the Children's Miracle Network and a local children's hospital, where she serves as a long-time committee member.



Purvis



Title
Communications Manager.

Number of years with Fiesta Texas
18.

Best thing about the industry
Making friends for a lifetime.

Favorite amusement park ride
Any major steel roller coaster.

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

Biggest challenge facing our industry...
Incorporating all the rapid changes in technology to provide guests with the most current and popular complement of attractions and experiences.

The thing I like most about amusement park season is ...
Finally seeing all the extensive park preparations, show rehearsals and general planning come together for an incredible opening.

Favorite junk food
Key lime pie.

I typically celebrate my birthday by ...
Going out to dinner.

The best place I have ever watched a sunset is ...
On a Hawaiian cruise.

The last time I cooked a meal, I whipped up ...
Something in a Crock Pot.

I would describe my backyard at home as ...
My sanctuary.

When going somewhere, are you usually early, on time or late?
Always on time.

You're at the beach: Do you stay on the sand or hit the waves?
Both; depends on the beach!

The worst movie I've seen lately is definitely ...
Salt (starring Angelina Jolie).

Something I would love to wear but don't have the nerve is ...
A jewel encrusted tiara would be really cool to pull off!

Favorite spectator sport
Baseball.

When drinking water, do you like yours with or without ice?
Definitely with ice.

On a rainy day, I like to ...
Do household repairs.

If you could be in a band, what would its name be?
The Survivors.

My all-time best "bloop" moment would have to be ...
Not mentioning the park name in my very first live interview (oops!).

When I think of doing laundry, I ...
Actually find it calming.

The habit I would most like to break is ...
Drinking morning coffee.

I wish I could be paid to ...
Visit world-class resorts!

The TV show I can't live without is ...
The Amazing Race.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by



www.RollerCoasterMuseum.org

•**1900:** On May 23, William E. Sullivan debuted the first "Big Eli" Wheel in Central Park, Jacksonville, Illinois. The Wheel was a great success and six years later Sullivan took on capital investors to incorporate the Eli Bridge Company and began mass production of his Big Eli Wheels. Eli Bridge remains a family-owned company to this day, operated by grandson Lee Sullivan, chairman of the board and great-grand-daughter Patty Sullivan as president/CEO.

•**1905: Paragon Park** opened on May 30th. The price tag for the new 25-acre amusement park was \$500,000. It is the beginning of the healthy competition between Nantasket Beach and Revere Beach, Mass. After an 80 year run, Paragon Park closed after the 1985 season.

•**1911:** The single most disastrous moment in Coney Island history came on the morning of May 27th, just hours before the season opening of Brooklyn's **Dreamland Park**. A fire began during the repair of a leaking water ride, and the flames spread quickly, literally flattening the entire property and adjacent parcels in a matter of hours. It would signal the end of Brooklyn's three park trifecta (which included Luna and Steeplechase Parks). Losses would top \$3,000,000 and the park was never rebuilt. Future structures would be required to be constructed of non-flammable materials — the reason why a majority of the Cyclone roller coaster's superstructure is steel framing.

•**1924: Riverview Park's** most beloved coaster, the Bobs, opened May 7th while it rained. The Chicago landmark, still fondly remembered over 40 years after its closing, is considered one of the most famous coasters ever built.

•**1930:** On May 31, **Ron Toomer** was born in Pasadena, California. He joined Arrow Development in 1965 to help design the world's first Mine Train coaster, then would eventually become president. Under his leadership Arrow Development (later Arrow Dynamics) would become a significant manufacturer of log flumes, auto rides and multi-looping steel coasters for more than 30 years.

•**1976:** Grand Openings of the two **Marriott's Great America** parks in Gurnee, Illinois and Santa Clara, California were held on May 29. Built to celebrate the American Bicentennial, the two parks featured Americana themes in six areas and were an immediate success. Although Marriott corporation sold the parks eight years later, both continue to operate today.

•**1988:** Houston's **AstroWorld** broke their all time single-day attendance record on May 14 entertaining more than 54,000 guests and logging \$1 million-plus in sales. Attendance for the entire weekend totaled over 120,000 guests.

—Compiled by Jeffrey L. Seifert and NRCMA

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers congratulate Amusement Today on 15 years

Hi Gary,
 Just finished reading the April issue of *Amusement Today*. I didn't realize you are 15 years old. Congrats to you. I enjoy the daily issues, and often forward stories to nonpark friends who are interested. Thanks for taking another look at the industry. And great job on the Golden Tickets. Not sure who will represent Knoebels this year, would hope it is me!

Leanna Knoebel Muscato
Games Manager
Knoebels Amusement Resort
Elysburg, Pa.

Hi Gary,
 Congratulations on your 15 years!!! Wow... time flies when you are having fun. I know you are living the "dream" every day. The paper looks super and you have become a part of the fabric of the business. Your award program is always talked about. Seems like only yesterday!!

Here's to 15 more!!!
 Come see us!!
Carey Risinger
Senior Vice President, Food Service
State Fair of Texas
Dallas, Texas

Editor's note: Leanna and Carey, thanks for your kind words on our 15th year. While we feel like the 15 years have been a roller coaster ride at times, with its many ups and downs, it has been a FUN ride. We

hope that along the way we have provided a source for amusement industry news to everyone. We couldn't do it without the dedicated staff we have, and all of our friends in the amusement industry who continue to support us. Thanks to all and here's to another 15 years!

Reader wants even more Midway coverage in AT

Dear Gary,
 Thanks you for sending the March and April issues of *Amusement Today*.

You mentioned in the March issue how many people miss the old *Amusement Business* magazine and we are included in missing them. You also addressed that you would be expanding the Midway section which we would be interested in. Please advise me when this will take place.

We are OABA members and receive the OABA *ShowTime* magazine and *Carnival* as well.

Dennis Hyde
Hyde Associates
Horseheads, N.Y.

Editor's note: While we do plan to expand the way we cover certain fairs and other Midway related news stories, like all publications, we are at the mercy of advertising for support. The more carnival-related advertising we get to support the Midway section, the more pages we can devote to this segment of our industry. Until then, you can look for AT to improve and expand in the coming months its editorial coverage on staff promotions, food and games on the Midway.



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GIANT

Continued from page 1

take the Giant to a new and improved level. Through the bidding process, we were hoping to discover a new way to put in a wood track that wouldn't have the same 'dog and hunt' in the years we had previously." Sossamon continues, "We were convinced we could make improvements, but we weren't thoroughly convinced we wouldn't have a product for 10 years that wouldn't need more maintenance put into it.

"Through the discussion, Fred Grubbs of Rocky Mountain and Alan Schilke basically discussed new concepts. I was very interested in what they had to say," adds Sossamon. "In my mind, I was sure it was the right thing to do. The whole concept just sounded right — it all makes sense."

The Trains

A new style of coaster trains have been introduced by Gerstlauer to be used on the new Iron Horse steel track [see sidebar on page 8]. Working hand in hand, Six Flags' input with Gerstlauer has resulted in a unique appearance, one that truly screams "Texas." Symbolic of the park's 50th anniversary, the new trains represent 1961 Cadillac Sevilles in design, right down to the tailfins. Capitalizing on Lone Star icons, each train sports a pair of longhorns on the front car. The red, aqua and charcoal black trains also humorously incorporate license plates on the back cars. They read "ADI-



Not even a light mist and spots of rain could prevent the New Texas Giant from performing like the superstar this new coaster is. The ride received a \$10 million makeover.

AT / GARY SLADE

OS," CWBOY UP" and "YEE-HAW." Martindale smiles, "We came up with 53 suggestions and I cut it down to six. Don't be surprised if you see the license plates change out to keep it fun." Pinstriping and authentic Cadillac symbols acquired through internet means give the trains a signature feel like no other coaster cars have in a long time.

Adam Sandy of Ride Entertainment Group of Companies, who represents Gerstlauer, comments, "When you think about it, a new roller coaster train is not often designed from the ground up. Many of the vehicles out there are simply adaptations of coaster trains already in existence. The primary goals of our design pro-



cess were to give the best ride possible while keeping guests safe."

Martindale credits Les Hudson at Six Flags corporate offices for the Cadillac concept. Sossamon adds, "We were strong on the 'Texas-ism' of the ride."

"Our two largest design challenges were space and weight," adds Sandy. "The full available road wheel running surface was around 4 inches, which was the flat space we had between inner and outer chamfers on the track. The other issue was weight. Because the new layout was calculated utilizing the existing structure, the track and trains had specific weight criteria. The track weight was already a given amount, so the trains had to be calculated to meet critical restrictions.

"After all these challenges were given to Gerstlauer," Sandy continues, "we had to give Six Flags a one-of-a-kind fiberglass mold to make the Texas Giant vehicles stand out. In addition, we had to offer features Six Flags has on other coasters, such as a lap bar capable of handling significant negative G's and stadium seating. I am proudest of the way Gerstlauer synthesized all the requests and requirements, and pulled them into a vehicle concept that worked flawlessly on the first run. It isn't often you have the eyes of an industry upon you and I am happy to say that the product we delivered exceeded everyone's expectations. Simply put, the trains look great and run even better."

The Ride Experience

Once dispatched to the lift, the trains engage the chain with virtually the absence of

any type of noise. After silently cresting the apex of the 153-foot lift, riders plunge into a near-vertical drop angled at 79 degrees, making it a fan favorite in the back seat. David Lipnicky, public relations director of American Coaster Enthusiasts, says, "The first drop from the back seat is absolutely stunning. It provides an extreme airtime experience." After about two dozen rides, Lipnicky laughed, "It's one of the few rides that still makes me grab the lap bar going down the first drop."

Sossamon interjects that the first drop is a favorite moment as well. "Coming over the lift, it's hard to anticipate what a 79 degree drop will feel like," he says.

After the initial plunge, trains rise into a unique double-up popping riders out of their seat in a moment of strong weightlessness and quickly soar into a 90-degree banked turn, gracefully floating riders on their sides. A second drop rushes passengers into one of the ride's more unique moments — a 95-degree snap turn. Riders travel just beyond vertical before being rotated back into a steep descent. "I guarantee that this moment will be the enthusiasts' favorite," says Schilke. "You get the downhill yank from the 95 degrees. That yank and twist down — that is what's going to surprise people." The last overbanked turn goes the furthest with a graceful 115-degree banked turn through coaster structure, which is followed by a bunny hop delivering the biggest dose of negative Gs on the entire ride, which then rockets riders upward into a sinuous twist into the block brake.

Riders of the original Texas Giant will recall a lurch of heavy brakes here that slowed the ride to a near standstill before dropping into the second half. Not anymore. Sharon Parker, public relations manager for Six Flags Over Texas loves this new element. "You look straight out and see every single car drop out and then you have your moment," smiles Parker. Trains now speed through the block and enter a sequence of three dives that go to near ground level — an attribute that was never fully utilized in the original layout. Interspersed within this trio of drops is a playful bronco ride of weightless airtime before the track hugs the ground in a heavily banked turn at ground level, cutting through the lift.

► See GIANT, page 6

FAST FACTS

Name/Park

New Texas Giant/
Six Flags Over Texas,
Arlington, Texas

What

Steel-tracked roller coaster built on existing wooden support structure from original Texas Giant wooden coaster to create new type of coaster

Height/Length

153 feet maximum;
148 foot lift height/
4,506 feet

Drop/Maximum Speed/Maximum Track Banking

147.5 feet at 79 degrees/
65 mph/115 degrees

Ride Time/Capacity

2:08 station to brake/
3 six-car trains;
24 total passengers

Features

3 tunnels with fog and special LED effects; first ever use of new Iron Horse Coaster Track; first hybrid coaster to go from wooden coaster to a steel coaster

Construction Time

RMC's Iron Horse Track has been in development for 4 years; ride project took 17 months from conception to opening

Trains

Gerstlauer Amusement Rides GmbH,
Muensterhausen, Germany

Design

Alan Schilke,
Ride Centerline LLC,
Hyde Park, Utah

Supplier

Fred Grubb,
Rocky Mountain Construction Group,
Hayden, Utah

Supporting Suppliers

Crossroads LED, special effect lighting in tunnels; Entertainment Management Group, braking; Hodell Natco, bolts; Intermountain Lift, chain trough and anti-roll backs; KT Galvanizing, galvanizing; Tree Dog Lumber, wood

Safety System

Six Flags Over Texas safety and engineering using Allen-Bradley controls

Cost/Opened

\$10 million/April 22, 2011



One of the New Texas Giant's highlights is the extreme banking and leads into sudden drops, shown here on the ride's third drop.

AT / GARY SLADE



From the New Texas Giant's impressive 79-degree first drop to its second drop (above), this new hybrid coaster doesn't let up, giving guests a speedy and smooth ride like none other before. AT / GARY SLADE

GIANT Continued from page 5

As the course traverses undulating track and an S-turn, the ride enters a set of tunnels and gets two new and improved bunny hops up onto the final brake run, making the ride a negative G dream for enthusiasts. Magnetic brakes bring the coaster to a smooth stop.

The Players

A project this massive included a lot of companies. [For a complete list of supporting suppliers see Fast Facts box on page 5.]

Six Flags brought an amazing amount of talent to the project as well. When asked about how much was done in-house, Sossaman replied, "We fully installed all mechanical driving parts." With an understanding of the gear box previously utilized on the original woodie,

the park intimately knew what was needed in modernizing it to the 2011 version.

The Drive

It has been a long journey for Six Flags Over Texas. This one-of-a-kind project has been in evolving development for nearly 17 months. One thing for certain is they reached their goal. The park wanted a smooth-as-glass crowd pleaser, and they got one. Guests are exiting the ride with huge smiles and rave reviews. The park can be confident they have a home run with their newest attraction.

"My favorite thing about the New Texas Giant is that it constantly surprises you," boasts Martindale.

However, it should be no surprise to find many parks around the country (and world) coming take a closer look at what will be one of the most talked about success stories of this season.



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Six Flags turns to Gerstlauer to deliver themed trains

STORY: Adam Sandy
Special to Amusement Today

ARLINGTON, Texas — The trains on the New Texas Giant at Six Flags Over Texas look great and ride even better. Gerstlauer's custom-designed vehicle offered unique roller coaster technology. The ride's most striking visual feature is the look of the trains. Gerstlauer worked hand-in-hand with Les Hudson, Six Flags' vice president of design. He wanted the look of a 1961 Cadillac Deville and together they spent hours poring over pictures of the classic car to get the contours just right. From the Cadillac chrome to the iconic tail fins, they worked on the small details in order to cre-

ate a train design that looked different from any other roller coaster vehicle on the market.

On the technical side, Gerstlauer received input from Larry Chickola, chief of corporate engineering, and his team at Six Flags Engineering. Together they designed a wide, comfortable seat and lap bar rated to handle significant negative g's.

The goal of the seat design was to create a contoured seat that accommodated a wide range of guest sizes on a very exciting ride. Hours were spent in the Munsterhausen, Germany factory closing the restraint on guests and seeing if they could get out, so the perfect



A full size mock up of the coaster vehicle, above left, was done in stages at the Gerstlauer factory, before a mold could be cast. This produced the finished themed design in fiberglass, shown above right. COURTESY GERSTLAUER

seat could be made. The key behind the lap bar and seat design was that the systems had to safely contain a wide range of guests, from those just over 48 inches to large adults, the system had to work for everyone. The bogies were also unique and offered many different degrees

of independent articulation, which allow the train to easily navigate Rocky Mountain's sinuous Iron Horse track. The design of a roller coaster train from the ground up does not happen often. Gerstlauer's goal was to ensure that the guest experience, ease of maintenance, and high de-

gree of performance were the best that the company had produced to-date.

Editor's note: Adam Sandy is sales director for Maryland-based Ride Entertainment Group of Companies, the North American representative for Gerstlauer Amusement Rides GmbH.



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2011 NORTH AMERICAN PARK PREVIEW

CANADA

Alberta

Galaxyland, Edmonton.....Cosmic Revolution — Moser Rides tilting Himalaya; Ropes Courses Sky Trail Explorer
World Waterpark,Edmonton.....WhiteWater West AquaLoop, AquaDrops and AquaTune
Playland at the PNE,Vancouver.....Atmosfear — 218-foot Funtime-Handels Starflyer

Ontario

Bingeman's Big Splash Waterpark, Kitchener.....WhiteWater West Boomerango, Multi-Lane Mat Racer
Calypso Waterpark, Limoges.....Ten new WhiteWater West waterslides including two AquaLoops, AquaTube Body Slides
Canada's Wonderland, Vaughan.....Windseeker — Mondial 300—foot swing ride
Ontario Place, Toronto.....Two ProSlide Topsy-Turvey with ProSplash
Sauble Beach Fun World, Sauble Beach.....Looping Star — Pinfari Looping Zyklon ZL42 from Beech Bend

Québec

Valcartier Vacation Village, Valcartier.....WhiteWater West Whizzard multi-lane tube-enclosed mat racer

UNITED STATES

Alabama

Alabama Adventure, Bessemer.....Buzzsaw Falls, SkyTrans Manufacturing Shoot the Chutes

Arizona

Mesa Golfand Sunsplash, Mesa.....Storm Rider — ProSlide BehemothBowl
Wet 'n' Wild, Phoenix.....Constrictor — WhiteWater West Constrictor inner tube slide

California

Belmont Park, Belmont.....Down Force — Chance Morgan Unicoaster; Moser Rides Gyro Loop
Castle Park, Riverside.....20,000 sq ft water play area
Disneyland, Anaheim.....Star Tours II — refurbished Star Tours attraction; Little Mermaid Ride — dark ride
Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim.....WhiteWater West multi-lane Mat Racer
Knotts Berry Farm, Buena Park.....Windseeker — Mondial 300-foot swing ride
Raging Waters Waterpark, San Jose.....Bombs Away — ProSlide SuperLoop
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Santa Cruz.....100 year anniversary of the Loeff Carousel; Moser Rides 14-seat Spring Ride
SeaWorld San Diego, San Diego.....300,000 gallon sea turtle aquarium; Riptide Ripsaw — Huss airboat; Zamperla Rockin' Tug
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Vallejo.....SkyScreamer — Funtime 150-foot Star Flyer
Six Flags Magic Mountain, Valencia.....Green Lantern: First Flight — Intamin ZacSpin coaster; new vehicles on Superman Krypton; Vekoma Roller Skater from SF New Orleans

Colorado

Hyland Hills Water World, Federal Heights.....Mile High Flyer — Two ProSlide Pipeline slides

Connecticut

Lake Compounce, Bristol.....Rev-O-Lution — Zamperla Mega Disk'O 24
Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury.....Wooden Warrior — Gravity Group wooden coaster

Florida

Busch Gardens Tampa, Tampa.....Cheetah Hunt — Intamin LSM launched coaster; new Millennium Flier trains for Gwazi wooden coaster
Discovery Cove, Orlando.....The Grand Reef — new exploration area with thousands of fish and reef sharks; SeaVenture underwater walking tour
Disney's Hollywood Studios, Lake Buena Vista.....Star Tours II — refurbished Star Tours attraction
Fun Spot, Kissimmee.....Scream'n' Eagle — Larson Flying Scooters with LED light package; Galaxy Spin — Zamperla twister coaster from Cypress Gardens
Legoland Florida, Winter Haven.....New Park (former Cypress Gardens) with multiple attractions including Mack Wild Mouse from Legoland Windsor
Magic Kingdom, Orlando.....Fantasyland Expansion & New Ride
Rapids Waterpark, West Palm Beach.....Rapids Racers — ProSlide 6-lane KrakenRacer

Georgia

Six Flags Over Georgia, Austell.....Dare Devil Dive — Gerstlauer custom Euro-Fighter coaster
Wild Adventures/Splash Island, Valdosta.....Hakini Rapids and Kona Cliffs — ProSlide Mammoth and MammothBubba
Zoo Atlanta, Atlanta.....Chance Morgan CP Huntington Train

Idaho

Boulder Beach Waterpark, Athol.....WhiteWater West Python family raft ride

Illinois

Hurricane Harbor Waterpark, Gurnee.....Waterpark expansion with, four waterslides, and Wave Loch FlowRider
Santa's Village AZoosment Park, East Dundee.....new park at former Santa's Village; classic rides from Santa's Village and Kiddieland (Melrose Park); animal exhibits

Indiana

Holiday World & Splashin' Safari, Santa Claus.....Safari Sam's Splashland — ProSlide children's water play area; new PTCI train for Voyage coaster
Indiana Beach, Monticello.....Adventure Point — Ropes Courses Sky Trail Voyager
Yogi Bear Jellystone Campground, Fremont.....Starflight Amusement Rides AquaZoom hydroplaning bumper car system

