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\$1.50 SUNDAY May 3, 2015

The Record

NORTH JERSEY'S TRUSTED SOURCE

TODAY 77°/53° Sunny to partly cloudy and warm TOMORROW 83°/61° Partly sunny and very warm

SECTION T

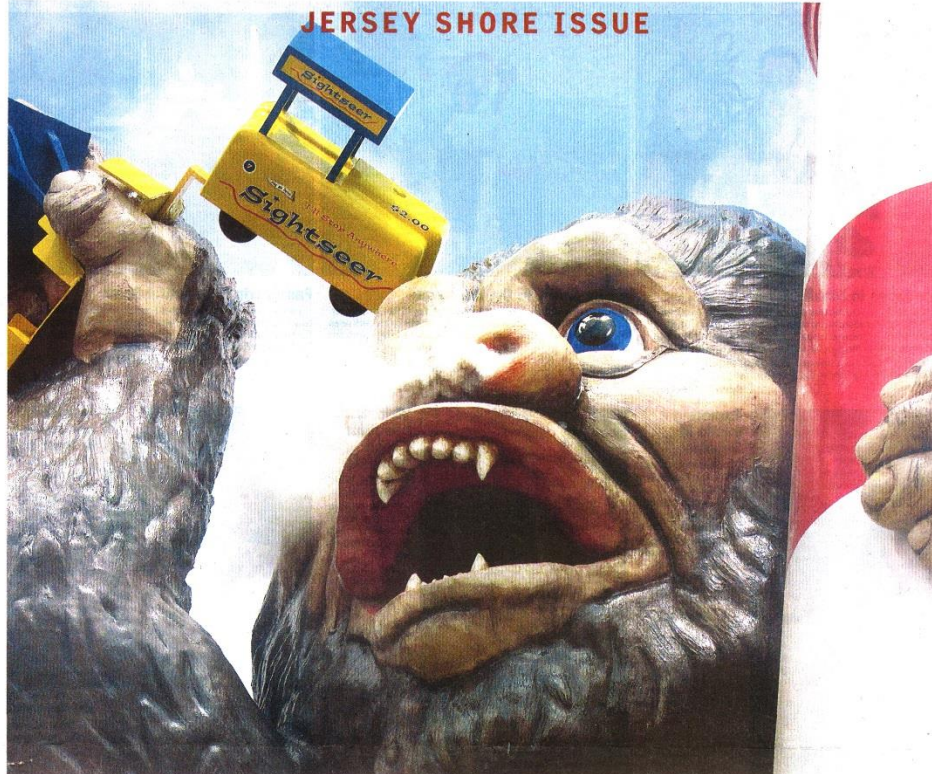
The Record Travel

SUN . 05.03.15



Readers visit Brazil (photo), Czech Republic, Antarctica, China, more.

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The reinvented Kong amusement ride being prepared at a factory in Idaho for the trip East to its permanent home at Morey's Surside Pier in the Wildwoods.

COURTESY OF LANSON INTERNATIONAL

THE RETURN OF KONG

After 35 years, Wildwood pier centerpiece will be making a comeback this summer

An arts emporium made from cargo containers in Wildwood.

Shore-area events that don't necessarily involve getting wet. Includes an image of an art installation.

Maybe there's a reason the giant Ferris wheel is a symbol of the season. Of summer at the Jersey Shore. It's not just the hugeness. Not just the neon. Not just the colorful contrast against the night sky.

It's the wheel itself. The way it turns, each summer, for riders, young and old, new and veteran, first-kiss and golden anniversary. With each revolution, creating memories for generations who come for summertime at the shore.

No matter that the Ferris wheel hadn't even taken its first revolution when I visited Morey's Piers in the Wildwoods last month. Because this summer, the big news at Morey's is about coming full circle. Or, you could say, what goes around, comes around.

The big news is the return of Kong, one of the most-loved boardwalk landmarks from the early 1970s. The newly minted version of the gorilla-themed amusement ride debuts over Memorial Day weekend as the centerpiece on Surside Pier in North Wildwood. The 60-foot-high ride will be a centerpiece, literally as well as figuratively, thanks to its circular design.

Jack Morey, sporting sandals despite a snap in the air and a look of both joy and anticipation on his intense face, stood amid the ruckus of construction one April morning, watching workers crawling and hammering around the wooden platform for the new Kong. Gazing at the 70-foot-diameter structure, he pointed



JILL SCHENSUL (their first ride) — this is a completely new Kong.

out the obvious, yet rarely considered, fact that most rides have a front and a back. When the Moreys wanted a centerpiece for the pier, they wanted something you could walk around.

That's one reason they decided to revive Kong. That he was one of the most popular icons ever on the piers was of course a consideration, but it wasn't like they'd been cycling the decommissioned private with longing memories for years as it sat in some warehouse.

While the Moreys are known for recycling and repurposing old rides to stay in step with the times — not to mention hanging onto the stuff of history (including part of the waterslide that was their first ride) — this is a completely new Kong.

The original Kong ride was dismantled after the summer of 1975, though Kong stayed on as a very noticeable landmark atop the Bonanza Shooting Gallery. In 1980, he was scheduled to go back to the original New York City workshop that produced him, but as he was being moved from the boardwalk, he sort of disintegrated.

