

Euro Disney future secured with €1bn refinancing

Euro Disney has agreed a €1bn (US\$1.2bn, £785m) restructuring of debt, with the Paris-based theme park receiving backing from its largest shareholder – Walt Disney.

Walt Disney owns 39.8 per cent of the park's shares, with a further 10 per cent in the hands of Saudi tycoon Prince Alwaleed. The third-largest investor is Invesco, which owns a 5 per cent stake in Euro Disney.

The park has said that it will embark on a €420m (US\$527m, £329m) rights issue open to all investors, which will improve the financial state of the park by €250m (US\$314m, £196m).



Walt Disney is backing the €1bn refinancing of the Paris theme park

In addition, around €600m (US\$753m, £470m) of the group's debt owed to Walt Disney will be converted into equity, while credit

lines extended to Euro Disney by its parent will also be consolidated. Following the announcement, shares which started the

day at €3.46 saw a sharp fall to €2.91 and bottomed out at €2.71, before stabilising at around €2.77.

The park's refinancing comes despite estimates from Euro Disney that a new *Ratatouille* attraction would boost finances by €32m (US\$40m, £25.1m).

Euro Disney is still Europe's most-visited tourist attraction, though attendance last year slipped by 6.9 per cent to 14.9 million visitors. The park's next major boost is expected to come in 2016, when it will open Villages Nature – a sustainable vacation concept in partnership with holiday apartment rental company Pierre et Vacances.

More: http://lei.sr?a=R7s4B_A

White House visitor centre undergoes US\$12.6m refurb

The visitor centre at the White House in Washington DC, has reopened following a US\$12.6m (€9.7m, £7.8m) renovation.

Part-funded by a US\$7.5m (€6m, £4.6m) public-private partnership with the White House Historical Association and undertaken by the National Park Service, the two-year renovation will create 16,000sq ft (1,440sq m) of remodelled space, a new exhibit area, shop and visitor information sites, plus tactile exhibits for the visually impaired and more than 90 White House artefacts.

More: http://lei.sr?a=Y6a3T_A

Horror fans flock for visitor attraction fright nights

Attractions worldwide are gearing up for Halloween 2014 with a selection of shows designed to shock, terrify and amaze those in search of a fun-filled fright in October.

Horror attractions have become increasingly popular in recent years with attractions operators seeing value in giving their customer a slight scare, all in the name of fun of course! Among the many horror attractions on offer, Universal Orlando's annual Halloween Horror Nights events are proving ever popular, even more so with AMC's hit TV show *The Walking Dead* making its return to the park in the shape of a horror maze. Not only will the park's guests get the opportunity to flee from a



Walking Dead returns to Universal this month

horde of flesh-hungry zombies, but they will also get the chance to explore a psychedelic 3D clown maze with a musical score composed by iconic rock guitarist Slash.

Continued on back cover

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‘Shawshank’ prison set for major tourist renovation on 20th anniversary

The former prison used in the 1994 Oscar-nominated classic *The Shawshank Redemption* is going to be opened as an all-year round attraction after being earmarked for a major upcoming renovation.

Originally built in 1886, the Ohio State Reformatory drew 80,000 visitors in the last year as the site celebrated the build up to the film’s 20th anniversary.

The prison-turned-visitor attraction will undergo a renovation over the next six months, with plans to clean, decorate, replace the huge cathedral windows and supply heating to the former prison so that it will be



The Shawshank Redemption was a major home release hit

weatherproof for tourists. The society has raised US\$2m (€1.5m, £1.2m) to make repairs to the roof and it is also planning to open up additional areas to the public once the renovation is complete.

During its bumper year celebrating the 20th anniversary of the film, the Ohio State Reformatory generated around US\$10m (€7.7m, £6.2m) in financial revenue.

More: http://lei.sr?a=U8d8A_A

Eden Project prepares for global launch as China makes first investment

Construction of a Beijing Eden Project is expected to start at the beginning of next year, with a further five projects in the offing, according to project founder Sir Tim Smit.