Kansas

Schlitterbahn Kansas City Waterpark, Kansas City.....Boogie Bahn surf ride; three slides, rapids river, whitewater tube chute

Maine

Palace Playland, Old Orchard Beach.....LED Light Package for existing Chance Morgan Wheel

Maryland

Trimper's Rides, Ocean City.....Zamperla Happy Swing
Massachusetts

Six Flags New England, Agawam.....Gotham City Gauntlet Escape from Arkham Asylum — Maurer Söhne wild mouse from Kentucky Kingdom

Michigan

Air Zoo of Kalamazoo, Portage.....Zamperla Midi Ferris Wheel
Michigan's Adventure, Muskegon.....Beach Party — Whitewater West Aquaplay RainFortress interactive water play structure with 8 slides

Minnesota

Valleyfair, Shakopee.....Cosmic Coaster — Zamperla powered coaster from Dorney Park; Planet Snoopy with 6 Zamperla rides

Mississippi

Gulf islands Waterpark, Gulfport.....WhiteWater West multi-lane Mat Racer

Missouri

Silver Dollar City, Branson.....Half Dollar Holler — children's playscape and ride area including Treetop fun houses, climbing nets, and refurbished carousel

Six Flags St. Louis, Eureka.....SkyScreamer — Funtime 230-foot Star Flyer
White Water, Branson.....Aloha River at Hula Hula Bay — highly-themed adventure river
Worlds of Fun, Kansas City.....1926 Illions Carousel from Geauga Lake Park; Planet Snoopy kids area with seven Zamperla rides

New Hampshire

Canobie Lake Park, Salem.....Untamed — Gerstlauer Euro Fighter coaster
Story Land, Glen.....Splash Battle Egypt — 3DBA/Preston & Barbieri interactive water ride

New Jersey

Clementon Park & Splash World, Clementon.....Torpedo Rush — Two ProSlide Freefalls with SkyBox
Fun Town Amusement Pier, Seaside Park.....Zamperla Midi Discovery 16 rotating pendulum ride
Gillian's Pier, Ocean City.....SBF Airborne Shot
Iplay America, Freehold.....Zamperla Happy Swing, Jump Around and Kite Flyer
Keansburg Amusement Park, Keansburg.....Zamperla Happy Swing and Jump Around
Morey's Piers, Wildwood.....it — KMG Fireball with new restraint system
Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson.....Green Lantern — B&M standup coaster from Kentucky Kingdom; Funtime 54m. Slingshot

New York

Adventureland, Farmingdale.....SBF Drop 'N Twist Tower; Zamperla Mini Disk'O
Coney Island Amusement Park, Coney Island.....Visa Umbrella Swing
Holiday Valley Ski Resort, Ellicottville.....Mountain Coaster — Wiegand Alpine—Coaster
Luna Park (Scream Zone), Brooklyn.....Steeplechase — Zamperla Moto Coaster; Soaring Eagle — Refurbished Zamperla Volare coaster from Eltich Gardens; Funtime 44m. Slingshot
Martin's Fantasy Island, Grand Island.....Technical Park Loop Fighter and Starship 2000 (Gravatron)
Seabreeze, Rochester.....Zamperla Midi Teacup ride

North Carolina

Carowinds, Charlotte.....Snoopy's Starlight Spectacular — night time light show

Ohio

Beach Waterpark, Mason.....Rainforest Rapids - transformation of existing tube chute; Toucan Lagoon - zero-depth children's pool
Cedar Point, Sandusky.....Windseeker — Mondial 300-foot swing ride
Columbus Zoo, Columbus.....Chance Morgan CP Huntington Train
Kings Island, Kings Mills.....Windseeker — Mondial 300-foot swing ride; Dinosaurs Alive — upcharge animated dinosaur exhibit
Zoombezi Bay, Columbus.....Python Plunge and Anaconda Falls — WhiteWater West Boomerango, Master Blaster, Inner Tube Slides

Oregon

Evergreen Wings & Waves Waterpark, McMinnville.....WhiteWater West SuperBowl, custom AquaPlay, AquaTube body slide, Inner-Tube slide and wave pool

Pennsylvania

Dorney Park, Allentown.....Planet Snoopy with 8 new Zamperla rides
Idlewild, Ligonier.....Wowabunga — ADG WaveTech Wave Pool
Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg.....Black Diamond — refurbished and rethemed steel PTC coaster from Morey's Piers
Sesame Place, Langhorne.....Elmo's Cloud Chaser — Zamperla Midi Family Swinger
Waldameer Park, Erie.....North End — expansion area with three Zamperla rides including Flying Carousel; Chance Morgan CP Huntington Train

South Carolina

Myrtle Beach Landing, Myrtle Beach.....SkyWheel, a 187—foot Chance Morgan Giant Wheel
WonderWorks, Myrtle Beach.....New 50,000 square—foot entertainment and education attraction with Moser Rides Extraor-dinary Bike

Tennessee

Dollywood, Pigeon Forge.....Barnstormer — S&S 80 foot Sky Swing
Nashville Shores Waterpark, Nashville.....Kowabunga Beach — WhiteWater West AquaPlay AP1050 water treehouse with four slides

Texas

Hawaiian Falls, Roanoke.....new waterpark with WhiteWater West Giant Rainfortress with 20 slides, wave pool, Boomerango, three-lane Mat Racer
Legoland Discovery Center, Grapevine.....new 35,000 square-foot entertainment center with interactive dark ride and 4D theater
NRH2O Waterpark, North Richland Hills.....WhiteWater West Viper Megatube slide
Schlitterbahn Galveston, Galveston.....Shipwreck Harbor — 3-foot wave lagoon with slides, shade structures, additional lounging areas
Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort, New Braunfels.....Tubenbach — new section with The Falls — world's longest water tube chute, Deluge Whirlpool River and Boogie Bay kids' area
SeaWorld San Antonio, San Antonio.....Sesame Street Bay of Play — rethemed kids area with new Chance Morgan 36-foot Carousel
Six Flags Over Texas, Arlington.....New Texas Giant — new steel coaster from Rocky Mountain Construction reconstructed from former wood coaster with new Gerstlauer trains
Trader's Village, San Antonio.....Larson Star Dancer
Wet 'N' Wild Water World, El Paso.....Ride Entertainment Systems Skycoaster

Utah

Lagoon, Farmington.....Bambora — family coaster

Vermont

Jay Peak Resort, Jay.....New 40,000 square foot indoor waterpark including WhiteWater West AquaLoop; Wave Loch Flow-Rider

Virginia

Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Williamsburg.....Mäch Tower — Moser Rides 235-foot drop tower
Water Country U.S.A., Williamsburg.....Vanish Point — Speed slides

Washington

Wild Waves Waterpark, Federal Way.....ProSlide CannonBowl

Wisconsin

Bay Beach Amusement Park, Green Bay.....Zippin Pippin — Martin & Vlemincx/Gravity Group recreation of Zippin Pippin coaster from Libertyland

MEXICO

Six Flags Mexico, Mexico City.....Terminator X — laser battle attraction (opened December, 2010)

2011 INTERNATIONAL PARK PREVIEW

AUSTRALIA

Aussie World, Sunshine Coast.....Zamperla Mega Disk'O
Wet n' Wild, Gold Coast.....Skycoaster

AUSTRIA

Aquapulco Waterpark, Bad Schallerbach.....Polin Waterparks SplashCinema 4D theater
Familypark Neusiedlersee, St. Margarethen.....Zierer Wave Swinger
Wiener Prater, Vienna.....Black Mamba — Funtime Chaos Pendel; Moser Rides Atlantis Adventure

BELGIUM

Aqualibi, Wavre.....€11 million rehab including glass pyramid and several waterslides
Bobbejaanland, Lichtart.....Dizz — Maurer Söhne custom spinning car coaster
Plopsa Co, Stavelot.....Wickie The Ride — Gerstlauer spinning car coaster
Plopsaland, De Panne.....Adinkerke-De Panne Mayaland — Indoor Children's area with rides from Zierer and Zamperla

BOTSWANA

Lion Park Resort, Gaborone.....Schwarzkopf Looping Star from Dreamland

BRAZIL

Mirabilandia, Olinda.....Sky Mountain — Vekoma Giant Inverted Boomerang from Six Flags Over Georgia

CHINA

Bali Paradise Waterpark, Fushun.....new indoor/outdoor waterpark with multiple WhiteWater West attractions including world's first "Flume in Flume" MegaTube
China Dinosaur Park, Changzhou.....S&S Power fourth dimension coaster; Huss observation tower; Intamin Spillwater 20
Hangzhou Paradise, Hangzhou.....Beijing Shibolai Suspended Looping Coaster
Happy Valley (Beijing), Cahoyang.....Extreme Rusher — S&S Power launched coaster
Happy Valley (Shanghai), Songjiang.....Flight of the Dragon — Huss suspended simulator movie ride
Happy Valley (Shenzen), Shenzen.....Shangrila Snowfield — S&S Power coaster; WhiteWater West AquaLoop, Boomerango, SuperBowl, Mat Racer, Raft Ride
Happy Valley (Wuhan), Wuhan.....new park with Martin & Vlemincx/Gravity Group racing/dueling wooden coaster; multiple attractions from WhiteWater West including AquaLoop
Jin Jiang Action Park, Xuhui.....Vekoma Giant Inverted Boomerang
Knight Valley, Shenzen.....new park with Mountain Flyer — GCI wooden terrain coaster; two Maurer Söhne coasters
Lubura Aquatic World, Changzhou.....WhiteWater West Abyss, Family Boomerango, AquaPlay Giant RainFortress
Red Sun, Nanjing East China Mall, Nanjing.....Vekoma custom motorbike coaster
World Joyland, Wujin.....New park with multiple attractions including coasters from Maurer Söhne and B&M; S&S Space Shot

COLUMBIA

Parque Recreativo Piscilago, Nile.....ProSlide RideHouse with MiniRiver, ProRacer, Twister and FireSlides

CYPRUS

Phaethon Beach Hotel, Paphos.....ProSlide 4-lane ProRace, PipeLine, TunnelTwister
WaterWorld Waterpark, Ayia Napa.....ProSlide Tunnel Twister

DENMARK

Djurs Sommerland, Nimtofte.....Skatteøen — Mack SuperSplash Water Coaster
Fårup Sommerland, Saltum.....WhiteWater West family raft and water playground

ENGLAND

Adventure Island, Southend on Sea.....Kiddi Koasta — Zamperla Family Coaster
Brean Leisure Park, Somerset.....Astro Storm — Zierer coaster from Pleasure Beach, Blackpool
Clarence Pier, Portsmouth.....Speedy Gonzales — Big Apple/Wacky Worm type coaster
Drayton Manor, Drayton Bassett.....Ben 10 Ultimate Mission — Vekoma Junior Boomerang coaster
Flamingoland Theme Park and Zoo, Malton.....Zamperla Air Force suspended coaster
Funland Amusement Park, Hayling Island.....Moser Rides Speed Flip
Grand Pier, Weston-Super-Mare.....Moser Rides Sidewinder and Spring Ride
Gulliver's Kingdom, Matlock.....Knights of the Round Table — Moser Rides X-Arm Ride
Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.....PBB Nickelodeon Land with Wallace & Gromit dark ride; Mack Splash Battle; several Zamperla rides; abc rides freefall tower
Legoland Windsor, Windsor.....Project Atlantis — Aquarium with dark ride
Lightwater Valley, Ripon.....Skeleton Cove — new themed area with five rides from Loudon Castle
Paultons Park, Romsey.....Rethemed kiddie area with seven new rides including Zierer 12m. Ferris Wheel
Sandcastle Waterpark, Blackpool.....ProSlide CannonBowl and Tunnel Twister
Thorpe Park, Chertsey.....Storm Surge — WhiteWater West Spinning Rapids ride from Cypress Gardens

FINLAND

Linnanmäki, Helsinki.....Ukko — Maurer Söhne X-Car coaster

FRANCE

Aqualand Water Park, Bassin D'Archaron.....Polin Waterparks Racer Hybrid combination bowl and boomerang slides
Aqualand Water Park, St. Syr Sur Mer.....Polin Waterparks Black Hole Turbolance boomerang slides
Disneyland Paris, Marne la Vallée.....Toy Story Playland — new themed area with RC Racer — Intamin impulse shuttle coaster
Fraispertuis City, Jeanménil.....Timber Drop — S&S Power El Loco coaster
Le Pal, Dompierre Sur Besbre.....Twist — Mack spinning coaster
La Récré des Trois Curés, Milizac.....Mambo — Mack flying bobs from Bobbejaanland
Mer de Sable, Ermenonville.....Tiger Express — Mack Wild Mouse from Walibi Holland
Parc des Naudières, Sautron.....Roller Coaster — Zierer Force Two coaster
Parc Touristique des Combes, Creusot.....Boomerang — Vekoma Junior Boomerang coaster
Walibi Rhone-Alpes, Les Avenières.....Rokken Roll — 4D simulator theater
Walibi Sud-Ouest, Roquefort.....Rokken Roll — 4D simulator theater
Walygator Parc, Maizières-les-Metz.....Maurer Söhne indoor wild mouse from Japan's Expoland

GEORGIA

Mtatsminda Park, Tbilisi.....Multi-inversion coaster believed to be from China

GERMANY

Bayern Park, Reischbach.....Freischütz — Maurer Söhne LSM-launched coaster
Europa-Park, Rust.....Piccolo Mondo — rethemed Ciao Bambino dark ride; Volo da Vinci — Mack suspended pedal monorail
Freizeit-Land Geiselwind, Geiselwind.....Wilde Maus — Mack compact Wild Mouse coaster
Freizeitpark Plohn, Legenfeld.....Zierer Force 190 coaster
Freizeitpark Ruhpolding, Ruhpolding.....Gipfel-Stürmer — Gerstlauer family shuttle coaster
Galaxy Erding Waterpark, Erding.....Wiegand/Maeizer Turbo Racers
Hansa Park, Sierksdorf.....Die Schlange von Midgard — Gerstlauer family coaster
Heide-Park, Soltau.....Krake — B&M floorless Diving Machine coaster
Holiday Park, Hassloch.....Mayaland — Indoor Children's area with Anubis — Zierer Family Freefall Tower
Inselsberg-Funpark, Kleiner Inselberg.....Wiegand Wie-flyer
Lego Discovery Center, Berlin.....Zamperla Magic Bike
Movie Park Germany, Bottrop.....Val Helsing's Factory — Gerstlauer indoor coaster
Nürburgring, Nürburg.....ring°racer — S&S Power custom Thrust Air coaster
Phantasieland, Brühl.....Maus au Chocolate — interactive 3—D dark ride; Zierer Wave Swinger and a pair of kiddie drop towers
Rasti-Land, SalzhemmendorfZierer Family Freefall Tower

Taunus Wonderland, Schlangenbad Knall Fall — abc rides Multi Motion Tower
Tropical Island, Berlin.....Moser Rides African Jungle Lift

HONG KONG

Ocean Park, Hong Kong.....Hair Raiser — B&M floorless coaster; Chance Morgan Aviator; Arctic Blast — Mack powered coaster; Intamin rapids ride

INDIA

Infinity Mall, Mumbai.....I.E. Park indoor looping coaster

INDONESIA

Bugs Waterpark, Makassar.....Polin Waterparks Aquatower 600
Trans Studio Indoor Theme Park, Bandung.....new indoor park with Premier Rides LIM shuttle coaster; several large Zamperla Rides; Interlink Super Flume
Waterbom Jakarta, Jakarta.....WhiteWater West SuperBowl

ITALY

Edenlandia, Napoli.....Thriller — Mack Mega Coaster LSM-launched coaster
Europark Idroscalo, Segrate.....Funny Mouse — Interpark Wild Mouse coaster
Gardaland, Castelnuovo del Garda.....Raptor — B&M prototype "wing-rider" style coaster
Mirabilandia, Savio.....Master Thai — Preston & Barbieri family racing coaster
Rainbow MagicLand, Valmontone.....New park with multiple attractions including coasters from Maurer Söhne and Vekoma; Intamin Spillwater 20 and Rapids Ride

JAPAN

Fuji-Q, Fujiyoshida.....Gerstlauer custom Euro-Fighter coaster
Tokyo Disneyland, Tokyo.....Mickey's Philharmagic 4-D theater
Tokyo DisneySea, Tokyo.....Jasmine's Flying Carpets — Zamperla custom telecombat

MALAYSIA

Shangri-La Tanjung, Aru Resort.....Tanjung Aru ProSlide KidsTwister, GiantTwister, TunnelTwister

THE NETHERLANDS

Aqua Mundo at Center Parcs, Eemhoff.....ProSlide Topsy-Turvy
DippieDoe Familiepark, Eindhoven.....Tyfoon - Zierer custom coaster from Tivoli Gardens
Duinrell, Wassenaar.....Gerstlauer family coaster
Toverland, Sevenum.....Mack SuperSplash water coaster
Walibi Holland, Biddinghuizen.....Rokken Roll — 4D simulator theater

NEW ZEALAND

Hamner Springs Thermal Pools, Hamner Springs.....WhiteWater West SuperBowl

POLAND

Wroclawski Park Wodny Waterpark, Wroclaw.....Black Hole — waterslide with glass element, lighting and sound effects

RUSSIA

Djubga Waterpark, Krasnodar.....Polin Waterparks King Cobra double tube racing slides

SAUDI ARABIA

Al-Shallal Theme Park, Jeddah.....Larson/Arm Super Shot drop tower
Atallah Happy Land Park, Jeddah.....Intamin Surf Rider impulse shuttle coaster

SCOTLAND

Codona's Amusement Park, Aberdeen.....Innovative Leisure high ropes course

SINGAPORE

Universal Studios Singapore, Sentosa.....Battlestar Galactica — Vekoma Inverted and sit-down dueling coasters (delayed from 2010); Madagascar — dark boat ride

SOUTH KOREA

Caribbean Bay, Yongin-si.....Four WhiteWater West AquaLoops
Gyeongju World, Gyeongju.....Two ProSlide SuperLoops with SkyBoxes
Lotte World Jamsil-Dong.....World's largest indoor foam playground
Ocean World at Vivaldi Park, Kangnam-Ku.....WhiteWater West Python Megatube slide, Whizzard multi-lane tube-enclosed mat racer
Seorak Waterpia Waterpark, Sokcho-si.....ProSlide WorldAlley and DarkMammoth

SPAIN

PortAventura, Salou.....Sésamo Aventura — rethemed kiddie area with new attractions from Zierer and Heege

SWEDEN

Astrid Lindgren's World, Vimmerby.....Themed area and castle
Furuvik, Gävle.....Rocket — family coaster
Gröna Lund, Stockholm.....Twister — Gravity Group wooden coaster
Liseberg, Gothenburg.....Atmosfear — conversion of Intamin observation tower to Intamin Gyro Drop 36

THAILAND

Amazon Falls, Pattaya.....new waterpark with multiple WhiteWater West attractions including duelling Master Blaster; Super Bowl
Siam Park City, Bangkok.....Grand Canyon Express — Zamperla powered coaster from Jerudong Park (Brunei)

TAIWAN

Fisherman's Wharf, New Taipei Cit.....Intamin 360-foot Super Gyro Tower
E-DA Theme Park, DASHU Township.....Big Air — Vekoma Big Air shuttle coaster (opened December, 2010)

TURKEY

Cobra Kingdom Waterpark, Belek.....new waterpark with 10 Polin Waterparks slides, inner tube rides, King Cobra and water play area with additional slides
ORA Istanbul Theme Park, Istanbul.....Vekoma Junior Coaster

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Wild Wadi, Dubai.....Proslide Bowling Alley and Tantrum Alley
Yas Island, Abu Dhabi.....Multiple WhiteWater West attractions including AquaLoop, Viper, SuperBowl and Speed Slides

VENEZUELA

Parque Italo Americano, Caracas.....Technical Park Rock 'n' Roll coaster



INTERNATIONAL

PARKS

ATTRACTIONS

RESORTS

SUPPLIERS

BRIEF

Disney breaks ground on Shanghi park

SHANGHAI—The Walt Disney Company and Shanghai Shendi Group, its joint venture partner in China, have broken ground on the Shanghai Disney Resort following approval from the Chinese central government in Beijing. Both companies marked the start of construction on the first Disney resort in mainland China at a groundbreaking ceremony held on April 8.

"Today marks a significant milestone in the history of The Walt Disney Company," said Robert A. Iger, president and CEO of The Walt Disney Company. "Our Shanghai resort will be a world-class family vacation destination that combines classic Disney characters and storytelling with the uniqueness and beauty of China. Working with our Chinese partners, the Shanghai Disney Resort will be both authentically Disney and distinctly Chinese."

