

Community celebrates Latino heritage

Holiday- Cinco de Mayo

Watsonville's Cinco de Mayo festivities set for Sunday

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WATSONVILLE — Offering "every kind of taco you can think of," Watsonville will go all out when it celebrates Cinco de Mayo this Sunday.

In its 10th year, the Cinco de Mayo celebration is free and open to anyone who wants to attend. Mayor Oscar Rios said he expects approximately 8,000 to 10,000 people to join in at this year's festivities.

Rios said the Cinco de Mayo celebration is a positive experience for everyone. "It gives an opportunity for the whole community to come together," said Rios.

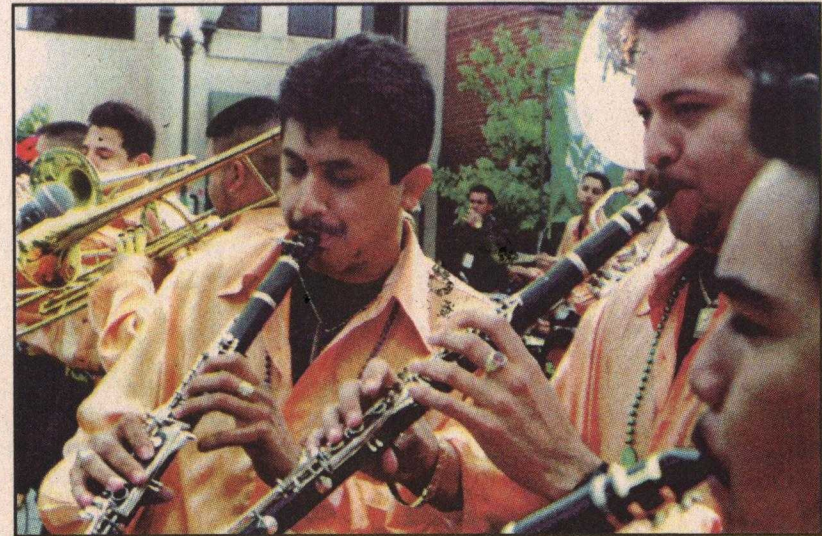
Besides the abundance of tacos, Rios said the event will offer many

different types of traditional Mexican food at very reasonable prices. He also said that the event will have vendors selling everything from jewelry to toys.

As is traditional in Latino celebrations, music will be prominently featured. Banda, mariachi, traditional Aztec/Maya and tropical music will be a few of the types of music this Sunday for eager listeners.

Cinco de Mayo is a national holiday in Mexico and celebrates Mexico's most famous victory over the French in the Battle of Puebla May 5, 1862.

Some may ask why Watsonville is commemorating the battle nine days later. Rios said that Watsonville has held Cinco de Mayo festiv-



ities on Mother's Day in past celebrations. "The precedent has already been set," Rios said.

Rios said that the celebration is a good way for Latino Watsonville residents to get in touch with their

Latino culture. "It gives people a sense that we can overcome our difficulties," Rios said. It's a positive cultural experience for Latinos, he continued, adding, "It inspires people to feel good about themselves."