

Down at the Boardwalk



Take a swing on the Boardwalk, but don't forget the beach.

4.9.09 CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nostalgia takes leading role during spring break

Boardwalk

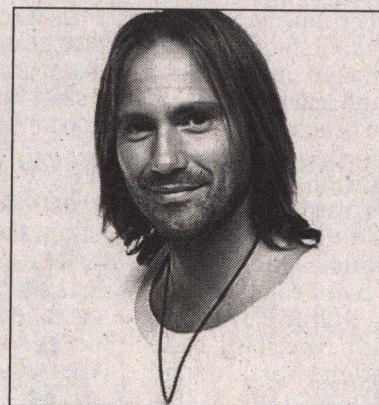
By STACEY VREEKEN

svreeken@santacruzsentinel.com

Haven't quite figured out what to do with the kids for spring break? The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk has it all worked out for you — the beach, rides, music and nostalgia. And if you've never heard of Eric Nies, Billy Hufsey or David Chokachi, don't worry, your kids won't remember them either but probably just learned about them on "Confessions of a Teen Idol" on VH1.

Not into TV celebrities? No matter. There will be skydivers; Ultimate Fighting Champion Kenny Florian; a free beach soccer clinic with pros from the Earthquakes soccer team; kids' dance parties; and live music.

Boardwalk publicist Brigid Fuller says crowd size will depend on the weather but that all rides will be open and fully staffed. She doesn't think the economy will hurt attendance because, "We think we always offer such good value. It always is an affordable place to come. Where else can you get free entertainment. Go to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eric Nies is one of the celebrities that will be on hand at the Boardwalk during spring break.

SEE BOARDWALK ON C2

BOARDWALK RETROSPECTIVE AIRS ON KQED

KQED is scheduled to air the Boardwalk's centennial DVD '100 Years, Millions of Memories' on Channel 9 at 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 a.m. Sunday. This documentary about the Boardwalk is filled with rare film footage, vintage photographs and interviews that capture the Santa Cruz Boardwalk's enduring appeal to children of all ages.



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Crowds depend on the weather, but there are plenty of events planned.

BOARDWALK

Continued from C1

the beach. Go on a couple of rides, buy an ice cream. You don't have to buy into a whole complete package every day. We expect families will respond to that."

She does have some advice in case the weather is warm and sunny and the crowds turn out. "I always feel it's a good idea to get here before park opens. Get on rides before people arrive in afternoon. Plan to have a good time and take in the beach. There are so many options within walking distance as well," she says.

Events, cosponsored by Comcast, include four TV stars from VH1's "Confessions of a Teen Idol" who will sign autographs at the Boardwalk April 17.

Bill Hufsey became a major heartthrob in the '80s and '90s on TV's "Fame" and "Days of Our Lives." Eric Nies is best known for his appearance on MTV's first "Real World" in 1992. He also hosted "The Grind," a worldwide dance show.

Actor David Chokachi currently stars in "Beyond the Break" on the N Net-

work. He has played Yancy Butler on TNT's "Witchblade" and Cody Madison on "Baywatch." Chokachi was also voted one of People Magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People.

Jeremy Jackson is best known for his role as David Hasselhoff's son Hobie Buchannon on "Baywatch." He was inducted into the Young Hollywood Hall of Fame in 1996.

Sports stars get their due as well.

Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter Kenny Florian, known for his razor sharp elbow strikes, will sign autographs April 16, and soccer fans can get up close and personal with an Earthquakes professional player and learn new skills in a free beach soccer clinic.

In addition to the dance parties and inflatable games on the beach, three bands will headline including the San Francisco Bay Area's School of Rock (April 15); U2 tribute band Zoo Station (April 16) and Bayonics, a 10-piece, live hip hop group spiced with Latin flavor, funk and reggae (April 17).

For more information please visit www.comcast-springbreak.com/ or www.beachboardwalk.com.

BOARDWALK SPRING BREAK SCHEDULE

The Boardwalk will be open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday through April 19.

WEDNESDAY

SCOOPY-DOO ROAMS BOARDWALK: noon-3 p.m.
SKYDIVERS: 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30 p.m.
KIDS BEACH DANCE PARTY: 1:30 p.m.
INFLATABLE GAMES ON THE BEACH: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
T-SHIRT AND PRIZE TOSS FROM THE MAIN STAGE: 4:50 p.m.
SCHOOL OF ROCK CONCERT: 5-6 p.m.

APRIL 16

SCOOPY-DOO ROAMS BOARDWALK: noon-3 p.m.
SKYDIVERS: 12:45, 1:45, 3:30, 4:30 p.m.
UFC FIGHTER KENNY FLORIAN: 1 p.m.
FREE BEACH SOCCER CLINIC: 11:30; 3:30; 4:4:30 p.m.
KIDS BEACH DANCE PARTY: 2 p.m.
INFLATABLE GAMES ON THE BEACH: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
T-SHIRT AND PRIZE TOSS FROM THE MAIN STAGE: 4:50 p.m.
ZOO STATION CONCERT: 5-6 p.m.

APRIL 17

SCOOPY-DOO ROAMS BOARDWALK: noon-3 p.m.
BEACH SOCCER SHOOT OUT: noon-1 p.m.; 2:30-3:30 p.m.
T-SHIRT & PRIZE TOSS FROM THE MAIN STAGE: 1:20 p.m.
KIDS DANCE PARTY: 1:30 p.m.
CELEBRITIES BILL HUFSEY OF 'FAME' AND 'DAYS OF OUR LIVES'; AND ERIC NIES 'REAL WORLD' AND 'THE GRIND': 2 p.m.
TEEN IDOL TUG OF WAR: 4-4:30 p.m. hosted by Bill Hufsey and Eric Nies
CELEBRITIES DAVID CHOKACHI OF 'BEYOND THE BREAK,' 'WITCHBLADE' AND 'BAYWATCH'; JEREMY JACKSON 'BAYWATCH': 4:30 p.m.
INFLATABLE GAMES ON THE BEACH: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
T-SHIRT AND PRIZE TOSS FROM THE MAIN STAGE: 6:20 p.m.
BAYONICS CONCERT: 6:30-7:30 p.m.