

Earthquake anniversary events crowd calendar

By CHELA ZABIN
STAFF WRITER

Events ranging from a house blessing to a comedy night to a dinner at the site of Watsonville's longest-running unofficial tent city, Callaghan Park, will mark the first anniversary of the Oct. 17 earthquake Wednesday.

In Watsonville, the day's events will begin at 8:30 a.m., with a house blessing and brunch at 117 E. Fifth St. Assemblyman Sam Farr, Watsonville City Councilman Parr Eves, and the president of Salud Para La Gente's board of directors, Ruben Chavez, will speak.

The house is the home of Maria and Daniel Rocha and their family. The home, which was red-tagged after the quake,

had to be demolished and rebuilt. The family couldn't get enough money from the various relief agencies and turned to Watsonville Area Interfaith Disaster Relief for help.

WAIDR spokeswoman Angie Garcia said that the agency, along with a Mennonite group and Christian Reform Church members who have been in the area working on earthquake recovery during the past year, put up a pre-fabricated home for the Rochas for about \$60,000. The Rochas will be serving brunch. Garcia said the event will probably go on until noon.

From about 2 to 3:30 p.m., there will be events at Callaghan Park, with educational booths, entertainment and

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out his long life in the spotlight.

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games for children. The Red Cross will have an emergency van parked alongside the park, and the Salvation Army will bring a van with a 15-foot trailer with a self-contained kitchen for public viewing.

Agencies with booths will include COPE, Salud Para La Gente, Legal Services for Seniors, Fenix, Pajaro Valley Affordable Housing Corp., Migrant Media, the Oct. 17 Committee (an organization of people still living in the FEMA trailer parks), the Volunteer Center and the Human Resources Agency. The agencies have been or are still involved in earthquake-recovery activities, Garcia said.

At about 3:30, people will leave Callaghan, and led by Santa Cruz County Supervisors Sherry Mehl and Robley Levy, walk down to the city Plaza for an interfaith service.

Garcia said downtown merchants will have decorated the downtown for the event and that representatives from all the different denominations in Watsonville will take part in the service. There will be a bread-breaking and poetry readings, readings from newspapers and prayers in English, Spanish and Japanese, and singing led by Javier Vargas.

At 5:04 p.m., bells will be rung at the First Christian Church and All Saints' Episcopal Church in Watsonville. Garcia said event organizers are also planning to ring the bell from St. Patrick's Church, which has been taken down. She said it

will either be brought to the Plaza by a crane, or lifted from where it's now lying at the church and rung.

After the service, a barbecued chicken dinner will be served at Callaghan Park by the Oct. 17 Committee from 6 to 7 p.m. Watsonville Mayor Todd McFarren will speak.

The events are co-sponsored by WAIDR and the city of Watsonville.

As a separate event, the Watsonville High School Crisis Team will hold an anniversary celebration at the school. It will feature student and staff poetry about earthquake experiences, commemorative buttons and entertainment by students and staff members. Information about earthquake preparedness will be passed out.

For more information call Lorraine Sandoval-Vigil at 728-6253.

In downtown Santa Cruz, a series of events will be held Wednesday:

● A walking tour of historic spots, sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Historical Trust from 3 to 4 p.m.;