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Puebla, Mexico becomes first site of Bussink R80XL Wheel

Gains new Guinness World Record as largest transportable observation wheel

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

PUEBLA, Mexico — Officials of the City of Puebla, Mexico are standing proud and tall, the latter being the optimum word.

That city now has the first Ron Bussink designed R80XL transportable wheel and that wheel was recently certified by Guinness World Records as the world's tallest transportable observation wheel. At 250 feet tall, it sits on a steel base grid.

And, it has been lighting up the night sky over Puebla since it opened July 22 with a brilliant all white LED light show.

Called the Estrella de Puebla or Star of Puebla, the huge observation wheel was shipped from Maurer Söhne in Germany to its current location. Even though it was primarily privately funded, the city plans to repay the cost through ticket sales. In the first week of August, however, ticket prices hadn't been determined.

According to Jeroen Nijpels, JNE & LC, Luxembourg, a consultant who works closely with Ron Bussink, the Puebla State Government had decided to hand out thousands of free tickets, "which can be used in allocated time slots during so-called soft-opening test operations (even if the grand opening has already taken place). So, until now, only free rides have been done."

Mexico's Estrella de Puebla has 54, eight-passenger gondolas with four being VIP cabins and four being cocktail cabins. Each glass-enclosed gondola is climate controlled and can easily be adjusted to face inward or outward, sitting back to back.

The City of Puebla used the wheel to anchor a major new multi-million dollar redevelopment of a city park that also included the addition of jogging/biking trails, green space, public restrooms, art sculptures and a waterplay fountain that features LED lights at night, put to music in a short show that repeats throughout the night hours.

Bussink has seen huge success with his R60 observation wheels. The R80XL was just a natural progression. Nijpels said no customization was done to the wheel in Mexico.

"We only sell the wheels that are pre-specified by the wheel designer and then built, and Mexico was no different," Nijpels said. "Same with future ones. The next one is now almost ready, but we haven't sold it yet, simply because we chose to do so. I have various customers lined up that would like to have it, but we don't start any discussions with them until we have everything done and a valued TUV approval, which we expect for mid-September."

By doing so, Bussink has complete control of his designs.

"From 2004, Bussink has chosen a pre-manufacturing system, which means that wheels were built without a confirmed order," Nijpels said. "In this way, Bussink had total



freedom in specifying the configuration of the entire giant wheel without any influence of 'demanding' customers. This has resulted in a perfect configuration of wheels, which have exceeded the expectations of the majority of the customers. The pre-manufacturing was initiated by the fact that demands needed to be met of the newly created market for stand-alone tourist attractions in major world cities."

There are several major differences between the Estrella de Puebla and Bussink's R60 transportable wheels other than the most obvious of height.

Here are Nijpels' words in describing these differences: "First and foremost, this is the first transportable wheel that operates on the basis of continuous, slow movement. While the R60 and smaller ones have a fast rotation (up to 1.4 rpm), and stop and go for loading and unloading, the R80XL moves slow (between two and four rotations per hour) and generally doesn't stop for loading and unloading (except for wheelchairs or other people that need

► See WHEEL, page 4

Above, the Star of Puebla as seen by day and by night with the all white LED light show. At right, the wheel's designer Ronald Bussink, left, showcases the wheel to Puebla's Secretary of Transportation Bernardo Huerta Couttolenc. Below the R80XL gondolas as seen on the wheel and a view of the inside.

AT/GARY SLADE



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EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

Not the good neighbor?



Slade

While editing this month's issue, one story caught my attention over all the others. On page 8, AT staffer Jeffrey Seifert completed a nice book review on one of Arcadia's Publishing's newest book releases: *Images of America Frontier Village*. The book is about a Wild West theme park, built in 1961 on 33-acres of land in San Jose, California.

The park was successful from the beginning thanks to its pure Western theme — gun fight shows, train robberies and limited selection of themed rides. The book's author even tells how the park rebounded in 1977, just one year after Marriott had opened its sparkling new Great America park in nearby Santa Clara. A \$10 million expansion plan was announced by then owner Rio Grande Railroad, owners of Arrow Development, who had built the park's antique car ride, train ride and mine-themed dark ride.

Everything was pointed in the direction of many more years of success. That was until the neighbors complained, and the city made demands.

The park was there first. It was urban growth that placed the new housing developments in the park's backyard where neighbors could hear the pops the gun caps would make during the gunfight shows and the train whistle every time the beautiful Arrow-built train chugged along the tracks. Neighbors began to complain. The city, knowing the expansion would only bring more traffic to the area, would not allow the expansion to go through unless the park contributed \$1.8 million in traffic improvements.

Rio Grande, seeing the park was now no longer a good investment, and watching the land prices continue to rise, elected to close the park. One "Last Round-Up" was given in 1980, with the park averging 30,000 guests each day in the final season. The park closed its successful run forever on September 28, 1980.

The park's closing was not a result of sagging attendance, or bad management, or a run down property. It was the result of those who settled the land second, not liking their neighbor who was their first.

How ironic is it that today, it's the office complex neighbors adjacent to California's Great America making the noise complaints, even though the park had staked its claim on ground, long before any high rise office building ever rose over the park property.

—Gary Slade

Gary Slade is founder and publisher of Amusement Today

CARTOON: Bubba Flint



EDITORIAL: Scott Rutherford, srutherford@amusementtoday.com

Weighing safety



Rutherford

The recent accident on the New Texas Giant (NTG) at Six Flags Over Texas was devastating; not only to the victim's family but also to the park, which is in the business of entertaining guests safely. Accidents occur every day.

Whether they involve automobiles, slippery sidewalks or grocery store aisles, these often-unavoidable happenings are a fact of modern society. Stuff happens.

But nothing is more sensationalized by the media than high-profile accidents such as those that include commercial airliners or, in this case, a roller coaster. Because of the extreme rarity of such occurrences, these accidents attract far more attention.

The NTG incident bears striking similarities to one that occurred in 1978 on Colossus, a then-new wooden coaster at California's Magic Mountain. A rider with similar physical dimensions to the NTG victim was ejected as the train negotiated a high-speed negative-

G hill. Six Flags purchased the park shortly thereafter, significantly re-profiling and taming Colossus.

Though the NTG investigation is still pending, initial comparisons illustrate that both victims' bodily dimensions along with simple physics could have played a role in their deaths. So, who is at fault? The parks for trying to accommodate as many guests as possible by not wanting to offend someone because of their weight? There are already minimum height requirements on most rides. It only makes sense that maximum weight limits (as well as body shapes that do not conform to conventional standards) be addressed. Alienating guests is a small price to pay to saving lives.

Knoebels is already ahead of the game as it moves into final testing of its Flying Turns bobsled. A scale will be used to weigh riders before boarding so as to properly balance the trains. Will there be a maximum weight? It will be interesting to see what transpires.

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2 MINUTE DRILL



COMPILED: Janice Withrow

Roger Berry, Ralph S. Alberts Company

When you take a spin on an amusement park ride, chances are you experience a product from Ralph S. Alberts Company where Roger Berry is the technical sales manager. Roger and the team at Ralph S. Alberts Company are responsible for custom-molded applications including the safety padding for rides. Roger is an active voice in the industry serving as the president of AIMS International and on various committees with ASTM and IAAPA. An avid racing and sports car enthusiast, Roger spends a lot of his spare time on this specific passion.



Roger Berry, technical sales manager for Ralph S. Alberts and current AIMS Intl. president, loves to spend his free time as a racing and sports car enthusiast, trading the speed of amusement rides and roller coasters for the speed found on the open road and at the race track. COURTESY ROGER BERRY

Title

Technical Sales Manager,
Ralph S. Alberts Company / President, AIMS
International.

Number of years in the industry
I'm celebrating my 20th year.

Best thing about the industry
I love the family atmosphere,
creative energy and smiles.

Favorite amusement ride
I relate to them all. They all have
different personalities, each offer-
ing a different ride and sensory experience.

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

Biggest challenge facing our industry
Maintaining the delicate balance between fun
and too much fun, while protecting our guests in
many cases from themselves.

**The thing I like most about amusement/water
park season is ...**
It's "show time!" Months of preparation are
done, now it's all about our guests.

**It's September! The thing I love most about
fall is ...**
September starts the beginning of the slowing
down of the park season, and the ramp up of
committee season. My involvement on commit-
tees with AIMS International, ASTM and IAAPA
are rewarding opportunities to personally assist
with industry challenges.

**You live in Florida. Describe your home state
in three words**
No state tax.

**If I could go swimming in any drink, it would
be ...**
Cuba Libre! It's my signature cocktail.

Are you ... a morning person or a night owl?
Yes! In today's global market you better be both.

My latest splurge was ...
Ouch! I recently bought a Jaguar automobile.



Berry

**The TV character that best reflects my
personality is ...**

Wow, very difficult. Maybe Maxwell Smart from
"Get Smart". I'm always getting myself into some
strange adventure, and agent 99 is hot!

Favorite candy bar
Always been a Snickers guy.

If I could read anyone's mind, it would be ...
Ben Bernanke (chairman of the Federal Reserve!)
Wouldn't you like to know?

**The coolest place I have ever vacationed would
have to be ...**
Northern Italy. I love pasta, wine and red cars.

**In my opinion, the all-time greatest profes-
sional athlete hands-down is ...**
That guy on the "Cops" show that outran the
police dog without getting bit!

In one word, my job is ...
Safety.

I know it's going to be a good day when ...
I get to watch the sun rise. It's a great way to get
the day going.

On Sundays, I love to ...
Wash the cars. That is great therapy and relax-
ation for me.

I can do a pretty good impression of ...
Thurston Howell from "Gilligan's Island".

The last movie I saw in the theatre was ...
Oh my.... "Smokey and the Bandit"? Sitting still
is not one of my strong traits.

Are you ... a lobster or steak kind of guy?
I'm definitely a meat and potatoes fella, and not
necessarily steak. I love a big thick pork chop.

My ideal day consists of ...
Ending the day with less to do than I started with.

One thing I always have regretted is ...
Not serving my country in the Air Force.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by



www.RollerCoasterMuseum.org

•**1902:** The management of **Walbridge Park**, in Toledo, Ohio, proudly boasted that the new **Scenic Railway** had already paid for itself by Labor Day 1902, during its first year of operation. It would be noted that most rides at the turn of the century, would easily cover construction costs during the first or second year. As most new rides rarely exceeded a cost of \$50,000, thousands of riders, at a nickel or dime each, would easily surpass the construction value of a new device over a period of a summer. That one factor may be the reason that the most coasters ever built in a single decade would be during the first decade of the new century.

•**1912:** In early September, a night watchman became stuck on the new **Roller Coaster** (it is referenced as a **Scenic Railway**, but the park opened in 1912 with a wood coaster – likely a **Figure Eight**) at **Bloomsbury Park**, in Raleigh, North Carolina. While details are sketchy as to how he got into this predicament, he apparently completed over 400 circuits before the ride could be stopped. *Billboard* magazine called the marathon a press agent's dream, after park management estimated he had ridden 141 miles overnight. He was brought to the hospital after his ordeal, and survived to tell his story.

•**1918:** **Thomas W. Prior**, 57, manager of the **Race Thru the Clouds**, in Venice, California, and famed partner to **Frederick Church**, passed away on September 22. He was not only well known in the amusement industry, but also celebrated in theatrical circles. Prior began his career in Chicago, where he managed the **Chicago Opera House**, while in 1893 he would manage and operate the great **Ferris Wheel** at the **World Columbian Exposition**. He would eventually work public relations at **White City** until 1906, then do the same at **Riverview Park**, before moving to Venice in 1911 to build the **Race Thru the Clouds**. In California, he perfected the new ride, the **Great American Racing Derby**, with Church. He died at his home in Venice, after a long illness and was survived by his wife Anna, and a son, Frank.

•**1922:** **Henry B. Auchy**, 61, passed away on September 20, at his home in Erdenheim, Pennsylvania. Born in 1861, he was widely known in Montgomery County as a director of several banks. In 1898, he would open **White City** in Chestnut Hill, outside Philadelphia, with partner **Chester Albright**. It was successful competition to **Willow Grove Park**, in January 1904 he and Albright would found the **Philadelphia Toboggan Company**, and would eventually establish the company as one of the world's leading manufacturers of carousels and roller coaster structures. Ironically, under pressure from the local residents, Auchy would sell the popular **Chestnut Hill Park** in late 1912, to concentrate on the growing Germantown company.

•**1926:** On September 17, the Westchester County Park Commission announced that two resorts in Rye, New York, were to be razed and replaced by one park. The two popular resorts, **Rye Beach Pleasure Park** and **Paradise Park**, had been taken over and operated by the Westchester County Park Commission in 1926, while plans for the new park were created in New York. The immediate plans called for both parks to be demolished after the 1927 season, and all lowland on which the parks stood, to be filled in, according to plans of the commission discussed with the Board of Supervisors in White Plains, New York. The new operation would eventually be called **Playland**, and would establish itself quickly as one of the country's greatest amusement parks.

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

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►WHEEL

Continued from page 1

more time).

"Secondly, the R80XL has only six masts, four on one side and two on the other. The two masts closest to the wheel on each side are the main carriers of the structure. With the R60, there were four additional masts, two on each side, which were the so-called wind masts. They provide further stability in case of wind forces, etc. With the R80XL, we have done away with the wind masts on one side, and instead made the structure in such a way that the wind masts on the other side can support both the downward forces as well as the uplifting forces (i.e. if the wind blows from the side where the wind masts are actually located).

"Thirdly, with the R80XL, we have introduced the much larger 16-seater cabins (not in Mexico), as an option. So the client can choose not only between the stationary and the portable version, but also between 54, eight-seater cabins or 27, 16-seater cabins. The second R80XL that is now almost ready will have these gondolas. Once these cabins come out, it will create a completely different look for the R80XL, as it now looks much more like the larger stationary wheels in London and in Singapore. It basically means that with these cabins, the wheel as a stand-alone attraction has grown up to its full-est potential.

"Lastly, there are also great innovations in terms of control systems, technology used at the wheel, etc., ...it is truly state of the art what has been implemented for this wheel, in terms of control and also in terms of safety."

