

# Fireworks in Aptos packed some punch

\$50,000 raised for Aptos schools

By DONNA KIMURA  
Sentinel staff writer

APTOS — Organizers of the "Reach for the Stars" fireworks show estimate they've raised \$50,000 for Aptos schools.

Between 7,000 and 10,000 people were at Seacliff State Beach for Saturday's show — thought to be the first pyrotechnics display in Aptos.

A final figure will be available later this week when the schools turn in their proceeds from the ticket sales.

A handful of people who didn't attend Saturday's festivities, but saw the fireworks from the cliffs were so impressed they made donations Monday, said organizer Marc Monte.

The crowd began to assemble at

the beach about 4 p.m. to listen to music by Tocara and the Aptos High School band. The Seaside Co. also provided games.

The event was bigger than organizers anticipated.

They sold as many tickets at the gate as they sold in advance, said Monte.

"Basically, everything we had, we sold," he said.

The crowd went through 150 cases of soda, 500 hamburgers, 500 hot dogs, 500 burritos, 700 chicken sandwiches, 250 shrimps on a stick, 3,000 cookies and 2,000 cups of coffee.

"Everyone walked away feeling good about their neighbors and where they lived," said parent volunteer Jeannette Lopina. "If we do

*Please see APTOS — BACK PAGE*

## Aptos fireworks

*Continued from Page A1*

it again next year, it will double in size."

Lopina said the fireworks were the best she has ever seen.

Pyro-Spectaculars, which has provided fireworks for the Olympics and Disneyworld, designed a show especially for Aptos, which is often shrouded in fog at night.

The 22-minute show had a "low ceiling," with the explosions going off lower in the sky than usual, Monte said.

The \$15,000 show was sponsored by a dozen local companies, so its costs did not have to come out of the proceeds. The sponsors were Deluxe Foods of Aptos, New West Foods, Coast Commercial Bank,

Couch Distributing, Deer Park Market Place, Topless Vegetables, McSherry & Hudson Insurance, Aptos Station, Comerica Bank, O'Neill Surf Shop, Elyxir Distributing and Stationery Outlook.

The event benefited Mar Vista, Valencia, Rio del Mar, Bradley elementary schools, Aptos Junior High and Aptos High Schools.