

# Boardwalk gives thrill-lovers 'Shot' of fun



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Thrill-lovers on Friday get a first-day feel of the Beach Boardwalk's new \$1.8 million ride, the Double Shot. Park officials say they need the 125-foot-tall ride to stay competitive in the amusement park marketplace, where there is stiff competition for tourist dollars.

By **SHANNA McCORD**  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

SANTA CRUZ — Gianna Tinetti, a Mission Hill Middle School seventh-grader, had a look of petrified excitement plastered across her face — giddy happiness and nervousness rolled into one uneasy grin.

Strapped in one of the seats

on the Boardwalk's new \$1.8 million ride, the Double Shot, Tinetti wasn't sure she was going to enjoy the next 50 seconds.

"Oh my gosh, I'm so scared," Tinetti said just before being launched 125 feet straight up and dropped back down, as billed, "faster than the speed of gravity."

Tinetti and friends Stephanie Garcia and Catherine Sordo, also Mission Hill students, were among the first 12 riders Friday to experience the Double Shot, the tallest ride in the park's 98-year history.

The Double Shot is the first new "thrill" ride at the Board-

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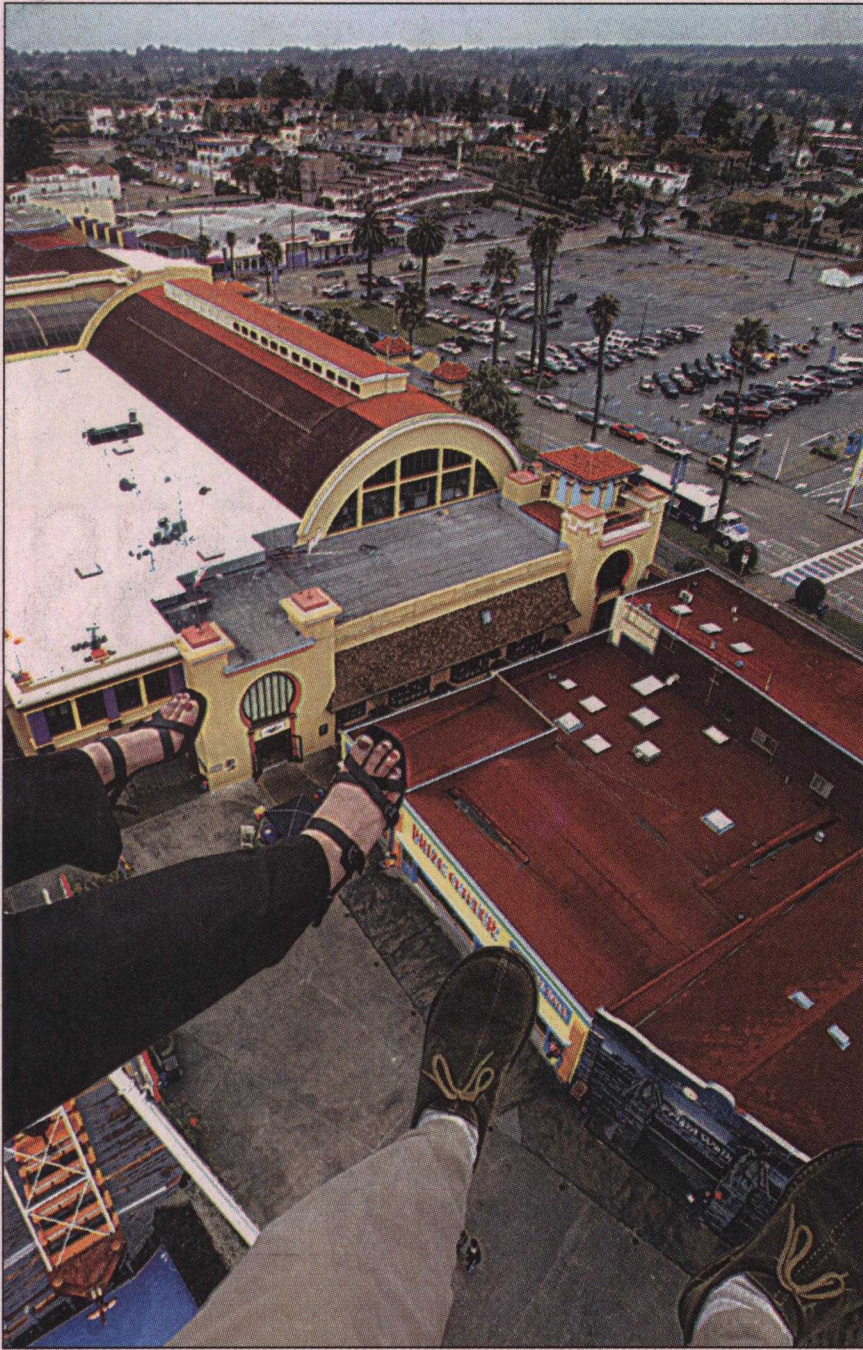
**Coming Sunday**