Bussink Design GmbH, of Dusseldorf, Germany, has designed and developed the wheel, with partners, among others — R&S Engineering from Liechtenstein for the engineering part. Bussink Design also selected and pre-qualified all subcontractors involved such as CWA for the cabins and Siemens for the control systems.

In addition, Bussink Design has given an exclusive license of the R80XL Wheels to Maurer German Wheels GmbH (Munich, Germany) and Chance American Wheels LLC (Wichita, Kansas) to produce these super-size wheels. Chance American Wheels' license is limited to the stationary version of the R80XL, i.e., without the base frame for the North American territory. Maurer German Wheels produces for the rest

► See WHEEL, page 5

Bussink-designed R60 Observation Wheels light up U.S. in 2013

New Pigeon Forge wheel part of entertainment complex

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. — Highlighted by the enormous 196-foot-tall R60 Bussink Design Observation Wheel, Phase One of The Island in Pigeon Forge, a new retail and entertainment center in the heart of Pigeon Forge, officially opened to the public on June 21, 2013.

The new Great Smoky Mountain Wheel, designed by Bussink Design GmbH (Ronald Bussink) and built by Chance Rides under license with Dutch Wheels, is at the center of the complex, which includes other attractions and eateries.

"We are very pleased with the attendance to date and is on track for where we had planned," said Teresa Karson, spokesperson for The Island in Pigeon Forge. This stationary R60 features 42 gondolas that can seat up to eight adults and children or 1,320 pounds. Each gondola is enclosed and climate-controlled.

The VIP experience includes riding in a glass-bottom gondola on plush red leather seats and being escorted to the head of the line. Costing \$50 per person the ride is twice as long as a traditional ride and includes free champagne and a complimentary



Highlighted by the enormous R60 Bussink-designed Observation Wheel, Phase One of The Island in Pigeon Forge, a new retail and entertainment center in Pigeon Forge, officially opened to the public on June 21, 2013. It is called the Great Smoky Mountain Wheel. COURTESY CHANCE RIDES



souvenir. The VIP experience is also available for parties of 15 people or more.

This is the second attempt to open an entertainment complex at this location. According to local reports, it is a \$110 million investment.

The first attempt never

really got off the ground and ended up in foreclosure. This new group of developers headed up by Darby Campbell and Bob McManus is constructing the complex in phases.

A second phase of development is slated to include a 132-room hotel, which has

been reported as being 60 percent complete. The hotel is anticipated to open in spring of 2014. Phase Two will also include a \$3 million Las Vegas-style fountain attraction that is scheduled to start construction at the first of November.

—Pam Sherborne

Relocated Atlanta wheel makes Centennial Park home

ATLANTA, Ga. — Skyview Atlanta, an R60 Bussink Design Observation Wheel and manufactured by Maurer Söhne, opened in downtown Atlanta July 16 and so far it has been a successful endeavor for owners Atlanta Partners LLC.

The wheel is located at the south end of Centennial Park in downtown Atlanta. According to Todd Schneider, managing partner, this R60 wheel was an existing wheel that his group purchased from Landmark Attractions AG, Liechtenstein, a company which does rentals and sales of pre-owned R40, R50, and R60 Bussink Design wheels.

It was brought over from Europe to its first location in Pensacola, Fla., where it was converted to U.S. standards and operated. It was in the Pensacola, Fla., location for under a year.

"We always knew the Pensacola location was going to be a temporary location," Schneider said. "It took us 32 tractor trailers to move it to



Atlanta Partners LLC opened a Bussink Design R60 Observation Wheel, the transportable version, in downtown Atlanta on July 16 and response has been great. Called Skyview Atlanta, the wheel was first placed in Pensacola before moving to Atlanta on 32 semitruck loads. COURTESY ATLANTA PARTNERS

Atlanta."

Plans are to eventually move the R60 Bussink Design wheel to another location, but Schneider said they also plan to make Atlanta a permanent location with another wheel. The current R60 is the transportable

model. The group will most likely replace it with a permanent one at the same Atlanta location at some time in the future.

"But, we just got to Atlanta," he said. "We aren't even thinking about where it might go next. Our original plan,

though, was to move this one to different metropolitan areas."

Skyview Atlanta will have an adjacent bistro as well as a VIP lounge at the back of the platform when everything is complete.

Schneider said they are excited about this location and its proximity to other downtown Atlanta attractions. The R60 offers 42 fully-enclosed, temperature-controlled gondolas so it can operate all year long. The special glass gondolas allow panoramic views of the city.

A base price for the VIP experience here is \$50 per person, but Schneider said they are able to accommodate special requests. At the first of August, Schneider said they were a couple of weeks away from obtaining a beer and wine license, after which they will offer champagne and cheese plates as a part of the VIP experience.

Ride time for the VIP patrons is about 25-30 minutes.

—Pam Sherborne

▶WHEEL

Continued from page 4

of the world, and also the portable version, i.e. with the base frame, for North America, if so required.

Nijpels said Bussink takes a very hands-on approach as far as supervising the manufacturing and installation of his designed wheels.

"Through subcontracting BISSWISS from Appenzell, Switzerland and our own staff, Bussink Design GmbH is implementing a 100 percent qual-

ity control throughout the production process of the R80XL," Nijpels said. "Currently, there are no R80XLs in production yet at Chance American Wheels. But Maurer German Wheels is working on numbers two, three, four and five. We are on site daily there to oversee the production. And we send people regularly to the other subcontractors for the same kind of inspections there as well."

According to Nijpels, Bussink's career started almost 30 years ago on the Dutch Fun Fairs, first just setting up amuse-

ment rides for Dutch showmen.

Then, he started to get involved in the manufacturing side of the business, and quickly got the idea to start to work on wheels.

He started in 1979 as a casual worker by Bakker Denies in Apeldoorn in the Netherlands to help with the assembling of the Spider rides and Giant Wheels. When Jan Bakker was killed in a car accident, Bussink helped his widow get the ordered rides finished and delivered to German Showmen.

In 1983 Bussink started a

partnership with engineer Steven van Velzen and founded Carrousel Holland BV in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands, to design and manufacture portable amusement rides and Giant Wheels. The first wheel orders were for Ray Cammack Shows, George Dipp, El Paso, Texas, and a 55-meter Wheel for Arrow Huss, delivered to the World's Fair in New Orleans 1984.

In 1985 Bussink left Carrousel Holland BV and his shares were taken over by Reinhold Spieldiener, one of the founders

of Intamin AG in Switzerland.

Bussink started a new cooperation in 1986 called Nautabussink also in The Netherlands.

That company had previous wheel manufacturing experience by manufacturing two, 44-meters portable wheels for a Frisian traveling show family, Van der Honing. With the support of Jan Van der Honing, Bussink was able to successfully design and deliver almost 50 giant observation wheels, mostly to the German market.

▶ See WHEEL, page 6

FAST FACTS

Star of Puebla

La Estrella de Puebla
R80XL Observation Wheel
Puebla, Mexico

Opened

July 22, 2013

Height/Gondolas/Capacity

250 feet/54 Gondolas
(4 VIP, 4 cocktail cabins)/
864 PPH

Passengers per Gondola

8 or 16

(Gondolas can be easily adjusted to face inward or outward, sitting back-to-back)

Ride Duration/Rotation

Varies but will average between 20 and 30 minutes/2 to 4 rotations per hour, 1 rotation for standard cabin pricing

Owner

City of Puebla with private funding support

Designer/Manufacturer

Ronald Bussink,
Bussink Design GmbH/
Maurer German Wheels

Operating Hours/Ticketing

Both N/A

Facts

All white LED lighting on wheel (both sides); sound system designed for use with MP3 players; wireless communication with control panel operator in each gondola; in-house weather station and Siemens controls

Record

Now world's largest transportable Observation Wheel as certified by Guinness World Records, and is now tallest in North America, unseating the 212-foot tall Texas Star Ferris wheel (Dallas) which has held the record since it debuted in 1985
—Source Bussink Design

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Since 1876

►WHEEL

Continued from page 5

All these wheels are still traveling around the world and are timeless in design and quality.

After Bussink's partner in Nauta-Bussink passed away, Bussink decided to design and manufacture wheels with a new concept, which he called "Modern Manufacturing." This means that he had all the required know-how in designing, engineering and selling giant wheels.

All this work is being performed by a small and specialized team based in Switzerland and the Netherlands. With a select group of premium suppliers, the required parts for the giant wheels are manufactured in accordance with detailed specifications and with a very high discipline. This has made all wheel parts modular and able to fit in all types of Bussink Wheels.

In September 2008, Bussink reached an agreement with Vekoma in the Netherlands to sell the exclusive ownership of Bussink Design R40, R50 and R60 Wheel engineering and related rights, which are marketed by Vekoma under the new brand name Dutch Wheels. Chance Rides has built the North American R60 Wheels under an agreement with Dutch Wheels (Vekoma).

Bussink and his team could now concentrate completely on the development of the R80XL in portable and stationary versions.

In the meantime, Bussink has successfully built and delivered more than 100 Giant Observation Wheels around the world.

Nijpels began his career in the amusement industry in 1996 in Thailand.

"I worked five years for a company that developed parks mainly in Southeast Asia and the Middle East," he said. "Then I moved to F.A.B. Freizeit-Anlagen-Bau, a trading company in new and pre-owned amusement rides in Luxembourg, where I worked from 2001 to 2004.

"In 2005, I made myself independent, as a consultant first, and in 2007 I started to represent Zierer from Germany," he continued. "In 2009 I started to work with Ron Bussink, representing the companies Landmark Attractions AG from Liechtenstein (sale and rental of pre-owned 40, 50 and 60 meter wheels) and then in 2012 also with the R80XL."

Gambling Mecca is on a roll with mega-wheel projects

Steel Pier expansion spins into high gear

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Pushing forward with its previously announced expansion plans and furthering its goal to broaden the scope of entertainment in this seaside resort, Steel Pier has won approval from the city to erect a 200-foot-tall observation wheel. It will be the tallest Ferris wheel in the state.

The attraction, featuring 42 climate-controlled gondolas for year-round operation, is being manufactured by Italy-based Technical Park in a deal brokered by Carlo Guglielmi, chief manager of Ital International, LLC., and Bertazzon America, LLC. It will be installed on a new, 31,500-square-foot deck of its own immediately south of Steel Pier.

Total cost of the wheel and its deck, expected to be completed and operational in the first quarter of 2014, is estimated at close to \$13 million. The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) approved a \$4 million loan for the project in May.



Technical Park of Italy is manufacturing a 200-foot climate-controlled observation wheel for Steel Pier, to be built on a new deck south of the pier for an early-2014 debut. COURTESY STEEL PIER ASSOCIATES

The new deck will be owned by the city.

"Adding this attraction is really promoting Atlantic City's revitalization," said Anthony Catanoso, managing partner of Steel Pier Associates. "The speed with which the planning review board approved it and the CRDA's support demonstrates that others feel the same way."

The positioning of the gi-

ant wheel differs from early renderings of Steel Pier's expansion unveiled last year, which had the attraction situated on the roof of a soon-to-be-enclosed section of the pier. Catanoso noted that increased traffic on the boardwalk created by new development on either side of the pier, including the popular Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville casino and entertainment complex about a

half a block to the south, led to the revision.

"Making this attraction accessible to the boardwalk and separate from Steel Pier seemed the best course," he said, adding: "There are so many good things happening in Atlantic City right now. This wheel will be the center of it all."

—Dean Lamanna

Caesars winning race of opposing spokes

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — One is rolling right along, while the other appears to have suffered a flat.

That pretty much characterizes the current progress of Sin City's two competing observation wheel projects — the mid-Strip High Roller and SkyVue at the Strip's southern end, respectively.

As *AT* went to press, the hub, several cable spokes and a part of the massive outer rim that will comprise the High Roller — the centerpiece of Caesars Entertainment Corp.'s new open-air dining and entertainment complex called The Linq, located between The Quad Resort & Casino and Flamingo Las Vegas — were in place, with construction continuing apace.

Tentatively set to open at year's end, the High Roller will top out at 550 feet and become the world's largest observation wheel. It will feature 28 glass enclosed, climate-controlled cabins accommodating up to 40 passengers each and turn at the leisurely speed of one foot per second, or one full rotation every half hour.

The wheel, engineered by



Caesars Entertainment's 550-foot-tall High Roller observation wheel (above) will become the world's largest when completed later this year, while the partially finished, 500-foot competing SkyVue wheel (right) appears to be stuck at a fork in Las Vegas Boulevard.

COURTESY CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT; AT FILE

the international firm Arup (the company behind the 541-foot Singapore Flyer and the 443-foot London Eye), is situated at the rear of The Linq — parallel to Las Vegas Boulevard and facing Caesars Palace across the street.

Down the Strip a few blocks, opposite the Mandalay Bay resort, the work on Sky-

Vue observation wheel project

seems to have stopped. Two giant concrete columns designed to support a 500-foot-tall wheel jut upward from the otherwise vacant property, which reportedly has not seen much construction activity in the last few months. The attraction had been planned to anchor a 140,000-square-foot dining and retail center at a total cost



of \$300 million.

Representatives of developer Howard Bulloch have dodged questions raised by local media about SkyVue's finances, maintaining that work at the site will begin again soon. Whether or not this wheel has lost its bearings may be apparent come fall.

—Dean Lamanna

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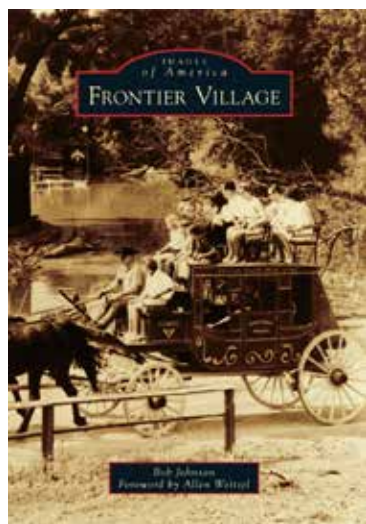
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Arcadia Book offers chronicle of Northern California's Frontier Village

STORY: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

The familiar story is often repeated in cities across the U.S.: Following a trip to Disneyland, a local entrepreneur is inspired to create a similar theme park in his or her hometown. Some, such as Six Flags Over Texas, thrived and became multi-million dollar enterprises. Others, such as New York's Freedomland succumbed in just a few years, while parks like Arizona's Legend City suffered financial difficulties and struggled for decades.