Speaking to *Attractions Management*, Smit said that The Beijing project is being built with Chinese property developer Vanke and, according to the company’s chairman Wang Shi, it could be the largest botanical garden in the world.

Details of another two projects in China are still under wraps, while proposals for a New Zealand Eden-style project in Christchurch, was also recently revealed.



The Eden Project launched in Cornwall, UK, in 2003

The other two prospective projects will be in Canada and Central Europe.

Smit said that none would be carbon copies of the Eden Project in Cornwall, which opened in 2003. Each will

have its own culturally and geographically relevant perspective, with a campaign running in close association with local partners and relevant authorities.

More: http://lei.sr?a=v6F6S_A

Thorpe Park signs horror characters up to Tinder

Thorpe Park theme park has started using a unique method to draw customers to its Halloween attractions – by signing up Billy the Puppet and Pighead from the *Saw* movie franchise, and Harry from *My Bloody Valentine* to the popular dating app Tinder.

Tinder – which matches users based on a yes or no decision from pictures, ages and geographical location – has more than 10 million daily active users worldwide. The three unlikely new users have been “chatting up” their matches before asking them a question about Thorpe Park’s upcoming Fright Night Event.

Once matched, the user can then Tweet @thorpepark with a screenshot of their conversation to have a chance of winning a 16-night Fright Night horror pass.

With more than 500 matches so far, the trio are certainly turning heads on Tinder.

“Fright Nights always proves popular with older teens and young adults, so what better place to announce its return on 10 October than a platform that is hugely popular with



Harry, 23

less than a kilometer away Active just now

About Harry

I hate writing about myself, I'm kinda shy, but goes... I'm fond of long walks in dark mines at sunset and a dab hand at DIY - always carry a pick axe. I've recently turned vegetarian.

My life is great and looking for someone to sh - will you be mine forever? Swipe right to meet Fright Nights at THORPE PARK Resort from 1 October - 2 November.



Billy, 23

less than a kilometer away Active just now

About Billy

I'm a 6' 2" genuine guy seeking a genuine girl. My friends say I am too easily led and I should stop letting people put words into my mouth. Smart dresser, tricycle enthusiast, puzzle fanatic , GSOH (good ser of horror).

Want to play a game? Swipe right and brave FRIGHT NIGHTS at THORPE PARK Resort from 10 October November.



PigHead, 23

less than a kilometer away Active just now

About PigHead

I'm the strong but silent type. My friends would say I'm the runt of the litter, but life's been hard. I'm misunderstood, a mystery.

Looking for a new partner in crime. Swipe right and brave FRIGHT NIGHTS at THORPE PARK Resort from 10 October - 2 November.

Iconic horror characters have been signed up to Tinder to promote Thorpe Park Fright Nights

this demographic in a way that is fun for our guests to interact with us,” said a Thorpe Park spokesperson. “We’re a nation that likes being scared and this year, with our new

horror maze Studio 13 and a new overnight experience, The Extra Cut, we have plenty of great scares to offer our guests.”

More: http://lei.sr?a=2J9A5_A

The largest planetarium to ever come to the Middle East opens in Tehran, Iran

The Dome of Mina – the largest planetarium ever built in the Middle East – has been opened in Iran by Tehran mayor Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, alongside a number of officials from Iran’s burgeoning space agency (ISA).

The planetarium, located in the Abbasabad neighbourhood of Tehran, covers 1,800sq m (19,300sq ft) and includes a dome with a 30m (98ft) diameter.

Abbasabad Lands Renovation Company (ALRC) is behind the project, though costs have not been revealed for the build. ALRC managing director Ardeshtir Nourian told Iranian news

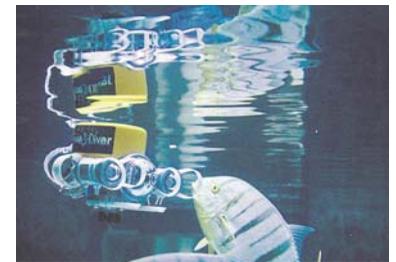


The planetarium is backed by Iran’s space programme

agency MEHR that the Dome of Mina was “essential for promoting astronomy among the elites”, also hailing the close co-operation between the ISA and the municipality on the project.

