

AMUSEMENT TODAY™

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF GOLDEN TICKETS

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► NEW RIDES

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Parc Astérix and **Skyrush** at **Hersheypark**. Oziris is B&M's first inverted coaster in five years, and the excellent Egyptian theming and dynamic layout helped this ride open to rave reviews. **Skyrush** is the latest coaster built by **Intamin** to open in the U.S. With a new winged vehicle, riders on the outside of the four-across seats are suspended over open air. Fans of the ride noted the ride layout's airtime to be quite considerable.

For **BEST NEW WATERPARK RIDE**, the heavy favorite was **Splashin' Safari's Mammoth**. Following the huge success of the waterpark's popular **Wildebeest** just two seasons prior, **Holiday World** and **Splashin' Safari** returned with an even bigger uphill water coaster supplied by **ProSlide**. Setting all sorts of world records, this new bigger version features a length of 1,763 feet, six drops and rafts seating six riders at a time. The hourly capacity can



Two unique and completely opposite types of thrills for Best New Waterpark Ride rounding out the top three spots. Taking the No. 2 position was **King Kaw Rapids River** at **Schlitterbahn Kansas City** (left) and **King Cobra**, Polin's first such ride in the U.S., at **Six Flags Hurricane Harbor** in N.J. AT/TIM BALDWIN; KING COBRA COURTESY SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE

reach 1,000 riders — on a waterslide. The \$9 million investment is one of the largest ever for a waterpark attraction. For **Mammoth** to take the Golden Ticket didn't come as a huge surprise. The statistics practically demanded it.

"We have not regretted naming this monstrous water coaster **Mammoth** — as it's a perfect fit!" exclaims **Paula Werne**, director of communications for **Holiday World** and **Splashin' Safari**.

That's not to say there

weren't other notable rides. **Schlitterbahn Kansas City's** delayed **King Kaw Rapids River** proved worth the wait. The second longest waterpark ride in the world (behind **The Falls** at the mother park in New Braunfels), **King Kaw Rapids River** provides a never ending ride experience that connects to other channels and rivers in the park, or can circle back to the aquaveyor to do it again. This ride scored the No. 2 spot in the category.

Taking third was **King Co-**

bra at **Six Flags Hurricane Harbor** adjacent to **Six Flags Great Adventure** in New Jersey. Supplied by **Polin**, **King Cobra** earns top marks for aesthetics and thematic cool factor. The overall snakeskin appearance and imposing **Cobra's** head are, well, striking. This dual racing slide is a signature calling card for the park, the first of its kind in the U.S.