In San Jose, California, local entrepreneur Joe Zukin, was motivated to build a Wild West theme park for the local region. After rounding up financial backers he purchased a 33-acre parcel of the former 600-acre Hayes estate in south San Jose. Construction began in 1960, and with an investment of \$3 million, Frontier Village opened to the public on November 4, 1961.

Encroaching subdivisions and changing economic conditions forced the park to close in 1980, but those who visited or worked there still have fond memories of the park. Those memories can be relived in *Frontier Village*, a new Arcadia Images of America book — part of an immense series that commemorates a town, region, or attraction with vintage photographs captioned to tell a story. This book, written by Bob Johnson, is divided into eight chapters. Chapter one tells the story of the opening of the Village and chapter eight tells of the efforts to keep the park open after nearly two decades of successful operation. The remaining chapters highlight a specific feature of the park such as rides and at-



One of the perils of traveling by train was having an outlaw rob passengers at gunpoint. If the marshal happened to be onboard, a gunfight would often ensue. This rare Arrow Development-built train continues to operate today at Burke Junction in Cameron Park, Calif.
COURTESY ARCADIA PUBLISHING

tractions, costumed characters and the actors used in the gunfight shows.

Groundbreaking took place on August 1, 1960. The tract of land purchased from the Hayes estate was forested with native oak trees supplemented with exotic species such as pepper trees, cypresses, palms and cedars that had been collected over the years. Founder Joe Zukin hired movie set designer Laurie Hollins to design the park. The layout was carefully planned to fit into the existing landscape, requiring the removal of only four trees during construction.

The Frontier Village Main Street was built to resemble the 1890s Old West. Many of the buildings had two stories with the upper floor used for office space for the park staff. In addition to the obligatory Silver Dollar Saloon, visitors would find a General Store, Marshal's Office, Arcade, Bank, Village Glass Shop and Glass Blowing Shoppe. The General Store carried souvenirs while other buildings housed eateries and shops. The Marshal's Office had an actual jail cell that children could explore.

Attractions at the park included a 1920s Herschell Merry-Go-Round, Arrow Development scaled-down locomotive and train (currently in operation at Burke Junction in Cameron Park, Calif.), stagecoach ride, Rainbow Falls Fishing Pond and the Lost Frontier Mine. Designed by Laurie Hollins, the Lost Frontier Mine used ore cart conveyance vehicles supplied by Arrow Development. Guests

were transported into an underground wonderland filled with waterfalls, bubbling sulfur pools, glowing stalactites, falling boulders and other special effects augmented with eerie sounds.

In keeping with the Wild West theme, gunfights and train holdups were a common occurrence, and the bad guys could cause trouble wherever they wanted, often robbing the General Store and even the Sweet Shop. The marshal, however, always prevailed.

Over the years the park thrived, installing new attractions almost yearly. Among the rides added were an Eli Bridge Big Eli Wheel and Scrambler, Hrubetz Roundup, Sellner Tilt-A-Whirl, Eyerly Spider, Arrow guide-limited antique car and 1960s autos, Bisch-Rocco Flying Scooters and a Mack Rides Blauer Enzian.

As the park thrived, so did the surrounding area, and by the mid-1970s the park was surrounded by urban sprawl. Homeowners started complaining about noise from the park and asked if smaller charges could be used during the park's gunfights. In 1973 Zukin sold the park to Rio Grande Industries, a division of the Rio Grande Railroad. Rio Grande had purchased Arrow Development the year before and had plans to manage several theme parks, in addition to owning a ride manufacturer.

In 1976 Marriott opened the Great America theme park just 15 miles north in the city of Santa Clara. Frontier Vil-

lage saw a 19 percent drop in attendance the first year, but in the years following, attendance slowly recovered. Frontier Village continued to show a profit but Rio Grande Industries felt that in order to remain competitive the park would need to expand. An elaborate \$10 million expansion plan was proposed but was, of course, met with opposition from the neighborhoods that had encroached upon the park. After years of delays, the city eventually approved the plans with the stipulation that Rio Grande spend an additional \$1.8 million on traffic improvements and noise abatement. By that time Rio Grande had decided that Frontier Village was no longer a good investment and felt the land was too valuable to be used as an amusement park.

Rio Grande gave park patrons one last season to say goodbye. Known as the "Last Round-Up," the season was a busy one averaging 30,000 guests each day. On Septem-

ber 28, 1980, after 19 years of operation, the park closed its gates for good.

Frontier Village was popular from the beginning, averaging between 425,000 to 450,000 guests at its peak. The park has a special place in the hearts of many people in Northern California and the surrounding area who had the opportunity to visit The Village in its heyday. Author Bob Johnson, who recently published an Arcadia Postcard series book on San Jose, has assembled an amazing collection of images from the San Jose Public Library, San Jose University, and private collectors — enough to fill the 128-page book. It offers a remarkable look at the fantasy frontier town where gunfights always ended with bad guys being carted off to Boot Hill.

Images of America Frontier Village retails for \$21.99 and is available at local bookstores, online retailers or through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com or by calling (888) 313-2665.



Above, the 1920 Herschell Merry-Go-Round was purchased from a park in Washington State. After the park closed it operated at Santa's Village until 1998, then was sold to a private collector. Below, shootouts could occur wherever the bad guys felt like causing trouble. Here, Wild Bill falls to the ground after robbing the general store.
COURTESY ARCADIA PUBLISHING





INTERNATIONAL

PARKS

ATTRACTIONS

RESORTS

SUPPLIERS

Paris set to host Euro Attractions Show 2013

STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

PARIS, France — Following a successful visit to Berlin last year, the 2013 Euro Attractions Show (EAS) moves to Paris, France, from September 18-20, with the promise of another few days full of interest and opportunity.

The venue for the event is the Porte de Versailles Convention Centre and several months before the doors were due to open this year's edition was already set to record the largest exhibit floor in the event's 10-year history. Indeed a second exhibit hall was opened by the organizers back in June in response to the high demand for show floor space.

At the time of writing, more than 330 manufacturers and suppliers had signed up for the show, exceeding the 2012 exhibition's final tally, and exhibits will now be



spread through halls 4 and 5.1. The new hall 5.1 will also host several EAS events, including the opening ceremony, the leadership breakfast and the young professionals' reception.

In addition to the show floor, where visitors will be able to shop for anything from roller coasters to plush toys, a host of events will run alongside the exhibition, including a comprehensive educational program, the IAAPA Institute for Attractions Managers, social events and a tour program



This year's EAS show is set to offer visitors the largest show floor in the event's 10-year history. AT FILE

that will see visits to two of France's most popular attractions, Parc Astérix and Disneyland Resort Paris.

On the evening of the first day of the show an opening reception will be held at the Musée des Arts Forains, a museum which includes historic, operating fairground

rides and games from over 100 years ago. The following morning the leadership breakfast will take place, with Disneyland Resort Paris President Philippe Gas being the keynote speaker. He will share the history of the resort, his vision for the company and the industry and will give attendees

a look into the future of one of Europe's leading theme parks.

The IAAPA Institute for Attractions Managers will be a three-day program from September 15 to 17 and will focus on different disciplines of attractions management. This year's class will take place at Disneyland Resort Paris. The main conference program, which is free for IAAPA members, will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, September 18 and 19, with subjects due to include measuring the impact of new attractions and creating the buzz to generate success, social media, CEO Talk with three industry CEOs, lodging and resort development in the attractions industry, how to increase in-park spend and a waterpark forum, to name but a few.

A post tour event to Puy du Fou and Futuroscope will also be held.

Djurs Sommerland adds Intamin double launch coaster



STORY: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

NIMTOFTE, Denmark — Europe's only double launch roller coaster and the longest coaster in Denmark opened for the 2013 season at Djurs Sommerland.

Juvelen (The Jewel) was built by Intamin and features a 1 km (0.62 miles) long track which

On Djurs Sommerland's new Juvelen coaster, riders are seated on ATV styled vehicles which give an unrestricted feel that intensifies the feeling of speed. The double launch coaster is supplied by Intamin.

COURTESY
DJURS SOMMERLAND

launches riders forwards twice during the ride sequence which sees them travelling through a luxuriant Mexican jungle on ATV (all terrain vehicle) styled vehicles. They reach a top speed of 85 kmh (53 mph) and experience rapid swings from side to side with banking up to 80 degrees on a track which is relatively low level, in places running just 1 meter (3.28 feet) above ground level.

The coaster makes use of two trains, each with nine, two-seater ATV vehicles that feature individual lap bar restraints. The duration of the ride is two minutes and 40 seconds and hourly capacity is 820 passengers. The new attraction represents an investment of €9.4 million (U.S. \$12.5 million) and

has been added to Mexicoland which has been enlarged by 12,000 square meters (129,167 square feet), with a large Mayan-themed area being built around Juvelen featuring a jungle setting with waterfalls, temples and statues.

The attraction is Djurs Sommerland's biggest ever investment and one of the largest ever in a Danish amusement park. Commenting on the new addition, CEO Henrik B. Nielsen said: "Juvelen has been impressively well received by our guests who say that it is a very fun and thrilling ride — and especially the second launch surprises people. What distinguishes it from a lot of other coasters is that it appeals to all

► See SOMMERLAND, page 12



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Innovative Leisure installs courses at U.K. farm attraction

BEDFORDSHIRE, U.K. — U.K.-based adventure play attractions specialists Innovative Leisure announces its entry into the farm attractions sector by opening Sky Trail High Ropes and Sky Tykes Junior Ropes courses at Bedfordshire's Mead Open Farm.

Strengthening a relationship with Mead Open Farm that began in 2010 with the installation of an Innovative Leisure Static Climbing Tower, the Leighton Buzzard-based farm attraction has now expanded its adventure play offering with a new combined high ropes design aimed at children aged two and up, through to adults. This gives a ropes course experience the whole family can enjoy together.

The growing farm attractions sector is constantly looking for appropriate ideas to offer visitors something new and, with primarily outdoor locations, adventure play attractions are helping to boost attendance and deliver a fun memorable family experience.

Known as one of the U.K.'s leading farm parks, Mead Open Farm has added an indoor play barn, digger village construction zone and the aforementioned Static Climbing Tower in the past five years and has now added the Sky Trail High Ropes and Sky Tykes Junior Ropes courses to continue its strong

adventure play offering.

The ten-pole Sky Trail Discovery course comprises a series of challenging rope elements from "tight ropes" to "stepping stones" that provide a perceived sense of danger in total safety. Participants rely on a full body harness and are attached to a continuous track via the "silent puck" system, a recent upgrade to the Sky Trail range.

A unique feature of the Sky Trail range is that participants can pass other users on the platforms between rope elements meaning users of varying confidence levels can take on the different rope elements seamlessly.

The main Sky Trail course can handle up to 25 people at any one time. The Sky Tykes Junior course is designed to take 10 children at a time meaning the combined throughput of the two courses is 35 at any one time. The courses are designed to accommodate 100 participants per hour.

The Sky Tykes Junior ropes course shares poles from the above modular Sky Trail layout and offers children between the ages of two and seven challenging ropes elements at the less daunting height of 1m. Accompanying adults walk alongside their "Sky Tykes" as they improve balance, decision making skills and have fun exploring.

Since opening this spring,

both courses have been a great success and Mead Open Farm's decision to include the ropes courses within the initial gate price has proved popular. "We visited the course at Edinburgh Zoo a few years ago, but the recent addition of the junior Sky Tykes course made our mind up more recently," said Mead Open Farm Owner Matthew Heast. "The customer feedback and word of mouth has been even better than expected. The course does a great job of drawing large crowds to that end of the park on busy days which is exactly what we wanted to achieve."

"The opening of the two ropes courses at Mead Open Farm has seen Innovative Leisure break into yet another sector. The company's close work with the National Farm Attractions Network and its members, coupled with its continued presence at NFAN's many events each year, makes the farm attraction sector one Innovative Leisure hopes to work with a lot more in the future, added Innovative Leisure Managing Director Phil Pickersgill. "Including the Sky Trail in the entrance price at Mead Open Farm should allow it to help the whole business. My hope is that admissions and spends per head will increase revenue and give Matt and Sue a strong return on their investment."



U.K.-based adventure play attractions specialists Innovative Leisure announces its entry into the farm attractions sector by opening Sky Trail High Ropes and Sky Tykes Junior Ropes courses at Bedfordshire's Mead Open Farm. The ten-pole Sky Trail Discovery course comprises a series of challenging rope elements from "tight ropes" to "stepping stones" that provide a perceived sense of danger in total safety. COURTESY INNOVATIVE LEISURE



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The Juvelen track is 1km in length making it the longest roller coaster in Denmark. To enhance the sensation of the coaster's speed (85 kmh/53 mph), much of the ride's track design is kept low to the ground. The Intamin-supplied ride is new this summer at Djurs Sommerland. COURTESY DJURS SOMMERLAND

► SOMMERLAND Continued from page 9

the family, and both young and old have a big smile on their face afterwards.

There is no doubt that Juvelen attracts a lot of new visitors so we expect to set a new visitor record this season."

And he continued: "Instead of sitting down in a car, you sit on an ATV with the upper part of your body completely unrestricted. Even though you are, of course, securely strapped in, it produces a completely different

sensation of freedom and speed. This is further reinforced by the special design of the track with a string of rapid side-to-side swings and a low track height which creates the impression of moving incredibly fast close to the ground."

Juvelen is the latest in a number of major investments made by Djurs Sommerland in themed rides within the past five years, during which time more than €26.8 million (U.S. \$35.5) has been invested in the park.



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Roland Mack receives honorary doctorate



Roland Mack, founder and owner of Europa-Park, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the School of Mechanical Engineering of the Karlsruhe Institut für Technologie (KIT). KIT honors the outstanding scientific achievements by the graduate of the Karlsruhe School of Mechanical Engineering with the honorary degree. Roland Mack, a graduate in engineering, who founded Germany's largest theme park almost 40 years ago, particularly proved his merit by establishing safety standards for rides and roller coasters around the world. "Mack is a role model for our future engineers and we are very thankful for his support. His impressive achievements are the best advertisement the School of Mechanical Engineering in Karlsruhe could have," emphasized Dean Jürgen Fleischer of the School of Engineering. COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

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U.K. attraction designed for disabled children opens

Fairytale Farm is described as a sensory and learning wonderland for all the family to enjoy

CHIPPING NORTON, U.K. — The U.K.'s first tourist attraction designed around the needs of children with varying disabilities but available to all was opened by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon David Cameron MP, on June 21 2013.

