

TAKING THE PLUNGE

Giant Dipper's giant thrills



LARISSA MUELLER/SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

The Giant Dipper rollercoaster helped make the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk rank No. 7 on National Geographic's Top 10 list of the best boardwalks in the country. The boardwalk's roots go back to 1865, according to its website. **SEE STORY, PAGE B2.**

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2011

SANTA CRUZ

Boardwalk among nation's best

'Coney Island of the West' places 7th in magazine's rankings; Atlantic City No. 1

Associated Press

So what does Santa Cruz have in common with New York and Atlantic City? How about the best boardwalks in the nation?

That's the word from National Geographic, which named Atlantic City's boardwalk the best in the country, with Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk placing seventh.

New York's Coney Island came in second, followed by Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Ocean City, Md.; Venice Beach; and Rehoboth Beach, Del. The Sandwich boardwalk in Massachusetts came in eighth, followed by Virginia

ONLINE EXTRA

See photos from the boardwalk's 100th anniversary at www.mercurynews.com/extra.

Beach and Wildwood in Atlantic City.

According to its website, Santa Cruz boardwalk's roots go back to 1865, when John Leibrandt opened a public bathhouse near the mouth of the San Lorenzo River. Soon, other bathhouses followed, and scores of tourists began visiting Santa Cruz as more concessions sprang up, including restaurants, curio shops and



SHMUEL THALER/SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL ARCHIVES

The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk placed seventh in a ranking of the nation's best boardwalks.

photo stands.

Toward the end of the century, entrepreneur Fred W.

Swanton laid plans for a casino and boardwalk, and a Coney Island of the West was born.