The planetarium has three projectors and uses state-of-the-art tech currently unrivalled in the Middle East for entertainment and educational, as well as for research.

More: http://lei.sr?a=Z7M7m_A



Live Diver is a first for aquariums

New tech allows public to operate mini-sub online

Boise Aquarium in Idaho has taken armchair viewing to a whole new level, using new technology to allow anyone with an internet connection to operate an underwater vehicle inside the main tank.

The LiveDiver from Reach-In can be accessed by logging into LiveDiver with the mini submarine able to navigate the aquarium’s shark and fish tank, offering a diver’s perspective of the marine life.

When the robot isn’t being used, the public will be able to operate the robot for two-minute sessions at a time.

More: http://lei.sr?a=Q7S5r_A

South Africa combats poaching in national parks

With South Africa's heritage tourism sector under strain from the threat of rhino extinction, Kruger National Park is inviting bids to move 500 of the endangered species out of the area to counter the wave of poaching for their highly-prized horns.

South African National Parks – the country's national body for park management – has invited potential buyers to “make a written offer to purchase white rhinos in batches of 20 or more”.

At present, private ranchers own around 5,000 of the 20,000 rhinos in South Africa, with the private sector catering to both eco-tourism and hunting.

The government, which recently said rhino poachers were endangering South Africa's heritage sector, has turned to the private ranchers because Kruger has become the main poaching ground for the animals.

Any rhinos purchased would be used as a tourist attraction for safaris or, rather controversially, for trophy hunting – a specific and selective form of legal, regulated hunting.



Rhino horns are considered extremely valuable on the asian black market

Because the white rhino's population is larger than the black rhino's, private land-owners can hunt selectively so long as removal does not adversely affect the property's overall

rhino population. Though controversial, trophy hunting has played a key role in the recovery of the white rhino population in South Africa.

More: http://lei.sr?a=E3c7m_A



An array of NUFC memorabilia is on show

Newcastle Utd exhibit draws record numbers

Things might not all be rosy for Newcastle United Football Club in the Premier League at the moment, but an exhibition dedicated to the club's history has become the most popular exhibition ever to be staged at the Newcastle Discovery Museum.

The *Toon Times* exhibition, which opened in February and closed 5 October, drew 315,000 visitors alone – more than six times the capacity of Newcastle's home ground of St James' Park and even larger than the population of Newcastle.

More: http://lei.sr?a=t6k9G_A

Unique waterpark combined with thermal pools opens in Costa Rica

The largest waterpark in Costa Rica has opened in the Arenal region, with the unique bonus that it has been built on top of a hot springs.

Located just outside of La Fortuna de San Carlos, Kalambu Hot Springs Water Park combines the health benefits of the hydrothermal attraction with the fun of a waterpark. Facilities include a restaurant, pool bar and four water slides.

For children, an interactive area with water cannons and a giant tipping bucket is featured. The largest slide – The Mammoth – is 12.6m (41.3ft) high and 114m (374ft) in length, while three smaller slides – known



The thermal waterpark is the only one of its kind in Costa Rica

as Cyclone, Tornado and Avalanche – are all built into a single water tower.

The park's two pools are heated directly from a volcanic hot spring, with the thermal pools offering

relaxation after a day of activity in the rest of the waterpark. The park has touted the healing waters, which reduce pressure on both joints and muscles.

More: http://lei.sr?a=8k7B5_A

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The Rock films scenes for Fast & Furious attraction

Actor and professional wrestling superstar Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson recently filmed exclusive scenes for Universal Studios Hollywood’s upcoming attraction Fast & Furious Supercharged, which is starting to take shape ahead of its 2015 opening.

Based on the *The Fast and the Furious* franchise, the new attraction will be the finale to the popular Studio Tour. The ride will put guests into the “high-stakes underground world of fast cars”, having them join the likes of The Rock in a fast-paced, frantic escapade.