Park owners, husband and wife Nick and Nicola Laister, who funded the attraction almost entirely themselves with the help of a group of volunteers, personally welcomed Cameron to the site before introducing him to the people who had helped them realize the vision.

Cameron was then given a tour of the site, where he met Olivia (Nick and Nicola Laister's 15-year-old daughter who suffers from cerebral palsy), who was the inspiration behind the attraction. Olivia was accompanied by her classmates from Frank Wise Special

School in Banbury, who tried out the adventure play equipment, including a specially built wheelchair swing.

Cameron described Fairytale Farm as inspirational and said: "This project brings together three really important things. Firstly, we need more businesses in our country. We need more small businesses and we need more start-ups. It is great to be somewhere where you can hear about banks lending money and entrepreneurs starting a new business. Businesses really matter and it is great to be here at the start of a new small business in West Oxfordshire. Secondly, tourism also really matters and we want to do more to attract tourists to West Oxfordshire. There are going to be hundreds of millions of tourists coming from China and India in the future and we want to capture some of that value. Schemes like this will do exactly that.

"But most importantly, as the parent of a disabled child, I know how incredibly meaningful and important it is to have somewhere you can take all your children and particularly somewhere you can learn about wildlife, the countryside and animals, and have the opportunity to hold them and to get to know them. It means an enormous amount to parents of disabled children.

"Those things I think really come together in this great scheme."

Nick Laister commented: "It was a great honor for us to welcome David Cameron to Fairytale Farm today to officially open the Farm to the public. Fairytale Farm is the first visitor attraction in the U.K. to be specifically designed around the needs of children with disabilities, and which can be enjoyed without any pre-booking. It is the culmination of five years' work for my

family and we have created exactly the sort of place that we would have loved to have visited with our own daughter when she was younger. It is a real joy to watch disabled children enjoy a day out in the countryside with their brothers and sisters, where everybody can play together and nobody is left out. And we are sure that Fairytale Farm will also provide a great day out for families who do not have disabled children — we welcome everybody to the farm."

Fairytale Farm is described as a sensory and learning wonderland for all the family. With our exciting adventure playground, an enchanted walk with a surprise around every corner and a chance to meet our amazing animals, there is so much to see and do.

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Conneaut Lake Beach Club lost in fire



Conneaut Lake Park, Conneaut Lake, Pa., suffered yet another major fire in the early hours of Aug. 1, 2013. The fire (above two photos), which is still under investigation, destroyed the 1936-built Beach Club, Downunder Beach Bar and the Dockside banquet facility, shown below in photo taken in early July. Also lost in the blaze were one historic National Amusement Device Blue Streak coaster train, some random ride parts and some Fascination games. Fortunately, the park carried fire insurance. CLP BEACH CLUB FIRE COURTESY SAM SHURGOTT; CLP BEACH CLUB COURTESY RICHARD MUNCH



Michigan's Adventure enjoying guest reaction to Lakeside Gliders

STORY: Scott Rutherford
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

MUSKEGON, Mich. — Guests were invited to take flight this summer at Michigan's Adventure thanks to the addition of a new Flying Scooter attraction supplied by Texas-based Larson International.

Sporting the aviation-themed name Lakeside Gliders, the new interactive ride opened to the public on May 22, 2013, and has since attracted a lengthy queue of eager pilots.

The Flying Scooter has made a comeback recently thanks to Larson recognizing the potential of the original ride, which first made headlines in the 1930s and 40s when Bisch-Rocco began producing the units. Several of the originals are still entertaining riders as are their newer counterparts like the one that opened this season at Michigan's Adventure.

AT spoke with Laure Bollenbach, marketing director/group sales for Michigan's Adventure, about how guests had responded to the park's newest addition to its ride arsenal. "Our guests love the new Lakeside Gliders," said Bollenbach. "The interactive aspect of the ride allows them to have a different experience every time that they ride."

After the summer sun sets, the Lakeside Gliders take on another dimension thanks to an attractive lighting scheme designed by Larson and supplied by Denny's Electronics. The radiating sweeps from which the scooters are suspended are outfitted with

▶ See GLIDERS, page 16



Michigan's Adventure opened the Lakeside Gliders, a Larson Flying Scooters ride this season. For night operation, the ride is outfitted with LED lights from Denny's Electronics on each sweep arm. AT/DAN FEICHT; NIGHT PHOTO COURTESY MICHIGAN'S ADVENTURE



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Larson International supplied three Flying Scooters attractions for the 2013 season. Along with rides that opened this spring at The Great Escape and Knott's Berry Farm, a third unit took flight this spring at Michigan's Adventure. Dubbed the Lakeside Gliders, the new Scooter has been outfitted with a brilliant LED lighting package supplied by Denny's Electronics.
AT/DAN FEICHT

►GLIDERS Continued from page 15

strips of brilliant, multi-colored LEDs that make night flights especially exciting.

Commenting on the lighting package, Steve Mark, vice president of maintenance and construction at Michigan's Adventure, said, "The LED light package on our new Lakeside Gliders does a great job of illuminating the attraction and adding a lot of "show" to the midway. Great job Denny's and Larson!"

In addition to the Lakeside Gliders, Larson also supplied Flying Scooters to The Great Escape and Knott's Berry Farm for the 2013 season.



Woman dies while riding Texas Giant roller coaster

ARLINGTON, Texas — A woman in her late 50s died on July 19, 2013 when she fell out of a train on the Texas Giant roller coaster at Six Flags Over Texas.

The victim, identified as Rosy Esparza of Dallas, was riding with family when she somehow became dislodged as the 24-passenger train was out on the course. When the train returned to the station, her seat was empty but the hydraulic lap bar was reported to be in the correct down and locked position. There has been speculation that Esparza's obesity may have been a factor in the accident.

The Texas Giant originally opened in 1990 as the world's tallest wooden roller coaster. It closed in November 2009 and was converted by Rocky Mountain Construction into a steel-tracked hybrid coaster. The ride has operated without incident since reopening in April 2011.

The manufacturer of the Texas Giant's three six-car trains, Germany's Gerstlauer Amusement Rides GmbH, is working with Six Flags officials to determine the cause of the accident. The Texas Giant remains closed during the investigation. As of presstime, no official statement has been released by the park on the cause of the accident.

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Historic Santa Monica Pier aglow in new energy-efficient lighting

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — The Santa Monica Pier, one of the planet's most filmed and photographed landmarks and home to Pacific Park, has recently undergone an illuminating makeover.

The 97-year-old structure's new lighting was designed and manufactured by LEDtronics, Inc., based in nearby Torrance. It outlines the pier's structure and ornate hippodrome housing a 1916 Charles I.D. Loeffl carousel, and it extends to practical lighting — including the lampposts that provide needed nighttime illumination on the deck.

"The old fluorescent lights on the pier burned out, left gaps and were in a difficult area to maintain," said Matt Henigan, an energy efficiency engineer with the City of Santa Monica's Office of Sustainability and the Environment. "With the new LED lamps in place, maintenance is minimal, and we have already reduced energy consumption by over 30 percent. And because the LED lighting is directional, it improves safety and enhances the pier's appearance without causing light pollution for local residents."

"Now that the necklace lights on the carousel building have been replaced with LEDs, there are no gaps, they give off a nice, bright glow, and the colors really bring out the colors on the building," added Jim Harris, deputy director of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation Deputy Director. "We won't need to

change these bulbs for years, and the LED lamps added to the rest area and boardwalk outside of the building increase security."

Santa Monica funded the LED lighting project with a \$668,000 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant award from the U.S. Department of Energy. The solid-state replacement LED bulbs used on and around the 413,056-square-foot pier consume as little as 1.3 watts and provide up to 90 percent in energy savings over incandescent and fluorescent bulbs.

"The Santa Monica Pier and its carousel building were in desperate need of LED upgrades," said Pervaiz Lodhie, CEO of LEDtronics and an LED lighting pioneer. "Instead of having to deal with missing lights and financial hassles, the City of Santa Monica now has LED lights that save energy and maintenance costs... while enhancing the beauty of this historic site for people to enjoy worldwide."

—Dean Lamanna

The structure of the Santa Monica Pier (right) and its Loeffl Hippodrome carousel building (above right) are now illuminated with decorative and practical LED lighting from LEDtronics, Inc., replacing harder-to-maintain, less energy-efficient incandescent and fluorescent lighting.

COURTESY LEDTRONICS



Original rendering on display through Oct. 13

Unrealized Bible Storyland theme park highlights L.A. exhibition

STORY: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — A Disneyesque theme park based on biblical stories is one of the star attractions at "Never Built: Los Angeles," an exhibition running through October 13th at the A+D Architecture and Design Museum.

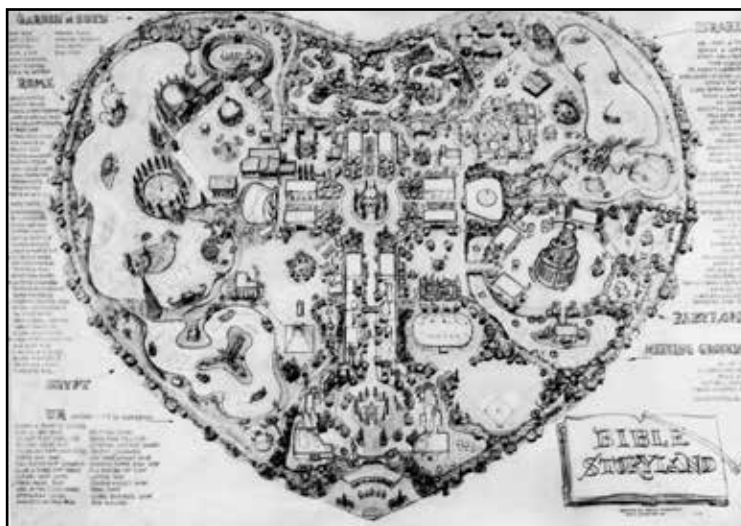
The original hand-drawn "blueprint" for Bible Storyland, on display among exotic renderings of other unrealized Southern California projects envisioned by the celebrated likes of Richard Neutra and Frank Lloyd Wright, is a genuine curiosity — representing big dreams and egos unrestrained by practicality and the potential for negative public perception.

Projected for an Easter Sunday 1961 opening on 220 acres along Route 66 in the Inland Empire, within the city now known as Rancho Cucamonga, Bible Storyland was the brainchild of former

WED (the initials of Walter Elias Disney) Enterprises vice president Nat Winecoff. Inspired by the success of Disneyland, which he had helped launch in 1955 in relatively-nearby Anaheim, Winecoff was joined in the venture by screen actor Jack Haley (a.k.a. The Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*) and Yo-Yo toy manufacturer Donald Duncan, Sr.

Bruce Bushman, previously a Disney Studios animator (*Fantasia*) and Disneyland ride designer, was commissioned to master-plan Bible Storyland. He produced several renderings of varying quality that provided an overview of the proposed park's heart-shaped layout and six themed "lands": Garden of Eden, Rome, Egypt, Ur, Israel and Babylon.

Arriving at a time when theme parks and Hollywood biblical epics like *The Ten Commandments* and *Ben-Hur* were increasingly popular, Bible Storyland, with the dramatic, 10,000-foot natural feature



Now showing at the A+D Architecture and Design Museum in Los Angeles, the original hand-drawn map of Bible Storyland — rougher than the proposal draft shown here — clearly was inspired by the successful layout and attractions of Disneyland. But its backers didn't bank on opposition from clergy across Southern California.

COURTESY A+D ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN MUSEUM

of Mt. Baldy as a backdrop, seemed a sure bet to its principals. But when a press release went out locally and nationally announcing the project, it raised eyebrows in both religious and secular quarters. Some leading clergy were out-

raged, calling the park "simplistic" and "dishonest," even "blasphemous," in its selective representations of the Old Testament.

The names of the rides alone were enough to raise ecclesiastical ire, if not outright

snickers. The Ride to Heaven and Dante's Inferno were pretty self-explanatory, while Jonah and the Whale was a boat ride that suggested a trip inside the giant sea mammal's mouth. The Camel Caravan and the David and Goliath Slingshot Gallery promised even more interactive thrills.

"The park as a whole seemed like a wonderful idea — the people who designed it were all very imaginative," said filmmaker Stephanie Hubbard, director of the quirky, informative and obsession-driven documentary *Bible Storyland*, which was released last year and is screened during the A+D Museum exhibition. "But some of the attraction ideas were cuckoo, and it was a pretty conservative time. Still, it seems like the park would have been a lot of fun."

For more on "Never Built: Los Angeles" and the *Bible Storyland* documentary screening, visit aplusd.org and biblestorylandmovie.com.



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Kings Island announces world's longest inverted coaster for 2014

Kings Island announced that it was building the world's longest inverted roller coaster for 2013. Dubbed Banshee, the new ride will feature 4,124 feet of track. COURTESY KINGS ISLAND



MASON, Ohio — After months of speculation among park guests and coaster fans, Kings Island finally released the details of its new-for-2014 attraction in a rare late-evening press launch on Aug. 8, 2013. The 167-foot-tall new ride, dubbed Banshee, will replace the Son of Beast wooden coast-



er that was removed in 2012 and will rank as the world's longest inverted coaster. Banshee was designed

by Bolliger and Mabillard of Monthey, Switzerland, one of the premier leaders in roller coaster development. Since 1990, B&M has designed a number of ground-breaking and critically acclaimed roller coasters.

Banshee will send riders through 4,124 feet of track featuring seven inversions at speeds up to 68 mph. The ride layout, specially designed for Kings Island, will include a unique collection of elements: a 150-foot curved drop, dive loop, vertical loop interacting with the lift, zero-g-roll, batwing, outside loop, spiral, in-line-roll, and a carousel.

