

Anthony L. Solis/Sentinel

## Olympic torch carried through town today

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

Hope you're up early today, Santa Cruz, because the chance to connect with this winter's Olympic Games is near but fleeting.

Athletes, community heroes and those who just plain inspire us will all be on the run today, carrying the Olympic torch on the local leg of a cross-country relay.

The 2002 Winter Olympics torch

relay winds its way through Santa Cruz with county residents handing the flame off to each other.

After starting at Swift Street and West Cliff Drive at 7:42 a.m., the runners will trot past Lighthouse Point, take a side-jaunt onto the wharf, head past the Boardwalk, then meander to Pacific Avenue and on to City Hall.

The locals are among 11,500 torch carriers nationwide who have carried or will carry the flame in 250 cities in

46 states. They were nominated by fellow community members who wrote essays about their deeds and lives. A volunteer group then chose the participants based on the essays.

The master torch was lit in Greece in November before it was flown to Atlanta. From Atlanta, it has crisscrossed the nation by foot, plane and automobile as it makes its way to the games in Salt Lake City, which begin Feb. 8