

Enthusiasm overflowing for race

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By GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER

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SANTA CRUZ — About 5 a.m. on Monday, hours before cyclists cross the Sausalito starting line for the second stage of the Tour of California, Maura Noel will deploy a fleet of local volunteers to direct parking, control crowds and pick up trash during the race, which ends in Santa Cruz.

Despite the early hour and seemingly mundane tasks, Noel — a volunteer herself — has been flooded by calls from people eager to volunteer and has

selected about 400 to join her. So many, in fact, that Noel expects to run far short of official, construction-sign-orange “volunteer” T-shirts for everyone who pitches in.

“Amgen was planning on 350, max,” Noel chuckled. However, “once we put out the call for extra bodies up in Bonny Doon, a whole bunch of people jumped up and said, ‘Oh yeah I’d love to be up there.’”

Bonny Doon is where cyclists will crank up Bonny Doon Road to Pine Flat before whizzing down Empire Grade.

The Amgen Tour of Califor-

nia rolls through Santa Cruz on Monday, with the stage 2 finish line on Front at Cooper.

This was the fourth year the city applied to host a stage finish line. Months before Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong announced his return to cycling and this race, Santa Cruz had already embraced the event as its own.

For example, “Santa Cruz is the only host city to make its own jersey,” along with sweat-shirts, hats, and other gear, said Tina Shull in the city manager’s office, who is coordinating much of the effort. “Other cit-

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ies have basic merchandise, plain white tees and hats, but we took it to another level.”

So much so that city leaders expect to make back the \$100,000 they agreed to spend to host the

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Rachel, Nora and Ryan Beauregard of Beauregard Vineyards, which is holding a Monday brunch on the day the Tour of California races through Bonny Doon.

Bicycling buzz hits Bonny Doon

By ALIA WILSON

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BONNY DOON — Seventeen acres of recently planted pinot noir grapevines will welcome the hundreds of cyclists racing up Bonny Doon Road for the Amgen Tour of California Monday, and Beauregard Vineyards will host a special wine tasting event to celebrate the race, which will pass its Pine Flat Road location.

“It’s possible these guys have ridden past similar pinot noir vines in France,” said Ryan Beauregard, owner of Beauregard Vineyard.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Beauregard Vineyards will close to the public for a private Amgen brunch, where guests will receive a bottle of wine and eat pastries,



sandwiches, spiral ham, salad and other treats while sitting outside under tents that will be set up on race day.

“This is the first national sport event in Bonny Doon and we’re the only winery on the route so it’s exciting,” Rachel Beauregard, Ryan’s wife, said. “It will be fun to see Lance.”

For the 1,100 residents in Bonny Doon, the Amgen Bicycle Tour of California is the biggest event since the wildfires of last summer.

From roads to restaurants, everything within the race’s course will be sucked in to the swift excitement of one of the largest sporting events in the state.

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"My 9-year-old son is really into Lance Armstrong," said Santa Cruz resident Philip Bartholomew, who often visits the winery.

Bartholomew's family will be at the finish line, participating in all of the kid events scheduled and taking advantage of VIP tickets given to him by his sister.

"I've read two of his autobiographies to my son so it would be really cool to see him and maybe even meet him," he said.

Molly Rosewood of Salem, Ore., drove to Bonny Doon where she lived nearly 20

years ago to watch the race but came down a few days too early.

"I thought it was going to be on the eleventh so I didn't ask for Tuesday off from work," Rosewood said. "We're going to try and catch the Women's Critterium in Santa Rosa Sunday before we go home for sure."

Rosewood, an avid cycling enthusiast, said she follows the Tour de France and tried to go to the Tour of California last year in Santa Barbara but was unable to make it.

"I've been dying to see this race myself so we'll have to make something work," Rosewood said. "I think I may have to take Tuesday off."

NORTH COAST TOUR EVENTS

■ Beaugard Vineyard at 10 Pine Flat Road in Bonny Doon will host the AMGEN brunch on Monday. There are about 20 spots left. Tickets are \$85 for adults and \$45 for children. To reserve tickets call the tasting room at 458-9463. The tasting room will reopen to the public at 2 p.m.

■ Davenport Roadhouse at 1 Davenport Ave. in Davenport will host a special breakfast with extra outdoor seating for spectators on Monday. For information, call 426-8801 ext. 101.

VOLUNTEER

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finish. Through sponsors, donations, the Peloton booster club, clothing sales and other fundraisers, the final cost to the city should be zero, Shull said.

Santa Cruz's enthusiasm

was noticed at the race's top level.

"You've been wonderful," said volunteer coordinator Lynn Katano with Amgen Tour of California.

The most important job for Santa Cruz volunteers, Katano said, will be watching the driveways along Empire Grade in Bonny

Doon to make sure no one pulls out in front of cyclists whirring down at speeds around 50 mph.

While Santa Cruz does not have the most volunteers helping, it is close, Katano said. That prize goes to Escondido, which is hosting the race's finish and requires 450 volunteers.