Built over hilly terrain and incorporating the most exciting features of the very best inverted roller coasters in the world, Banshee will feature several unique elements that distinguish the ride from others. Two of the most unique features about Banshee are the massive size of every loop, and unlike other roller coasters, the top speed isn't reached until halfway through the ride's course. Since Banshee's lift hill is on a higher elevation of terrain than the other side of the ride that goes down into a valley, the total elevation change is 208 feet from the highest point at the top of the lift hill to the lowest point, which is the bottom of the batwing between inversion loops four and five.

Banshee, carrying a price tag of \$24 million, will utilize three trains with eight cars per train. Riders will be arranged four abreast for a total of 32 riders per train. Hourly capacity with three trains is expected to be 1,650 guests.

The choice of Banshee as the name for the new coaster is ironic since Cedar Point rejected "Banshee" when it was building the B&M standup coaster that eventually became Mantis, which opened in 1996.

"Banshee reflects our commitment to providing the best in world-class thrills and value for our guests and is an investment in the Ohio tourism industry," Kings Island's Vice President and General Manager Greg Scheid said. "People from around the world will plan a visit to Ohio next summer specifically to experience this ride."

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WATERPARKS & RESORTS

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New waterpark announced for Corsicana, Texas

Dallas-based LARC overseeing design and development

CORSICANA, Texas — Groundbreaking ceremonies for the long-anticipated waterpark and family entertainment center planned for the city of Corsicana in Navarro County was held on July 12 at the approximately 30-acre site near I-45 and US Highway 287.

The park includes an existing lake and is scheduled to open in the summer of 2014. Features will include several pools, a wave machine, a lazy river, mat racers, tube and body slides, zip lines, paddle boats, an amphitheater, beach volleyball, picnic shelters, and a water fountain show. In addition, throughout the park will be a variety of food, beverage and retail locations.

The waterpark has been in the planning stage for more than one and one-half years. After seeing another waterpark designed by the com-



This artistic rendering shows the layout of the waterpark and the FEC area shown on the right side of the facility. The facility sits on a 30-acre site and will open in 2014. COURTESY LARC

pany, Corsicana and Navarro County community leaders hired Leisure and Recreation Concepts, Inc. (LARC) to design, plan and develop the Corsicana Water and Adven-

ture Park.

Michael Jenkins, LARC's founder and president said, "We are thrilled to be working in Corsicana to build a high-quality family water and ad-

venture park. We hope to use as many local contractors and hire as many local citizens as possible, which will help spur economic development for the city and county."

Jenkins said the park is designed for a longer operating season, approximately 234 days annually, after opening in late summer of 2014. Future

► See **NEW PARK**, page 24

Carnival Sunshine gains new onboard waterpark from Polin

DORAL, Florida — Following a massive \$155 million renovation, the cruise ship Carnival Sunshine set sail in May with a new waterpark designed and installed by Polin Waterparks and Pool Systems of Tukey. The ship's massive new WaterWorks waterpark sports a racing theme and covers 1,500 square meters (16,145 square feet).

WaterWorks includes three spectacular slides and a waterplay structure with 40 different interactive water features. Among them is the PowerDrencher, a 300 gallon drenching bucket — the signature feature of the SplashZone kids' waterplay area, which also includes twin slides called mini-racers.

Most guests will be excited about the options for older kids and adults. The main feature is the Speed-



Above left, as seen from the stern, the colorful Speedway Splash racing slides feature a system that will display each rider's time on a scoreboard to identify the winner. Above right, the bright yellow Aquatube enclosed twister slide is the longest slide on any Carnival Cruise ship. COURTESY CARNIVAL

way Splash, comprised of two enclosed Aquatube slides that allow riders to race along a 72-meter (235-foot) path. Polin has designed a unique traffic light system that will determine the start of each race. The system will also display each rider's time on a scoreboard at the end to identify a winner.

A third Aquatube will be a record-breaker for the cruise line. The nearly 102-meter (334-foot) enclosed Twister slide will be the longest waterslide on any Carnival cruise ship.

Prior to its renovation, the Carnival Sunshine originally sailed as Carnival Destiny, which entered service



in 1996 as largest passenger ship ever constructed. Carnival Sunshine entered service May 5 in Europe following a complete transformation from bow to stern. While Carnival Destiny previously featured only one waterslide, that older model was removed and replaced with a three-story adults-only

lounge. Guests will discover the new waterpark at the opposite end of the ship with a much wider variety of aquatic attractions. Carnival Sunshine is spending the summer in the Mediterranean before repositioning this fall to New Orleans, operating seven-day Caribbean itineraries.



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The groundbreaking ceremony for Corsicana's new waterpark including l to r: Michael Jenkins, general partner; David Warren, Navarro county commissioner; Byron Cook, state representative; Chuck McClanahan, mayor; Connie Standridge, city manager; and Rick Rhodes, Texas Department of Agriculture representing the Texas Capital Fund.

COURTESY LARC

►NEW PARK

Continued from page 21

phases include a family entertainment center, ropes course, maze, go-kart track, and bathing cages.

City Manager Connie Standridge said, "It's such an important project for the city and community as a whole, especially exciting for the youth of our community and the economic impact for the city."

Corsicana Mayor Chuck McClanahan said, "We are very excited to have a venue of this type come to Corsicana. It will give young people another healthy activity to enjoy and also give older youth and adult residents jobs, plus help bring tourism to the community. It's a win-win for the whole community."

Mayor McClanahan added, "The projected economic impact for the Corsicana Water and Adventure Park is significant. The synergy created by the park will benefit the ho-

tels and restaurants located in the surrounding vicinity, and the park will generate additional entertainment development in the area. The project is estimated to draw in excess of 115,000 participants annually from a radius of approximately 50 miles. The venue is expected to hire over 50 full-time employees. Seasonal employment could reach more than 150 additional part-time workers, projected to generate a total annual sales tax of approximately \$297,000."

As of the ground breaking, the waterpark and other key suppliers for the \$9 million facility had not been selected. The park is being financed by a General Limited Partnership (CWAP GP, Inc.) that includes group of local investors, Michael Jenkins and included the use of debt financing and a Texas Capital Grant designed to help rural areas develop new growth opportunities and jobs.

Louisiana Representative seeks state oversight of waterparks

LIVINGSTON PARISH, La. — Following the drowning death of a teen at a Louisiana waterpark, Louisiana State Representative from District 71, J. Rogers Pope (R) is seeking state oversight of Louisiana's waterparks. Representative Pope said although waterparks do have to file building permits, the parks are not regulated once they begin operation.

According to a study by the World Waterpark Association, regulation varies across the country. Twenty-four states perform their own inspections of waterparks and 11 states leave it to the insurance companies to make certain waterparks are safe. Ten states have partial oversight of some aspect of waterpark operations, while five states have no safety regulations at all.



NEWS SPLASH

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

R&R Creative Amusement Designs has completed upgrades and additions to two classic rides at **Hyland Hills Water World** in Denver, Colorado. The 23-year-old **Lost River of the Pharaoh's** has various new scenes including a 4-foot sculpted pharaoh's head that warns travelers to turn back.

The waterpark's most popular attraction, **Journey to the Center of the Earth**, received a new LED lighting system, new audio tracks, and new dinosaur animatronics.

Holiday World's Splashin' Safari, Santa Claus, Indiana, took top honors in a *USA Today* month-long online poll which asked fans to vote for their favorite waterpark among 20 nominees. **Splashin' Safari's** collection of two **ProSlide HydroMagnetic** water coasters, family slides, wave pools, plus free sunscreen and free soft drinks, were noted as fan favorites. Coming in second and third were **Schlitterbahn New Braunfels Waterpark Resort** and **Noah's Ark** in Wisconsin Dells.

Soaring Eagle waterpark in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, was awarded a Gold Addy Award by the American Advertising Federation — Great Lakes Bay region for their website. The Addy honors the Great Lakes Bay Region advertising innovators and trailblazers. The navigation, writing, design, photography, and functionality of the website were all created in an intense two month process. "We could not have done it without the close partnership with the Impress Horak Creative Group," said **Jennifer Jones**, marketing manager for the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel.

Eight years after Hurricane Katrina destroyed a popular South Mississippi waterpark, **Buccaneer State Park** in Waveland, reopened **Buccaneer Bay Water Park** in June. Prior to its destruction the park was one of the state's largest tourist attractions, generating more than \$1 million each year. State officials are hoping that after the \$5 million restoration project it can regain its status as a tourist destination and start attracting the 500,000 visitors it did prior to the storm.

Schlitterbahn's new **Corpus Christi** waterpark is on track for a June 2014 opening. Tons of sand have been excavated, non-essential structures have been removed and the park is in the process of installing utilities. **Stan Holt**, formerly the executive director of the Padre Island Business Association, has been named as general manager of the park.

Great Wolf Resorts is looking to open another **Great Wolf Lodge** in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Rather than build from the ground up, Great Wolf Resorts is in the process of purchasing the current **Holiday Inn** and **CoCo Key Water Resort** and the **Central Massachusetts Exposition Center**. Plans call for a complete remodel including expanding the waterpark from 25,000 square feet to 55,000 square feet and increasing the rooms from 245 to 406. The expo center will be converted into 81 themed mezzanine rooms overlooking an indoor atrium recreation area that will include miniature

golf, bowling and an arcade. Great Wolf has already entered into a purchase agreement with K. Durga LLC, owners of the property, and are currently in the planning phase

The new **Wet 'n' Wild Las Vegas** has proved to be so popular that it has expanded its operating hours and is now offering a Twilight Ticket. Previously closing at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, the waterpark is now remaining open until 10 p.m. The new Twilight admission ticket costs \$24.99 and is available after 5 p.m.

When **Wet 'n' Wild Sydney**, Australia, opens in December 2013, the waterpark will boast two unique major waterslides. A 12-body-slide complex will be a world's first and feature an eight-lane **Whizzard Twist** mat racer intertwined with four dueling **Aqua-Loops**. The second complex features eight in-tube slides including four **MasterBlasters**, a **Giant AquaTube**, **Constrictor**, **Boomerango** and **Rattler**. All of the slides on these two unique projects are supplied by **WhiteWater West**.

Houston, Texas-based Reliant Energy has donated a solar-powered splash pad to **Houston's Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation**. The 2,340 square-foot play area is powered by 18 solar panels that produce about 6.6 megawatt-hours of electricity — enough to offset its energy use. The solar array also provides a shaded area for picnic tables and benches. The park also features materials to educate adults and children about the panels that produce the solar energy that operate the water pumps. "The splash pad is a wet and wonderful gift from Reliant that showcases strength that can come from business and community partnerships," said **Kathy Payton**, president of the Fifth Ward organization. "The sustainable energy information helps make our neighborhood not only a fun gathering place, but also a real-world example to teach about science and our environment."

Texas-based **Hawaiian Falls Waterparks** awarded 25 winners from each of the company's five waterparks to receive a complimentary 4-pack of admission tickets, food and all-day drinks. The "Summer Blessings" program sought nominations from area residents for people who made a difference in their life or within the community.

Calypso Waterpark in Limoges, Ontario, has opened a new themed river: **Kongo Expedition**. The 400-meter course takes about 15 minutes to complete and guests will encounter abandoned beaches, flooded caves, huts, falls and torrents. Explorers will need to watch out for giant mammals, reptiles, sneaky primates and a mysteries tribe of feather-headed jungle folk armed with lances. In addition to the themed river, the waterpark now features eight new VIP cabanas, a new wooded picnic area with 150 tables and three new restaurants.

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Terry Monkton appointed as BALPPA's newest chairman

Phil Pickersgill moves into role as vice chairman

LONDON — Terry Monkton, managing director of United Kingdom-based Simworx, has been appointed to the role of chairman of the trade associates group within the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions (BALPPA).

Monkton takes over the position from OmniTicket Newtork's U.K. Operations Director John Davies following a two year period as vice-chairman. He will remain in the role for a further two

years, supported by newly appointed Vice Chairman Phil Pickersgill, managing director of Innovative Leisure.

The 110 trade associate members represent approximately 40 percent of the total BALPPA membership and the group is made up of manufacturers and suppliers from the U.K., elsewhere in Europe and further afield. As such they play a key role in supporting the association and its various activities, including with event sponsorship and specific areas of expertise. As chairman of the group, Monkton will continue to have a place on the organization's management committee, along with Pickersgill, in order to repre-

sent the interests of the trade members and to put forward any issues they may wish to raise, either as a group or individually.

"I am very happy to take on the role of chairman of the trade associates group within BALPPA," Monkton commented. "We play a vital role within the association, not just through our membership fees but with our sponsorship of events, attendance at trade shows officially supported by BALPPA, participation in seminars and in various other ways and I'm looking forward to representing the many industry suppliers we have as members."

BALPPA currently has



Terry Monkton of Simworx will serve as BALPPA's chairman for the next two years. COURTESY SIMWORX

a total of approximately 270 members. The organization represents the interests of owners, managers, suppliers and developers in the U.K.'s commercial leisure parks, piers, zoos and static attrac-

tions sector.

For more information please contact Terry Monkton at (44) 1384-295-733 or by email: terrymonkton@simworx.co.uk.

Cedar Point's John Hildebrandt retiring after 40 years of service



John Hildebrandt shows off the collection of Golden Ticket Awards the park has won, something he is most proud of during his time as Cedar Point's vice president and general manager. AT FILE

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Cedar Fair has announced that H. John Hildebrandt, vice president and general manager of Cedar Point, will retire at the end of 2013. He will be succeeded by Jason McClure, vice president and general manager of Dorney Park.

"I would like to thank John for his 40 years of service and extensive contributions to Cedar Fair," said Richard Zimmerman, chief operating officer of Cedar Fair Entertainment Company. "John has helped to grow Cedar Point from a one park, one hotel, one marina operation, to the 'Best Amusement Park in the World' with a separately-gated waterpark, four hotels, two marinas, cottages and luxury campgrounds. He has directed the marketing campaigns for Cedar Point's most iconic rides including Magnum, Raptor, Mean Streak, Mantis, Millennium Force, and Top Thrill Dragster. Throughout his career, John has led by example, emphasizing the Cedar Fair cornerstones and ensuring that each guest has a 'Best-Day-of-Summer' experience, each and every time they visited a Cedar Fair park. We will miss John and we wish him a happy and healthy retirement."

John began his career with Cedar Point as a seasonal employee in Rides in 1969. He joined the Company full-time in February 1974 as a staff writer in the marketing department

and went on to serve in various roles with the company.

