

# City turns out for Cinco de Mayo



Female vocalists in the group Las Nenas de Caña of El Salvador dazzle a crowd of more than 5,000 in downtown Watsonville Sunday in the Cinco de Mayo Festival put on by Fiestas Patrias de Watsonville.

Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

## *C Holiday - Cincode Mayo* Festival transforms downtown

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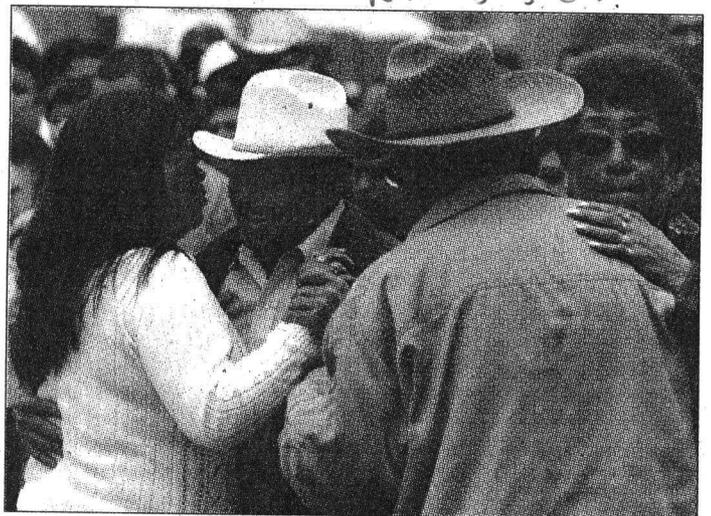
More than 5,000 people poured into downtown Watsonville Sunday to celebrate the annual Cinco de Mayo Festival. Hot food, live music, jump houses, dancing and informational booths garnished the open-air event that is put on by Fiestas Patrias de Watsonville.

"The weather was a little colder this year, but look at all the people — they love it!" chimed Watsonville City Councilmember Oscar Rios, who headed up the event. "We've got a good lineup of

music, the food is great and I do think the sun will come out."

Indeed, the sun did come out about halfway through the five-and-half-hour engagement that featured six live bands. With Main Street shut down at East Beach Street, a large stage dominated the event with a huge sound system that sent reverberating walls of sound throughout the downtown corridor.

Cinco de Mayo, or, the Fifth of May, commemorates a victory by Mexican forces over the French army in the battle of Puebla May 5, 1862.



With six bands on the main stage over the course of the day, there was plenty of dancing at the alcohol-free event.

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