Currently under construction inside a 50,000sq ft (4,645sq m) building on the Universal backlot, the attraction has been conceived as a new instalment to the film series, with a completely original story. Guests sit inside a tram and will be able to watch as the chaos unfolds around them.

Speaking to *The New York Times*, Universal Creative’s executive producer, Mike West, said: “We’re going to make it feel like those trams are being pulled through the streets at speeds of over 100 miles per hour.”



Fast & Furious 7 starring The Rock is scheduled to be released on 10 April 2015

The ride’s opening is expected to fall in line with the April 2015 release of *Fast & Furious 7*, which stars Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Tyrese

Gibson, Tony Jaa, Kurt Russell, Nathalie Emmanuel, Djimon Hounsou, Lucas Black, John Brotherton and the late Paul Walker. *More: http://lei.sr?a=N2u8c_A*



Gehry’s colourful creation Panama

Gehry’s Biomuseo finally opens in Panama

In the works since 1999, Panama’s Biomuseo has finally opened to the public. Designed by architect Frank Gehry, the museum aims to celebrate the history of the Central American isthmus as one of the world’s most diverse ecosystems.

Situated near the mouth of the Panama Canal, the facility houses eight galleries with 4,000sq m (43,055 sq ft) of exhibition space. The facility was ready to launch in February 2014, but delays saw the opening pushed back to October.

More: http://lei.sr?a=B8t7q_A

Half of Australia’s 30,000-year-old rock art could be gone in 50 years

Australia’s ancient rock art is under threat, with experts warning that half of the country’s ancient rock paintings – some dating back as far as 30,000 years – could be gone within half a century.

There are an estimated 100,000 rock art sites in Australia, but the country has no central register documenting the art and preservation is left up to the various institutions managing it, with no set protection strategy. The ancient art faces a range of threats including weather, feral animals and human interference.

“France and Spain spend vast amounts of money conserving their rock art,



Australia’s ancient heritage is under threat from developers

even China is spending millions and putting in a world heritage application for rock art that is 2,000 years old,” said Professor Paul Taçon – a Canadian researcher who has studied

rock art since 1981 – speaking to *The Guardian*. “In Australia there is almost no money for that kind of work and it’s really difficult to get the necessary funding” *More: http://lei.sr?a=Z2S2K_A*

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Big-name brands will be in attendance at IAAPA 2014

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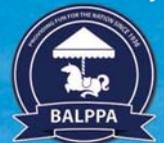
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**RED
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Two knights embark on a comical quest in the new film

nWave prepares to launch new 4D film at IAAPA

nWave has announced its latest 4D attraction film, *Knights Quest*, will make its debut at IAAPA in Orlando in November.

The 12-minute film, produced by Red Star, directed by Ben Smith and distributed exclusively by nWave, tells the story of two medieval knights and their comical quest to rescue a princess. The pair must navigate traps and tricks in a

fast-moving battle of wits as they defeat the villain.

“We are thrilled to launch this latest action-packed adventure,” said nWave chairman Eric Dillens. “With stunning visuals and a great sense of humour, *Knights Quest* transports us to the Middle Ages featuring brave knights, a captive princess, a castle and a fantasy villain.”



The project was unveiled at the 2014 AZA Annual

WhiteWater reveals Everglades ride at Zoo Miami

WhiteWater Attractions has announced a new exhibit it will be working on for Zoo Miami in the US. Called ‘Florida: Mission Everglades’, it is a water transportation system ride that features a custom themed eight-passenger vehicle designed to look like an Everglades air boat. The project was unveiled by the company at the 2014 AZA Annual Conference

in Orlando, Florida, along with Eric Stephens, the current director of Zoo Miami.

Special effects will be incorporated into the ride to replicate the environment of the Everglades and the custom designed ride path has been developed to weave through the exhibit complex.

The ride should be fully operational by summer 2016.