After a brief role as VP at Dorney Park, he returned to Cedar Point as vice president and general manager just prior to the 2005 operating season and has remained in this role for the past eight years.

Jason McClure will succeed Hildebrandt upon his retirement and Michael Fehnel, vice president and assistant general manager of Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom, will be promoted to vice president and general manager of Dorney Park.

McClure has more than 10 years of experience with Paramount Parks / Cedar Fair. Prior to his promotion to vice president and general manager of Dorney Park in 2008, Jason served as the vice president of finance at Paramount's Kings Island from 2004 to 2008, and as vice president of finance at Paramount's Carowinds from 2001 to 2004.

Fehnel has more than 20 years of experience with Cedar Fair and its Dorney Park amusement park. He began his career as a seasonal employee within the Games department and has served in a variety of leadership roles throughout Games, Merchandise and Foods before being promoted to vice president and assistant general manager in 2013.

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Wattman Trains introduces first ADA-accessible train at Dallas Zoo

DALLAS, Texas — The Dallas Zoo took delivery in March of the first Mini Express Train from Canada-based Wattman Trains featuring an ADA-accessible, custom caboose. The new caboose was engineered and designed exclusively by Wattman Trains and took several months of production to perfect and ensure it could safely contain and secure a standard wheelchair.

“The Dallas Zoo had been considering a Wattman train for over two years but wanted a train that could accommodate their visitors in wheelchairs. Wattman met their challenge and began the review process for modifying the caboose in November 2012,” said Intermark Ride Group’s Gina Guglielmi, U.S. representative for Wattman Trains.

“The result is an example of Wattman’s ingenuity and commitment to continue to improve and adapt their train products to meet the demands of the customer. We were the first to introduce an anti-collision system on our trains, a critical safety issue for trains operating in high pedestrian traffic areas, and now our trains are ADA compliant,” added Guglielmi.

The Dallas Zoo has experienced a surge in attendance the past two years, after the zoo went to private management, and recently hit an impressive 880,000 visitors for the 2012 season. The new Giants of the Savanna exhibit, opened in 2010, privatization and numerous zoo upgrades and improvements are credited with the attendance boost. The zoo has been serving the citizens of Dallas and surrounding areas for 125 years.

Complete information on the Mini Express and all Wattman products can be found at: www.wattman.ca.



Dallas Zoo took delivery in March of the first Mini Express Train from Wattman Trains featuring an ADA-accessible, custom caboose. The new caboose was engineered and designed exclusively by Wattman Trains and took several months of production to perfect and ensure it could safely contain and secure a standard wheelchair.

COURTESY
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Idlewild hosts PAPA Summer Meeting

All photos AT/SUE NICHOLS



Idlewild and SoakZone played host to 101 attendees during the 2013 PAPA summer meeting on July 15 & 16. Idlewild staff shown here left to right are: Ricky Spicuzza, director of operations; Matt Palko, maintenance director; Cecelia Snyder, director of food & beverage/retail/games; Ed Saxton, assistant general manager; Brandon Leonatti, general manager; Tom Paola, chief of public safety and Greg Spiker, maintenance manager.



Left to right: PAPA's 2nd VP, Jason McClure, Dorney Park; Past President Carl Crider, DelGrosso's Amusement Park and current President Brian Bossuyt, Camelbeach Mountain Waterpark.



Left to right: Joe James, Haas & Willkerson Insurance; Tom Rebbie, Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, and Joe Filoromo, ride inspector for State of Pennsylvania.



Left to right: Mike Curci, Midway Stainless; Tim Timco, S&S/Sansei and Debby Perry, PicSolve.



FAST TRACK

COMPILED: Scott Rutherford,
srutherford@amusementtoday.com

Universal Parks & Resorts and **The Coca-Cola Company** have announced a new, 10-year marketing partnership in the U.S., extending an ongoing relationship established in 1999. Under the new agreement, Coca-Cola continues its designation as official soft drink of Universal Studios Hollywood, Universal CityWalk Hollywood and Universal Orlando Resort – including Universal Studios Florida, Universal's Islands of Adventure and Universal CityWalk Orlando. The new agreement also expands to include official sports and energy drinks and teas and designates Minute Maid as official juice of the North American parks.

George Kalogridis, president of **Walt Disney World Resort**, will share leadership strategies and keys to his success at IAAPA's Lunch and Learn event during the IAAPA Attractions Expo 2013 this fall. Kalogridis will explain how Walt Disney World Resort pushes the boundaries of creativity and innovation to deliver the best possible experience for guests. A brief question and answer session will follow the presentation.

Indiana's **Holiday World** theme park has announced that Deep-Fried Twinkies will be available on the menu at the Funnel Cake Factory in the park's 4th of July section. To kick off the introduction of the new taste treat, Holiday World hosted a series of one-minute Twinkie-Mania eating contests. The deep-fried confection is topped off with powdered sugar and a drizzle of raspberry sauce.

This summer, Ohio's **Kings Island** is celebrating the 45th anniversary seasons of two of its most popular family attractions: Race for Your Life Charlie Brown (Arrow log flume) and the Monster (Eyerly flat ride). Both rides originally opened in 1968 at Cincinnati's **Coney Island** and were among the attractions transported to Kings Island in the fall of 1971. They join the Grand Carousel, Dodgem, Linus' Beetle Bugs, Peanuts Off-Road Rally and the Scrambler as the only rides remaining at Kings Island that were in operation at Coney Island.

TripAdvisor, one of the world's largest travel sites, has declared **Europa-Park** as not only the most popular theme park in Germany but is now also number one in Europe. TripAdvisor, presented the Traveller's Choice Awards for Attractions for the first time in 2013 and Europa-Park has come out on top.

Connecticut's **Lake Compounce** has implemented a new weather policy that allows customers to receive rain checks if the park closes due to inclement weather. The Great Day Guarantee allows guests to feel confident that they can visit without being intimidated by a few rain drops. If all attractions are closed due to inclement weather for over one hour, and the customer has their receipt showing a paid admission, they will be issued a free admission ticket (rain check) good for a return visit valid for the 2013 season.

Carowinds has teamed up with **Susan G. Komen Charlotte** for Carowinds for the Cure,

a four-week fundraising initiative. This special program was held at the park and online July 22 - Aug. 18. During Carowinds for the Cure, guests could purchase tickets to the park at a reduced price of \$41.99. These special tickets were sold exclusively online with \$1.00 from each ticket sold benefitting Komen Charlotte. Additional Carowinds for the Cure merchandise was available for purchase at the park with a portion of the proceeds going to the organization.

Debit card system provider **Embed** has deployed its technology at the **Rink Side Sports and Family Entertainment Center** in Gurnee, Ill.. The company's system was selected to replace another card system that was in use at the location and now ensures that Rink Side utilizes Embed for the cashless operation of games and attractions. The Embed point of sale product is used for the facility's food and beverage sales, as well as party and group functions, while the company's Redemption Pro technology is used to manage the location's merchandise display.

Visitors to Nebraska's **Aksarben Aquarium** will no longer be required to pay the \$1.00 admission fee to tour the facility. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission decided to drop the fee to expand conservation education and outreach efforts and to accommodate more visitors. Aksarben Aquarium is the only facility of its type in the Great Plains. The grand opening of the aquarium coincided with the 100th anniversary of the commission in 1979.

Chicago's **Shedd Aquarium**, a leader in animal care and conservation, has announced the successful birth of a healthy rockhopper penguin (*Eudyptes chrysocome*) chick. The young bird recently hatched at the aquarium, and is thriving before guests' eyes each day — gaining weight, eating and building a relationship with its feathery neighbors on exhibit in Polar Play Zone. The open nesting location allows guests the rare opportunity to watch and learn about the chick as it develops and grows. Visitors also have the unique chance to see mother and father care for the hatchling, sharing parenting responsibilities in equal shifts.

AT&T and **Disney Parks & Resorts** have announced an agreement that makes AT&T the official wireless provider for Walt Disney World Resort and Disneyland Resort. Through the agreement, AT&T will have various marketing and branding opportunities, including sponsoring Disney-created soccer and runDisney events at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. In addition, Disney will join AT&T to educate cast members and guests about "It Can Wait," AT&T's groundbreaking initiative to educate consumers about the dangers of texting while driving. AT&T and Disney will also collaborate to enhance the experience for the growing number of Disney guests using smartphones and tablets during their visit. Furthermore, cast members will use new mobile devices on AT&T's network to help deliver Disney's legendary guest service.

MARKETWATCH

RIDING THE MARKET



*Six Flags stock split on June 27, 2013

Company	Prices		52 Weeks	
	One Month Ago	08/06/13	High	Low
Cedar Fair L.P.	\$39.89	\$41.83	\$44.29	\$30.90
MGM Mirage	\$15.57	\$16.91	\$17.67	\$9.15
Six Flags Ent. Corp.*	\$37.23	\$37.01	\$40.31	\$26.60
CBS Corp.	\$47.09	\$50.06	\$55.58	\$31.84
Walt Disney Co.	\$63.82	\$67.05	\$67.89	\$46.53
Apollo Global Mgt. LLC	\$23.55	\$27.88	\$28.30	\$13.12
Blackstone Group	\$20.75	\$23.16	\$24.31	\$13.04
Village Roadshow	\$5.52	\$6.00	\$6.04	\$3.21
NBC Universal	\$23.24	\$24.31	\$24.95	\$19.87
SeaWorld Entertainment Inc.	\$35.45	\$36.88	\$39.65	\$30.26

CURRENCY DIESEL PRICES



Region (U.S.)	As of 08/05/13	Change from year ago
East Coast	\$3.919	\$0.050
Midwest	\$3.878	\$0.027
Gulf Coast	\$3.841	\$0.089
Mountain	\$3.931	\$0.118
West Coast	\$3.961	\$0.078
California	\$4.113	\$0.110

TOP 7 MOST TRADED CURRENCIES



On 08/06/13 \$1 USD =

0.7536 EURO
0.6528 GBP (British Pound)
98.63 JPY (Japanese Yen)
0.9295 CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.1235 AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.0386 CAD (Canadian Dollar)

PEOPLE WATCH

Sally Corp. names digital marketing manager

Jacksonville, Fla.-based Sally Corporation has promoted **Lauren Wood** to the newly created position of digital marketing manager and trade show coordinator. Wood joined the dark ride and animatronics design/manufacturing company in 2008 as a member of Sally's business development team. A graduate of Jacksonville's Stanton College Preparatory School, she holds a bachelor's degree in international affairs from Florida State University.



Wood

Prior to joining Sally Corporation, Wood worked at Adventure Landing in Jacksonville Beach as a group sales manager. In her new position, she is responsible for the company's social media and website, in addition to coordinating Sally's trade show display booth requirements.

Cedar Fair unitholders elects three to board

Cedar Fair, based in Sandusky, Ohio, announced that its unitholders elected **D. Scott Olivet** and re-elected **Eric L. Affeldt** and **John M. Scott, III** to the board of directors of its general partner, Cedar Fair Management, Inc., for three-year terms expiring in 2016.

The limited partners also confirmed the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm and approved an advisory vote on the compensation of the company's named executive officers.

"We are pleased to have Scott Olivet join our board of directors," said Matt Ouimet, Cedar Fair's CEO. "We are equally pleased to retain Eric Affeldt as our independent chairman of the board and John Scott as the chair of our governance committee. The collective expertise and experience of our board continues to ensure our focus on short- and long-term value creation for our unitholders."

Olivet, 50, brings more than 25 years of experience in retail, merchandising, marketing, finance, strategy, technology, international business and multi-division general management. Currently, he serves as the chief executive officer of Renegade Brands and the executive chairman of RED Digital Cinema.

Two staffers at IAAPA get new duties

The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) recently announced new roles for two long-time

IAAPA honors Quassy



Members of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) board of directors recently visited Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury, Conn., for a facility tour with park owners Eric Anderson and George Frantzis II. IAAPA Chairman of the Board Will Morey presented the park owners with a plaque honoring the locally-owned park for its industry leadership and 105 years of operation. Shown left to right during the plaque presentation are: Will Morey, Morey's Piers, Wildwood, N.J.; Quassy's Eric Anderson and George Frantzis II, and Rob Norris, Seabreeze Amusement Park, Rochester, N.Y. COURTESY QUASSY AMUSEMENT PARK

staffers at its headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. **Eamon Connor** is now director, education and certification programs, and **Jeremy Schoolfield** is editor-in-chief for IAAPA's *Funworld* magazine.

Connor leads IAAPA's newly created certification program and is responsible for developing, implementing, and reviewing programs to help IAAPA members achieve various levels of professional certifications. Connor has worked at IAAPA for 17 years, most recently serving as director of education programs and services.

Funworld Senior Editor Jeremy Schoolfield has been promoted to Editor-in-Chief. In his new role, Schoolfield is responsible for all editorial and production aspects for the magazine and the IAAPA Attractions Expo *Trade Show Daily*. Schoolfield is an award-winning journalist who has been honored with four writing awards since joining the IAAPA staff in 2004. Prior to his work at IAAPA, Schoolfield was a newspaper reporter in Indiana and South Carolina.

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ASTM Intl. honors Disney's Greg B. Hale

W. CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa. — ASTM International recently honored **Greg B. Hale**, P.E., chief safety officer and vice president of worldwide standards and auditing for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, Orlando, Fla., with the **2013 William T. Cavanaugh Memorial Award**. Hale received the award for his extraordinary contributions to amusement park safety through the development, promotion, implementation, harmonization and adoption of standards worldwide from ASTM International Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices.

The award commemorates W.T. Cavanaugh, chief executive officer of ASTM from 1970 to 1985.

Hale has been an ASTM International member since 1989. As chairman of Subcommittee F24.80 on Harmonization, he has worked for the international adoption and harmonization of standards, including collaborations with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and with the Canadian Standards Association and regulatory community. He has facilitated open industry sessions in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East to bring together experts and key regulators to raise awareness of ASTM International standards for amusement rides and to promote the harmonization and adoption of ASTM ride safety standards to enhance the safety of the amusement industry worldwide.

In his work at Disney, Hale leads a global team of ride design, operations and maintenance professionals responsible for theme park safety, accessibility for guests with disabilities and technology advancements. Hale is responsible for innovations that have advanced accessibility for people with disabilities, and he is co-inventor and patent holder of 63 U.S. and foreign patents.



