Triathlon Lures 372 Athletes, One Bagpiper

By Chris Lavin



Canyon bagpiper Scott MacLeod serenades athletes at Canyon Road and Camino Pablo in Moraga for the 7th Annual Moraga Triathlon. He was inspired by the Boston Marathon bombings to play "Chariots of Fire" to the passing cyclists. Photo Chris Lavin

with competing athletes April 27 for the 7th Annual Moraga Triathlon, but the energy was especially palpable at the intersection of Canyon Road and Camino Pablo where bagpiper Scott MacLeod serenaded participants on the bicycle leg of the race with the song, "Chariots of Fire."

"I'm doing it as a contribution to honor the ceremony of the race," said MacLeod, a Canyon resident who heard about a bagpiper who had played the same song to encourage runners in the Boston Marathon last month. Inspired by the story, McLeod adopted the idea. "Bagpipes are ceremonial. They are played during funerals, weddings, important occasions. I did it (in Moraga) in remembrance of and I think the cyclists did, too." the craziness in Boston."

Three hundred seventy two athletes from throughout the Bay Area a big success. "Just seeing the smiles and beyond participated in the on people's faces said it all," he said. triathlon this year. It started with a Putting on the triathlon each year 400-meter swim at Campolindo High means hundreds of hours of work on School, where swimmers – wearing the parts of volunteers and department electronic ID tags for automatic tim- staff, Ingram said, including Kim-

oraga's streets were filled ing – jumped into the pool at staggered intervals. Out of the pool, participants ran to their bicycles for a 14-mile ride west to Canyon, back to Moraga, up to Sanders Ranch and 7 and 8-11 age groups participate on back to Campolindo for a 3-mile run before crossing the finish line.

> MacLeod chose to serenade the bikers from a pear orchard, a spot he said represents his message of peace and courage.

That meant a steady stream of athletes for MacLeod's pipes, and he played for the entire race. Cyclists on the way to the turnaround at Canyon School saw him going and coming. Dozens gave MacLeod thumbs up or hollered their thanks.

"It was wonderful," MacLeod said afterward. "I felt fully engaged,

Jay Ingram, director of Moraga Parks and Recreation, called the event berly Nelson and Kim Burrowes, as well as this year's Saint Mary's College intern, Angelica Tabuena.

The youth divisions, in which 5a smaller scale, have particularly grown, Ingram said.

The event also brings in enough money to fund local Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) programs, Ingram said.

Bagpiper MacLeod said that because marathons are such an old tradition, bagpiping twins well with the ancient art of playing the pipes, especially in light of the tragedy in Boston. It also fits MacLeod's life pursuit: He founded World University and School, a learning institution where anyone can teach or take a

At World University, one may even learn to play the bagpipe, at http://worlduniversity.wikia.com/wiki /Bagpipe Tutorials.

More photos and a list of top finishers can be found in Sports, page Cx; for complete Moraga Triathlon results visit www.moragatri.com.







3589 Mt. Diablio Blvd., Lafayette

Mothering a Mama Duck

By Cathy Dausman



'Papa Duck' Dan Brunicardi stands next to the storm drain where it all began. Photo Cathy Dausman

ducks.

Dan Brunicardi's Lafayette neighbors used to call him "The Mayor" because he looked out for his fellow residents. Apparently, he'll do that even when those residents can't speak, or they waddle when they walk.

given to him by neighbor and author Pauline Reif, who captured the true story of Brunicardi and his duckling rescue in her first children's book, "Papa Duck." The book was illustrated by Eugenie Huard, a neighbor of Reif and Brunicardi.

ago, when Brunicardi stepped out his front door to walk his dogs. In a neighborhood lush with trees, he wasn't surprised to see a brown duck like popcorn." standing curbside, but he was surprised when it wouldn't budge even ful. By then, a neighbor or two was when he approached.

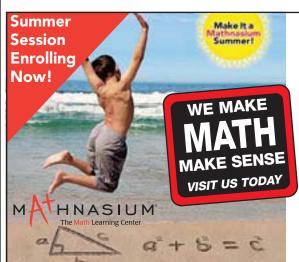
Brunicardi detoured around the

his is a Mother's Day story self-imposed mallard roadblock, but about a man ... and some became concerned when he returned half an hour later, and she was still there. Locking the dogs in his back yard, Brunicardi said he confronted the duck, gently asking her "What's wrong?" The mallard seemed to be guarding the storm drain, from which peeping could be heard.

Looking down the drain, Bruni-Now Brunicardi has a new title, cardi noticed nine fuzzy black ducklings floating in circles two feet below street level, unable to escape. Although Brunicardi said he is "not a strong man," he lifted and slid the storm grate out of the way. Then, lying in the street on his stomach, Brunicardi corralled the ducklings The story began two summers with cardboard and picked each one up, housing them temporarily in a five gallon bucket, where he said they showed their exuberance "by jumping

> Mama Duck seemed most gratewatching, as were at least three cats.

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