The Shanghai Disney Resort will be home to a Magic Kingdom-style park that will blend classic Disney storytelling and characters with all-new attractions and experiences tailored specifically for the people of China. The park will feature several themed lands complete with exciting, iconic Disney attractions and experiences.

The new Shanghai Disney Resort is slated to open in approximately five years.

Heide-Park adds Germany's first B&M dive coaster

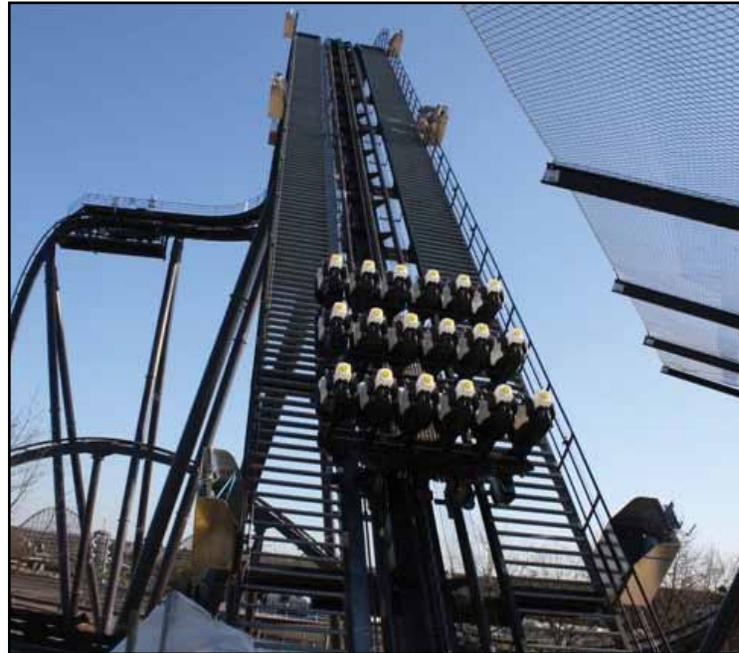
STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

GERMANY—Germany's Heide-Park, part of the Merlin Entertainments Group, unveiled its latest major ride on April 16 when the new dive coaster Krake opened to visitors.

Situated in the Pirate Bay area of the park, the new thriller comes from Swiss coaster



specialist Bolliger & Mabillard and represents an investment of €12 million (U.S. \$17 million). In one of three floorless vehicles, each with three rows of six seats, the attraction takes riders high above the park lake for an adrenalin pumping experience. Once at the highest point of 41 meters (134.5 feet) the rider vehicles are held for a few fearful seconds as riders look down at the wreck



Riders on Krake will be taken up to a height of 41 meters (134.5 feet) before plummeting vertically to earth. Among the features of the Krake track is an Immelman curve.
COURTESY HEIDE-PARK

of a ship in the clutches of the beast Kraken before being released to plummet vertically down into the dark mouth of the "beast." From there guests speed along the remainder of the 476 meter (1,562 feet) long track through a splash zone,

Immelmann and camelback features before returning to the station.

Heavily themed in a sea monster and shipwreck style setting, Krake also features fog and water effects and the whole attraction covers an

area of 10,000 square meters (107,639 square feet). The ride itself provides a similar experience to the likes of Oblivion at the U.K.'s Alton Towers Resort and Sheikra at Busch Gardens Tampa in Florida.

Merlin growth continues alongside international expansion

STORY: Andrew Mellor
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UNITED KINGDOM—Europe's leading and the world's second largest visitor attraction operator Merlin Entertainments has announced its financial results for the year to December 25, 2010, which show continued strong growth coupled to further expansion of its impressive portfolio of global visitor attractions.

The total number of visitors to the group's venues increased to 41 million, a rise of 2.5 million (6.5 percent), while group revenue was up 4.1 percent to £800.8 million (U.S. \$1.37 billion). Underlying group EBITDA (Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) was up 8.5 percent to £255.8 million (U.S. \$415.5 million).



Capital investment of £103.8 million (U.S. \$168.5 million) during the year was funded from operating cash flow and the group reported strong and resilient growth against a tough economic background. This performance was driven by strong trading within the existing estate while international growth came from three new openings on three continents.

Notable highlights of the year also

included the acquisition of Cypress Gardens, near Orlando, Fla., which is currently being transformed into Legoland Florida for opening in October this year, and the operating contract for the U.K.'s iconic Blackpool Tower Complex in the northwest of England. More recently, Merlin has also acquired the Sydney Attractions Group and Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World, bringing several attractions in Australia and New Zealand into its portfolio.

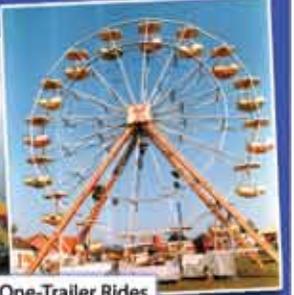
"We are delighted to report another year of strong performance from Merlin Entertainments," said Chief Executive Nick Varney, "with growth coming from all parts of our unique business. During 2010 we significantly extended our geographic footprint, while delivering fur-

► See MERLIN, page 12



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Lo-Q signs two contracts with Parques Reunidos for queuing



ENGLAND — Lo-Q plc recently announced that it has signed two new agreements to install its VQ2020 queue management system at Movie Park Germany and at Parque de Atracciones Madrid.

Movie Park Germany and Parque de Atracciones Madrid are owned by Spanish leisure park operator Parques Reunidos, the second largest operator of leisure parks in Europe. Parques Reunidos operates 71 theme parks, waterparks and nature and animal parks across Europe, South America and the U.S. Movie Park Germany had over 1.2 million visitors to its theme park in 2010 and Parque de Atracciones Madrid had over 1.3 million visitors in 2010. With Mirabilandia in It-

aly, the Lo-Q VQ2020 virtual queue management system is now installed in a total of three Parques Reunidos parks.

As part of the agreement Lo-Q plc will install and train Movie Park Germany and Parque de Atracciones Madrid employees to deploy the VQ2020 queue management systems to their guests and provide them with the benefit of virtual queuing for rides. Lo-Q's VQ2020 system uses patented queuing technology to ensure that a guest queues fairly for a ride without having to physically stand in line. Both installations will be completed for the start of Movie Park Germany and Parque de Atracciones' 2011 seasons.

Tom Burnet, CEO of Lo-Q comment-

ed: "We are very pleased to have signed these agreements with Movie Park Germany & Parque de Atracciones Madrid and to add two more Parques Reunidos parks to our portfolio of Theme Parks in addition to Mirabilandia, Italy. Parques Reunidos is a leading company in the Amusement Attractions Industry around the world and we are confident that Movie Park Germany and Parque de Atracciones Madrid and their guests will benefit significantly from using our virtual queuing technology."

Lo-Q has offices in the U.K. and the U.S.A. For more information visit www.Lo-Q.com.



Merlin Entertainments' continued growth will include the opening of a fifth Legoland park, Legoland Florida, in October 2011, on the site of the former Cypress Gardens.

COURTESY MERLIN ENTERTAINMENT

►MERLIN

Continued from page 11

ther growth in turnover and profitability as we welcomed 2.5 million more visitors to our iconic attractions around the world.

"In the past year we have continued to invest to grow and develop our business. We now operate over 70 attractions in 17 countries across four continents under our internationally recognized brands. Looking ahead, we have accelerated our growth

plans and by the end of 2012 we will be operating more than 80 attractions as we develop further across Europe, North America and the Asia Pacific region."

Looking further ahead, more openings being planned for 2012 include Legoland Malaysia and the Legoland Windsor Hotel in the U.K., along with five new Midways, including two in the U.S. — Sea Life Kansas City and Legoland Discovery Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Efteling opens new 1200-seat Reveleijn entertainment experience

STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

NETHERLANDS — Efteling in the Netherlands opened its latest major attraction at the beginning of April in the shape of the 'city' of Reveleijn.

The story of Reveleijn has been written by Efteling and Paul van Loon, the well-known Dutch children's author, and the brand new area of the park forms the setting for a spectacular new park show about five children who grow up to become riders on horseback, each with special talents which they combine to confront the city's oppressive ruler. The story has also been reworked by van Loon into book form, while in addition to this it forms the basis for the Reveleijn television series and an online game.

The story behind the park show, which features horses and real ravens, has taken over two years to conceive. The show is performed five or six times per day in the enormous new open air arena which offers seating for up to 1,200 visitors. Guests are also be able to watch the performances from the galleries (terraces) of the restaurant Het Wapen van Reveleijn.

"Never before have we presented a park show of these proportions in the open air," commented Efteling President and CEO Bart de Boer. "The show is on such a grand scale that special music has been composed for it and this will be performed by the Brabant Orchestra. The show,



The new 'city of Reveleijn' at Efteling will host a spectacular live show based on the newly created story of Reveleijn.

COURTESY EFTELING

which contains several sensational high-points, was developed by Efteling itself. The ominous ravens immediately set the tone for an exciting tale that, in true Efteling tradition, has a clear moral message. It is about working together and learning to use your own talents.

"This is the first time that an Efteling tale has been approached in such a multimedia way," de Boer continued. "People can get to know the story and its leading charac-

ters very closely and can get a taste of them in their own homes. I am very proud of what we have built, both literally and figuratively, with Reveleijn."

The new arena covers an area of 1,450 square meters and is adjoined by a new administration building and a themed event location. The show lasts for 30 minutes and features 10 cast members, five horses, five ravens, one owl and one falcon. It is suitable for guests aged six and over.

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Guests soaring on Australia's first Skycoaster

AUSTRALIA—Australia's first Skycoaster debuted on March 9, 2011 at Wet'n'Wild Water World in Oxenford. The continent's first 'flier' was 15-year-old Stacey Licciardi of Cockatoo, Victoria who was taken nearly 180 feet in the air before she pulled the ripcord, flew through the ride's iconic arch and ushered in Skycoaster's Australian presence.

As the most-visited amusement park in Australia, this waterpark, located along the country's famed Gold Coast was a natural spot for the first Skycoaster on the continent. "This has been a great project for us," said Mike Gutknecht, director of Skycoaster. "It was very challenging because we had to engineer a ride that met the region's wind loads, which allow structures to withstand typhoon-force winds. However, our engineering team designed a guy wire system that met their wind requirements and it worked perfectly."

The Wet'n'Wild Skycoaster sits near the park's wave pool and offers guests an adrenaline rush as they fly out over the property. "The placement of a Skycoaster is critical and this park really has one of the most visually-engaging locations I have seen," added



Australia's first Skycoaster debuted in March at Oxenford's Wet'n'Wild Water World. The 180-foot-tall Skycoaster takes fliers up nearly 20 stories before they pull the rip cord and soar over the park's popular wave pool. A product of Skycoaster, Inc. the company now oversees the safety training of over 75 Skycoaster attractions on six continents. COURTESY REG

Gutknecht.

Bob White, the general manager of Village Roadshow Theme Parks said, "The Skycoaster has been a fantastic addition to Wet'n'Wild Water World. We chose this attraction as it not only offered a unique experience for our guests, but it suited the 'fun and thrill' theming of our water park environment perfectly. We have experienced very positive guest feedback from the Skycoaster."

Like all Skycoasters, the

Australia installation will follow Skycoaster's detailed safety program, which has made the attraction one of the safest in the amusement industry. Operational protocol includes an annual safety seminar and on-site certification, all of which is run by Skycoaster.

"Our attraction is unique and therefore the way we go about training has always been different from other amusement rides," said Jason Anderson, Skycoaster's manager of safety and certifica-

tion. "This isn't a ride where the operator pushes a button; our operators are involved in harnessing a flyer so they can be pulled nearly 200 feet in the sky. It requires a different type of training and we believe our safety record proves that we have one of the best programs in the industry."

The Skycoaster offers a rush unmatched in Australia and can be seen from up and down the M1 Motorway. "With the great guest response we feel that this is just the first

of many Skycoasters in Australia. We look forward to the next one," added Gutknecht.

Skycoaster oversees the safety training of over 75 Skycoaster attractions on six continents and the company is part of the Ride Entertainment Group (www.rideentertainment.com). The Ride Entertainment family of companies provides sales, service, and financial solutions to parks across the globe.

DP Associates sees recovery for leisure attractions

UNITED KINGDOM—Strategic leisure consultants DP Associates (DPA), currently involved in a variety of projects within the theme park and visitor attractions sector, is reporting clear signs that the industry in general is coming out of a relatively quiet period as the effects of the worldwide recession begin to recede.

The U.K.-based consultants, which boasts a vast amount of experience in attraction concept design, development and operation, has a varied client portfolio having worked on a diverse range of projects, from the redevelopment of a well-known, traditional seaside amusement park in the U.K. to a brand new FEC project in Abu Dhabi. And founder and Managing Director Duncan Phillips is seeing a return of confidence and investment in the many projects DPA is involved in as well as elsewhere.

"There is definitely more

confidence and an increased amount of activity throughout the attractions industry," he comments, "both in our home territory of the U.K. and throughout the world. Not surprisingly with the way the global economy has been of late, many new projects and developments have been either cancelled or postponed, while existing operators have been extremely cautious where new investment has been concerned," said Phillips. "However, we can see from the inquiries we are receiving that things are moving forward again in pretty much all sectors of the attractions industry, be it theme parks, FECs, animal attractions, heritage sites, museums and others. Venues are getting busier, more investment is being made and more projects are on the go. It looks like things are really starting to move again."

The wide range of inquiries DPA is receiving reflects

the expertise the company is able to offer developers, investors, owners and operators of all types of leisure and attraction facility. Among the most recent projects the

company has been involved in are the redevelopment of Dreamland Amusement Park in Margate, U.K., where the traditional seaside town park is being brought back to life,

and Bletchley Park, a U.K. heritage site famous for its code breaking exploits during the Second World War, which DPA helped to transform into a visitor attraction.



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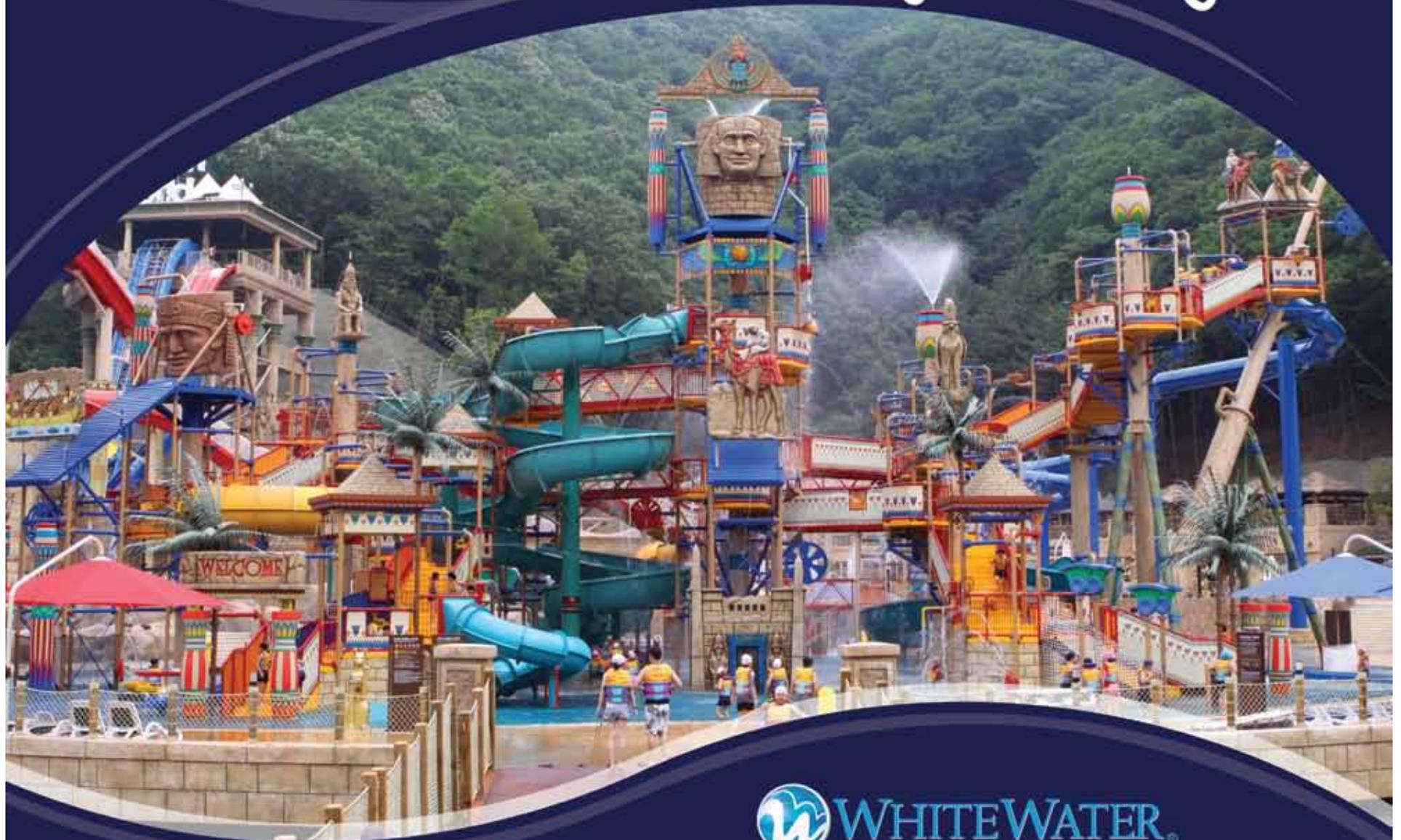
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ACE donates \$5,000 to city of Green Bay for preservation

GREEN BAY, Wisc. — The American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE) recently donated \$5,000 to provide support and assistance to the city of Green Bay and their efforts to reconstruct Zippin Pippin at Bay Beach Amusement Park. Zippin Pippin was purchased from the city of Memphis last year and is currently being reconstructed at the Green Bay park.

“Preservation of classic rides is what ACE stands for,” says Howard Gillooly, ACE preservation director. Gillooly added, “What Green Bay is doing is remarkable, and ACE is proud to be a supporter of this project.” Upon receiving the donation, Bill Landvatter, Green Bay’s director of parks, recreation and forestry, noted, “This was truly unexpected and brightened my day.” Landvatter went on to tell ACE, “Thanks so much for all you do to keep some of the truly unique treasures of our country.”

Zippin Pippin formerly stood at Libertyland in Memphis, Tennessee. Originally known as Pippin when it opened in 1923, the ride utilized parts from a previous coaster located at nearby East End Park. When Zippin Pippin closed in 2005, it was the fifth oldest coaster in the United States.

SeaWorld San Antonio retires Arrow log flume

Former Boardwalk & Baseball flume was Arrow’s fourth-longest

SAN ANTONIO—After 20 years of chills and thrills at SeaWorld San Antonio, the log flume ride, Texas Splashdown, will make its final splash on Friday, May 13, and SeaWorld is inviting guests to experience it one last time before the ride closes.

Added in spring 1991 as one of the nation’s largest water flume rides, Texas Splashdown became the park’s first thrill ride. The 75-foot tall log flume ride is located between the park’s Steel Eel and The Great White roller coasters. Four-passenger boats transport guests through a twisting, turning half-mile route that includes two exciting plunges: the first is a 65 foot drop and the second is a 75 foot camelback drop that reaches speeds of up to 35 miles per hour. Overall ride time is estimated at six minutes.

According to AT research files on Arrow, the 2,300 foot long flume was the fourth longest flume built by Arrow (Development) Dynamics. It originally opened in 1987 at Florida’s Boardwalk & Baseball before being moved to Texas. Of the top five longest flumes, only Six Flags Magic Mountain at 2,304 feet and Ontario Place at 2,182 feet remain in operation today.

“Since Texas Splashdown debuted more than 20 years ago, it has been enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of SeaWorld guests,” said Dan Decker, SeaWorld San Antonio’s park president. “The ride has had a great run of

service.”

While SeaWorld is not making any immediate announcements for a replacement attraction, its closing allows the park to plan for new entertainment experiences, whether it’s a ride, show, animal encounter or other attraction.

Amusement Today asked Decker what effect the ride’s closing will have on its guests during the hot Texas summers.

“Texas heat is always a big factor for us and our guest surveys tell us they want to stay cool, stay shaded and have more water options,” Decker said. “We added water this year with the opening of Sesame Street Bay of Play and we’ll certainly be considering all options for another family attraction in our upcoming three-year expansion plans.”

The flume is being retired and is not being put up for sale. Once SeaWorld has removed requested flume parts from the ride for use at its sister parks, the flume will take about 60 days to dismantle. No announcement has been made yet as to what ride or attraction will take its place in upcoming years.