NEW JERSEY AMUSEMENT ASSOCIATION

SUPERSTORM SANDY

Restore, Rebuild and Reopen

NJAA scholarship applications, golf registrations due

The New Jersey Amusement Association will be awarding their 23rd Annual Scholarships to full-time students employed in New Jersey's amusement industry. Since 1990, \$90,000 in scholarships has been awarded to deserving students.

The Scholarship Fund will present awards totaling up to \$5,000 to qualified applicants who are enrolled, or will be enrolled, at an accredited college or university. The applicants must be currently employed by a member in good standing of the NJAA and have worked during the 2013 season to be eligible to apply.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than Sept. 6, 2013, with the winners being announced at the NJAA Golf Outing on Sept. 17. To receive an application contact the NJAA at (732) 240-0000 or visit the organization online at: www.njamusements.com.

16th Annual Golf Outing

The 16th Annual NJAA Golf Outing to benefit Give Kids the World Village will be held Sept. 17 at the Sea Oaks Golf Club in Little Egg Harbor Township, N.J.

Lunch, shotgun start and cocktail hour, followed by dinner and awards, are all scheduled for the day. Highlights this year include two special hole-in-one prizes, a 2014 car and a \$25,000 cash prize.

This event will sell out quick, so be sure to register early.

Contact the NJAA office (see above) for the Golf Outing registration form.

Casino Pier's Star Jet coaster makes comic strip



Relentless media focus on the watery fate of Casino Pier's Star Jet roller coaster in the months following Superstorm Sandy culminated in July with this "Daddy's Home" comic strip send-up. The ride was removed from the ocean using giant cranes on barges to lift the steel structure out of the water in May. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION/©2013 RUBINO & MARKSTEIN, DISTRIBUTED BY CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



At Keansburg Amusement Park, recovery continued throughout the summer as new rides were introduced and refurbished older ones — like the kiddie vintage automobiles (above left) and Chance carousel (above right), which had been flattened by Superstorm Sandy — spun back into fun. About 25 miles down the coast, in Point Pleasant Beach, N.J., the action was back in full swing at Jenkinson's Boardwalk (shown below) by late July.

COURTESY IAAPA/NJAA





NEWS & NOTES

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2014 AIMS Intl. Safety Seminar: call for instructors

ORLANDO, Fla. — Have you ever wanted to teach at an AIMS Safety Seminar? The education committee is searching for individuals who would like to present a new or existing class at the AIMS Safety Seminar, January 13-17, 2014. If you think you have what it takes, contact Patty Beazley, education chairperson at beazleyp@comcast.net.

Past locations of the AREA/AIMS Safety Seminars

- 1995: Wichita, Kan.
- 1996: Wichita, Kan.
- 1997: Cleveland, Ohio
- 1998: Akron, Ohio
- 1999: San Antonio, Texas
- 2000: Wichita, Kan.
- 2001: Houston, Texas
- 2002: Dallas, Texas
- 2003: Orlando, Texas
- 2004: Dallas, Texas
- 2005: Dallas, Texas
- 2006: Dallas, Texas
- 2007: Dallas, Texas
- 2008: Tulsa, Okla.
- 2009: Branson, Mo. & Las Vegas, Nev.
- 2010: Orlando, Fla.
- 2011: Orlando, Fla.
- 2012: No seminar due change of seminar dates
- 2013: Orlando, Fla.
- 2014: Orlando, Fla. (Jan. 12-17, 2014)



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Company Name:
Sally Corp.
 Jacksonville, Fla.

Company Rep:
John Wood



BIO: After graduation from Wake Forest University, John Wood went to work for a major insurance company before being introduced to Sally by a friend, also named John. Sally was, at that time, nothing more than a talking head created by a dentist—yet another John. The three Johns envisioned a future for talking characters, incorporated Sally in 1977 and set out to conquer the corporate and retail worlds with these unusual marketing tools. Wood was the company's entire marketing team. Fortunately the three entrepreneurs were correct: there was a market for animatronic characters — from the Tooth Fairy to Sir Thomas Lipton.

In 1980, with the emergence of family entertainment centers and their animal bands, Wood led Sally Corporation's highly successful foray into the creation of musical shows. By 1985, Wood recognized that dark rides, in particular interactive dark rides, were the next logical step for Sally and set the wheels in motion. Today, Sally Corporation is one of the world's leading dark ride design/build companies, creating classic, interactive, black light and media-based dark rides; most recently incorporating interactive 3D screens. The company also continues to provide outstanding, realistic animatronic characters for museums and attractions, and, of course, dark rides.

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What services or products does your company provide to the amusement industry?

Established in 1977, Sally Corporation specializes in producing quality animatronic figures and turnkey dark ride solutions. The company is a full service company providing professional design, project management, show control, ride control, ride systems and show elements for dark rides of all shapes and sizes. Its 40,000-square-foot home office facility is located in Jacksonville, Fla.

How did your company come to be involved in the amusement industry?

As a producer of lifelike animatronics, getting involved in the amusement industry was a "no brainer"! Sally exhibited at its first IAAPA convention in 1978 and has been involved ever since.

What makes your company different from your competitors?

I believe we are the only full service dark ride company in existence, although there are a number of manufacturers of quality animatronics in the world. In every project we strive to provide the best looking and performing product, built to withstand the rigors of continuous operation with minimal maintenance and provide the best customer interface possible.

Throughout the years we have helped develop many new technologies including the interactive game dark ride (we had nine open before Disney opened Buzz Lightyear!). Our focus has always been on the regional amusement park while our competitors have focused on Disney and Universal.

What is something about your company that makes you especially proud?

Two things come to mind: The first is that our customers come back time and time again. The second is the tenure of most of our employees. Some of our key employees have been with us for more than 30 years and numerous others have been with us for 20 or more. You cannot buy that type of experience and it pays off on every project. We have a great team of professionals and customers... you just can't ask for more!

What are some of the challenges your company faces within the amusement industry today?

Consistent sales are always an issue. When you are a custom builder of large attractions like we are, you can be easily overwhelmed by taking on too much work at any one time and, of course, the reverse is true too — there can be big gaps in the production schedule as well.

How long has your company been a member of AIMS?

Sally Corporation was actually one of the founding members of AIMS, and I served on the initial board of directors for a short period of time.

How does your company benefit by being a member of AIMS?

AIMS has done a great job of providing safety standards and manufacturing processes while maintaining a great network of industry manufactures. Even though I haven't personally attended an AIMS safety seminar, our director of ride systems has and is always filled with new ideas and contacts when he does.

—Compiled by Tony Claassen, AIMS board member

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ASTM amusement rides committee approves trampoline courts standard

INOVA hired to manage non-profit International Association of Trampoline Parks

HERSHEY, Pa. — Tracy Sarris, INOVA president, has announced that the Hershey, Pa.-based company has been hired to manage the newly formed International Association of Trampoline Parks (IATP).

INOVA was initially hired in January 2013 to organize the IATP as a 501(c)(6) non-profit trade association. The organization was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and officially recognized by the Department of State in May 2013. IATP was formed for the purpose of promoting safe operations, facilitating commercial success and stimulating growth of the trampoline park industry.

Sarris will act as the executive vice president for the association and provide association management services

► See INOVA, page 36

More than 160 trampoline courts now in operation

W. CONSHOHOCKEN Pa. — The popularity of trampoline courts has grown, and is still growing, rapidly. While there were initially just a handful of such facilities on the west coast of the United States in 2007, there are now approximately 160 trampoline parks throughout the world. Due to deep interest from a wide variety of stakeholders, a new standard for trampoline courts has been recently approved by ASTM International.

The new standard, ASTM F2970, Practice for design, manufacture, installation, operation, maintenance, inspection and major modification of trampoline courts, was developed by subcommittee F24.60 on Special Rides/Attractions, part of ASTM International committee F24 on Amusement



Rides and Devices.

"Everyone wins from the publication of ASTM F2970," says Philip Slaggert, president, Slaggert Risk Management, and chair of the F24.60 task group that developed the standard. "The consumer wins from having uniform safety rules and expectations. Manufacturers win from uniform construction and quality assurance protocols. The insurance industry will now have a uniform base line and established best practices, as found in the standard. Regulatory agencies will not have to reinvent the wheel when drafting new regulations for

this fast-growing industry segment."

According to Slaggert, here are specific ways in which the various stakeholder groups will either use or benefit from ASTM F2970:

• **Regulators/Policy-makers:** The standard provides guidance in setting policy and regulations that will aid in the permitting process for trampoline courts. ASTM F2970 provides clear guidance to regulatory officials when permitting and inspecting trampoline courts from a compliance perspective.

• **Designers/Engineers/Manufacturers:** ASTM F2970 provides aid in the design phase and establishes clear guidelines for manufacturers' responsibilities.

• **Owners/Operators:** ASTM F2970 provides guidance on planning, operation, signage and patron education.

• **General Public:** The standard establishes clear guidelines for trampoline

court foam pits, frame padding, accessibility, patron education and conduct guidelines.

"The new standard was developed by a dedicated group of stakeholders including manufacturers, owner/operators, risk managers, regulators and consumer advocates," says Slaggert. "Every aspect of ASTM F2970 was developed with the end user in mind."

"This new standard helps our industry raise the bar relative to risk management and look for ways to improve park operations and design," said Jeff Platt, chairman of the International Association of Trampoline Parks. "It's expected that by this time next year, facilities should be in compliance with the new standard."

To purchase ASTM standards, visit www.astm.org and search by the standard designation, or call (877) 909-ASTM.



Golden Nugget to acquire Ameristar Casino Lake Charles development

HOUSTON, Texas and LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Golden Nugget and Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. recently announced that the companies have entered into a definitive agreement whereby Golden Nugget will acquire all of the equity interests of the entity that owns the Ameristar Casino Lake Charles development project.

Under the terms of the agreement, Golden Nugget

will pay total consideration equal to all cash expenditures on the development up until the date of closing, and the assumption of all outstanding payables related to the project at that time, less a \$37 million credit. Golden Nugget will complete the development project following the closing of the transaction. Ameristar has disclosed that through June 30, 2013, it had invested total capital of \$213.9 million

in the Lake Charles project, including the original purchase price, capital expenditures and escrow deposits.

Tilman J. Fertitta, owner and chief executive officer of Golden Nugget and affiliate, Landry's, Inc. said: "We are tremendously excited about this opportunity. Due to our strong presence with all of our brands in the Texas and Louisiana markets, we are confident that we can grow gam-

ing revenues in Lake Charles, and together with L'Auberge Lake Charles Casino Resort, offer consumers one of the best gaming experiences in the country."

Anthony Sanfilippo, chief executive officer of Pinnacle Entertainment, added: "We are pleased to enter into this agreement with Golden Nugget. With Golden Nugget being headquartered in South Texas, having a long history of

high quality operations in the broader region and bringing strong brands and operational expertise in the gaming and hospitality industries, we believe they are well positioned to enhance the appeal of Lake Charles and our respective resort properties as a preeminent gaming entertainment destination."

Landry's, Inc. operates Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier and Kemah Boardwalk as well as numerous restaurants including Rainforest Cafe, McCormick & Schmick's, Saltgrass Steak House, and Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., to name just a few.

The transaction, which is subject to the approval of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board and U.S. Federal Trade Commission, is expected to close by the end of 2013.



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► INOVA

Continued from page 35
as needed.

"It is exciting to be working with such a dedicated group of individuals in this growing segment of the entertainment industry," said Sarris. "The founding board members have already volunteered countless hours over the last two years to assist in the development of the new ASTM standards for trampoline courts and they continue to engage state and federal regulators in efforts to influence effective policy that promotes running a safe and successful trampoline court."



INOVA specializes in providing management and marketing services for non-profit associations and for-profit businesses.

For more information about the International Association of Trampoline Parks, visit www.indoortrampolineparks.org. The association will be holding its first annual meeting October 23-24, 2013, at the Doubletree Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz.



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MIDWAY

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Owner Tom Gaylin feels he's been lucky

Rosedale Attractions purchases new rides for the second half run

STORY: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

STANARDSVILLE, Va. — Tom Gaylin, Rosedale Attractions and Shows, feels lucky.

Even though the mid-Atlantic region of the U.S., his seasonal route area, has been hit with an extraordinary number of storms this summer, he has been able to skirt the downpours.

"It seems like the storms come really early, before we open, or really late after we already have gotten everybody's money," he said. "Like today (Aug. 2); we had a storm at about 3:30 this afternoon, but it is gone and the skies are blue and we are open."

He was playing the Greene County Fair, Stanardsville, July 30-Aug. 3, when reached by AT. The carnival is based in Baltimore, Md.

Since the season has been going so well, Gaylin invested in a couple of additional attractions. One was to arrive

during the Greene County Fair. The second was to arrive sometime this month (September). The first was a Puppy Roll, coming from GoldStar Manufacturing.

"It is essentially a Sellner spin ride but with the puppies," Gaylin said. "It is a great looking ride. It is already on the truck and we should have it by tomorrow (Aug. 3). We have already made arrangements for inspection and we hope to have it up and running tomorrow night."

The second ride he is looking forward to is a Cliff Hanger, originally manufactured by Dartron. He said he is currently in negotiations to buy a used one from another carnival owner. He feels everything will work out and hopes to have the ride by September.

Gaylin already had two new pieces on the midway: a Quad Runner by Dalton and new inflatable from Wappello.

He also has been working to light his midway with

LEDs, purchasing them from Denny's Electronics. Currently, he has 15 rides with LED packages. After he wraps up his 2013 season on the road, which is expected about mid-October, he plans to start adding LED packages to other rides.

"By my next season, I want to have all my kiddie rides with LEDs and all my concessions," he said. "We outfitted the Quadrunner with LEDs and it is so bright. It just sticks out. We have been tickled with the product we are getting from Denny's."

Aside from purchases, Gaylin has spent some time refurbishing existing rides, such as his vintage Mangels pony cart ride.

"We are in the process of refurbishing now," Gaylin said, "but we run it at every date. We have repainted and redone parts of the wagons to give them the stagecoach effect. We plan to put some gold gilt around the edges of the wagons. We have added new wraps and I plan to add Denny's LEDs. I had some guys who totally re-racked the ride. I person can take it down now and it can be ready to roll in 30 minutes."

