

'Crazy' thrills in store for the Boardwalk



Courtesy of Donaven Staab/Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk

The updated Crazy Surf ride is planned to open on May 19.

Park named one of 3 finalists for international amusement park award

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SANTA CRUZ — Guests visiting the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk next month will experience a new, but familiar, thrill, when an updated version of the park's Crazy Surf ride opens on May 19.

Installation of the ride began on Tuesday. Due to the cramped location where the ride was going to be placed, a crane lifted the Crazy Surf container up and over the Logger's Revenge water ride, lowering it into place.

The original Crazy Surf, located beneath Logger's Revenge and next to the Sea Serpent kiddie roller coaster, made its debut in May 1998, according to Boardwalk spokesperson Brigid Fuller, and it was due for an upgrade.

"We are always updating rides at the Boardwalk and improving our facilities," she said. "We're constantly reinvesting in the park."

Besides the bright, new look and smoother ride, Fuller said riders will be in for a surprise.

"There's a fun new feature — it involves a little water," she said.

Previous reports also suggest that the ride's seats will tilt dur-

ing operation.

The park hopes to have the ride open in time for the May 19 season kick-off, Fuller said.

The new Crazy Surf follows a trend that the Boardwalk has been following for the past three years — updating previously existing rides. The Haunted Castle, which opened in 1973, was demolished and replaced with a new, two-story version of the ride in 2010. The next year, a slightly taller version of the park's Freefall family ride was installed.

The Boardwalk also plans to replace the existing Hurricane roller coaster in 2013. The 20-year-old ride was listed for sale online in March for a price of \$500,000, and will continue to operate through September. What it will be replaced with will be announced later in the summer.

"Fans of the Boardwalk will be delighted with the exciting new ride we have planned for 2013," stated Boardwalk vice president Marq Lipton in a press release. "If you follow Boardwalk history or appreciate amazing thrills, you're going to love this new ride."

The Hurricane replaced the Jetstar roller coaster in 1992.

The Boardwalk announced Thursday that it had been named one of three finalists for the Applause Award, an international amusement industry award presented by Liseberg Amusement Park in Sweden.

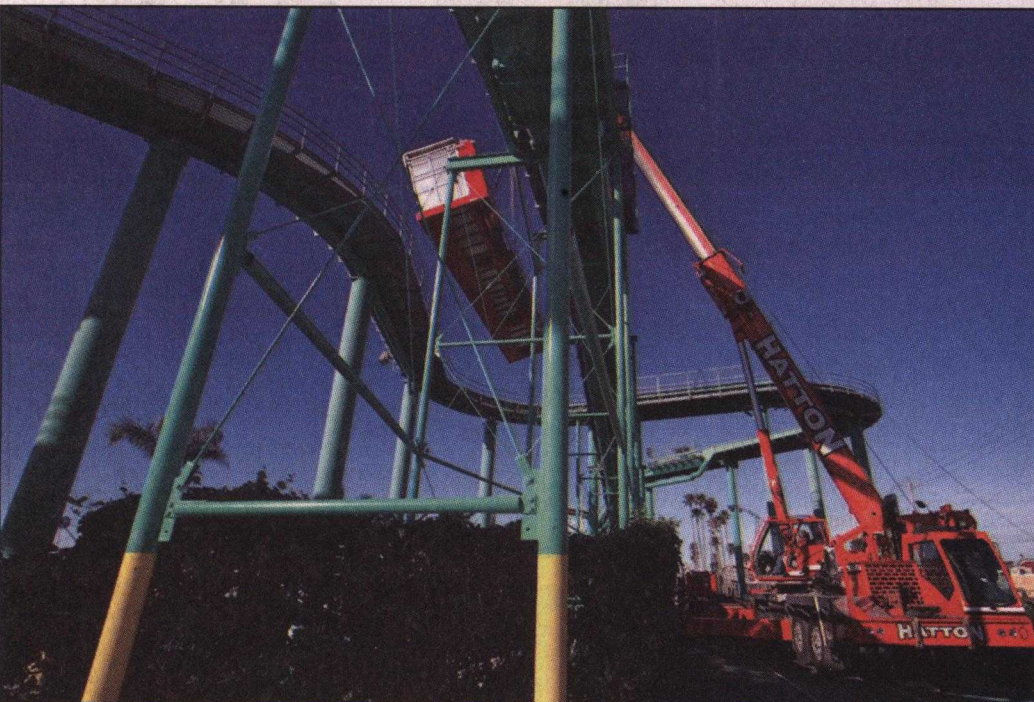
The award recognizes "an amusement park whose management, operations, and creative accomplishments have inspired the industry with their foresight, originality, and sound business development."

This is the first time the Boardwalk has been nominated for the award. Members of the Applause Award Board of Governors, which includes amusement industry executives from Sweden, the UK, Germany, Switzerland, and the U.S., will visit the Boardwalk in late June to evaluate the park.

"It's a wonderful honor to be named a finalist for this prestigious industry award," stated Boardwalk president Charles Canfield in a press release. "I'm very proud of our park and all of our employees for making the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk

a world-class destination. We look forward to welcoming the Board of Governors in June."

The Boardwalk was the only U.S. park to be named a finalist.



Courtesy of Donaven Staab/Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk

A crane lifts a container holding the Crazy Surf ride over Logger's Revenge on Tuesday.