

2010 AMGEN TOUR OF CALIFORNIA

READY TO ROLL

The peloton is followed by a massive convey of support vehicles and race officials as the riders speed down a decline just north of the Santa Cruz County line during the 2009 Amgen Tour of California.

SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL FILE

Santa Cruz gears up for world-class cycling event Tuesday

Bicycle Races
THOUSANDS OF FANS EXPECTED
TO PACK ROUTE, BOARDWALK FINISH

By J.M. BROWN

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SANTA CRUZ — Already a bicycling mecca, Santa Cruz will be the center of attention for cycling fans worldwide Tuesday when America's premier race, the Amgen Tour of California, rolls into Surf City.

The legendary 102-year-old Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk will provide a playful backdrop for the finish line of Stage 3, a breathtaking 113-mile journey that will take riders south from San Francisco to the redwood forests of Bonny Doon, where they will then wind their way past UC Santa Cruz to West Cliff Drive. With the sparkling Monterey Bay at their side, the riders will sprint past Lighthouse Point and Steamer Lane on their way to a horseshoe finish over Beach Hill to the front

door of the Boardwalk's Neptune's Kingdom.

"It will be the money shot," said Steven Jonsson, a bicycle marketer who has served on the event's local organizing committee. "You can't buy that kind of exposure."

MORE INSIDE

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- Local hotels get boost from race, **B1**
- Utah professor wins inaugural Scotts Valley Grand Prix, **C1**
- Lance Armstrong's trainer comes to town, **C1**

Local cyclist Ben Jacques-Maynes competes in the 2009 race.



SHMUEL THALER/
SENTINEL FILE

5-16-10
Cloudy, cool conditions
on the way for cyclists

By SHANNA MCCORD

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SANTA CRUZ — Ideal conditions for competitive cycling would include a little bit of sun, a few clouds to keep the heat at bay and not a drop of rain, which is exactly what Mother Nature intends to deliver on Tuesday in time for the Santa Cruz leg of the Amgen Tour of California.

The race day forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a high of 67, according to meteorologists with the National Weather Service in Monterey.

Today should be cool and cloudy, and Monday carries a strong chance of rain, meteorologist Bob Benjamin said. Most of Monday's rain should be light with brief moments of moderate showers, he said.

"It's not going to be a gully washer or anything," Benjamin said. "But there's

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BEST VIEWING LOCATIONS

- Intersection of High Street and Western Drive
- Intersection of Swift and Ingalls streets
- The David Way and Woodrow Avenue turnout at West Cliff Drive
- The Woodrow Avenue and Columbia Street turnout at West Cliff Drive
- Lighthouse Field on West Cliff Drive
- Manor Avenue turnout at West Cliff Drive
- West Cliff Drive trestle
- Intersection of Cliff and Third streets
- Near finish line at Beach Street and Riverside Avenue

WHERE TO PARK

City officials recommend Amgen spectators park downtown and take shuttles to the beach area because parking near the finish line is expected to be heavily impacted. The following downtown locations will be open for parking for a daily rate of \$5:

- Soquel/Front garage, corner of Soquel Avenue and River Street
- River/Front garage, intersection of River and Front streets
- Cedar/Church garage, bordered by Cedar Street, Walnut Avenue and Church Street
- Locust garage, corner of Cedar and Locust streets

The main parking lot at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk will be closed to the public. The following parking locations will be open closer to the beach:

- Depot Park lot, Pacific Avenue at Washington Street
- Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's Leibbrandt, Park Place and River lots
- Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf (entrance closes from 2-4:45 p.m.)

DOWNTOWN-BEACH SHUTTLES

Two shuttles will run every

CYCLING

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More than 120 of the world's best cyclists will ride the tour, including seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, George Hincapie, Fabian Cancellara and three-time defending champion Levi Leipheimer. Local fans also will be cheering on Corralitos' own, Ben and Andy Jacques-Maynes.

After rain pelted the riders last February, race organizers moved the event to May this year. The forecast calls for rain Monday with partly cloudy — but dry — skies on Tuesday.

Santa Cruz was selected for the second time to serve as a host city, this time as the finish line for the third stage rather than the second. After downtown served as the finish line last year, the city pitched a beach finish this year to highlight Santa Cruz's iconic coastal curves.

Stage 3 will begin in San Francisco at 11:15 a.m. and end in front of the Boardwalk between 3:20-4 p.m. The route will showcase Northern California's most dramatic coastline from San Francisco's Ocean Beach to Half Moon Bay before taking riders inland for one of three moderate climbs. From Tunitas Creek Road, racers will push again at La Honda Road before cruising back toward the ocean through Pescadero and down Highway 1 to Davenport for the final climb along Bonny Doon Road.

