

# Latest thrill Boardwalk



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

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## Boardwalk unveils new coaster

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6-23-92

SANTA CRUZ — Area dignitaries, with members of the press added for ballast, took a spin Monday morning on "The Hurricane," the latest addition to the Boardwalk's fleet of thrill rides.

Boardwalk bigwigs christened the high-speed roller coaster in red-white-and-blue ceremonies befitting a presidential visit. The ride, which replaces the road-weary Jet Star, is the third new attraction at the Boardwalk in as many years.

The Italian-built, German-designed coaster is one of just two Hurricanes in the United States. It is part of a new wave of

■ *Old Jet Star roller coaster sold for \$100,000 — Page A2*

smooth, compact and hard-twisting modern roller coasters, and features 80-degree banked turns and 4-plus G forces. Expected to rival the venerable Giant Dipper as the amusement park's biggest attraction, it opens to the public today.

Monday's maiden voyage attracted Chris Smalley of Concord, who won the right to ride the Hurricane in a special lottery among members of the Roller Coaster Enthusiasts of America club.

Smalley timed the Hurricane — "41 seconds" — and said his first ride won't be his last. "Once is never enough," he said. "If it goes higher, goes faster, we'll go on it."

Ed Hutton, the Boardwalk's executive vice-president, jokingly likened the towering Hurricane to an "erector set" and warned the short in stature and faint of neck and back to sit out the day's inaugural rides.

"We do have a height requirement of 54 inches, so Jane, you just made it," said Hutton to Santa Cruz City Councilwoman Jane Yokoyama, who is 5-foot-1.

Yokoyama was last seen in the Hurricane's official "first car," squealing with delight.