—Compiled by AT Staff



DECKER



SeaWorld San Antonio will retire Texas Splashdown on May 13. When it originally opened, the ride was the fourth largest built by Arrow. AT / GARY SLADE



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Legoland opens Star Wars Miniland

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Actress Carrie Fisher, known for her portrayal of Princess Leia in Star Wars Episodes IV, V and VI, made a special appearance on March 31 to commemorate the grand opening of Star Wars Miniland at Legoland California. The ceremony was attended by community leaders and celebrities with their families and featured dramatic unveilings of each of the seven scenes built with more than 1.5 million Lego bricks revealing 2,000 Star Wars Lego models.

Fisher, currently serving as the Jenny Craig spokesperson, granted an out-of-this

▶ See STAR WARS, page 17



Actress Carrie Fisher was on hand for the debut of Star Wars Miniland at Legoland California. Park guests can follow a chronological path through the Star Wars timeline and retrace the major events of the beloved saga.

COURTESY LEGOLAND CALIFORNIA

Original Bob's park game on exhibit

GIBSONTON, Fla. — Is there an old carnival graveyard? Actually no, but there is a new museum (see AT, April 2011, page 43) built by the International Independent Showmen's Foundation in Gibsonton, Florida.

Bob's Space Racers, Inc. (BSR) has donated its first free standing group game for exhibit. Bob Cassata, founder, and Jack Mendes, president (retired), originally installed the game at Riverside Park in Agawam Ma in 1972. The game ran continuously until the game was replaced by Cassata and Mendes in 2000 with a new electronic water race. Since then BSR restored the game to its original luster and now has donated the game to the new museum.

Bob Cassata said, "This

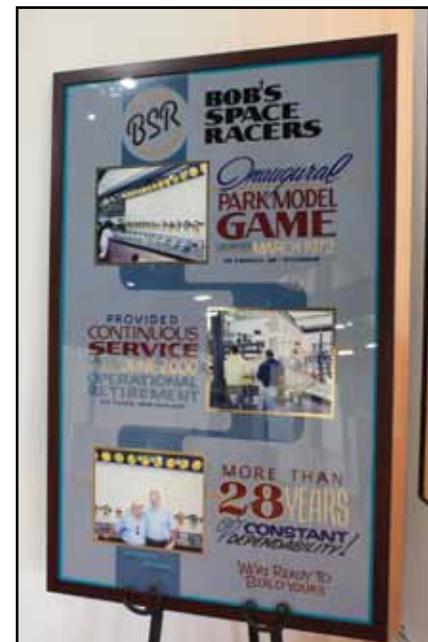
was my first group game built specifically for a park. It is just like the first one we made in a trailer. Although we are best known for developing the Whac-A-Mole and water games, this game was very important to the industry.

It was an early carnival race game that was successful in an amusement park. It proved a common link between carnival midway and park games. I wish the club much success with the museum."

The game's painted outer-space background with racing rockets and special effects drew a crowd in 1972. People called it Bob's space racer and that eventually became the company name. The game uses a handle and pulley system to flip a ball past a target. Each time the ball passes

the target a rocket ship moves upward. The first player to reach the top wins. This seems simple today but that was new technology then. It was also the first game that incorporated sound effects, music, and lighting effects.

Bo Pugh, president of the Showmen's Club, accepted the game on behalf of the museum. Pugh said, "We are happy to accept this early innovation in games. The museum is dedicated to the traveling show and will contain many carnival and related exhibits. The museum has an early Conderman Ferris wheel from 1908 and early wagons from Royal American Shows." The museum is expected to be open to the public late in 2011.



Bob's Space Racers' original park game is now on exhibit at the IISF's Carnival Museum.
AT / GARY SLADE

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Morey's Piers to host Halloween event

WILDWOOD, N.J.— For six nights in October, Morey's Piers will transform Mariner's Landing Pier, located at Schellenger Avenue and the Boardwalk, into a nightmare of epic proportions. The pier will be saturated with fog and filled with spooky decorations, roaming actors, eerie lighting and other startling surprises.

"This event has been ten grueling years in the making. We've been talking about it, having meetings and making plans; we just needed a centerpiece to justify something of this magnitude. The addition of Ghost Ship last summer provided us with the signature "fright feature" that we needed to launch Morey's Fears," said



Jack Morey, executive vice president.

Morey's Fears attractions are slated to include the Sea Serpent, SuperScooters, Tea Cups, Pirates of the Wildwoods, Rollie's Coaster, Musik Express, Moby Dick and an especially horrifying Ghost Ship experience as the main act. There will also be two frightening all-new Halloween attractions that will only be available during Morey's Fears. Themed food and drinks will also be available.

"This event is being geared toward teens and

adults looking for a terrifyingly good time," said Dino Fazio, director of pier operations. "It is not recommended for young children as it is being designed to be one of the most frightening Halloween attractions out there."

This themed event will take place Friday and Saturday nights, October 14-15, 21-22 and 28-29 from 6:30-11:00 p.m. Morey's Fears will be a gated event with a general admission price of \$25. Season Pass Members can present their pass to save \$10 off admission. Admission will include unlimited use of all attractions and access to Mariner's Landing Pier. This event is not recommended for children under 8 years old.

STAR WARS

Continued from page 16

world wish for 9-year-old Carson Wiener, who suffers from Leukemia. In addition to providing Carson with a chance to meet one of his Star Wars heroes, Fisher presented a \$5,000 check from Legoland California to Make-A-Wish Foundation San Diego Chapter. Through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Carson was able to fulfill his wish last year by coming to Legoland California and spending time with Master Model Builder Gary McIntire. Legoland California asked Carson to help break the red ribbon today – using a lightsaber – to officially open Star Wars Miniland.

To commemorate their participation, Model Shop Supervisor Tim Petsche presented both Fisher and Carson with replicas of the Lego mini-

lander model of Princess Leia from the Hoth scene of Star Wars Miniland.

When asked what it was like meeting Carrie Fisher, Wiener replied, "It was cool because she was in Star Wars and I would have really wanted to be in Star Wars too, if I could."

Visitors to the all-new Star Wars Miniland can follow a chronological path through the Star Wars timeline and retrace the major events of the beloved saga. Some of the 2,000 Lego models will be more than 8-feet-tall and interactive buttons will allow children to activate animations throughout the scenes.

"This is a really exciting day for Legoland California – we are the first Legoland in the world to introduce Star Wars Miniland," said Peter Ronchetti, general manager of Legoland California Resort.

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WhiteWater signs partnership with industry innovator

RICHMOND, British Columbia—In line with its vision of leading the waterpark industry through innovation, WhiteWater is pleased to announce that Rick Briggs and his company Interactive Entertainment Concepts LLC have joined forces to develop and deliver the next generation of interactive play products. With his proven record of industry firsts, Briggs will lead a visionary team at WhiteWater to develop revolutionary new products including SplashQuest, an interactive wet play quest featured throughout the waterpark.

“WhiteWater has always been the leader in waterpark design and attractions,” said

Briggs. “We worked together in the late 90s to create the AquaPlay line of products, which has dominated the industry for the last ten years in interactive play. So we thought we would repeat that same winning combination to introduce the next big thing for the waterpark industry—SplashQuest.”

WhiteWater CEO Geoff Chutter affirms: “We are delighted to partner with Rick Briggs on such a breakthrough venture, as Briggs’ vision of aligning live action technology with waterpark design and development parallels WhiteWater’s dedication to delivering the next generation of waterpark products.”

Aquatic Development Group completes acquisition of Alpine Products

COHOES, N.Y.—Aquatic Development Group, Inc. (ADG) a leader in the design and manufacture of engineered recreation and amusement systems, announced on April 19 that it has completed its asset purchase of Alpine Products. The only U.S. manufacturer of mountain coasters and the redesigned Superslide, Alpine Products has earned a reputation as a leader in product safety and innovation.

“Ski resorts and mountain attractions the world over are looking to expand and diversify their revenue strategies.” said Ken Ellis, president and CEO of ADG. “With Alpine Products we can offer a wider range of revenue-producing solutions from mountain coasters to FlowRiders, to entire waterparks.” Ellis is also affiliated with the ski industry through his ownership interest in Camelback Mountain Resort in Tannersville, Pa.

Mountain coasters have become an increasingly attractive investment for ski resorts and mountain attractions. Low-risk, easy to install and inexpensive to operate, these rides provide a clear path to return on investment in as few as 24 months. Operational all



Alpine Products mountain coaster is popular among ski resorts. COURTESY ADG

year long, they are ideal attractions for non-skiers and are fun and exciting for the entire family.

Attitash Mountain in N.H. opened an Alpine Products’ Mountain Coaster in 2010. Owner Tim Boyd commented, “The Alpine Mountain Coaster is certainly a great ride.” He added, “The acquisition by ADG is a positive development for the future success of this product.”

Alpine has signed two agreements for mountain coasters in recent weeks. Camelback Mountain Resort of Tannersville, Pa. and West Mountain Resort of Queensbury, N.Y. both plan installations in the 2011-2012 season.



The Texas version of Legoland Discovery Center includes a Texas-themed Miniland, complete with the Texas Star Ferris Wheel and Dallas TV icon Southfork Ranch to name just a few of the Lego-built models. AT / GARY SLADE

Legoland Discovery Center opens in Grapevine, Texas

STORY: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

GRAPEVINE, Texas — Merlin Entertainments Group opened its newest Legoland Discovery Center at the Grapevine Mills Mall on Wednesday, March 30, 2011. The \$12 million, 35,000 square-foot attraction is the second Legoland Discovery Center in the United States and fifth in the world. Situated north of the airport midway between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, the Legoland Discovery Center, geared toward children ages 3 to 12 and their families, offers its visitors a fun, highly interactive and educational experience with multiple attractions to offer hours of entertainment.

On Kingdom Quest, an interactive laser dark ride, guests join the Good King’s army and climb aboard a chariot for a battle against evil skeletons and giant trolls. The chariots pause before movie screens for a short story that sets the scene for the upcoming battle. Riders will encounter four movie screens and four battle engagements as their chariot twists and turns through the dark labyrinth.

Merlin’s Apprentice is a “Magic Bike” ride where guests go round and round pedaling as fast as they can to help Merlin conjure his magic. The goal is to reach for the skies in hopes of becoming Merlin’s top apprentice.

The Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex is represented in miniature form in the spectacular Miniland. Nearly 1.5 million bricks form skyscrapers, buildings and the iconic landmarks of the area. Chil-



Keys to the new Legoland discovery Center were handed over to Iain Scouler, who jumped in a box of giant Legos to show media members all the fun children would have building and creating with the famous colored bricks.

dren and out-of-towners will easily recognize D/FW airport, Rangers Ballpark, Cowboys Stadium, The Texas Star Ferris Wheel at Fair Park, Reunion Tower and perhaps even The Great Wolf Lodge. Sharp-eyed locals will spot the more obscure buildings such as Fort Worth’s Kimbell Art Museum, and the Dallas Meyerson Symphony Center. Whimsical details include Star Wars stormtroopers sitting in Cowboys Stadium, The Simpsons sitting in the Ballpark and SpongeBob Squarepants swimming in the

fountain at Dallas City Hall. Night falls every few minutes and the Lego D/FW buildings come to life with interior lighting that mimics a true nighttime skyline.

The Lego Studios 4D cinema is a large, comfortable 91-seat theater with stadium-style seating. 3D glasses provide the usual depth of vision effects as the action unfolds in 3D and flurries of wind, rain, lightning and even snow inside the theater bring the fourth dimension to the movie

► See DISCOVERY, page 20

MEDIA BASED INTERACTIVE DARK RIDE



Reference in picture: LEGOLAND Discovery Centre, Manchester, UK

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►DISCOVERY

Continued from page 18

experience. Each of the four films features Lego characters, and the movies were custom made exclusively for the Legoland brand of theme parks and centers.

Thousands of bricks are waiting for guests in the Lego Racers: Build & Test Zone. Here visitors assemble their own race car, then test them out on the speed car test track.

Other attractions include a factory tour, Princess Parlor karaoke room, a large three story climbing structure playground with tunnels, nets and slides; and celebration rooms where guest can make a memory by hosting a birthday party or other special event.

Of course, no Legoland Discovery Center would be complete without Legos, and there are plenty here, more than two million, large and small, traditional, and soft and spongy. "When visitors step inside Legoland Discovery Center Dallas/Fort Worth, they will feel like they have just jumped into the biggest box of Legos ever," said Iain Scouller, general manager.

The facility includes a special laundry center, and bricks are continuously rotated as bricks are picked up and washed, and clean bricks brought in. The average brick is washed about every two days.

A Legoland Cafe serves up coffee, tea and beverages as well as snacks and hot or cold full meals for the whole family. Complimentary newspapers and cappuccino machines can provide a respite for adults while their children continue to partake in the many activities offered at the center.

A large Lego shop allows visitors to leave with boxes of Lego bricks and kits, or the very latest Lego product, including some exclusive Lego items. The store is accessible from the mall and does not require admittance into the Discovery Center.

Several manufacturers and suppliers were utilized along with the Legoland's own creative team to make the center a reality. The dark ride project was overseen by 3DBA and partners including Alterface and Threshold Animation Studios. The specially designed five-person vehicles

(with theater-style seating that allows for a free shooting field in front of each riders) were supplied by ETF. Merlin did the theming and overall design. The films for the Lego Studios 4D cinema were supplied by S.D. Entertainment and Threshold Animation Studios. The Merlin's Apprentice attraction is a Magic Bikes ride supplied by Zamperla.

Also in the mall and currently under development is the Sea Life Aquarium, situated across from the Legoland Discovery Center. Sea Life, the world's number one aquarium brand is expected to open in July. Once open, Grapevine Mills Mall will be the world's first location to have a dual Discovery Center/Sea Life combination attraction.

The Legoland parks and properties and Sea Life aquariums are owned by Merlin Entertainments Group, the leading name in location based, family entertainment. Merlin is Europe's number one, and the world's second largest visitor attraction operator, with 62 attractions and 6 hotels in 12 countries across three continents.



3DBA, Alterface, Threshold and ETF all worked with Merlin Entertainments to create this trackless dark ride for the new Legoland Discovery Center in Grapevine, Texas. AT / GARY SLADE

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Structural Technologies continues Thunder Road's rehab

Carowinds coaster in fourth year of rehab program

STORY: Scott Rutherford
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

CHARLOTTE, N.C.— Leonard Adams and his crew from Structural Technologies, Inc. recently completed their latest stint at Carowinds, which included the Pennsylvania-based company's contribution to the extensive rehabilitation of the park's signature wooden racing coaster, Thunder Road.

Now in its fourth year of a major five-to-six-year overhaul that included a complete rebuilding of certain sections, Thunder Road is once more ready for passengers. But getting one of Carowinds' most popular attractions in proper working order took the efforts of a dedicated team.

Amusement Today visited Carowinds in late March just as STI, on site since Jan. 3, was wrapping up and preparing to head to its next project. "We're really impressed with the amount of money, time and energy Cedar Fair is investing in Thunder Road," said Structural Technologies' Leonard Adams III as he stood with his father atop the 93-foot lift hill surveying freshly installed lumber. "Last year, 600 feet of this ride's structure was rebuilt from the ground up. This encompassed the two back turns and the approach to the top of the next hill. This year, we concentrated on the front end of the coaster. Despite losing over two weeks of work to bad weather, we replaced 1,200 feet of track, which included the lift hill, first drop and all the way to the crest of the second hill. Along with several major up-

right supports, everything in that 1,200-foot-span, from the ledgers up, is new including lift chains and idler wheels, hand rails, walkboards and, of course, track stacks and running steel."

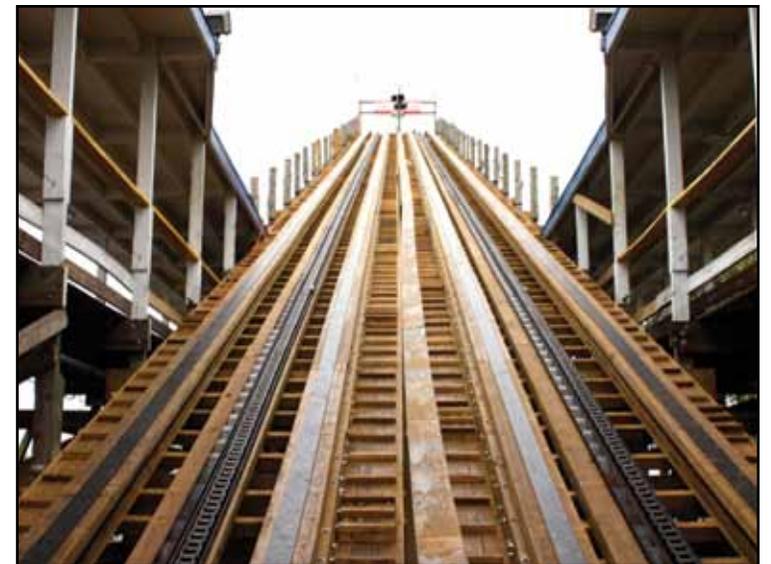
Adams went on in detail as to what Structural Technologies did to get Thunder Road ready for the 2011 season:

- Replaced 95 percent of the ledgers.
- Increased the track stack from seven layers to eight for added durability and longevity.
- Tightened the space between track ties to 30 inches (some were previously up to 48 inches apart).
- Running steel width was increased to six inches from the original 3.5 inches.
- Central walkboards between the track were added to assist in maintenance worker safety.

AT also spoke with Carowinds' Director of Maintenance and Construction Jamie Gaffney about the park's wooden coaster overhaul project. "The major aspects of Thunder Road's rehab will be complete by the end of 2012," said Gaffney. "The next section we'll work on will be the low hills that lie between the new second hill and the recently-rebuilt back turns. After that, we'll scale it back to typical maintenance work where we'll go in and replace

400 feet of track or address structural work where the loads are more dynamic."

At press time, STI crews were packing up to head to New York's Coney Island to prepare the Cyclone for its traditional Palm Sunday debut. They were also in the final stages of securing the contract to return to Conneaut Lake Park and continue the work started last season when they replaced 350 feet of track on the historic Blue Streak.



Thunder Road, Carowinds' signature wooden racing coaster, is the final stages of a comprehensive overhaul. For the 2011 season, Pennsylvania-based Structural Technologies, Inc. rebuilt 1,200 feet of track that included the lift hill, first drop and all the way to the crest of the second hill. Below, Leonard Adams and Leonard Adams III pause for a moment, and across state lines, atop their company's latest project, the ongoing restoration.

AT / SCOTT RUTHERFORD

Thunder Road: A 'colorful' history

Constructed in 1976, Carowinds' Thunder Road is a virtual duplicate of Kings Dominion's Rebel Yell and the younger cousin of Kings Island's Racer. This coaster is iconic not only due to the fact that it straddles the N.C./S.C. state line but because its original rolling stock originated at Chicago's storied Riverview Park. These spectacular, articulated trains were built in-house in 1963 by the Riverview staff for the John Allen/PTC-built Jetstream, the beloved park's final coaster.

While incredibly comfortable and stylish with their auto-themed nose cones, the Riverview trains proved far too heavy. They punished the track and structure with more weight than it was designed to withstand. After only a few seasons of operation these beautiful trains were shamefully scrapped and replaced with more conventional cars supplied by Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc.