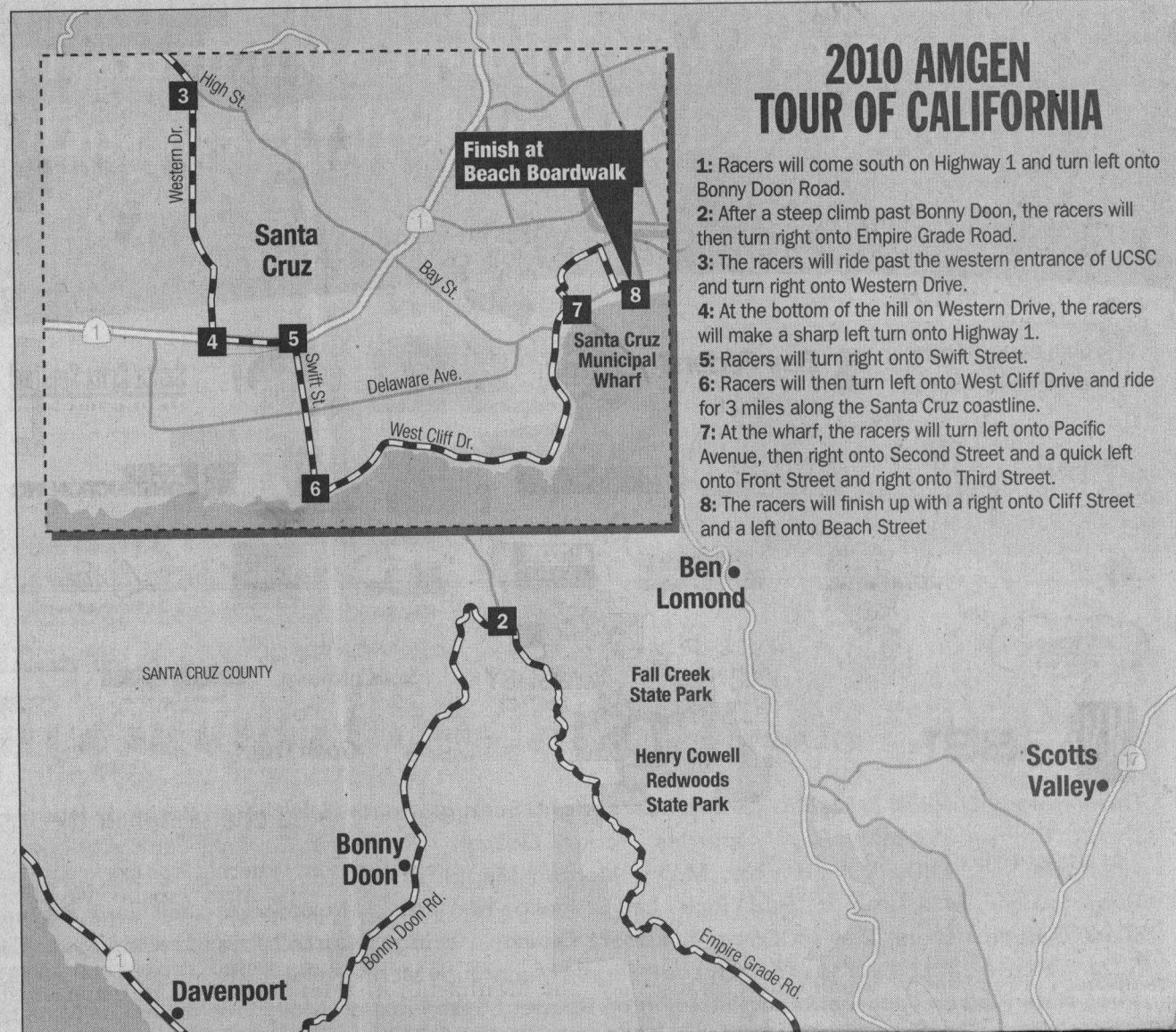
Riders will exit the forest on Empire Grade Road, past the university and down a partly repaved Western Drive to Highway 1 and down Swift Street to the bay. Thousands are expected to line the route and pack in around the finish line. Several roads leading to the finish line at Beach Street and Riverside Avenue will be closed from 8 p.m. Monday to 6 p.m. Tuesday. The race route will be closed from 1:30-4:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Three hundred volunteers have signed up to



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL FILE

Amgen racers scream through downtown Santa Cruz during last year's race.



