

Holiday - Cinco de Mayo

CINCO DE MAYO

5-3-10

Hundreds turn out to celebrate holiday in the park

By SHANNA MCCORD

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WATSONVILLE — The city's Main Street Plaza was packed Sunday with several hundred people enjoying live music, food and a magic show in honor of Cinco de Mayo, an important holiday in the Mexican culture.

The holiday commemorates the Mexican army's unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, under the leadership of Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín.

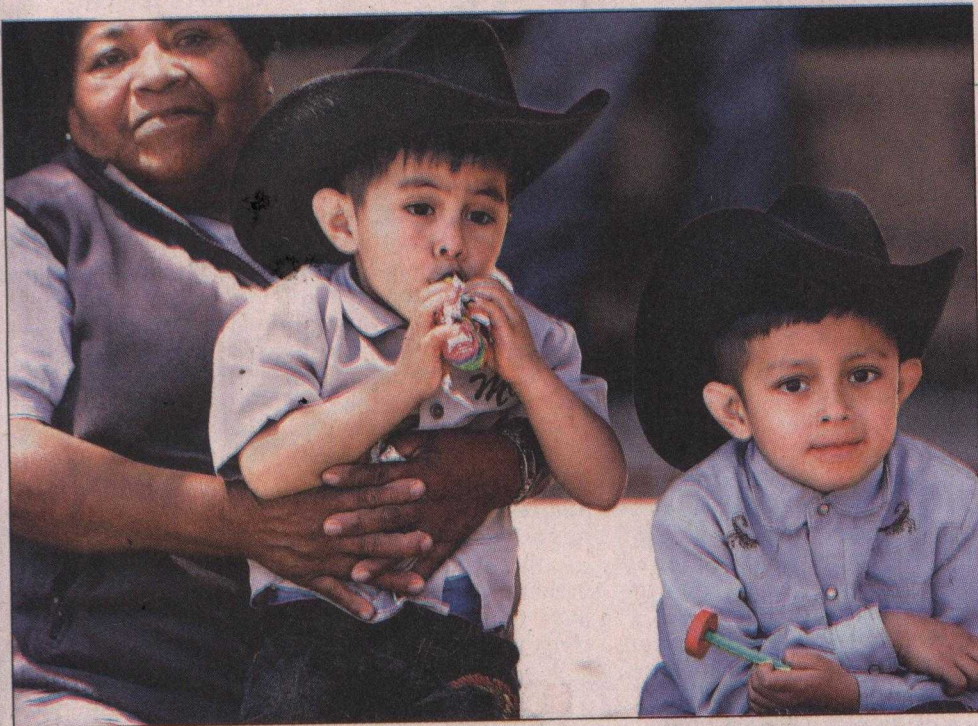
Main Street was closed to traffic between Beach Street and Second Street to allow for a large stage with music and other entertainment in the street. The plaza was filled with food vendors, games and a bounce house for children.

Ernestine Torres, 68, sipped a giant mango-strawberry-banana smoothie as she sat on the lawn and watched all the people strolling through the plaza.

"My dad used to tell me about the Cinco de Mayo celebrations in Mexico. It's a great tradition," Torres said. "I love to come to the festival. I love to see all the people come together."

Eden Colon, 28, said the annual celebration is a positive, family-friendly event for the city.

"This is all about positiveness, which is what we need," Colon said. "It's nice to see everyone out here. We're all having a good time."



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Mikaela Rosas enjoys Sunday's Cinco de Mayo celebration in Watsonville with grandsons Josue and Carmello Carina.