Though Thunder Road is the youngest of the three Cedar Fair wooden racing coasters, it is the only one that has required such a drastic and comprehensive rebuilding. Industry experts



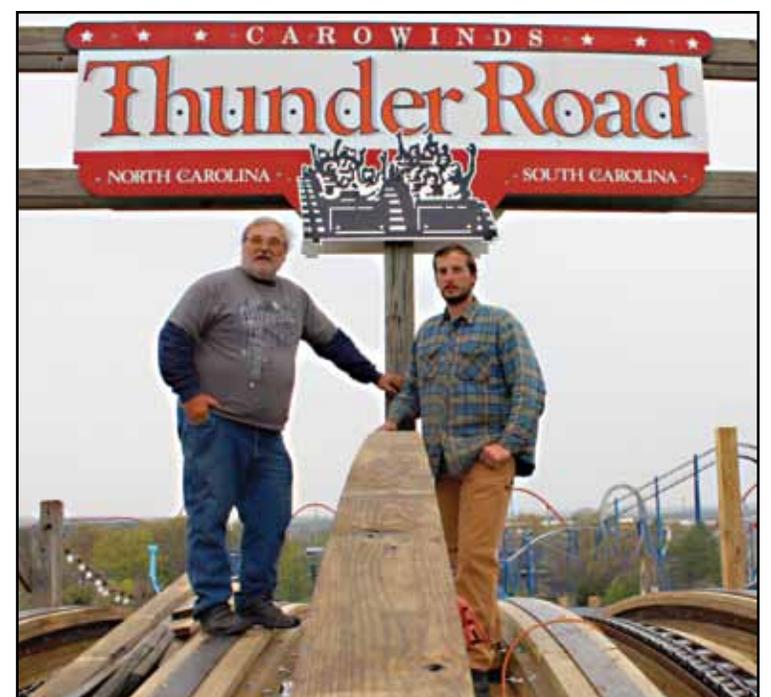
Thunder Road opened in 1976 with articulated trains that originated on the Jetstream at Chicago's Riverview Park. Though beautiful and quite comfortable, they proved too heavy and were replaced with standard PTC rolling stock. COURTESY SCOTT RUTHERFORD ARCHIVES

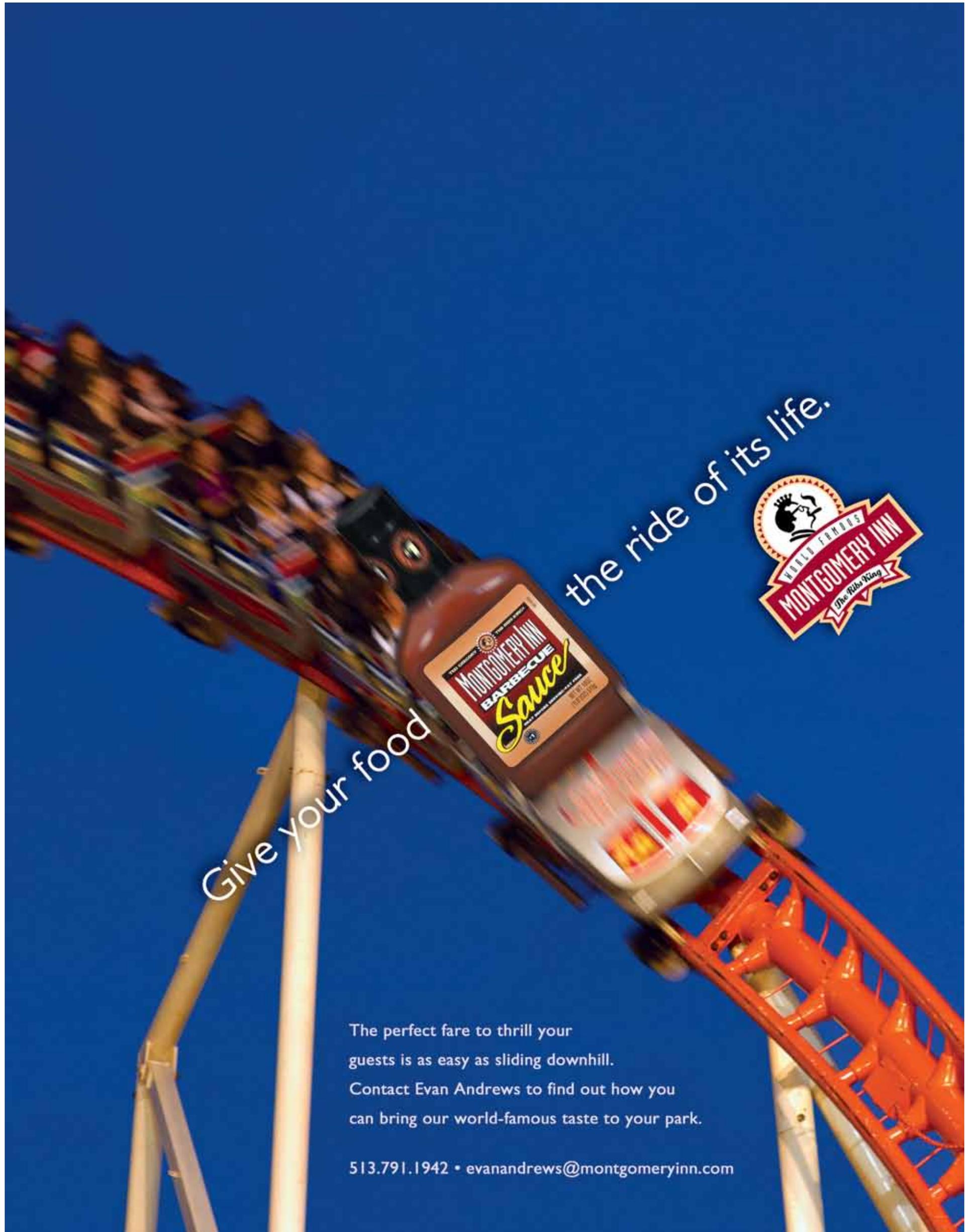
AT consulted point to the fact that unlike the Racer and Rebel Yell, which are both continually painted a brilliant white as their designers intended, Thunder Road's original paint was sandblasted away by its previous owner. This puzzling folly resulted not only in removing the paint but it also abraded the surface of the Douglas Fir, destroying much of the wood's original protectant. With little defense against the elements, this accelerated the deterioration of the wooden structure that eventually resulted in the current

overhaul.

All of the new wood being used in the coaster's restoration has been treated with advanced water sealants and other protectants prior to kiln drying that will ensure its operation for many years to come. Despite the effort to return the ride to its former glory, Carowinds officials have stated they have no plans to paint Thunder Road in its original color scheme — white structure with red track and blue handrails.

—Scott Rutherford





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WATERPARKS & RESORTS

INDOOR FACILITIES AQUATIC CENTERS RECREATION SUPPLIERS

Waterplay structures, thrill slides popular in 2011

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

More and more waterparks seem to be installing children's play structures for the 2011 season, but that isn't all they are doing.

AT's 2011 Waterpark Roundup continues:

Ocean Breeze Waterpark, Virginia Beach, Va.

In March, AT passed along the announcement of new ownership of this Virginia Beach waterpark. Now, that new ownership (Kieran Burke and Gary Story, owners of Nashville Shores and both former Six Flag executives) has announced some of the new plans for renovations and improvements that are scheduled to be complete when the park opens its 2011 season on May 27.

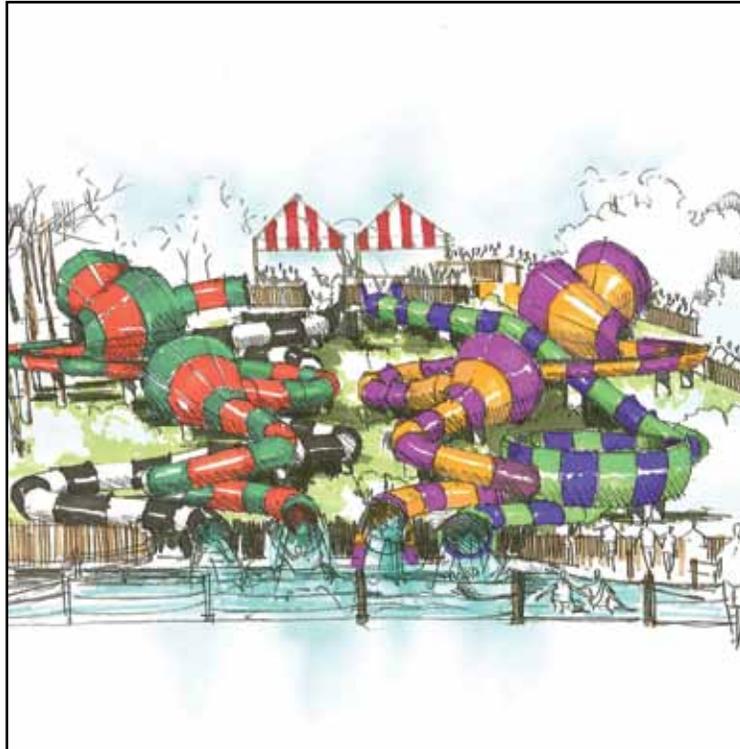
2011 WATERPARK ROUNDUP

One new slide attraction, called Neptune's Revenge, is actually a four-slide complex from ProSlide Technology, Ottawa, Canada.

All entry points to the slide start at the top and riders are able to choose which descent. Riders will grab a one- or two-person tube, then maneuver through dark, enclosed serpentine tunnels, multiple open and closed funnels and high-speed drops. Two slides incorporate Topsy-Turvey funnel flumes, and a third slide features a section known as the Bulletbowl.

The slide complex is known as ProSlide's Mach 4. Ocean Breeze management is boasting that the closest similar slide to this one is in New York and Iowa, and that the Ocean Breeze version is the only one in the country to contain two Topsy-Turvey flumes. All others have one.

The children's play area is also being upgraded with a new play structure that will be packed with interactive features like sprayers, a slide and a large tipping bucket on top.



The new owners of Ocean Breeze Waterpark, Virginia (Va.) Beach, have announced some of the improvements that will be made to that park for this season. Among them are a new attraction that combines four different slides. The equipment for the installation is being supplied by ProSlide Technology Inc. COURTESY OCEAN BREEZE

Whitewater West Industries, B.C., Can., is the supplier for what the park will call Hook's Lagoon.

Other improvements include enhancements to the million-gallon Runaway Bay Wave Pool and numerous aesthetic and architectural renovations throughout the park to create a Caribbean theme. Six more private cabanas are being added.

This multi-million dollar facelift for 2011 is only the start of new things to come for Ocean Breeze, according to the owners.

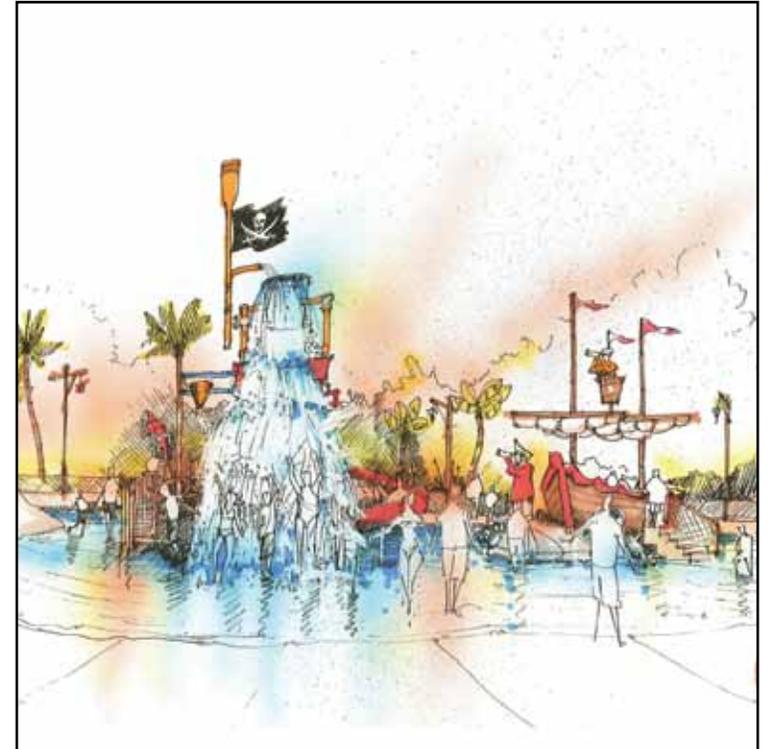
Splashwater Kingdom, Canton, Texas and Splashwater Kingdom, Shreveport, La.

Johnny Blevins, owner of these two waterparks, has new additions going into each park for this season.

For the Canton facility, Blevins, along with his son, Brett, came up with an idea of a volcano slide. Working with his engineers, the team created the ride that will have two slides that drop down into a pool of water. The equipment

for the new attraction was supplied by Fibrart S.A. de C.V., Jalisco, Mexico.

"At the top, there will be sprays of water to simulate the spraying of lava and we are using equipment to add some turbulence to the splash pool,"



Ocean Breeze's new play structure for the 2011 season is being called Hook's Lagoon. Manufactured by Whitewater West Industries, the structure will include interactive features and a tipping bucket on top. COURTESY OCEAN BREEZE

said Marci Blevins, Johnny Blevins' wife. "We are adding red LED lights to the water to make it look more like lava."

The new attraction is located in the Paradise Island area of the waterpark.

In February 2010, the

Blevins family bought Water Town USA, Shreveport, La., and reopened it as another Splash Kingdom Waterpark on Memorial Day last year.

Marci Blevins said the first thing they did to the Shreveport park after purchasing it was refurbish all the slides and "really the whole park." They also added a children's castle for a toddler play area.

Those improvements were completed for the opening of the 2010 season.

"This year we are adding a new slide tower for the children's area," she said, adding Fibrart is also supplying the equipment for this new attraction.

There are now a total of 12 attractions in the Canton park and 15 in the Shreveport park.

Mulligan's Family Fun Center, Murrieta, Calif.

The Mulligan Family Fun Center is adding another way for its patrons to have fun. Now, along with the miniature golf, go-karts, arcade, and Lazer Tag, park management is working on the first phase

► See PARKS, page 26



Construction of the new volcano slide attraction at Splashwater Kingdom, Canton, Texas, is scheduled for completion at the first of May. Waterpark owner Johnny Blevins and his son, Brett, designed the attraction and worked with his engineers to create it. The equipment came from Fibrart S.A. de C.V., Jalisco, Mexico. COURTESY SPLASH KINGDOM

Have waterpark news of interest? E-mail it to gslade@amusementtoday.com.

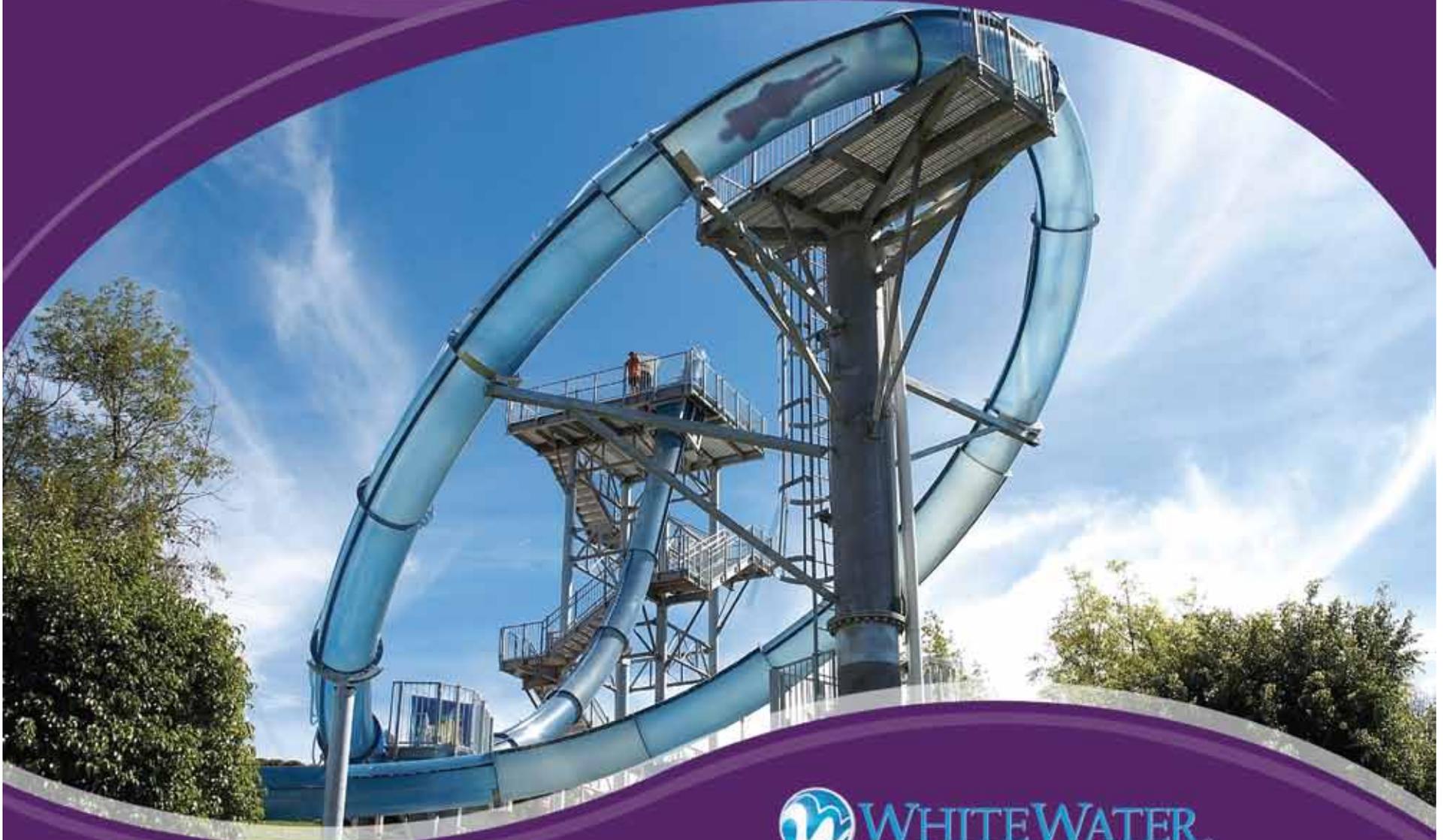


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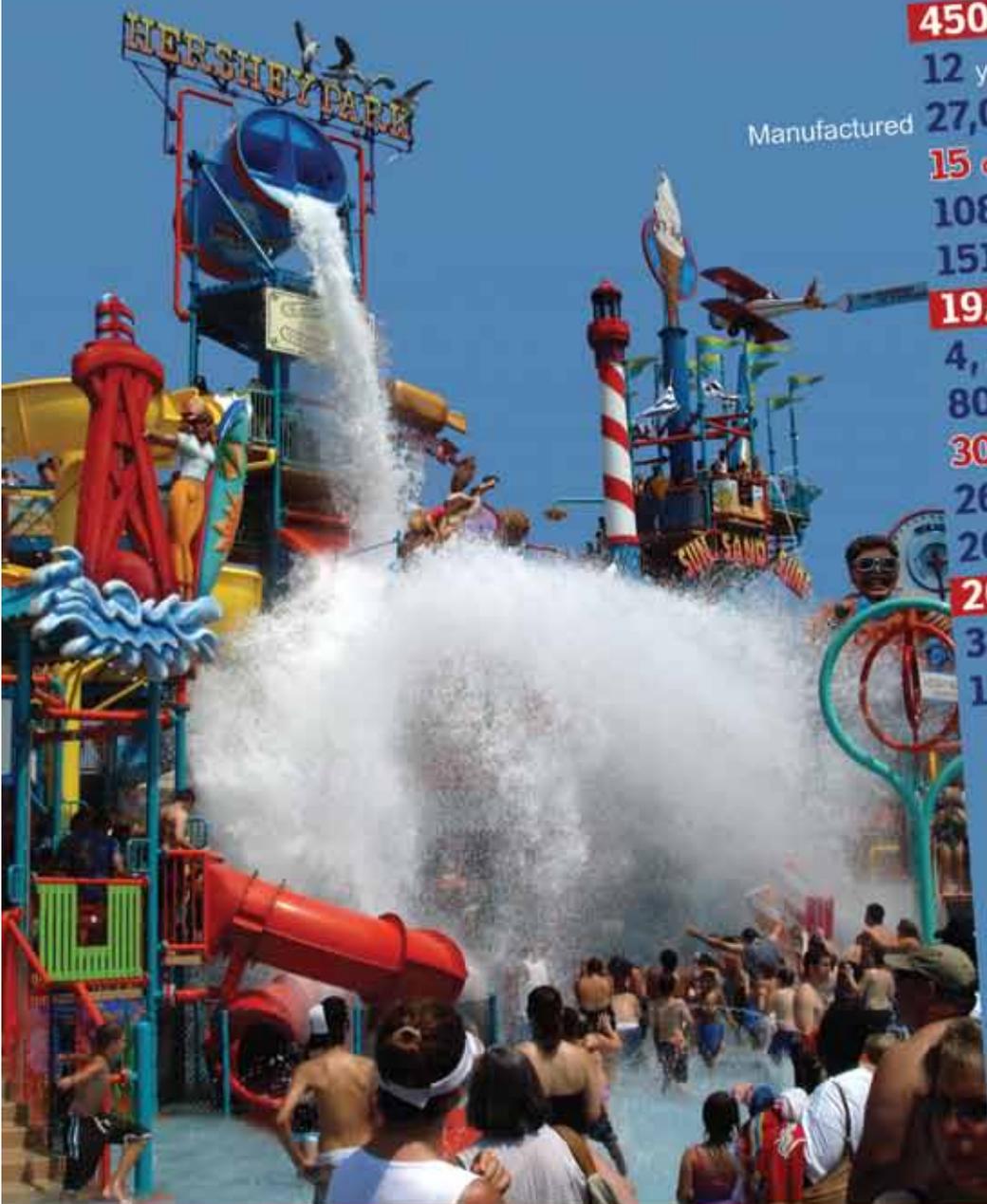
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► PARKS

Continued from page 23

of a new waterpark.