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- 1: Racers will come south on Highway 1 and turn left onto Bonny Doon Road.
- 2: After a steep climb past Bonny Doon, the racers will then turn right onto Empire Grade Road.
- 3: The racers will ride past the western entrance of UCSC and turn right onto Western Drive.
- 4: At the bottom of the hill on Western Drive, the racers will make a sharp left turn onto Highway 1.
- 5: Racers will turn right onto Swift Street.
- 6: Racers will then turn left onto West Cliff Drive and ride for 3 miles along the Santa Cruz coastline.
- 7: At the wharf, the racers will turn left onto Pacific Avenue, then right onto Second Street and a quick left onto Front Street and right onto Third Street.
- 8: The racers will finish up with a right onto Cliff Street and a left onto Beach Street

half hour from downtown locations to Depot Park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Shuttles stops are:

- Marini's, Pacific Avenue near Walnut Avenue
- Former Sentinel building, corner of Cedar and Church streets
- Calvary Church, corner of Cedar and Lincoln streets
- Depot Park, Pacific Avenue and Washington Street

ROAD CLOSURES

The following closures will be in effect 8 p.m. Monday through 6 p.m. Tuesday

- Beach Street from Main to Raymond streets
- Riverside Avenue between Second and Beach streets
- Cliff Street from First to Beach streets
- Front Street from South Pacific Avenue to Third Street

Police will begin closing roads that are part of the race route at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, beginning with High Street and ending with West Cliff Drive at Beach Street. Race route roads will reopen by from 4:20-4:45 p.m.

TUESDAY'S TIMELINE

11 A.M.: The MBT Footwear Lifestyle Festival, Cliff Street between Beach and Second streets

11:15 A.M.: Race begins at Ocean Beach in San Francisco

11:15 A.M.: Live entertainment begins at the Boardwalk Bandstand

2:30 P.M.: Breakaway Mile walk for cancer, starts at the Dream Inn

3:20-4 P.M.: Race ends at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Beach Street and Riverside Avenue

4 P.M.: After-party at the Bicycle Trip, 1001 Soquel Ave.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

The Amgen Tour of California still needs volunteers to serve as course marshals. To apply, visit www.amgentourofcalifornia.com/tour/volunteer.html.

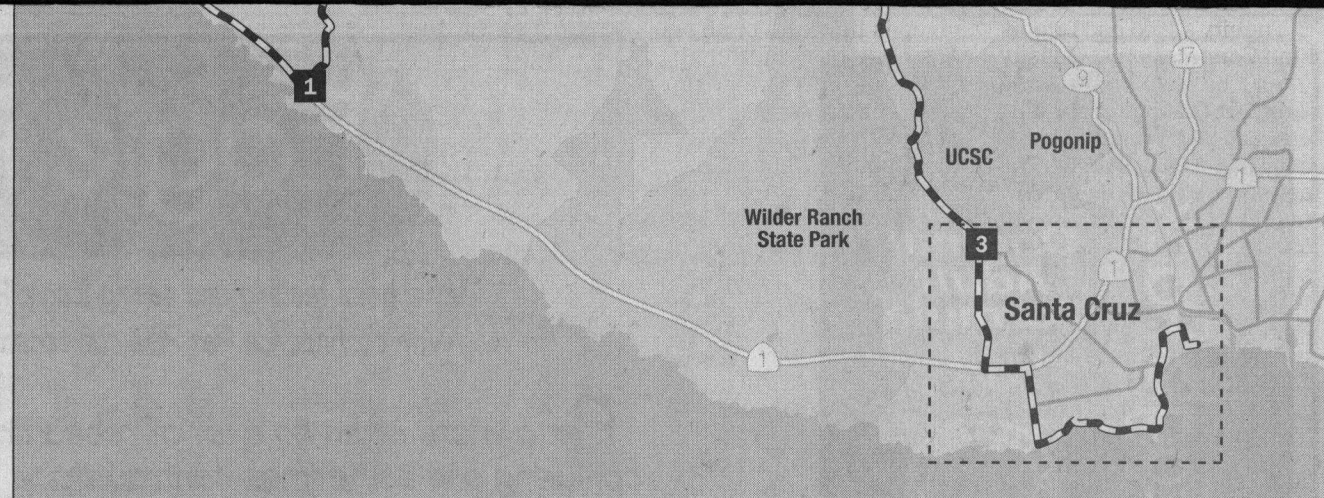
serve as course marshals, but another 100 are needed. Those interested in applying can visit the Amgen Tour of California's website at amgentourofcalifornia.com.

From the international visibility of sports television to the hundreds of fans and crew members checking into local hotels, local organizers say the race will be a boon for Santa Cruz now and in the future. The city will benefit from merchandise sold at the corner of First and Cliff streets and on Beach Street across from the Dream Inn.

Hosting the race also fits like hand-and-handlebar for a city full of avid cyclists.

"For us, it's just fun, to celebrate human power," said Micah Posner, founder of People Power, a local bicycling advocacy group.

Members of People Power will valet bikes from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Boardwalk for spectators who come in on two wheels. The volunteer effort, as well as Saturday's annual Rail/Trail race that helped promote Amgen, celebrated alterna-



ANTHONY L. SOLIS/SENTINEL GRAPHIC

tive transportation and got residents psyched up to see world-class riders.