Aside from the new equipment, Gaylin added a new date that he is very excited about. He was to be at the Little League's Cal Ripkin World Series, Aberdeen, Md., in mid-August.

"This is the first year they have had carnival rides," Gaylin said. "We are very excited about the event. They expect to have a captured audience of about 5,000 a day. Then on the final day, when they have



One of Gaylin's rides is this Eli Wheel, above, seen here on the midway at the Mount Airy (Md.) Volunteer Fire carnival at the end of July. Below, Gaylin spends quite a bit of time renovating during the off-season. He added new paint and wraps to his Tornado by Wisdom.

AT/SUE NICHOLS



teams come in from all over the world, they are expecting 50,000 there."

Gaylin said the entire event lasts for 10 days, but they will only be there for seven due to conflicts in his scheduling. Event dates are Aug. 9-18.

"It was interesting, too," he said, of his negotiations with them. "When we first started talking to them, we

spoke with some of Cal Jr.'s staff. But, when we got to the final negotiations, we negotiated with Cal Jr. He is very hands-on."

Gaylin travels with anywhere from 20 rides on his smaller dates to 40 rides on his larger ones.

"I don't need to get any larger than that," he said.



Gaylin purchased a new Quad Runner from Dalton for this 2013 season. It has been equipped with LEDs from Denny's Electronics, which have made it stand out among other kiddie rides. He plans to put LEDs on all his kiddie rides this off-season. AT/SUE NICHOLS

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2013 San Diego County Fair Top 10 Rides

1. **Crazy Mouse** (S & J Enterprises), manufactured by Reverchon
2. **Grand Wheel** (RCS), manufactured by Carousel Holland B.V.
3. **Magnum** (Wood Entertainment), manufactured by Mondial
4. **G Force** (Southern Cross Rides), manufactured by KMG
5. **Skyride** (RCS), manufactured by Seatrek
6. **Fast Trax** (State Fair Spectaculars), manufactured by Fabbri
7. **Olympic Bobs** (Helm & Sons), manufactured by S.D.C.
8. **Alien Abduction** (RCS), manufactured by Wisdom
9. **Skyflyer** (Bishop), manufactured by Zamperla
10. **Tango** (Bishop), manufactured by KMG

Food Facts

- Bacon-A-Fair sizzled over 15,000 pounds of bacon and sold 50,000 pieces of chocolate covered bacon, along with 35,000 cheesy bacon bombs
- Dixie's Donuts fried up over 23,000 mini donuts;
- Chicken Charlie sold over 15,000 Krispy Kreme Sloppy Joe's, 17,000 Bacon Wrapped Pickles, 10,000 Waffle Dogs and 20,000 Balls of Fried Cookie Dough
- Pink's sold an estimated 19,000 hot dogs.
- The two best sellers: The traditional Chili Dog, and the Royal Dog (2 hot dogs in one bun).

—Source San Diego County Fair

2013 San Diego County Fair draws second largest attendance

DEL MAR, Calif. — Officials of the San Diego County Fair, held June 8-July 4, reported a 2013 attendance of 1,425,200, the second highest attendance the fair has recorded.

Last year, the first year the fair expanded to 24 days instead of 22, there were 1,517,508 people during the run and that set the overall attendance record. Still the 2013 number was more than the 2011 number of 1,412,113. From 2009-2012, the event had been setting a record every consecutive year.

Fair officials, however, had no reason to be concerned over the slight decrease this year.

"We want to thank everyone in San Diego for all of



The San Diego County Fair, Del Mar, Calif., reported its second highest attendance at this year's fair. There were about 80 rides on its independent midway. COURTESY SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

their support and for coming to the 2013 San Diego County Fair because this is their fair," said Tim Fennell, CEO and general manager of the Del Mar Fairgrounds. "We were proud to present a venue that provided a great value for our guests. The fair is really about the people and teamwork that run this event year-after-year. Thanks again to those who were able to join us as we could not have done it without you."

This year's theme was "Game On!" and, by all

feelings, was a huge hit which touched ages of all kinds through exhibits, attractions, shows, food, games and rides.

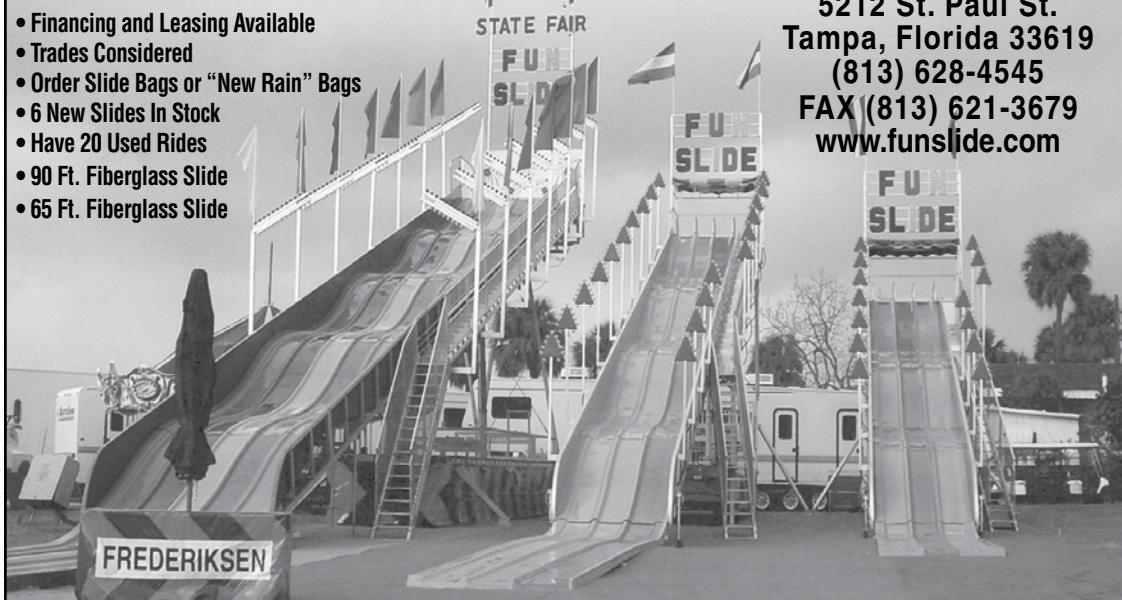
The largest one-day attendance during the 2013 San Diego County Fair was on the fair's final day when 93,754 came out on July 4. Final revenue numbers weren't available at this time.

San Diego is an independent midway. There were about 80 rides total, just about split in half between adult and kiddie rides.

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The final numbers are in from the 94th annual **Delaware State Fair**, Harrington, July 18-27, and the event saw a slump in attendance. More than 228,000 guests walked through the gates at the 2013 event, a 10 percent drop in overall sales from a year ago.

Organizers say the excessive heat during the first half of the fair's 10-day run was the main culprit. They also blamed a weaker than usual concert line-up that failed to meet ticket sales expectations.

Despite admission ticket setbacks, fair officials said there were high points. A new electronic ride ticketing system made its debut with high acclaim this year. **Wade Shows** offered riders' cards or wristbands that were scanned at each ride, allowing ride data to be viewed in real time for financial and operational oversight. The carnival also provided the Gold Access VIP rider access, where participants could go to the head of the line at rides.

Wade Shows has been at the Delaware State Fair for about 30 years. This year the carnival brought more than 50 rides to the midway.

The popularity of the air-conditioned "Marketplace Tent" from last year carried over to this year as the tent's size increase 50 percent and added 18 new vendors. There is already a "Marketplace Tent" vendor waiting list developing for next year's fair.

The 2013 **North Dakota State Fair**, Minot, topped last year's record attendance by 9,596 more visitors.

The fair welcomed 320,485 people from July 19-27, compared to 310,889 people in 2012, according to a news release.

State Fair Manager **Renae Korslien** said in the news release the weather, concerts and other attractions such as the Enduro race, the IMCA and stock car race, the NPRA bull riding and other free shows are what drew in the large crowds.

Murphy Brothers Expositions provided the midway with about 47 rides and attractions including 25 adult rides and 22 kiddie rides.

More than 400,000 people walked through the gates of the **California Mid-State Fair**, Paso Robles, July 17-28. Organizers say that's the second year in a row they've topped 400,000 in attendance.

Across the board, the numbers nearly mirrored that of 2012. There was a slight bump in attendance, and in concert and concession sales.

More than 411,000 attended the fair.

Concert attendance increased two percent from last year. Concessions raked in more than \$1,050,000, a little more than a one percent increase from 2012. Overall, there were slight increases, with the livestock auction and sale being the leader of the pack in profits.

Davis Enterprises provided the midway and reported that ticket sales for rides came to about \$500,000, about the same as in 2012.

Next year's California Mid-State Fair will run from July 16th through July 27th.

Attendance was down from previous years at the **Oregon International Air Show** and neighboring **Washington County Fair** last weekend during an unprecedented scheduling overlap of the two events.

The fair saw a nine percent drop from last year's attendance, with 100,096 people showing up, according to fair Manager **Leah Perkins-Hagele**. Next door, the air show saw a more marked decline: with about 58,000 people. That's about a 27 percent drop from the air show's self-reported annual average attendance of 79,780.

This year was something of an anomaly for the county's two signature events, less than a half-mile apart in Hillsboro.

Usually, the air show and fair are held on separate weekends, but the Air Show booked the same 2013 weekend as the Washington County Fair in order to snag big-time act the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. In the spring, the Blue Angels were grounded by federal budget issues.

Air show spokesman **Steve Callaway** attributed the attendance drop to the Blue Angels' cancellation and other sequestration-related losses, including fewer military planes on static display and no flybys.

As for possible overlap between the two events in future years, Callaway said the air show has not yet set a date. The fair is booked several years in advance and the date is fairly rigid.

Butler Amusements provided the midway this year. In 2011, the carnival signed a 10-year agreement to provide the midway for the fair.

Record-breaking numbers of people attended this year's **Plymouth County Fair**, Le Mars, Iowa, July 24-28.

More than 100,000 people, to be exact.

"It was unbelievable in every way, shape and form," said **Tony Schroeder**, fair board president. "We had huge attendance, excellent weather."

The Plymouth County Fair Board estimated overall attendance for the five-day fair at 100,900. Saturday, July 27, brought 26,750 through the gates of the fair, which set a new daily attendance record, Schroeder said.

McDermott Family Shows provided the midway.

Food vendors ran low on supplies after Saturday's crowd, Schroeder added.

For example, the Pork Producers sold 1,600 chops on Saturday, compared to a total of 2,200 during the entire 2012 fair, he said.

Upwards of 10,000 doughnuts at the Kiwanis bakery, about 1,000 fruit whips, and hundreds of boxes of popcorn fed the crowds, along with hundreds of nutty bars, tacos-in-a-bag, brats and pie a la mode.

Prior to Saturday's record-breaking numbers, Friday's crowd numbered about 20,500, Thursday's about 17,100 people and Wednesday's about 17,800, according to fair board member Rich Benson.

Unlike some years, fairgoers even turned out midday Sunday to take in the sights, Schroeder said.

Attendance was up at this year's **Stanislaus County Fair**, Turlock, Calif., July 12-21, with 229,000 people attending representing a five percent increase over the 2012 event.

"It was a great combination of entertainment, agricultural education, and just plain fun," said **Chris Borovansky**, chief executive officer of the Stanislaus County Fair, in a statement about this year's events. "The fair at its core is a special event for the community."

Relatively mild weather, with temperatures cracking 100 degrees only on the final weekend, helped attendance. Organizers reported continued success with the Park 'N Ride program, which shuttles people to the fair from free parking sites at no charge. More than 15,000 people used the service, up from 13,000 the previous year.

Butler Amusements provided the midway.

Old-fashioned favorites helped attract crowds and participants. Nearly 30,000 individual entries were exhibited, including more than 3,700 floriculture exhibits and 2,100 photography exhibits.

The livestock program also grew this year, with more than 2,000 animals — cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and more — shown as part of the 4-H and FFA programs.

Officials at this year's newly renamed **K-Days** summer fair, Edmonton, Alta., reported its second highest attendance in 13 years when it ran July 19-28. Attendance for the 10-day fair reached 781,743. Only the 2005 event, when the fair was still known as Klondike Days, had a bigger attendance, with 810,503 people coming through the gates.

The event had been known as **Capital Ex** since 2006, but was changed to K-Days this year after a public competition to rename the fair.

"This is what Edmontonians wanted," said **Lauren Andrews**, spokeswoman for K-Days. "Last year we turned it over to Edmontonians and said, 'This is your fair, we want you to rename it, put your stamp on this year's summer fair.' ... Edmontonians are showing us they're really engaged in this year's summer fair."

Andrews said people started lining up at 9:30 a.m. many days, especially attracted to the south ground of the midway, with its entertainment district.

North American Midway Entertainment provided the midway. A new ride at the fair this year was the **Mach 3**, manufactured by **KMG**.

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Deggeller Attractions, Stuart, Fla., bought the L & T Wild Mouse in 2011 from Pedroland at South of the Border, Dillon, S.C. The September 6-15 York Fair is supposed to be the inaugural debut of this attraction for the ride operator, pending a sign-off by the Pennsylvania ride safety inspectors. Deggeller completely refurbished the ride, including a new braking system. The ride was delivered and assembled in York, Pennsylvania a full eight weeks before opening day.

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2013 California State Fair a big success

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Officials at the 2013 California State Fair are pleased with attendance results of this year's event.

Held July 12-28, the fair reported an overall attendance of over 697,000. The event also drew the highest daily average attendance it has experienced in the past five years.

Daily attendance grew 6.5 percent averaging 41,003 people per day compared to 38,502 in 2012.

Preliminary total attendance showed:

- 2013: 697,045 people attended the 17-day fair, and
- 2012: 693,034 people attended the 18-day fair.

The Fair hosted three spectacular attendance days:

- Tues., July 23 more than 70,000 guests attended;
- Sat., July 27 more than 80,000 guests attended, one of the top 10 attended days in the past 10 years, and
- Sun., July 28 more than 70,000 guests attended.

Butler Amusements provided the midway with 68 rides this year including the show's new Ex-scream Machine Giant Roller Coaster, manufactured by Pinfari, and Vertigo, manufactured by ARM.

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