The pod can be set-up and taken down in a matter of hours

Karaoke on the go with new Lucky Voice pop-up pod

The Lucky Voice Pop-up Karaoke pod is a custom-built, temporary karaoke room built specifically for the events market. It is the result of a collaboration between supplier Lucky Voice and video booth technology company VideoBooth Systems.

Powered by the same custom-built touchscreen karaoke software used in

Lucky Voice’s bars, franchises and licensed partners, the pod allows users to build playlists from a catalogue of 9,000+ songs in advance. Featuring a bold exterior, the pod offers opportunities for branded promotion and messaging when users aren’t adding songs. The pod’s interior layout is configured to fit three to four people at a time.



The course can be placed either indoors or outdoors

Paragon brings dome challenge to Gulliver’s Land

The world’s first ever ‘HiLo Challenge Dome’ is to launch at Gulliver’s Land in the UK after the theme park collaborated with Paragon Entertainment’s licensing division to design, build and install the attraction.

A challenge course set in a geodesic dome, the attraction features a rope course which stretches across 44ft, with the summit reaching 22ft. The

unusual shape means that it can simultaneously house high-level and low-level activities, with one operating under the other. Paragon Entertainment’s licensing division has exclusive rights to distribute the attraction in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and the team created an attraction that is completely tailored to the theme park in Milton Keynes.

Zoo death leads to call for better training in India

Following the death of a 20-year-old man in Delhi Zoo after he was mauled by a white-tiger, wildlife experts have called for India to re-evaluate the levels of training and preparedness that zoo staff nationwide get in dealing with emergency situations.

Delhi Zoo officials insist guidelines set by India's Central Zoo Authority (CZA) are "scrupulously" followed and that staff at the attraction are always on alert, but wildlife experts say there is a major difference in attitude towards zoo keeping in the western world compared to that in India.

The difference between zoo keepers in the west and in India is that in the west, only qualified people can work in a position where they will directly interact with the animals. In India however, zookeepers and guards are often untrained and lack adequate emergency response systems and safety networks.

Kartick Satyanarayan, co-founder of Wildlife SOS and member of the Central Zoo Authority, has called for India to set a new standard and hire only graduates as zoo keepers, while



A 20-year-old man was mauled to death by a tiger at Delhi Zoo in India

Banagalore-based animal welfare organisation Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) echoed the sentiment, stating that it's time zoos changed their format of working and constitute

committees from the cities where they are located, comprising biologists, field scientists, welfare personnel and veterinarians.

More: http://lei.sr?a=h4j9d_A



The scheme has seen hundreds sign up

Tourism training scheme proves Scottish success

Hundreds of businesses across Scotland have signed up to a training programme designed to help make tourist services and attractions more accessible, according to tourism minister Fergus Ewing.

The online training programme was set up to help Scotland's hotels, visitor attractions, pubs and restaurants better cater for the requirements of people with access needs during the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and Ryder Cup at Gleneagles.

More: http://lei.sr?a=U7n5T_A

Al Ain National Museum providing training to Abu Dhabi students

Al Ain National Museum in Abu Dhabi will host the 'Be a mentor for a day' programme, with the aim of providing education and training to young people interested in the museum sector.

Organised by the Abu Dhabi Authority for Tourism (ADAT), students from local schools in Al Ain, will be given the role of 'mentor' for a day, with the task of offering museum visitors information about the exhibits, while receiving coaching from senior museum officials.

During the day, museum officials will teach students the importance of museums as cultural institutions



The museum will host regular sessions with local students

and how to accurately and professionally provide guests with information about the exhibits on display.

"We are happy to welcome the students of the schools to participate in the programmes

and events we organise, providing them with valuable opportunities to gain new knowledge of the museum industry," said ADAT director Mohammed Amer Al Neyadi.

More: http://lei.sr?a=M2W9G_A

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Katie Smith, Visitor Services Manager,
Heritage Services, the Roman Baths





As our group of family theme parks and attractions continues to expand, we are now seeking a number of park managers at a variety of levels and across multiple disciplines at our resort in Warrington.