"The amazing prowess and grace of these guys married with an event that we've done for five years, the two work together perfectly," Posner said. "Everyone is just having fun and working together."

The city has planned a number of events for Tuesday. The MBT Footwear Lifestyle Festival will kick off at 11 a.m. on Cliff Street between Beach and Second

streets. The free event will include a health and fitness expo featuring information about Amgen's Breakaway from Cancer initiative and other groups. There will be national vendors and a beer tent. A Whole Foods produce pavilion and Amgen merchandise mart will be set up in the triangle lot bordered by West Cliff Drive, Beach Street and Front Street.

The Boardwalk's Beach Bandstand will offer live entertainment beginning at

11:15 a.m. At 1:30 p.m., local cancer survivors, patients and caregivers will gather at the Dream Inn for the "Breakaway Mile," a one-mile walk along the race route that begins at 2:30 p.m. After the race, the Bicycle Trip, 1001 Soquel Ave., will host an after-party beginning at 4 p.m. There will be an autograph session with the Rabobank Pro Cycling Team.

Armstrong, who overcame a battle with testicular cancer to reach

unprecedented heights in competitive cycling, is certain to be the race's focal point. While the eight-day Amgen race would undoubtedly capture the attention of cycling enthusiasts even if Armstrong weren't racing, his global celebrity "draws in much more of the casual fan," said Jonsson. And that means more experiencing the beauty of Santa Cruz.

"It's definitely an amazing way to showcase what we take for granted," Jonsson said.

WEATHER

Continued from A1

a really good probability we'll see rain even into Monday evening."

The weather is expected to clear up by Tuesday morning to give racers dry conditions with slightly cool temperatures, Benjamin said.

Riders, spectators and organizers should be able to enjoy comfortable weather for the Amgen's cycling stage finish in Santa Cruz that ends in front of the Boardwalk on Beach Street.

Matt Potter, owner of The Spokesman Bicycles, predicts a larger crowd of cycling fans on Tuesday than when the tour rolled through town in February 2009, a period marked by cold temperatures and heavy rain.

"I'd say an easy 20 percent more people are going

FORECAST

TODAY: Cloudy with highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid-40s.

MONDAY: Strong chance of rain with highs in the low 60s and lows in the mid-40s.

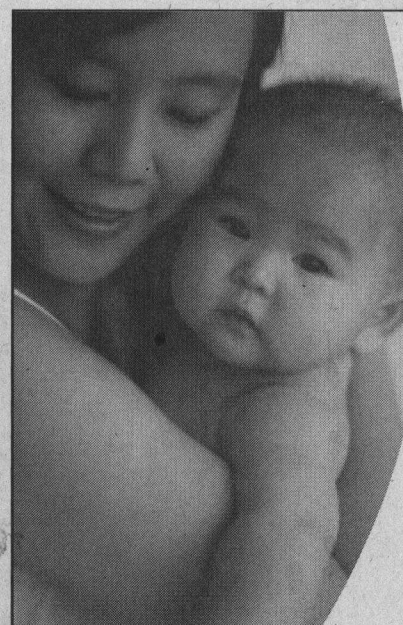
TUESDAY: Partly cloudy, no rain, with highs up to 67 and lows in the 40s.

SOURCE: National Weather Service

to show up," Potter said Saturday. "Fans will be more into it when they don't have to worry about being cold and wet."

Riders should perform well with the Tuesday forecast, he said.

"You have to peel your speed back a bit when it's wet," Potter said. "Cool, sunny weather is kind of nice because when you sweat, it doesn't stick to you as much."



Trying to Conceive?

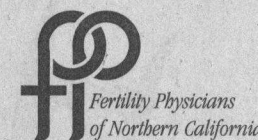
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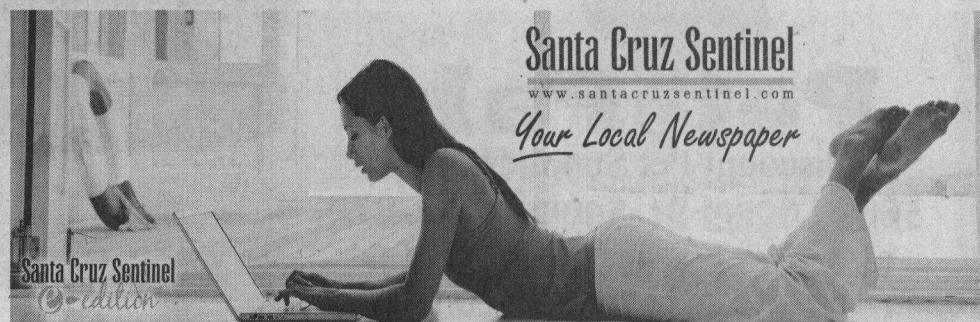
Tuesday, May 25, 6:30 pm

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