

Holiday - Cinco de Mayo

# Area host to various Cinco de Mayo celebrations

## SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

This weekend will be all about food, family and entertainment as Mexican-Americans join their counterparts south of the border to celebrate their heritage and the victory of the Battle of Puebla.

It was on May 5, or Cinco de Mayo, 1862, that 5,000 poorly equipped Mestizo and Zapotec Indians defeated the mighty French army.

That victory is compared to David and Goliath, the weak rising up against the strong to bring about a better way of life.

Here's a list of Cinco de Mayo community celebrations that will take place at opposite ends of the county this weekend, as well as over the hill in San Jose.

**Multicultural Festival:** Noon to 6 p.m. today at Oakes College Field, on the UCSC campus. It's free. For information, call 459-2934.

The 22nd annual event will feature food from Mexico, Asia, India and more.

There will be dance and musical performances ranging from folklorico and mariachi to traditional dances from India and the Philippines.

**Cinco de Mayo Festival 2001:** Noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, downtown Watsonville Plaza. The event is free. For information, call 724-9005.

The alcohol- and tobacco-free event serves traditional Mexican foods at reasonable prices.

There will be traditional Mexican entertainment, including Aztec

dancers and popular dance bands Banda Rosa Blanca, Peligro Norteño and Los Muñecos.

This event (organized by volunteers for the past 10 years) will feature booths for nonprofit community groups.

**Davenport Annual 5 de Mayo Fiesta:** On May 6, The Davenport Resource Service Center at 100 Church St. in Davenport will be transformed into a venue for music dancing, food and crafts in the celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

The festivities run from noon to 5 p.m., beginning with a performance by Pacific Elementary School students and ending with a raffle and silent auction.

All proceeds of the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County-supported

event will benefit the Davenport Resource Service Center.

For information, call 425-8115.

**Cinco de Mayo Festival:** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, downtown San Jose. The cost is free. For information, call (408) 288-9471.

One of the nation's largest Cinco de Mayo celebrations will kick off with an hour-long parade of 150 marching bands, historical displays, youth groups and award-winning equestrians.

Ninety food booths and vendors will line Guadalupe River Park for the 50,000 people expected to attend. There will be entertainment and activities for kids.

**Public transportation options**

■ The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transportation district will not have

5501  
special shuttles to and from the various Cinco de Mayo events. For regular bus schedules, call 425-8500.

■ Amtrak will run buses from Santa Cruz to San Jose in time for the parade and other festivities.

Morning departures from Metro Center at 920 Pacific St., downtown Santa Cruz, to the Cahill Station in downtown San Jose are: 6:25, 7:55 and 9:55. Travel time is about one hour.

Afternoon and evening return times from San Jose to Santa Cruz are: 4:45, 5:45, 6:45, 7:55 and 9:05.

For more information, call Amtrak at (800) 872-7245.