

Aptos schools reap big benefit rewards

Fund-raisers bring in \$150,000

By ERIN K. QUIRK
Sentinel staff writer

APTOS — Six Aptos schools can soon expect another green shot in the arm courtesy of the Rudolph F. Monte Foundation.

The Hawaiian Luau, which drew nearly 1,300 merry-makers to the Deer Park Center earlier this month, earned \$50,000 for the non-profit foundation that supports local schools, President Marc Monte reported Wednesday.

Furthermore, Rudy Monte, Marc's father

and founder of Deluxe Foods of Aptos, offered to match those funds, kicking the total profit from the event up to \$100,000. The Cabrillo College Foundation did its part by donating back to the Monte Foundation the Honda Accord it won at the Luau.

"One more time it's everyone working as a group to reach our goals," Marc Monte said.

And the six schools are already lining up with their requests, Monte said.

Please see APTOS — BACK PAGE

Aptos schools

Continued from Page A1

Some of the projects include new carpeting at Mar Vista Elementary and a \$15,000 upgrade to the library and media systems at Valencia Elementary, Monte said. The board is also discussing Aptos High's request for new lockers and Cabrillo College, whose football players turned into waiters at the Luau, have requested a new snack shack.

Monte said the foundation has also taken care of several smaller requests from groups who also helped at the luau.

Holding a small number of huge, splashy fund raisers is part of the Foundation's plan to quit "nickel and diming" the few people that always support local schools and groups. Monte believes if the whole of Aptos came out in support of just four events, it would make

more money and help unite the community.

"I was absolutely shocked at the amount of people that showed up that night," Monte said about the Luau. "It was Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Aptos. It was amazing what was brought together that night."

Through two major events the Foundation has already raised approximately \$150,000 for the six schools. And it still has two more events to go before its one-year anniversary.

With the help of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce, Monte hopes to raise another \$25,000 at the Fourth of July carnival at Aptos Village Park. He believes the Foundation's participation will encourage Aptos residents to not only come support the Chamber of Commerce but the schools as well.

But the crown jewel in Monte's fund-raising agenda will explode off the Cement Ship in October. He promises the second fireworks show will be even more successful than the first. With the cooperation of State Parks, Monte has secured Seacliff State Beach for the event, and through ticket and food sales hopes to raise another \$100,000 for the Foundation.

Monte's goals for the Foundation are simple.

He wants to raise \$275,000 for six Aptos schools in one year and to become the single largest fund-raising organization in the county.

"How big do we have to get until the schools get what they need?" Monte said. "I could be raising a million dollars a year and just be scratching the surface of the what the Aptos schools need."

REFERENCE