■ Want some ideas for spring break? How about 20 things to do if you're under 21.

**STYLE SECTION**

See **RIDE** on **BACK PAGE**

Boardwalk  
✓ Spring break hits just as rain sweeps into the county



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Double Shot riders get an expansive view of Santa Cruz.

# Ride

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walk since the Hurricane roller coaster arrived in 1992.

"It was really fun, I want to go up again," Sordo said. "It was like you left your stomach on the ground or something."

The shrieking trio sat next to Charles Canfield, president of the Santa Cruz Seaside Co., which owns the Boardwalk, for the Double Shot's inaugural launch. The ride holds 12.

"This is something the company needs to be competitive in the marketplace," Canfield told a crowd of invited guests, many holding umbrellas to keep dry from the light rain during the Double Shot's debut Friday.

The ride, which will cost riders \$3.90, was tested and approved by state inspectors last week, Boardwalk spokesman Marq Lipton said.

Canfield discovered the ride a couple of years ago after traveling to Edmonton, Canada, where he rode an indoor Double Shot. He chose to add the 7-foot wide, 125-foot high tower to the Boardwalk's collection of 33 rides mostly for its narrow size, figuring it would fit well in a small space overlooking the beach.

The Double Shot required approval by the Santa Cruz City Council because its height exceeded what the zoning allowed.

The council agreed unanimously in February 2004 to welcome the ride as a way to bring new tax revenue to the city, particularly the 5 percent admissions tax the city takes from the amusement park's annual gross.

While the tower is almost 60 feet higher than the Giant Dipper, formerly the tallest structure in the park, it's puny compared to the Drop Zone Stunt Tower at Great America in Santa Clara, which is 100 feet higher than the Double Shot.

The unveiling of the Double Shot was also a fund-raiser for Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz and San Benito counties, a non-profit organization that provides food for the area's needy.

Two seats on the first ride with Canfield were donated to the food bank and sold on the Internet auction site eBay. Proceeds from the auction benefitted the food bank.

Dan Fish, an Aptos resident who works as a loan consultant at Washington Mutual, won



The Double Shot, at 125 feet, is the tallest ride at the Boardwalk, almost 60 feet higher than the Giant Dipper.

Dan Coyro/Sentinel

the two seats with a bid of \$715.

"The food bank is a great service to the community," Fish said. "The ride, excitement isn't the word for it."

## Boardwalk schedule

■ Today and Sunday:  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

■ March 21-24:  
Noon to 5 p.m.

■ March 25-27:  
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

■ March 28-31:  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

■ Weekdays beginning April 8:  
8: Noon to 5 p.m.

When the Double Shot was first proposed to city officials, the environmental group Pelican Network lobbied against it.

Environmentalists opposed the tower, calling it "inappropriate for such a

forward-thinking city."

City officials brave enough to try the Double Shot on Friday included City Manager Dick Wilson, Mayor Mike Rotkin, Councilman Ryan Coonerty and Police Chief Howard Skerry.

"Of course I was nervous," Rotkin said. "But it was a thrill without being nauseating."

The Double Shot opened just in time for schools' spring break, which begins today amid clouds and rain.

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