



## NEWS SPLASH

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**Blue Mountain Ski Resort** in Pa. was given approval, after four years of waiting, to create a \$20 million waterpark. The waterpark is the first step toward making the ski resort a year-round operation with a hotel. Feasibility studies indicated that a hotel would not be profitable unless the resort could attract customers during the summer months. Although Blue Mountain does offer disc golf, mountain biking and an adventure camp, these activities do not draw enough visitors to keep the hotel occupied in the summer — but the addition of a waterpark will. The initial plan is to create a 20-acre family-friendly park with a wave pool, lazy river, children's pool and multi-slide structure. The resort intends to give the waterpark a natural look and utilize the scenic vistas available atop the mountain. Boulders and rocks discovered during excavation will be incorporated into the landscape.

The waterpark will also allow the resort to keep more of its winter staff by creating full-time positions for some of the seasonal departments. Park President Barbara Greens feels that full-time year-round employees will provide better customer service. "We will take departments we already have now and say 'OK, you are full-time people now and are eligible for benefits,'" said Green. Current plans are to have the waterpark completed for the 2016 season.

**Sunway Lagoon** in Malaysia is getting ready to open Vuvuzela, the world's largest water ride. The MYR15 million (\$4.8 million) slide is 11 stories tall and includes an elevator to take guests to the top of the ride where they will board four- and six-person rafts. Once aboard, the rafts will traverse a 152 meter (500-foot) course before dropping into the world largest water funnel. The rafts are expected to make at least four oscillations within the 22-meter (72-foot) diameter funnel before entering an enclosed flume and finally ending in a splash pool. Vuvuzela was designed and built by **WhiteWater West** of Canada and was scheduled to open mid-March.

In the short span of just three weeks, more than 20,000 people in **New Brighton, New Zealand**, have signed a petition calling for a waterpark to be built in their home town. City councillors of this seaside suburb of Christchurch hope the waterpark will rescue New Brighton from decline and help put it on the map. The Christchurch city council has about \$30 million set aside for an

City Councillor Peter Beck.

**Rapids Waterpark** in West Palm Beach, Fla. opened its new **Wave Loch FlowRider** on March 9. Sold by Wave Loch's North American Licensee and Partner, **Aquatic Development Group (ADG)** the FlowRider adds to the growing legion of FlowRiders in Florida and fits perfectly with Wave Loch's strategy of growing the sport of flowboarding. Rapids waterpark is scheduled to have a US FLOW (Flowboarding League of the World) Tour Pro Am event June 8, 2013, to help promote the sport.

**Raging Waves Waterpark** in Illinois, is adding a new playful character this season — Lil' Nicky — the crispy, crunchy, yummy onion mascot for Onion Crunch. Unlike the typical theme park character, Lil' Nicky is not a theme park mascot, but a new character that will appear to promote a new item on the condiment shelf. Onion Crunch is a brand new condiment that is the only kosher pareve, vegan, crispy, crunchy onion topping that delivers a delicious roasted onion flavor to enhance any amusement park meal whether it's a hotdog, hamburger, pizza or salad.

**Hilton Milwaukee City Center Hotel** closed its indoor waterpark in March in favor of something more "upscale and contemporary." The indoor waterpark, which opened in November 2000, was the first urban indoor waterpark in the country. It helped draw a number of weekend leisure travelers until the novelty wore off. Now, families who want to do a hotel waterpark vacation will typically drive to the Wisconsin Dells area, where there are a number of large indoor waterpark hotels. Although the hotel announced no plans for the space, this downtown Hilton does not have a spa and salon or a lap pool with a lounge area.

**Wisconsin Resorts Consulting** wants to build a new \$85 million indoor/outdoor waterpark, retail, restaurant and hotel resort in the Caban Marketplace development in **Bel Aire**, just outside of the capital city of Wichita, Kansas. The project depends on the approval of sales tax revenue (STAR) bonds from the State of Kansas but the developer is confident the approval will go through. Craig Wilkinson, principal owner of Wisconsin Resort Consulting was formerly an assistant general manager at Great Wolf Lodge Wisconsin Dells. He claims to have hotel-development partners ready to help finance the project once the bonding is approved. With-



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park in the world," said Mike Oswald. "We have a collection of attractions that have never been seen before in the region. Our unique combination of rides, innovative themes and location on Yas Island, which is already one of the global hotspots for leisure and entertainment, is an unparalleled draw for visitors."

The park is built around a central theme — the "Legend of the Lost Pearl," based on a legend that represents local Emirati culture and heritage. Visitors will be able to enjoy attractions that follow the adventures of the waterpark's main character Dana — a young Emirati girl in search