The first phase will consist of an attraction that will feature five speed slides, multi-level platforms, interactive aquatic controls, vibrant colors, spray nozzles, and a Big Splash Pumping Station.

The waterslides are geared to families with children between ages three to 13 years old.

Rick Bastrup, R&R Creative Design, Anaheim, Calif., said his company is working with Mulligan's on the theming of this water attraction. Arihant of India was chosen as the supplier of the equipment and Duncan Design, Santa Rosa, Calif., was selected to provide construction design, manufacturing of all elements and installation.

"Mulligan's has a western



Mulligan Family Fun Center, Murrieta, Calif., will open the first phase of a new waterpark this summer. The attraction will consist of five speed slides, multi-level platforms, interactive aquatic controls, vibrant colors, spray nozzles and a Big Splash Pumping Station. Mulligan is working with R&R Creative Amusement Designs, Anaheim, Calif., for theming; Duncan Design, Santa Rosa, Calif., for construction, design, manufacturing of elements and installation; and Arihant, a company based in India, for the equipment. COURTESY R&R CREATIVE

theme so they requested we continue with that," Bastrup said. "We worked with the manufacturer and project engineer to secure all the elevations so we could develop thematic sets and elements that

would work with their equipment."

Bastrup is now working closely with Duncan Design to art direct the construction of the elements and the installation of the thematic elements.

The new attraction is slated to open sometime this spring.

According to local news reports, the Murrieta Mulligan's has a five-year plan to become a full waterpark with,

perhaps, a lazy river and other water attractions. Plans are to keep some of the existing activities at the fun center while others will go to make way for the waterpark.



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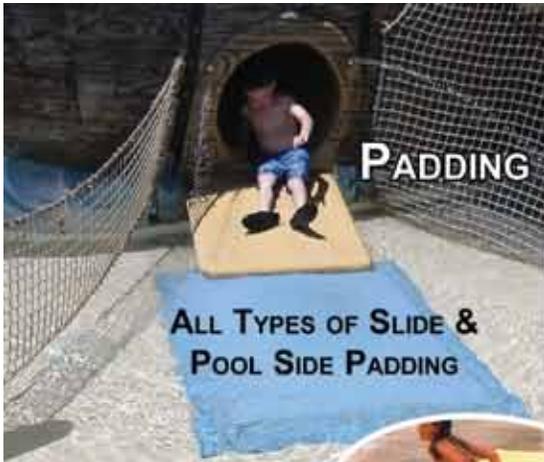
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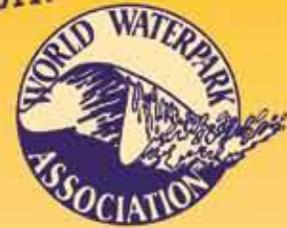
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BRIEF

DAFE names top Disney attractions

VIENNA, Ohio—The Haunted Mansion and Disney's Magic Kingdom topped the Darkride and Funhouse Enthusiasts' 2011 member's survey which this year asked members of the international club to name their favorite Disney attractions. A variety of rides and attractions from Disney parks around the world received votes with the following being the Top Ten Favorites:

- No. 10, Expedition Everest, Disney's Animal Kingdom, Orlando, Fla.;
 - No. 9, Splash Mountain, Magic Kingdom, Orlando, Fla.;
 - No. 8, Indiana Jones - Temple of the Forbidden Eye, Disneyland, Anaheim, Calif.;
 - No. 7, Space Mountain, Magic Kingdom, Orlando, Fla.;
 - No. 6, Dinosaur, Disney's Animal Kingdom, Orlando, Fla.;
 - No. 5, Haunted Mansion, Disneyland, Anaheim, Calif.;
 - No. 4, Pirates of the Caribbean, Disneyland, Anaheim, Calif.;
 - No. 3, Pirates of the Caribbean, Magic Kingdom, Orlando, Fla.;
 - No. 2, Twilight Zone Tower of Terror, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Orlando, Fla., and
 - No. 1, Haunted Mansion, Magic Kingdom, Orlando, Fla.
- www.dafe.org.

NEAAPA spring meeting attendees honor Hall of Fame inductees, attend sessions and network

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Members of the New England Association Amusement Parks & Attractions honored two new additions to the organizations Hall of Fame during this spring's 85th Annual Meeting held here, March 29-30.

The induction was just one of the highlights during the annual meeting. The event is packed with educational sessions, receptions and plenty of opportunities to network with colleagues.

"We had over 125 members at our meeting this year," said Alan Ramsay, NEAAPA secretary and with CLM Entertainment, Cumberland, R.I. "That is about average for



Fred L. Markey
NEAAPA 2011
Hall of Fame

us. We have between 108-110 business members."

Inducted into the Hall of Fame this spring were the late Fred L. Markey, president,



Kate (Horner) Wall
NEAAPA 2011
Hall of Fame

Dodgem Corporation, Warwick, R.I., and Kate (Horner) Wall, formerly with Lake Compounce, Bristol, Conn., and Riverside Park, New

York, N.Y.

The spring meeting, held at the Renaissance Hotel, kicked off with early March 29 with registration and educational sessions. Sessions presented throughout the meeting were: "Don't be Thrown for a Loop: Overcoming Legal Issues Unique to the Amusement Industry," presented by Erik Beard, Day Pitney, LLP; "Strengthening Your Brand in Today's Marketplace," presented by Dorothy Lewis, Fun Station Associates; "Fast Track to Group Sales," by Sheryl Bindelglass, Sherylgolf; "Do You Hear What I Hear?" by Steve McPherson, CPP, CFI; "ASTM International & The Amusement Industry," by Len Morrissey, ASTM F24

▶ See NEAAPA, page 35

Europa Park introduces coaster-inspired FoodLoop restaurant



For the 2011 season, Europa-Park introduced its new FoodLoop restaurant. Thomas Mack, head of hotels and gastronomy, demonstrates the concept, which features a roller coaster-inspired tubular track system that delivers food and drink to individual guests' tables. COURTESY EUROPA PARK

GERMANY—Europa-Park kicked off the 2011 season with the final component to its popular Europa-Park Historama attraction that opened last summer. More than 35 years of Germany's biggest theme park's history is highlighted within the park's landmark gold-and-blue pyramid. And with the construction of FoodLoop, the re-design of this park favorite is now complete. The innovative concept offers themed cuisine of the highest order. With 215 seats on two floors and an unimpeded sight line over the park, the FoodLoop constitutes yet another highlight in Europa-Park's varied culinary offerings.

When entering the new restaurant, visitors will find more than just food. Shiny steel tubular tracks wind

down from the upper floor and through the room to reach each table. Cooking pots and bottles rush through tight bends and head directly towards the loop on an intricate track layout and then to each table.

FoodLoop offers 130 seats on the first floor and 65 seats on the second. Additionally, a showman wagon, which has been turned into a coffee bar, also seats 20 guests. Each table is equipped with three modern touchscreens that allow guests to order numerous dishes and drinks. When the order is complete, a vertical lift transports the pots and bottles upwards so that they can speed down elaborate tracks and reach their corresponding table.

▶ See FOODLOOP, page 35

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COMPILED: Scott Rutherford, srutherford@amusementtoday.com

New York's **Darien Lake Theme Park Resort** opens for the 2011 season on May 14 with new family cabins, six new live shows and three in-park concerts that will feature American Idol winner Jordin Sparks and Nickelodeon star Miranda Cosgrove. In addition, the park will introduce *Thomas & Friends Full Steam Ahead Live!*, an interactive show for kids, and the Family Care Center, which will provide baby changing centers, nursing stations for mothers and enhanced family bathrooms.

Entertainment Safety Solutions is a new company formed by three former Six Flags employees that offers products and services designed to improve organizational safety cultures and reduce losses due to accidents in the amusement industry. The ESS trio's industry expertise includes more than 80 years experience in Safety, Operations, Risk Management and Human Resources. More details: www.entertainmentsafetysolutions.com.

Kennywood Park opens for its 114th season on May 7. Kiddieland will feature a new midway constructed of brick pavers that leads to a new building offering convenience and comfort to both parents and kids including new snack options and a set of family restrooms with changing tables. Kennywood's historic Parkside Café, built in 1898, will now feature air conditioning, as well as larger and improved restroom facilities.

Comedian Bert Kreischer, host of Travel Channel reality show *Bert the Conqueror*, will travel to **Holiday World & Splashin' Safari** in May to 'conquer' two of the world's top-ranked rides – The Voyage roller coaster and Wildebeest water coaster. The park conducted open auditions by video and e-mail for families to ride along with Bert. The Holiday World episode is expected to air in June.

For the 2011 season, **Indiana Beach Amusement Resort** will introduce its third section, Adventure Point. Joining the Boardwalk Funway Rides and Ideal Beach Waterpark at Indiana Beach, Adventure Point is home to new Zip Lines, a high ropes course, rock climbing and the new Adventure Point Outfitters shop. Adventure Point is part of a multi-year, multi-million dollar expansion and improvement plan that includes a new entrance plaza, remodeled and upgraded restrooms and facilities.

The Philadelphia Zoo recently announced that GDF SUEZ Energy Resources, the retail energy business of GDF SUEZ Energy North America, will supply its electricity for the next two years, beginning with 25 percent of the Zoo's electricity consumption offset by renewable energy certificates (RECs). RECs represent the environmental attributes of electricity generated from wind, solar or other renewable power facilities. The RECs, which are Green-e Energy Certified, will be donated to the Zoo by GDF SUEZ Energy Resources and will displace an estimated 3,195,990 pounds of carbon dioxide per year – the equivalent of taking 314 cars off the road. In utilizing the certificates, the Zoo will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage development of domestic sources

of cleaner, renewable energy.

Disney Cruise Line has confirmed that the Disney Magic will sail 12 seven-night cruises from the Port of Galveston to the Western Caribbean beginning Sept. 22, 2012. Ports of call include Grand Cayman and Mexico's Costa Maya and Cozumel. Disney's Magic will join the Carnival Cruise Lines' ship called Carnival Magic, which begins sailing from Galveston on Nov. 14. Carnival's Triumph will also begin sailing out of Galveston on Oct. 6. Carnival's Ecstasy and Conquest now sail out of Galveston but will be repositioned to New Orleans.

Six Flags St. Louis is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2011. The third park in the Six Flags chain will allow guests visiting this season to relive some of the history through 'Then and Now' signs located throughout the park and at the Gallery of Thrills in the Palace Theater Lobby. These displays will showcase photos and videos of the past 40 years. The first 400 guests that entered the park on the 2011 opening day received a complimentary ticket to return for the official Anniversary Celebration on June 5. The first 10,000 guests on that day will receive a commemorative 40th Anniversary souvenir and will be invited to enter a contest to win a Ruby and Diamond Pendant provided by Clarkson Jewelers. Guests will also be invited to enjoy a giant 40th Anniversary cake.

With tens of thousands of votes cast, **ProSlide's HydroMagnetic Rocket** took the top award in the much acclaimed About.com's Readers Choice Award for Best New Water Park Ride. The ride that took the top honor was the 'Wildebeest' at Holiday World Splashin' Safari as the longest, and clearly the best, water coaster in the world.

Nik Wallenda, a seventh generation member of the legendary 'Great Wallendas' circus family, kicked off the **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's** Spring Break with two jaw-dropping stunts on April 16, 2011. Wallenda walked on top of the Boardwalk's spinning Ferris Wheel and rode a motorcycle ride up a wire from the beach to the top of the 125-foot Double Shot tower ride and back. Nik's wife Erendira, of the famous Flying Vasquez family of trapeze artists, hung from a trapeze under the motorcycle during the hair-raising ride.

Shareholders of **The Walt Disney Company** have re-elected its entire board including Apple CEO Steve Jobs, despite concerns over his health and poor attendance at company board meetings. Proxy advisory firm Glass Lewis & Co. had recommended voting against Jobs' re-election because he failed to attend 75 percent of the board meetings in fiscal 2010. Jobs became Disney's largest shareholder after the company purchased Pixar Animation Studios in 2006 for \$7.4 billion in stock. Jobs, who bankrolled Pixar when it was a fledgling movie house, now holds 7.3 percent stake in Disney. After the vote, Disney said that it "considers itself fortunate to have Steve Jobs as a member of its board of directors." Despite his spotty attendance record, Jobs has had a significant influence on Disney's digital strategy, as evidenced by its many iPad applications.

Fresh Look - Validator 100

STORY: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Fresh Look is a seasonal feature that spotlights a first-time exhibitor at the past IAAPA trade show. *Amusement Today* sought out new and engaging vendors that may not have caught the eye of everyone at the show. As *AT* concludes this feature this issue, be sure to take note of some new ideas from this and past columns that just might be a good fit for your park.



Michael Merbach

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What is it?

Validator 100 is a counterfeit detection device that instantly confirms if a currency bill is authentic or not. In addition, it also detects whether a credit card is counterfeit.

[Of note, at the IAAPA show the product was marketed as MoneyCop. Since the November show, the product has been updated and rebranded Validator 100. Improvements to the device include a different activation switch that gives a longer battery life that an employee can't accidentally drain; it's more durable, making it long lasting even if dropped numerous times; and a light has also been added so that verification can be done in noisy places where the beep alone may not be heard easily.]

What made Amusement Today take notice?

It was alarming to see demonstrated how many counterfeit bills passed various tests, including the very common detection marker seen in stores. The simple, efficient and compact nature of the product was a home run. Because Validator 100 detects the magnetic ink in authentic currency, it can detect fraudulent bills printed on washed currency. An ultraviolet light also helps pinpoint the identification strip within the bill for verification as well as revealing the authenticity markings in credit cards that can only be seen under ultraviolet light.

Amusement Today talked to Michael Merbach, Validator 100 vice president,



about their first time at the show:

How was your first IAAPA experience?

"We loved the show. It was very successful."

Did the show meet your expectations?

"Unbelievably yes! I've built relationships in North Carolina, Missouri and Ohio just from the show."

What does your product bring to the industry?

"Validator 100 is needed to protect the vendors from fraud and counterfeiting. Where the industry is vulnerable is they are a point of sale. Sometimes they are in a booth or cart with no electricity. Validator 100 is portable. It's cost efficient."

What is your biggest success story from the show?

"Bounces to Go! Toby Johnson is a super guy. He really believes in our product."

What advice would you give a first time exhibitor?

"Don't be afraid to get out there and talk to people. It's truly great."

Editor's note: Although remarketed as Validator 100, a demonstration of the device can still be seen on YouTube under MoneyCop.

Morgan's Wonderland celebrates first birthday

SAN ANTONIO – Special events throughout the month of April helped commemorate the first anniversary of Morgan's Wonderland, the world's first ultra-accessible family fun park specifically designed with special-needs kids and adults of all ages in mind.

"It's hard to believe a year has elapsed since we held our grand-opening celebration April 10, 2010," said Gordon Hartman, president and CEO of The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation and the driving force behind completion of the 25-acre, completely wheelchair-accessible park. "We won't soon forget the 10,000 guests who attended that very special event and helped us open the very first park of its kind. Hopefully the events we've planned for April will help rekindle the tremendous excitement that accompanied the opening of Morgan's Wonderland."

Festivities in April includes:

- At 10 a.m. Saturday, April 9, Hartman and 8-year-old Casey Rohrer of Hermosa Beach, Calif., cut a ribbon to signify the start of the birthday celebration. Last November, PCI Education of San Antonio and the WeAreTeachers organization announced Rohrer as one of the winners of a trip to Morgan's Wonderland, part of a national back-to-school contest for special-education students and teachers.

- At 2 p.m., a parade through the park featured wheelchairs, walkers and wagons. Guests were in-



vited to decorate such conveyances and bring them to the park. The parade was followed by a birthday party and special festivities in the The Rapier Trust Starlight Amphitheater.

- On April 16, Morgan's Wonderland helped stage the Texas Regional Games sponsored by U. S. Paralympics and the Southwest Wheelchair Athletic Association. Air guns competition took place at the park's Event Center, while the wheelchair slalom competition was held at The Rapier Trust Amphitheater. An estimated 50 competitors were involved.

- On April 23, author Winifred Barnum-Newman read from and autographed copies of her new book – *Caterpillars Can Fly: The Metamorphosis of Morgan*. The new, colorfully illustrated hardback tells the story of 17-year-old Morgan Hartman and the unique park she inspired for those with special needs, their family members, friends, caregivers and the general

public.

- On Friday, April 29, the Make-A-Wish (MAW) Foundation will observe World Wish Day with a special afternoon in the park for all Wish families from South Texas. More than 1,000 MAW recipients and their families will enjoy Morgan's Wonderland from 4 to 8 p.m.

- On Saturday, April 30, at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m., approximately 100 children performers from Community Bible Church will present "Under God's Sea" at The Rapier Trust Starlight Amphitheater.

Throughout the month of April, Morgan's Wonderland guests were invited to take part in a birthday photo competition. Prizes were awarded for the best photos taken at Morgan's Wonderland.

"Morgan's Wonderland is a special place where anyone can have fun," said Hartman, "but it was created with special-needs individuals in mind. We took an abandoned rock quarry and transformed it into an outdoor recreation oasis for those with cognitive and physical challenges. Unfortunately, countless children and adults with special needs do not have access to facilities that can help them fully enjoy outdoor recreation. Inclusion is our overarching objective. Our vision is to play an instrumental role in helping establish more ultra-accessible family fun parks throughout the nation."

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MARKETWATCH

RIDING THE MARKET



Company	Prices	Prices	52 weeks	
	One Month Ago	04/20/11	High	Low
Cedar Fair L.P.	\$18.62	\$19.20	\$20.00	\$10.99
MGM Mirage	\$12.64	\$13.40	\$16.94	\$8.92
Six Flags Ent. Corp.	\$67.80	\$69.55	\$73.99	\$31.85
CBS Corp.	\$23.25	\$24.60	\$26.17	\$12.26
Walt Disney Co.	\$40.76	\$42.04	\$44.34	\$30.72
Great Wolf Resorts, Inc.	\$2.42	\$2.08	\$3.75	\$1.78
Blackstone Group	\$16.35	\$19.00	\$19.27	\$8.93
Village Roadshow	\$3.39	\$4.17	\$4.45	\$1.82
NBC Universal	\$19.22	\$20.40	\$21.65	\$13.75

CURRENCY



Region (U.S.)	As of 04/18/11	Change from year ago
East Coast	\$4.111	\$1.030
Midwest	\$4.068	\$1.024
Gulf Coast	\$4.033	\$0.999
Mountain	\$4.126	\$1.017
West Coast	\$4.319	\$1.116
California	\$4.440	\$1.212

TOP 7 MOST TRADED CURRENCIES



On 04/20/2011 \$1 USD =

0.70079 EURO
0.61428 GBP (British Pound)
82.50864 JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.89775 CHF (Swiss Franc)
0.95315 AUD (Australian Dollar)
0.96160 CAD (Canadian Dollar)

PEOPLE WATCH

Michael Turner joins Neptune-Benson

Neptune-Benson, Inc., a manufacturer of commercial filtration systems based in Coventry, R.I. has announced the appointment of **Michael Turner** as vice president international business development. He has more than 27 years of experience in the entertainment and attractions industry.

"We are thrilled to have Michael join our team and head up our international business" said Mr. Barry Gertz, president Neptune-Benson. "Michael has extensive knowledge of the international attraction business and has a proven track record in building strong relationships in all markets."

Turner will oversee all aspects of the company's international business operations. His responsibilities will include working to ensure implementation of corporate strategy, extending current market partnerships and defining new markets to enter. He spent the last 14 years at Gateway Ticketing Systems, the world leader in revenue management systems, where he built an international network of sales and support offices. Before that, he founded of Lasergate Systems, the innovator of electronic ticketing and access control for the attractions industry. He was instrumental in the company's public offering.



TURNER

aged marketing for the Red Lobster and Olive Garden family restaurant brands. Frey, who holds a business degree from the University of Florida and an MBA from Stetson University, will report to Dan Brown, chief operating officer for the SeaWorld Brands. He will work out of the company's Orlando headquarters.

"Pete has had a great impact on our Orlando parks in just a few short months. He has keen strategic insights for themed family entertainment," Brown said. "We are confident that under his leadership these great brands will continue to grow and prosper."

Michael Hartman has been named senior marketing officer, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place. Hartman held a variety of senior marketing positions in 13 years at PepsiCo, most recently vice president of marketing for Pepsi Beverages Company in Somers, N.Y.

In his new role, Hartman will oversee marketing programs for Busch Gardens parks in Tampa, Fla. and Williamsburg, Va.; water parks Adventure Island in Tampa and Water Country USA in Williamsburg; and Sesame Place, a Sesame-Street-themed park in Langhorne, Pa. near Philadelphia. Hartman also will manage corporate marketing functions that support the Busch Gardens brands and Sesame Place. He will work out of the company's Orlando headquarters and report to Donnie Mills, chief operating officer, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place.

