

May 4/5, 2002

Fifty cents

# Weekend

## Cinco de Mayo sometimes misunderstood

■ **Holiday is bigger in America than in Mexico**

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To Mexican-Americans, Cinco de Mayo is no big deal.

On May 5, 1862, the Mexican army defeated an invading French force at the small town of Puebla.

The "Batalla de Puebla," commemorated annually on "Cinco de Mayo," is supposed to be a celebration of Mexico's willingness "to defend themselves against any foreign intervention," according to an Encyclopedia Britannica Web site.

For some reason, however, it's a bigger holiday in America than it is in Maria Aguayo's homeland Mexico.

"Cinco de Mayo, it's just a battle," said Aguayo, a Jonesboro resident who is the bilingual coordinator for the Clayton County Head Start Program in Forest Park "I don't know why Americans do so much for it."

Mexican Independence Day is celebrated



Photo by Alexander Cohn  
Members of the Mariachi Nuevo Santander de Roma High School practice following a performance for elementary students at the Clayton County Performing Arts Center.

on Sept. 16 and is not the same thing as perception. Mexican Constitution Day on Feb. 5 is also celebrated more enthusiastically

cally in Mexico than Cinco de Mayo, Aguayo said.

"But Mexicans who live here, they start to celebrate Cinco de Mayo like Americans," Aguayo said.

Typically, for Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated at home or as a community in parks, Aguayo said. Participants dance, eat a lot of good food and hit piñatas.

The Encyclopedia Britannica Web site also says that the Chicano community celebrates the day more extensively than in Mexico. Aguayo said she didn't know of any large, organized celebration in Clayton or Henry counties.

Various bars around the area are planning to observe the day, however.

At Memories in Angel Plaza shopping center on Hudson Bridge Road near Stockbridge there will be specials on Corona beer and Mexican food will be served, manager Crystal Adams said.

A Cinco de Mayo party will be held at Taco Mac on Ga. Highway 138 in Stockbridge Saturday night, employee Tara New said. There will also be free gifts and drink specials.