



KEVIN JOHNSON/SENTINEL PHOTOS

ABOVE: Craig Hamilton hangs upside down as he zips over Main Beach on Tuesday on the Boardwalk's new temporary attraction, Fly Wire.  
BELOW: Thrill seekers speed down the Boardwalk's new zip line on Tuesday afternoon. Fly Wire will be open for the park's springtime season.



Boardwalk

# Zippping into spring break

3-27-13

Park sets up zip line, gets parts for new Undertow coaster

By **BONNIE HORGOS**  
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SANTA CRUZ — The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's new 26-foot high Fly Wire Zipline on the beach takes viewing the Monterey Bay to a new level.

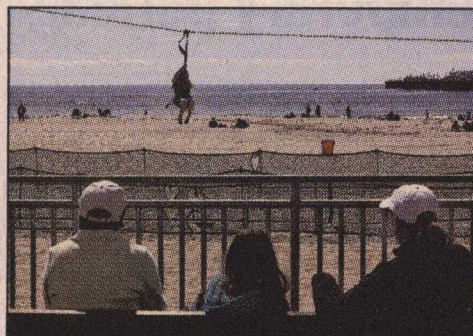
"Zip lines have been gaining in popularity all over the county, and we wanted guests to test it out," Boardwalk spokesman Kris Reyes said.

The temporary twin zip line, available for \$10 per ride the next two weeks, is one of the park's latest additions.

With a new track — currently in the Boardwalk's parking lot — arriving from Germany last Friday, construction of the park's new Undertow roller coaster is under way, with opening set for June.

The park also renovated the waiting area of the Giant Dipper, added a new Birthday Room and is planning for spring break.

Spring break, hosted April 1-5, will include inflatable activities and competitions on the beach, interactive booths, Battle of the Bands, appearances by SpongeBob



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Tourists watch a young woman as she flies over Main Beach on Tuesday afternoon on the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's new zip-line attraction, Fly Wire.

SquarePants, and \$5 off rides and attractions with a coupon available online.

The park's upgrades and additional activities are a way to dust off the winter hours and spring into summer, said spokeswoman

## IF YOU GO BOARDWALK'S SPRING BREAK

**WHAT:** In celebration of spring break, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk has a temporary zip line on Main Beach. The park will also host spring break activities April 1-5.

**WHEN:** Spring break hours, weekdays: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday to April 4; Weekends: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and April 4

**WHERE:** 400 Beach St., Santa Cruz

**COST:** Zip line, \$10; individual ride tickets, \$3-\$6 per ride; all-day wristbands, \$31.95 plus tax; \$5 off rides and attractions coupon available online

**DETAILS:** 831-423-5590, [www.beachboardwalk.com](http://www.beachboardwalk.com)

SEE BOARDWALK ON B3



# BOARDWALK

Continued from B1

Brigid Fuller.

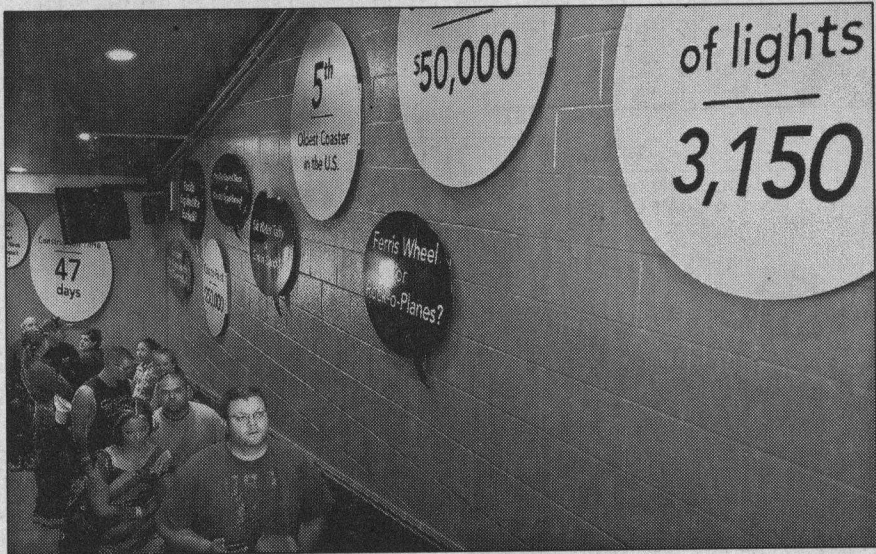
"We've been quiet for a while, so it's time to remind people that things are picking up," she said.

Not to mention the changes in the Giant Dipper's halls. The walls of the landmark ride, which turns 90 next year, feature fresh paint, along with statistics and painted photos from the park's archives for people to glance at while waiting.

"It's a pretty major sprucing-up of the inside," Fuller said. "We're just trying to freshen it up and keep it looking good."

While the Giant Dipper's walls and the Undertow's parts in the parking lot are noticeable, the Fly Wire Zipline stands out the most. The 225-foot zip line is operated by Extreme Engineering, a manufacturer of mobile and portable rock climbing walls and zip lines for amusement parks.

The zip line runs parallel to the Boardwalk on Main Beach. Riders can reach speeds up to 21 mph and the attraction can hold people weighing from 45 pounds to 250 pounds. Two



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**Parkgoers stand under black-and-white signs giving facts about the Giant Dipper as they wait in line for the historic roller coaster at the Boardwalk on Tuesday.**

people can ride at a time.

"Everybody loves it, of course," said Craig Hamilton, director of operations for Extreme Engineering.

And if people are looking to host a celebration at the Boardwalk, the park now features a Birthday Room, available to rent for \$150.

"It's kind of nice, because people have been asking us for a place to keep a cake cold and get a group together," Fuller said.

Follow Sentinel reporter Bonnie Horgos on Twitter at [Twitter.com/bhorgos](https://twitter.com/bhorgos)