"We are delighted that Michael will be joining our team. He brings a tremendous amount of creative energy and experience, and a long record of success in marketing consumer goods and managing some of the world's best known brands," said Mills. "He is a great addition to our marketing team."

Replacing Frey as Marketing Vice President for SeaWorld Orlando is **Toni Caracciolo**, formerly the company's corporate head of Brand Management and Advertising. Caracciolo started her SeaWorld career as a public relations representative in 1990. She moved into special event management in 1993 and advertising in 2000. She was chosen to oversee the marketing program for Discovery Cove in 2003 and the company's Aquatica waterpark was added to her responsibility in 2008.



HARTMAN

SeaWorld Parks names new marketing officers

Orlando, Fla.-based SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment named senior marketing officers for its SeaWorld and Busch Gardens theme parks.

Peter Frey, formerly vice president of marketing for SeaWorld Orlando, was promoted to senior marketing officer, SeaWorld Brands. Frey will oversee advertising, promotional marketing, publicity, digital marketing and consumer marketing for SeaWorld parks in Orlando, San Diego and San Antonio, as well as Discovery Cove and Aquatica in Orlando. Frey joined SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment in 2010 after 14 years at Darden Restaurants, where he man-



FREY

OBITUARIES

Firestone Financial's first employee

Ed Yaffee, 74, dies

Ed Yaffee, 74, the first employee of Firestone Financial, Newton, Mass., died suddenly March 27, 2011.

Yaffee was a critical part of Firestone Financial's start and continued growth from 1965 until his retirement in 2000.

As the first employee, Yaffee introduced the company to the distributor network that was instrumental in the growth of the organization. Firestone still benefits from the results of Yaffee's early efforts with continued market leadership in the vending and amusement industry today.

He will be missed by his family, colleagues, and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Eileen, three sons, David, Larry and Eric, and their families.

Funeral arrangements were to be held in March 30, Sharon, Mass.

Disney Imagineer Collin Campbell dies

Celebrated Disney Imagineer Collin Campbell passed away on Saturday, April 2, 2011.

An employee of WED Enterprises, the division of the Walt Disney Company that designs and produces the iconic Disney theme park attractions, Campbell was involved in many aspects of the design of attractions at Disneyland, Walt Disney World, and the international Disney theme parks. His unique renderings of the Haunted Mansion, Jungle Cruise and Pirates of the Caribbean were an integral part of the conceptualization and design of those beloved Disney attractions.

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New park mobile Web site introduced for cell phone

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.— Teamed with Mobile Card Cast, a cutting edge mobile marketing company, High Mountain Enterprises in High Plains, N.Y., has introduced Park Pilot, the first mobile Web site compatible with all cell phones. A new product for the amusement industry, Park Pilot uses technology to enhance the guest experience and provide new marketing tools to management.

Park Pilot represents a new concept in mobile websites. Instead of an app just for iPhones and other smart phones, Park Pilot is a mobile Web site for all cell phones.

The basic features include park information, an interactive map to assist patrons to find various points of interest, a component to allow patrons to organize their visit to enjoy their favorite rides, shows and events, as well as a reminder as to where their car is parked and much more.

•www.highmountainent.com or www.mobilecardcast.com.

▶NEAAPA

Continued from page 31

Committee Staff Liaison & Jim Seay, F24 Committee Chairman; and “The ADA and the Amusement Industry,” panel included Tim Sorge, president, Swings-N-Things, and Stephanie See, IAAPA.

The board meeting, annual business meeting and dinner were held March 29.

The President’s Breakfast was held the morning of March 30. The 2011 NEAAPA officers are: Greg Chieko, Eastern States Expositions, West Springfield, Mass., president; Cory Hutchinson, Funtown Splashtown USA, Saco, Maine, first vice president; and David Sugrue, Centerplate, based in Samford, Conn.

The NEAAPA traces its roots to 1913. It is a member-based, volunteer association with a mission to serve its membership by promoting safe operations, regional development, professional growth and commercial success of the amusement industry in New England.



The FoodLoop restaurant is new this season at Germany’s Europa-Park. The restaurant features 130 seats on the first floor and 65 seats on the second. Touch screens at the tables allows guest to order their food. Orders then arrive to the table via a unique roller coaster looking track system.

COURTESY EUROPA PARK

▶FOODLOOP

Continued from page 31

“It is absolutely important for us to constantly please our guests with surprising and innovating novelties. With this restaurant, we have a worldwide unique product that perfectly fits into Europa-Park. The roller coaster theme is presented in a new manner here and turns into an unforgettable experience for the whole family. We have paired the coaster experience with a wide range of culinary delights including meat, fish and vegetarian dishes as well as snacks,” said Thomas Mack, head of hotels and gastronomy. “Healthy and light delicacies for young and old alike are put in the foreground while regional and seasonal influences guarantee varied delights for the guests’ palate all year round.”



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2010 Golden Ticket survey participants shape thoughts on: The Bucket List - Park Version

STORY: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

In 2007 Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman made a term all the more common in the movie *The Bucket List*. The premise of the movie, as well as the term, was accomplishing key things in your life before you "kick the bucket."

From an industry standpoint, *Amusement Today* asked our 2010 Golden Ticket Awards survey participants a few bucket list questions as to what rides and what parks should be on everyone's list to get to before they kick the bucket. It should be stated that this survey isn't scientific by any means, but just a matter of our panel sharing their experienced thoughts with our readers. *AT* isn't going for anything "official" here, but as the 2011 park season gets underway, it is interesting to note why these items are "list worthy." Letting our panel do most of the talking, here is a mere sampling out of the hundreds of comments they had to say.

The Parks

When it comes to parks, here's a dozen (as a three-way tie of tabulation prevented a top 10) of what places you need to visit. Of note, **Schlitterbahn** was far and away the most mentioned park of any kind. It more than quadrupled all other waterparks combined. Our panel put it this way:

"The end all of waterparks — huge with a wide variety of rides and slides." - D. Ruth;

"There's nothing else like it." - Y. Janik;

"The natural surroundings coupled with the layout of slides; great rides for a waterpark." - S. Cook;

"The waterpark that has redefined the industry." - D. Klawe;

"It is the waterpark that others are judged against." - R. Cook, and

"Home grown "organic" fun. Very few mass-produced rides." - R. Bird.

Knoebels Amusement Resort had legions of fans:

"It's a great old time experience. It's like going back in time." - L. Scheinin;

"There's no place on Earth like it — great rides, friendly staff and delicious food!" - E. Ringas, and

"Traditional park, traditional carousel, Phoenix, Haunted Mansion and great food. Need you ask? Just go!" - R. Ozana.

Cedar Point has taken Best Park on the Golden Tickets for 13 years in a row:

"The sheer size of the park is overwhelming for a first time visit." - A. Sampson;

"They have the most coasters on a great setting on one of the Great Lakes." - M. Luhman;

"Number One in the world for a reason." - M. Kaiser, and

"They have the best coasters on the face of the Earth." - F. Gold.

Disneyland has always stood as a true original:

"It truly makes you feel like a kid again." - J. Marcin;



"The original Disney park is so enchanting. You can't not feel all of the history around you." - M. Scott, and

"Walt's dream made reality that is now the dream of billions." - L. Klimko.

Pleasure Beach Blackpool causes enthusiasts around the world to say this:

"They boast a unique collection of one-of-a-kind rides." - V. Lucas;

"This is one of the nicest traditional parks I've ever been to — ever!" - S. Crosby, and

"Unique, quirky, a total throwback — rides all over the place." - J. Gasper.

Kennywood is an American legend. Our panel comments:

"There's literally no conceivable way to make a bad use of one's time while at Kennywood." - J. Thompson;

"Kennywood has a charm and history unlike any place else, and it has a great combination of great old rides plus good new ones, too." - T. Kelly;

"Visit for historic reasons and a great collection of coasters and unique older rides." - M. Carvalho, and

"Three magnificent woodies dating back to the 1920s that still run extremely well due to extensive maintenance by this great park." - A. Reid.

Splashin' Safari is to waterparks...

"There is nothing but top notch rides." - M. Jackson;

...as **Holiday World** is to amusement parks:

"Holiday World has the friendliest park staff, free drinks, free parking, free sunscreen and the most reasonable prices in an extremely beautiful place." - B. Neal;

"In an era where the world is going crazy, it is great to see a family owned and operated park with family values." - J. Peters and

"It represents what a great day at the park can be like." - M. Kaiser.

Europa Park has captivated guests from around the world:

"Europa Park is an amazingly themed and well run park almost perfect in every way. People should go to see how a park should be." - M. Parker;

"The best park on the planet. They are only missing one key ingredient — a wooden coaster." - B. D. Shaw, and

"The beauty, the special roller coasters, dark rides, the people — excellent!" - J. Mitchell.

Busch Gardens Williamsburg has long been noted for its quality:

"It's not just the most beautiful park ever; there is plenty to do if you are not a thrill rider." - M. Jackson and

"They blend beautiful grounds, great coasters, and lots of animals." - C. Cason.

Noah's Ark was the third

waterpark to be mentioned on this must-do list:

"Noah's Ark is huge. It's the best outdoor waterpark." - T. Petillo.

People had this to say about **Dollywood**:

"The shows are great, the rides are great, and the staff is the best in the world." - J. MacGregor;

"Great southern mountain goodness — clean, great shows, great employees." - S. Cook and

"The most exceptional quality in overall park experience." - D. Collins.

Tokyo Disneyland and **DisneySea** has made many people stand up and take notice:

"Tokyo Disney Resort offers great rides and shows, but the service is what makes the resort stand out. Employees are friendly to a fault." - J. Braziel and

"Tokyo DisneySea has the best and most unique immersive themed experiences. Every inch of the park is worthy of a photo." - R. Turner.

The Rides

When it comes to rides, our list grew to almost exactly 100. To do *all* those noted by our panel of enthusiasts, you would, well, have to be an enthusiast. Here's a good start to give anyone ambitious an unofficial Top 10:

The Coney Island **Cyclone** has stayed legendary for more than 80 years for good reason:

"The granddaddy of them all! Love it or hate it, you have no credibility as a coaster enthusiast until you've ridden it." - J. Pytka;

"The Cyclone is THE coaster that defines the genre." - B. Galvin;

"The standard against which wooden coasters are measured." - C. LaReau, and

"The epitome of the roller coaster." - J. Gerard.

The Voyage at Holiday World rivals Coney Island for a modern day masterpiece:

"I don't think another coaster this intense will be built in my lifetime." - D. Hamburger;

"It leaves you breathless, wanting to go right back in line." - S. Flaharty;

"Ass kicking speed, speed, speed!" - A. Soares;

"A night ride on The Voyage is beyond words — pitch

► See **BUCKET LIST**, page 37

Bucket List (listed in order of ranking)

PARKS

- Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort
- Knoebels Amusement Resort
- Cedar Point
- Disneyland
- Pleasure Beach Blackpool
- Kennywood
- Holiday World & Splashin' Safari
- Europa-Park
- Busch Gardens Williamsburg
- Noah's Ark
- Dollywood
- Tokyo Disneyland

THE RIDES

- Cyclone (Coney Island)
- The Voyage (Holiday World)
- The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man (Universal's Island of Adventure)
- Millennium Force (Cedar Point)
- Bizarro (Six Flags New England)
- Twilight Zone Tower of Terror (WDW's Hollywood Studios)
- The Beast, King's Island
- The Phoenix (Knoebel's)
- Leap The Dips (Lakemont Park)
- Matterhorn Bobsleds, (Disneyland)

HONORABLE MENTION

Wonder Wheel, Deno's Wonder Wheel Park at Coney Island
Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen, Denmark

►BUCKET LIST

Continued from page 36

dark, in the woods, lightning fast and out-of-control." - C. Austin, and

"If you want to experience a real white knuckle, intense air-time-filled ride — The Voyage is it." - B. Cassi.

The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man has long given Universal's Islands of Adventure a Golden Ticket for Best Dark Ride:

"One of few attractions that exceeds expectations." - H. Gillooly;

"Spider-Man really raised the bar for incorporating technology and amazingly visuals." - J. MacGregor and

"Still the cutting edge in virtual simulator rides." - J. Crawley.

Millennium Force at Cedar Point broke the 300-foot barrier in 2000:

"It's a rocket sled on rails!" - J. Peters.

Battling Millennium Force this past decade for top spot on the Steel Coaster charts has been **Bizarro** (formerly Superman Ride of Steel) at Six Flags New England:

"It's one helluva ride — perfect!" - L. Schulz;

"The setting, the tunnels and the airtime!" - S. Holmes;

"The entire ride — incredible!" - R. Lakeman, and

"Bizarro has the most unique steel track layout with great special effects." - B. MacCallum.

Twilight Zone Tower of Terror at Walt Disney World's Hollywood Studios entered Disney into the thrill ride echelon with an amped up "cool" factor:

"Twilight Zone Tower of Terror is never the same. It changes." - D. Damm, and

"Get rid of your demons as your hurtle downward." - author unknown.

The Beast at Kings Island has maintained a reputation among wooden coasters for more than three decades:

"The longest wooden coaster with two lift hills. It must be

Set for September 16 and 17

Holiday World to rollout red carpet for AT's 2011 Golden Ticket Awards

STORY: Janice Witherow
jwitherow@amusementtoday.com

SANTA CLAUS, Ind.—It's a "don't miss" industry occasion, and *Amusement Today* invites you to "save the date" on your fall calendar for its annual Golden Ticket Awards. The two-day event will be hosted this year by the innovative, hospitable and charming Holiday World & Splashin' Safari in Santa Claus, Ind., where the staff is already hard at work preparing to roll out the red carpet for industry attendees on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16-17.

Special behind-the-scenes tours, a luau-style party and cocktail reception are being planned to kick-off the event on September 16. Other activities such as guided park tours, a day of experiencing Holiday World & Splashin' Safari and the anticipated awards' show followed by a special dinner will entertain attendees on September 17.

To check out the general itinerary for the Golden Ticket Awards, please log on to www.goldenticketawards.com. A more specific



agenda for the event, which will outline all of the details (including hotel information and registration), will be released at a later date. This event is reserved for working professionals in the amusement industry; representatives from parks and attractions, manufacturers, suppliers and consultants are invited to join Holiday World and *Amusement Today* at this fun-filled celebration.

This is the 14th annual year for the Golden Ticket Awards; they are presented to the "Best of the Best" in the amusement industry and are calculated from an international poll conducted by *Amusement Today*.

ridden at night." - H. Sykes, and
"The best ending of any wooden coaster." - R. Snyder.

Knoebels' **Phoenix** has stood as not only an amazing preservation story among roller coasters, but a favorite among the coaster elite:

"An awesome traditional wooden coaster that is lots of fun and can be ridden over and over." - L. Colletti;

"A fun, rollicking, tour-de-force of a coaster preservation miracle." - D. Lipnicky, and

"The most true wooden coaster operating today." - A. Lloyd.

Leap the Dips at Lakemont Park is the world's oldest roller coaster and also on the minds of those putting their bucket lists together:

"See what it was like in the old days and appreciate what we have now" - R. Lopate, and

"It's your only chance to ride one like this, and it shows how far coasters have come." - D. Dumez.

Disneyland's **Matterhorn** is a true theme park original:

"Matterhorn was the first tubular steel track coaster and still delivers pure fun without all sorts of over-the-top hype." - O. Dobnick;

"The first tubular steel track coaster created out of necessity is a very fun ride that everyone should try." - J. Hammond, and

"The first tubular steel coaster; still one of the best themed experiences. There's nothing else like it." - R. Turner.

And if you want 10 more, these were also heavily mentioned:

X2 at Six Flags Magic Mountain unquestionably crosses the outrageous barrier;

Magnum XL-200 started a coaster revolution when it passed the 200-foot mark in 1989;

El Toro at Six Flags Great Adventure is a different kind of wooden coaster;

Expedition GeForce at Holiday Park is Germany's (and Europe's) highest rated coaster;

Top Thrill Dragster and **Kingda Ka** offer thrills beyond 400 feet in height;

BoulderDash at Lake Compounce has one of the most unique settings for any roller coaster on the planet;

Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey is the newest ride on our Bucket List, having just opened last year;

Carousels with brass rings (Knoebels' mentioned often) have a definite place on the Bucket List, and

A ride on a classic **Flying Skooter** also is a worthy mention from our panel of experts.

And Finally...

Because of their specific attributes, most of the parks and rides listed on this Bucket List find their way on *AT's* Golden Ticket Awards annually, even if their positions may be juggled differently. It was these signature aspects that make them noteworthy and important for people to seek out. Perhaps parks can take a strong look and strive to attain such lofty goals and incorporate such characteristics to their rides that make them outstanding not just today,

but in the many years ahead.

If *Amusement Today* can add a couple of additions in conclusion, this ride and park had several votes, but just fell slightly below the tabulation totals to make a list. They certainly deserve their place on any Bucket List as well.

Anyone who celebrates amusement parks and rich history has to embrace the marvelous creation that is the **Wonder Wheel** at Deno's Wonder Wheel Park at Coney Island. Monstrous in size and mesmerizing in motion, it is a rite of passage for any New Yorker, a must-do for most tourists, and an ingenious piece of engineering that continues to operate well past the 90-year mark. Tim Melago of Pennsylvania states, "It's a unique, iconic and classic ride that still can give you a real scare."

Likewise, **Tivoli Gardens** in Copenhagen, Denmark has a character so original that it almost defies description. It's more than an amusement park, yet incorporates rides into its striking architecture, lavish gardens and array of eateries. Tucked within them is an old classic scenic railway, one of only nine left in the entire world. This inspirational park has been placed on many lists of places every person should visit sometime during their life, and we find it a fitting end to this wide perspective made possible by our Golden Ticket panel — one of the biggest collections of experienced connoisseurs of the amusement industry. "Tivoli Gardens is historic, beautiful and has something for everyone," says Joe Riznar of Ohio. And who can ask for more than that?

Amusement Today is grateful to the avid park enthusiasts who shared with us their insight. Certainly, anyone who accomplishes the many items on this unofficial Bucket List is worthy of being added to the hundreds of experienced critics who comprise our Golden Ticket Awards experts. Contact *AT* if you feel your qualifications make you worthy: tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com.



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Updates to the AIMS certification program

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Each year the AIMS certification committee and staff review and evaluate input from the industry



KING

in relationship to the AIMS certification program. Modifications and additions to the program are implemented at the annual AIMS Safety Seminar. This year's seminar is to be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld November 9-15, 2011.

Classes will be held from Thursday, Nov. 10 through Monday, Nov. 14. All AIMS certification testing will take place on Sunday evening, Nov. 13. Results from testing will be available to students when they turn in their CEU sign-off sheet on Tuesday at the AIMS booth during the IAAPA Attractions Expo. All certificates of completion, CEU certificates, certification certificates and cards will be issued on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

A big change for 2011 is that all qualifying documentation and applications for testing must be submitted to the AIMS office by Nov. 1. This new deadline will help insure accuracy in preparing tests and allow sufficient time to confirm one's qualifications. No one will be permitted to sit for an exam if their paperwork is incomplete. It is also our goal to alleviate long waiting times at registration.

AIMS will be introducing the Level III Professional Ride Inspector (PRI) certification in November. To qualify to sit for this exam one must provide the following:

- Proof of a high school education or equivalent.

- Certificates showing 12 Continuing Education Units (CEU) from attending amusement industry or other applicable seminars or education.

- Proof of 120 months of experience in the area of amusement ride inspection.

- Documentation of passing an eye exam within six months prior to taking the PRI exam. Detailed requirements for this eye exam are explained on the Inspector application available through the AIMS website.

- Copy of a current AIMS Level II Certified Ride Inspector (CRI) certification.

Along with the Inspector Level III certification test, we will be offering the AIMS Inspector Level I and II as well as Operations Level I and II, Maintenance Level I and II and the Aquatics Operations Level I. Please visit our website at www.aimsintl.org to view the entire AIMS Certification Program.

Those planning to take an AIMS certification test should send all completed applications, along with supporting documentation to: AIMS International, Ltd., 3026 South Orange, Santa Ana, Calif. 92707. Documents can also be faxed to the AIMS office at (714) 276-9666 or emailed to certs@aimsintl.org. Please remember the Nov. 1 deadline.

A list of AIMS certificate holders is available on our website at www.aimsintl.org. If you have any questions regarding this list of certificate holders please email the certification office at certs@aimsintl.org.

We look forward to seeing you in November and hope you have a safe and prosperous summer!