Theme Park Line Manager

One great new opportunity is that of Line Manager, responsible for a specific area within the park incorporating a number of rides, attractions, dining areas and retail outlets.

As an all-round operator and hands-on leader, you will head a team of approximately 30 team members, delivering the best guest experience whilst co-ordinating multiple activities at one time. With a safety conscious approach, you will enhance sales and standards at every contact point across your section.

Joining a well-established team, you'll share Gulliver's commitment to the family audience, offering maximum fun at the best value in an exciting and safe family environment.

Your ideas to enhance the overall presentation of your area, ride and dining experiences and the development of your team, will all combine to help make the guest journey even greater. Whilst not essential, experience in leisure or hospitality would be advantageous.

Theme Park Guest Services Manager

This is a great opportunity to join a rapidly growing business in a brand new role, heading the front of house operations and overall guest experience across the theme park and our year-round indoor attractions.

With a hands-on approach and excellent communication skills, you will take on the role of duty manager responsible for the day to day operational control of the theme park, specialising in enhancing memorable experiences at every contact point of the guest journey.

New developments coming in 2015 will prompt new activity opportunities, new family fun packages and new children's birthday party experiences, all of which you will assist in guaranteeing the very best in service delivery.

You'll be used to managing and motivating from the front, innovative with your ideas and have an infectious enthusiasm that delivers exceptional results.

Theme Park Operations Manager

The position of operations Manager is a rare opportunity to apply your technical know-how to a fun environment!

With a hands-on approach and excellent communication skills, you will take on the role of duty manager responsible for the day to day control of the theme park, specialising in the operational aspects of the rides and maintenance departments.

New rides and attractions due to arrive in 2015, together with the re-development of many existing facilities will require your drive and energy to help see these projects through to completion.

As a natural leader and a decision maker, you will co-ordinate a smooth operational transition from one season to the next, adhering to structured health and safety regimes and maintaining disciplined training standards of a motivated team.

You will focus on team development to ensure the highest standards of park presentation are met with excellent and consistent product delivery. Whilst not essential, experience in rides, maintenance or facilities management would be advantageous.

To apply, please email your CV and covering letter to Elliot.Richards@gulliversfun.co.uk

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Popular horror attraction looks to expand across US following merger

Continued from front cover

Now in its fifth season and known as one of the best horror attractions worldwide, the popular 13th Floor Haunted House is planning to expand to new markets across the US following a merger with fellow horror operator House of Torment.

The company will operate under the name 13th Floor Entertainment and will be based in Denver, though the House of Torment will keep its office in Austin and continue to operate the production and construction facilities in San Antonio. The company operates with a year-round



13th Floor is one of the world's highest-rated horror attractions

staff of 25 people that grows to more than 1,000 seasonal workers each Halloween.

Meanwhile Thorpe Park, which recently took to Tinder to attract Halloween revellers (see page 3), is entering the 13th year of

its popular Fright Night event and is introducing a new deserted motel-themed horror maze – known as Studio 13 – with 13 new characters thrown into the horrifying mix.

More: http://lei.sr?a=p4W9B_A

British Museum turns to *Minecraft* in attempt to lure new younger audience

The British Museum in London has revealed plans to recreate the entire facility – complete with all of its exhibits – in virtual form using the popular video game *Minecraft*.

A part of the Museum of the Future Scheme, which aims to expand the institution's appeal, the museum reached out to *Minecraft* users via Reddit, though a spokesman for the museum told *AM2* that plans were still “at an early stage” and the “build” had not yet begun in any official capacity.

Minecraft was sold to Microsoft last month for US\$2.5bn (€2bn £1.5bn), mainly thanks to its



The British Museum will be virtually rebuilt in *Minecraft*

extreme popularity with a younger audience.

Adam Clarke of The Common People, who spoke at length on how *Minecraft* can get more kids into museums and galleries at

MuseumNext, told *AM2*: “By engaging with *Minecraft* in this way, The British Museum will actively inspire a new generation of enquiring minds through gaming.”

More: http://lei.sr?a=C3p4Z_A

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