The new Kong is being built in Idaho — a custom job for a customized version of a pretty basic amusement ride, the Flying Scooter. Despite the tense face, stood amid the ruckus of construction one April morning, watching workers crawling and hammering around the wooden platform for the new Kong. Gazing at the 70-foot-diameter structure, he pointed

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DEALS

Tour Yellowstone and more

The deal: Travel company Collette is offering the seven-day "Wild West & Yellowstone Family Adventure" package.

Cost: From \$1,849 per person for land only, based on double occupancy.

What's included: Accommodations in Salt Lake City, Utah, Jackson Hole, Wyo., and Park City, Utah; visit to Grand Teton, with ferry ride across Jenny Lake and hike to Inspiration Point; whitewater rafting excursion down the Snake River; tour of Yellowstone National Park led by ranger or guide; tour of Park City and Utah Olympic Park; select meals.

When: Tour dates July 11 to 17 and Aug. 1 to 7.

Information: gcollette.com or 800-340-5158.

— Elyse Toribio

KEEP SENDING SELFIES



Going on vacation? Send us your selfies, like Gina and Lawrence Campagna of Emerson, who took this photo in front of the Domaine Charilly in France. Submissions will be part of an online gallery at Northjersey.com and selected photos will be published in the Travel section. Please put "Record Travel selfie" in the subject line and include your name and hometown. Submit either by:

Email: chg@northjersey.com

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Seeing art and making it yourself

By **JILL SCHENSUL**
STAFF WRITER

You may not think of the Jersey Shore as a bastion of art and creativity – but think again.

The 25-foot tall fire hydrant sculpture on the dog beach in Wildwood is just one sign of a new spin on the shore's potential.

The other is ArtBOX, an enclave of art and creativity in its own duplex section of Adventure Pier. It's made of about a dozen recycled shipping containers stacked and arranged in unusual ways and adorned with murals by resident artist Pete Bieling Sr. The containers are home, today, to shops and galleries. The ArtBOX is an oasis, a celebration of the art and culture of Wildwood and the seashore. Living breathing art that you can experience.

Jack Morey got the idea after a visit to Christchurch, New Zealand, which was devastated by an earthquake in February 2011 but quickly got back to business by making use of shipping containers for housing and other buildings.

Morey was inspired, so much so that when he got home he called Wildwood artist David Macomber from the airport (at 11 p.m.) with his idea. Macomber, a soft-spoken young man, recalled being stunned but willing to go with Morey's idea of an art gallery and studios made from of shipping containers for the boardwalk. Three days later, Macomber said, Morey had architectural drawings of what is now ArtBOX.

ArtBOX had three original resident artists, and is expanding. You can watch the artists at work in their studios – Pete Bieling Jr.'s glass-blowing studio, which has proved especially popular, is being moved to the center of the main deck – and browse the galleries. Some visitors return with special requests to, say, make a ship out of glass, or, in Macomber's case, to customize a surfboard or a guitar.

This summer, visitors will also be able to try their hand at 15-minute art labs, quick-hit art projects designed to let participants make something useful, like a beach bag or a cartoon, to take with them.

Even if you're not into art or artistically inclined, you may want to check out the new enclave. Look around and you'll find artifacts of some of the old

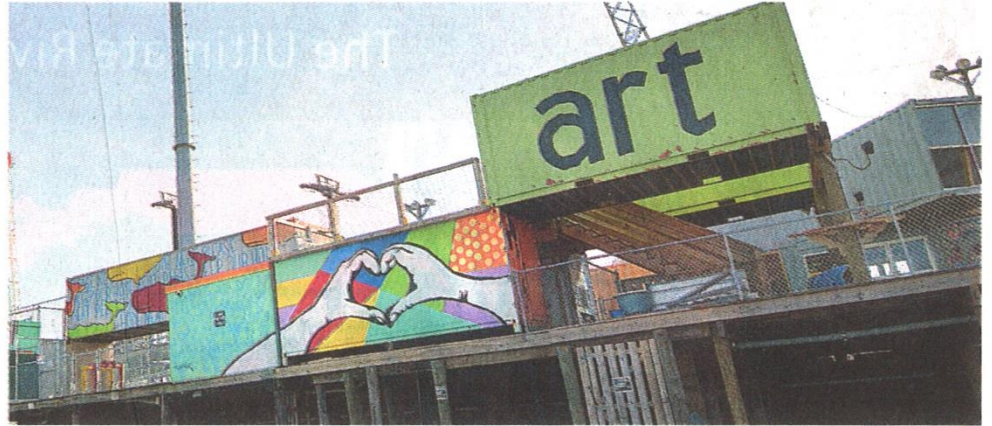


PHOTO BY JILL SCHENSUL/STAFF

The ArtBOX at the Morey piers houses shops and studios. It was built from cargo containers.

pier rides integrated into the design; a snarling sea serpent on the banister of the spiral staircase, an old gondola unit as a swing seating area. They may be updated with new paint, new context. But Macomber said most visitors who take the time to look around find something to connect with – childhood mem-

ories, or even a new talent.

For more information on ArtBOX hours and class times, visit moreyspiers.com/play/artbox/about.

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