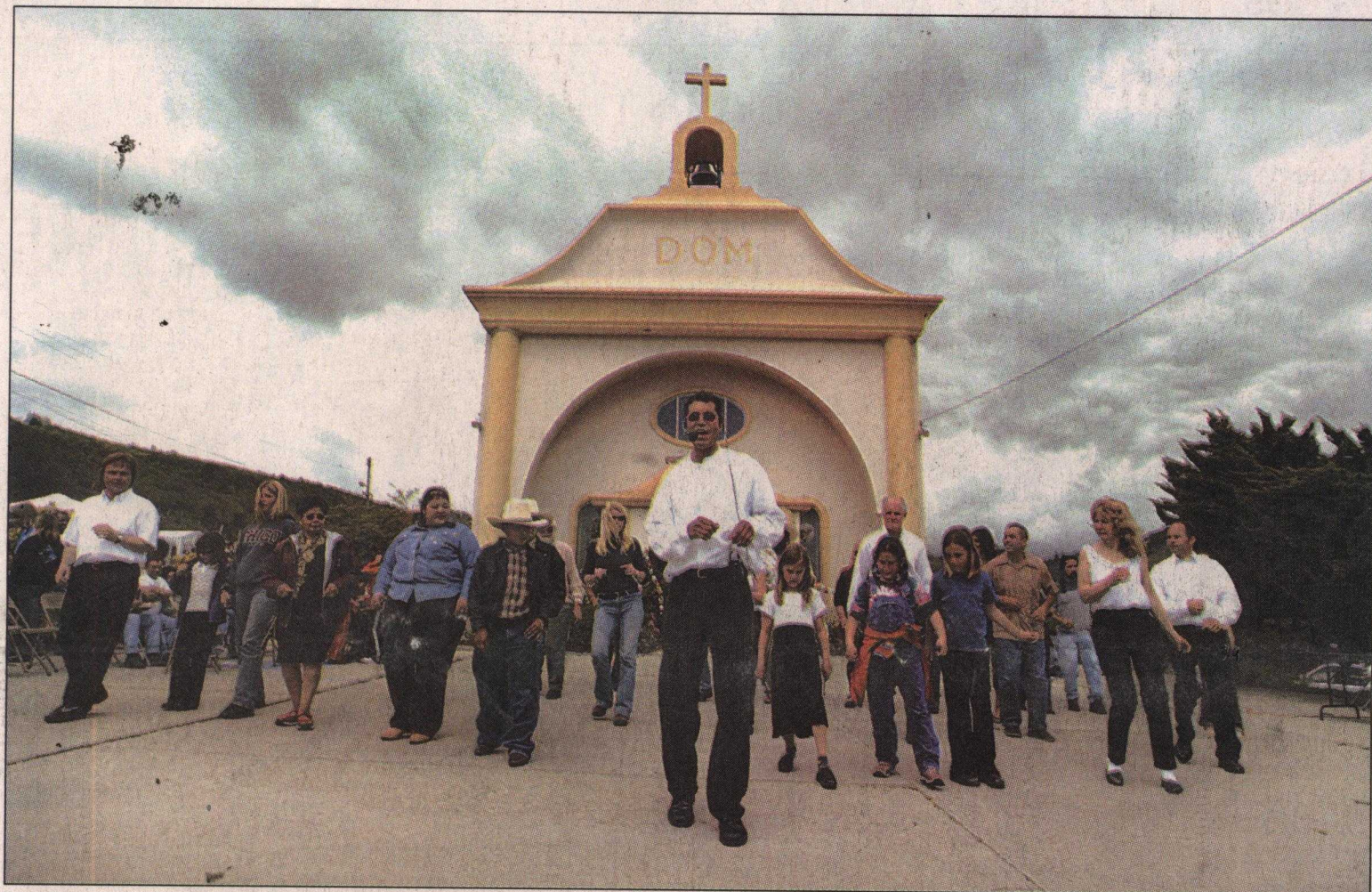


# Community celebrates Mexican culture



Dan Coyro/Sentinel photos

**ABOVE:** Gilberto Reyes of Santa Cruz teaches festival-goers the finer points of salsa dancing. **BELOW:** A raffle gets the crowd's attention.

## Davenport hosts thousands

By **RAMONA TURNER**  
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

DAVENPORT — Cinco de Mayo was celebrated on the fourth of May this year at Davenport's Resource Service Center and St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 people were expected at Sunday's five-hour outdoor event. That's the largest crowd yet, said organizer Gregg Palin. He credited the increase in participation to a bigger venue, more advertising and Mother Nature's cooperation.

The event featured home-style Mexican cooking, whipped-

cream-covered strawberries from Swanton Berry Farms, salsa lessons and live music from local band El Dueto de la Costa, among other attractions.

Cinco de Mayo celebrates the historic May 5, 1862, Battle of Puebla. As historians tell it, farmers in the small town near Mexico City were victorious over the well-armed and better-trained French forces who greatly outnumbered them.

Lupe Llorente of Aptos was one of the many people taking in the sights, sounds and tastes of the festival. Her ancestors were

See **CINCO** on **BACK PAGE**



## Cinco

Continued from Page A1

those defeated in that battle, she said, adding that she considers Cinco de Mayo festivities a learning experience.

"It always reminds me to be humble," she said as she sat with a group of friends watching members of Salsa Rueda of Santa Cruz give salsa lessons.

Dolores McCabe, a Spanish teacher at Harbor High School, was taking in the culture and getting a few ideas for how to work this

piece of history into her students today.

"This is fabulous," said the Santa Cruz resident.

"I love this culture and everything about it. And this event is for everyone of all ages. Too bad my students weren't here."

Sunday's festival was a fund-rais-

er for the resource center and its programs, such as weekly parenting classes and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, immigration services and food distributions for struggling families.

Contact Ramona Turner at [rturner@santa-cruz.com](mailto:rturner@santa-cruz.com).