AIMS member spotlight

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles to appear in AIMS News & Notes that spotlights an AIMS member who has been active in the annual AIMS Safety Seminar. To suggest a future spotlight on an AIMS member contact Steve Laycock at:

steve.laycock@rides.com

Bobby Park

Associate Safety

Engineer, QSI;

State of California DOSH

Bobby Park, has worked for two different owner/operators in the amusement industry, first at Sea World in San Diego and later with Bell's Amusement Park in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His hands-on knowledge of amusement rides gave him a good background when he went back to his home state of California to become a state ride inspector. Although he is a dedicated family man he regularly spends one week a year of his own time at the AIMS Safety Seminar. This time is spent continuing his educational activities to sharpen his knowledge and abilities so he can better perform his job functions. In November of 2010 Bobby was an attendee at the AIMS Safety Seminar in Orlando, Florida.



PARK

Here he takes a few minutes to answer questions for *AIMS News & Notes*.

How did you get started in the amusement business?

"It started with SeaWorld in San Diego as a summer job. I was a technician working on arcade equipment and remote control boats and trucks."

What did you do before you were in the amusement business?

"As a teenager while in high school I worked at the local Burger King where I was the head French fry cook."

What do you do in your free time?

"My free time is spent with my family where my time is dedicated to being a good dad to my children and a good husband to my wife. I enjoy my free time, being with my family and involved in their many activities."

What do you currently do in the amusement industry?

"I am currently an inspector with Division of Occupational Safety & Health (DOSH) for the state of California. My principle function is to inspect rides at fixed locations."

What is so special about working for DOSH?

"We help the owner/operator maintain and operate their rides to be in compliance with industry standards such as ASTM, American Welding Society (AWS), American Society of Nonde-

structive Testing (ASNT), California Electrical Code (CEC) and applicable California regulations. We provide an extra set of eyes to see potential problems and strive to keep the rides as safe as possible. I believe in safety and it gives me a good feeling to know that I am helping owner/operators to provide a safe fun experience to the general public."

Which amusement rides that you work on gives you the least amount of trouble?

"I actually see the fewest issues with some of the older style rides such as the Bradley & Kay 'Huff N Puff' and the Allan Herschell 'Helicopter' ride."

How long have you worked at your present organization?

"I have been in the amusement industry for the past 20 years but with the current organization for the last 10 years."

Tell us one thing you have learned from the AIMS Safety Seminar.

"There are a number of things I could mention, but the most impressive thing is just the amount of time that is spent in designing rides that provide a thrill while keeping the forces on the passengers and ride at an acceptable level."

What was your favorite class at the AIMS Safety Seminar and why?

"I need to pick two."

"1. One was the Metallurgy Class with Cindy Emerick who has a degree in metallurgy. She was very effective in explaining the processes and elements involved in developing alloys and analysis for amusement rides without losing the class in technical jargon."

"2. Another favorite was the Visual Inspection Class with Jeff Abendshien. This class outlined different facets in the inspection process. One method he used was an exercise in visual inspection which identified differences among individuals that presented a sound philosophy to visual inspection."

Why should someone attend the AIMS Safety Seminar?

"To enhance their knowledge base, expand in areas they may not be as familiar with, build on their skill set, networking, developing relationships with others related to their work and most of all to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for our guests. There are many classes directly related to the core disciplines of the amusement industry that help develop the individual. There were more classes I wanted to take, just not enough hours in the day."

In general, how was your overall experience at the AIMS Safety Seminar and how prepared were your instructors?

"This past year's seminar was excellent! I always learn something at the seminar and this year was no exception. I found the instructors to be well prepared in their fields and being able to network with your peers and develop those relationships enhances the purpose of attending, even long after the seminar is over."

Held March 29 in Las Vegas

Creative Operational Concepts conducts ROTC training program

LAS VEGAS—Since 2002, the owners of Creative Operational Concepts, Cindee Patrick Huddy and Patty Beazley, have been providing service and safety programming to the attractions and hospitality industry around the world. This year, the pair, along with veteran trainer Darlene Reese-Sittig, decided to make the firm's crucial Ride Operator Trainer Certification (ROTC) available to individuals in a three-day, single location format.

The first-ever, single-site, ROTC training program, which was held March 7-9 at the New York New York Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, attracted more than 25 ride managers from as far away as Hong Kong. Focusing on the "10 Critical Components of Ride Operation," the ROTC training included unique teaching methods designed to help trainees understand the "why" of each task.

"Creative Operational Concepts has been conducting on-site audits and training since 1997," said co-founder Cindee Patrick Huddy. "What we noticed is that the facility's training method had a huge impact on the consistency of both safety and service protocol execution. We learned that a tell-show-do style of training produces inconsistent results and that the length of time spent in training is not near as important as the technique."

As part of their early ride operations training success, Huddy and Beazley developed the proprietary Learn it! Link it! Live it! teaching method. The three-part strategy teaches team members why it is important to perform each task to a set performance standard; demonstrates the specific skill required in a unique, hands-on manner; and provides ideas for identifying with the task to ensure it will be performed precisely every day.

"By making the critical ride operator trainer certification available in a three-day, single location format, we were able to reach both amusement industry newcomers and veterans in a way that was affordable for smaller

operators," said COC partner Patty Beazley. "Each participant went home with a toolbox including more than 30 items that will allow them to give their own seasonal and full-time operators the benefit

▶ See SAFETY, page 40

Shown here at the New York New York Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas are attendees for the ROTC training program conducted by Creative Operational Concepts.

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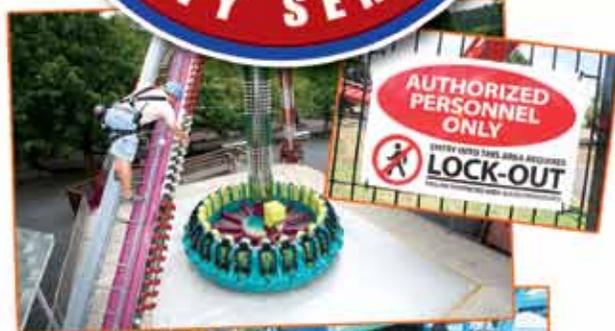
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SAFETY

Continued from page 39

of the proven ROTC training program."

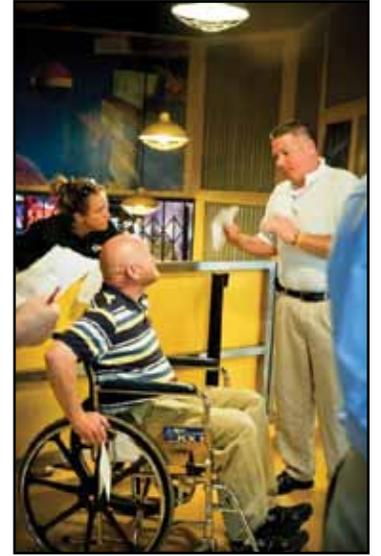
"ROTC is a solid base to build any ride operator training program," said participant Donald Spiller of Six Flags Magic Mountain. "It focused on two of the most important aspects of our business, safety and guest service."

"The (ROTC) program sets a standard of performance for each task, enabling us to raise the bar across the industry," said Dino Fazio of Morey's Pier and Beachfront Waterpark. "It also gave attendees the opportunity to discuss hot topics and best practices."

Fazio, who was part of the faculty at ROTC in Las Vegas, also brought three of his operations team members to attend the training. "We are

always looking for new ways of imparting knowledge to our staff," added Fazio. "One simple, interactive exercise that we brought home from ROTC helped reinforce the importance of consistency in each task. At the training program, we were asked to eyeball various height requirements by placing pieces of masking tape on the wall. This exercise easily proved that it is impossible to accurately measure a guest by any means other than by using the appropriate tool in the correct way."

"I went in thinking 'what else is there to know' and came out with a strong passion and rejuvenated enthusiasm for my job," added Ryan DeMaria of Canobie Lake. "This is the ideal training program for any ride operations team. It was wonderfully presented and can be individualized for any facility."



Ride Operator Trainer Certification was held March 7-9 in Las Vegas. Above, Donald Spiller, Six Flags Magic Mountain checks the roller coaster restraint as Patty Beazley, Creative Operational Concepts play the role of a rider. At right, Lori Kaupp, Parc Management listens in to David Russ, State Fair of Texas as ADA safety is discussed. Seated in the wheelchair is Ian Martinez, Pacific Park.

ROTC attendees were evaluated at the conclusion of the program via a written exam, video teach-back practicum, and written evaluation

from the faculty. Based on the positive feedback from this year's single-site training, Creative Operational Concepts has committed to offering the

program again in early 2012. • www.creativeoperationalconcepts.com

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MIDWAY

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Kalamazoo fairgrounds getting a face lift

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—A \$3.6 million construction project began in late March at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center and Fairgrounds that will add nearly 35,000-square-feet to the Expo Center, demolish the horse track around the grandstand and do some electrical upgrades.

According to a report on MLive.com, the construction is set to be complete by Sept. 1, 2011, which would mean that it would still be going on during the fair, set this year for Aug. 8-18.

Earlier in March, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners voted to issue bonds to pay for the construction over the next 15 years.

In making the proposal in 2010, Parks Director David Rachowicz explained that these were changes that needed to take place to attract new events. He said that the demolition of the horse track could make room for more vendor space. The horse track was used for harness racing during the fair.

He was quoted last year in a story from MLive.com, saying: "Horsing for one day with 20 spectators is not a good use for that property."

Wade Shows, Livonia, is the carnival midway provider.

2011 Houston Livestock Show a record breaker

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

HOUSTON, Texas—The 79th edition of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, with volunteer help and a lot of enthusiastic fans, ended on a record-breaking run this year, with 2,262,834 in total attendance during the March 1-20 run.

The record total also included a single-day record of 150,948 the final Saturday of the fair. That broke the record set in 2003.

Some other numbers for Houston included a total attendance of 1,255,323 for the paid rodeo and headliner concerts, which are just under 9,000 from the record number of 1,264,074, set in 2010. Five 2011 RodeoHouston performances landed in the list of the Show's Top 20 paid rodeo attendance records. Those

2011 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Fun Facts by the numbers

- More than 187,000 stuff animals were won at the games on the midway.
- More than 20,000 young cowboys and cowgirls took a ride on the pony rides.
- More than 23,000 people visited the butterfly house.
- More than 9,000 children rolled around the water in giant bubbles.

Top 5 rides on Midway

The 68-ride midway was provided by Ray Cammack Shows, Laveen, Ariz. and selected independents

1. **Windstorm**, manufactured by SDC (owned by Steve VanderVorste)
2. **Skyride**, Dopplemyer
3. **G Force**, KMG
4. **Hi-Miler Coaster**, Carl Miler
5. **Wave**, SDC

were Brad Paisley, with an attendance of 73,825, who took over the third spot in the top 20, while Miranda Lambert, attendance 73,811, and La Arrolladorra Banda El Limon and La Leyenda, 73,469, took

over the top third and fourth spots, respectively.

"There are so many variables regarding attendance, from the weather to the economy, but we continue to excel by creating an exciting, inno-

vative, fun, affordable place for friends and families to enjoy," said Skip Wagner, president of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, in announcing the record attendance. "With the help of the more than 24,000 show volunteers, we are able to continue to be the largest livestock show, richest regular-season rodeo and offer the best entertainment option around."

This year, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo hosted 2,291 international guests from 61 countries, including large delegations from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Venezuela. Several guests came from as far away as Thailand and Kyrgyzstan.

Other highlights include a record 244,184 people visiting the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest to help

► See HOUSTON, page 42



Left, the Hi-Miler Coaster, manufactured by Carl Miler, came in fourth in the top five rides on the midway of Ray Cammack Shows, Laveen, Ariz., who provided the carnival for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo with 68 rides and 34 games this year. Right, independent ride operator Steve VanderVorste booked his Windstorm in with RCS this year at Houston where it ranked in the top five for rides on the midway. COURTESY JASON KNUTSON

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Left, There were 61 food vendors at the 2011 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Patrons could ride the Skyride and catch a glimpse of some of those food vendors. Right, Ray Cammack Shows provided the rides, including the Le Grand Wheel, manufactured by Carousel Holland.

COURTESY JASON KNUTSON



▶HOUSTON

Continued from page 41

kick off the show, toppling last year's attendance record of 221,229.

The event showcased North America's champion

athletes through the invitational RodeoHouston BP Super Series and the inaugural Cinch RodeoHouston Super Shootout. The Shootout, which debuted March 20, was a ground-breaking, one-day event featuring champion ath-

letes from the top 10 U.S. and Canadian rodeos competing bareback riding, barrel racing, bull riding and saddle bronco riding for a total purse of \$200,000, making this event the richest one-day rodeo.

There were 26,683 live-

stock competitions and horse show entries. Six of the junior auction Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion records were broken this year. Junior auction sales totaled \$8,235,171.

Even the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Wine Auction set a record. The auction brought in \$1,659,729, including the show record price of \$210,000 for the Grand Champion Best of Show and a show record price of \$130,000 for the Reserve Grand Champion Best of Show.

There were a total of 68 rides and 34 games brought in by Ray Cammack Shows, Laveen, Ariz., the carnival provider for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The carnival had a very good run at the show, but a death on the midway the final night of the show dampened some spirits.

A 44-year-old man, Brian Joseph Greenhouse, fell from

the Hi-Miler coaster and was pronounced dead at a local Houston hospital.

Shafer told local reporters at the time of the accident that he didn't believe the ride malfunctioned because the bar and belt were still in place after the accident. The ride has no history of serious problems, according to Shafer. In fact, the Hi-Miler ranked number four as the top rides on the midway for this year's show.

"The Ray Cammack Shows carnival accident on the Hi-Miler roller coaster on March 20, 2011, at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is being investigated by several entities to include Ray Cammack Shows, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Houston Police Department and plaintiff attorneys," said Victoria Le Fevre, a media spokesperson for the show. "Because of these ongoing investigations and because litigation has been initiated against Ray Cammack Shows and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, show officials have been advised by their legal counsel to make no further comments involving the accident, results of investigations or lawsuits until such time as all investigations have been completed and until lawsuits have come to conclusion, or until further advised by legal counsel."

In other midway news, Steve VanderVorst brought in his Windstorm roller coaster. That ride placed first in the top rides on the midway. VanderVorst purchased the coaster from Fun Forest park, Seattle, Wash., and completely refurbished it and made it portable. The coaster was manufactured by SDC.

There were also 61 food vendors at the 2011 show, 36 that were brought in by the carnival and 55 booked by the Rodeo.

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Miami-Dade fair attendance up

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

MIAMI—Phil Clark, chief executive officer, Miami-Dade County Fair and Expo, was very pleased with the 2011 fair, which ran March 17-April 3.

"It was a very good fair," Clark said. "Everything was up. Our attendance was up 4.5 percent over 2010. Our online sales were up 57 percent. Our advanced ticket sales were up 21 percent to a total of \$1.6 million. Our on-ground midway sales were up nine percent."

Clark said the fair experienced only two days of rain this year, compared to six days last year. He also feels inroads made into online social networking have paid off.

"We started with social networking about three years ago," he said. "Our first year, we got a little business from it, not even \$100,000. But, we stayed with it and on it all the time. We feel we have finally connected with the right people, those people that buy online. Our family business has gone through the roof. Those are often the people looking for discounts. We have become almost entirely family-driven."

Attendance this year was 586,100. Advanced ticket sales are available until the day before the start of the fair. Online sales continue throughout the entire run although there is not a discount offered once the fair starts.

"We've told them, though, if they buy online, they don't have to wait in lines at the gate to get tickets," Clark said.

He feels fair visitors are finally believing them.

Midway tickets are also available online and discounts are offered during the advanced purchase time.

Clark said the fair benefits from online sales in two ways—increasing the actual number of tickets sold and increasing sales once patrons get to the fair.

"We think that when people buy online and in advanced, they come to the fair having already spent the initial money," he said. "So, the money they bring here is like new money, maybe they have already gotten another pay check."

So, more spending is done on the grounds.

Food sales were up five percent. Games were up 16 percent this year. Game totals haven't increased in a while.

"People love carrying around the bears they have won," he said. "The plush was very nice this year. It was very bright and colorful."

North American Midway Entertainment, Ridgeland, Miss., provided the midway

► See MIAMI-DADE, page 45

Florida Championship Wrestling (FCW) was just one of the special events held on the grounds at the Miami-Dade (Florida) this year. The special events were held every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In the background can be seen the midway of North American Midway Entertainment.

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PEOPLE WATCH

Fairs announce changes at the top

Annually, there are many changes within the fair industry. Here are just a few.

The Utah State Fairpark board of directors, Salt Lake City, announced last month their selection of a new executive director, **Clark H. Caras**, of West Jordan, Utah.



CARAS

He was expected to assume his new duties at the Fairpark on April 18. For the past six years, Caras has served as marketing director for the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development during a time that has seen companies such as Proctor & Gamble, Adobe, Disney, Hershey, Amer Sports, and others expand in, or relocate to the state. His career encompasses broad experience in public affairs, politics, business development, corporate initiatives, and large event planning.

Caras grew up on a sheep ranch in central Utah. He said that being a kid who was allergic to most farm animals made him resourceful at an early age.

The Utah State Fair marks 156 years this year when it runs Sept. 8-18, 2011.

Caras is taking the helm over from **Judy Duncombe**, who was named acting executive director in February, 2010, when **Rick Frenette** left to head up the Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis.

Utah County Fair, Spanish Fork, also has a new fair director this year. **Julie Blaney** has taken over the reins at that fair from **Jay and Carol Harmer** who had led the fair since 2008. She said in a news report that she hopes to bring the fair closer to being self-supported. She has already booked a couple of revenue producing concerts for this year's fair, set for Aug. 17-20.

For the first time this year, the fair will host a Scout Expo. There will, of course, be the county fair staples.

Former Laramie (Wy.) County Commissioner **Jeff Ketcham** has been named the new Laramie County Fair manager. Ketcham, who was county commissioner for 28 years, replaces **Yvonne Ware** who held that position until February.

In the announcement, Ketcham said his main goal would be putting on a quality fair.

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Yuma County Fair patrons beat the heat to attend the fair

YUMA, Ariz.—High temperatures didn't deter patrons from visiting this year's the 2011 Yuma (Ariz.) County Fair, which ran March 29-April 3.

Fair Manager Eric Wofford said attendance was 171,000 representing an increase over 2010 of nine percent.

"Even with temperatures getting pretty hot on Friday of the fair," Wofford said. "I think they said actual temperature was 102 degrees, but it felt like 106 degrees. We are normally a little cooler and windier this time of year."

Brown's Amusements, Mesa, Ariz., provided the fair with 35 rides. This is the 11th season for Brown's to be at the fair.

New this year was a big named performance in the arena. Chris LeDoux played Tuesday night of the fair.

"We have a lot of entertainment on the grounds, but this is the first time we have had a big name like this in the arena," Wofford said. "I think it was very successful. I will do something like this again next year. We did country this year. Maybe, next year we will do rock or some other type of music."

The fair held its traditional Demolition Derby, which drew about 9,000 people.

Another first this year was the Safari Adventure Live, an exhibit that included animals such as kangaroos and macaws.

—Pam Sherborne

Attendance was up nine percent this year at the Yuma (Ariz.) County Fair, which ran March 29-April 3. Brown's Amusements, Mesa, Ariz., provided the midway.

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▶ MIAMI-DADE

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with 90 rides.

For the first time this year Clark said they presented special events every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, plus an array of daily entertainment. There was Florida Championship Wrestling, rock bands, Spanish speaking bands, and garage bands with which the fair has had much success.

The fair hosted the Royal Hanneford Circus, something it has done for "thirty something years." There was the ice show that has been there for about five years.

New this year was the Rainforest Experience, which exhibited exotic animals along with presenting educational information.



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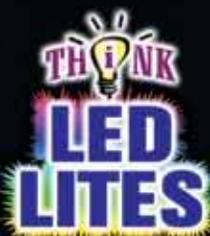
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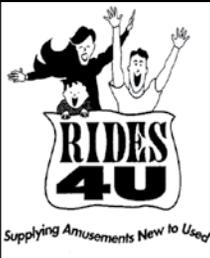
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16 & 17

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 •www.GoldenTicketAwards.com

27-29

Euro Attractions Show, The Olympia, London, England
 •www.euroattractionsshow.com

OCTOBER

3-7

World Waterpark Association's 31st Annual Symposium (3-7)
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NOVEMBER

9-15

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15-18

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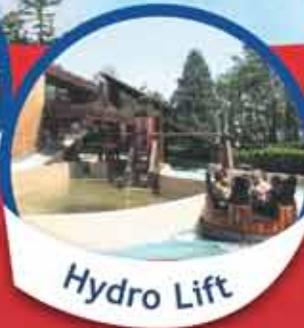
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