

Watsonville celebrates Cinco de Mayo

46th annual event draws a crowd downtown

Holiday Cinco de Mayo 4/5-8-12

By TARMO HANNULA
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

WATSONVILLE — The Cinco de Mayo Festival took place in downtown Watsonville Sunday. Five musical groups and a folklorico dance group took to the stage during the six-hour, 46th annual event.

"It's just great to see ev-

erybody having a good time," said Watsonville City Councilman Oscar Rios, who helped head up the event along with the sponsor Fiestas Patrias de Watsonville. "There are so many young people out dancing today. That's really something special."

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Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

The musical group Banda Oro Verde treat a large crowd to popular Mexican music Sunday during a Cinco de Mayo celebration in downtown Watsonville.

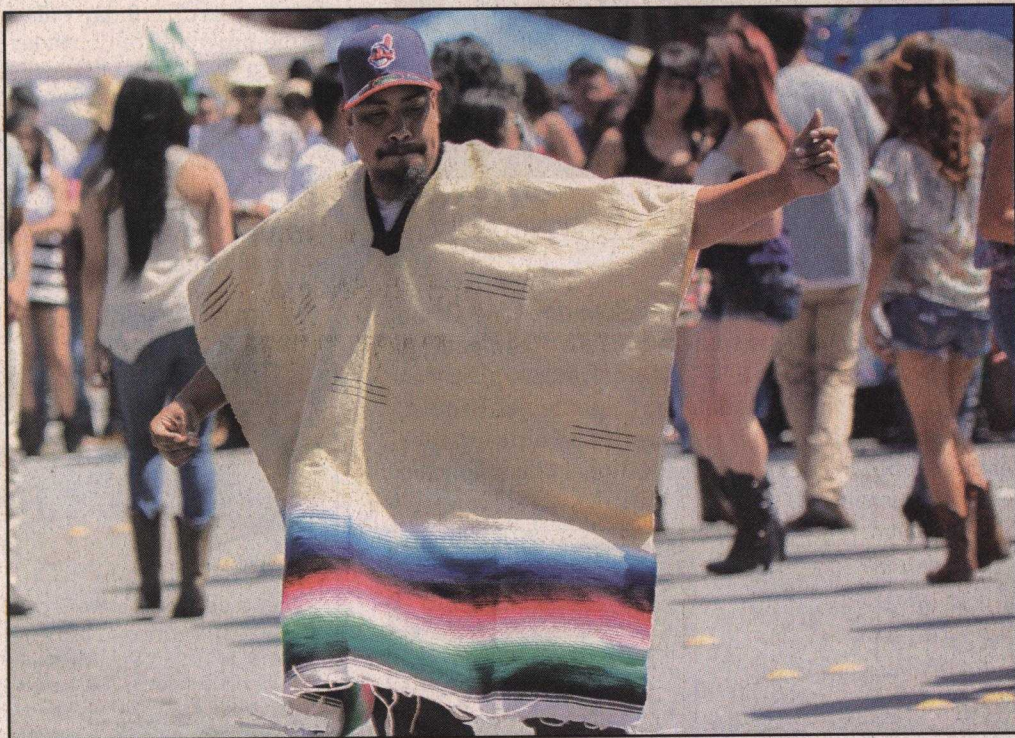
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The free entertainment complemented a mix of activities in the plaza, information booths, arts and crafts and food stands.

Main Street was closed between East Beach and Maple streets, thus transforming the street and plaza into a huge staging area for the festivities.

Several thousand people took advantage of the uninterrupted sunshine and made a day of the event, many with kids in tow. A slight breeze kept temperatures in a comfortable zone, which made way for hundreds of people to take to the street dancing.



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Garbed in a Mexican poncho, this man took to the street with his own style of dancing.