



Trisha Leonard/Register-Pajaronian

Earth Day staff member Gustavo Hernandez gives a presentation Sunday on water resources and the dangers the city will face if it doesn't conserve during the city's Earth Day celebration held at Ramsay Park.

# Kids, Earth celebrated

Thousands of residents attend festival at Ramsay Park

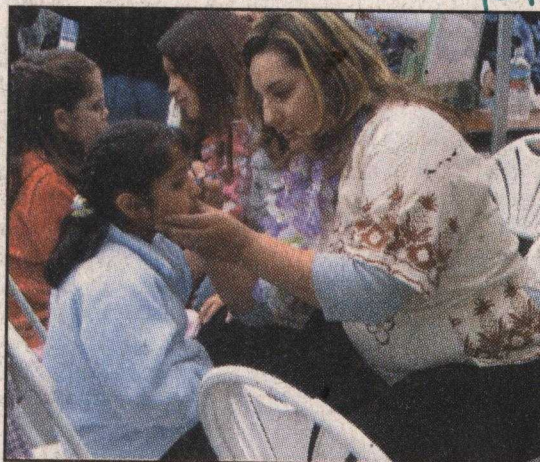
By TRISHA LEONARD  
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

Sunday marked the fifth annual collaborative Day of the Child and Earth Day celebration at Ramsay Park.

The celebration was sponsored by public works and utilities and hosted tents from 35 agencies. More than 4,000 people showed up to participate.

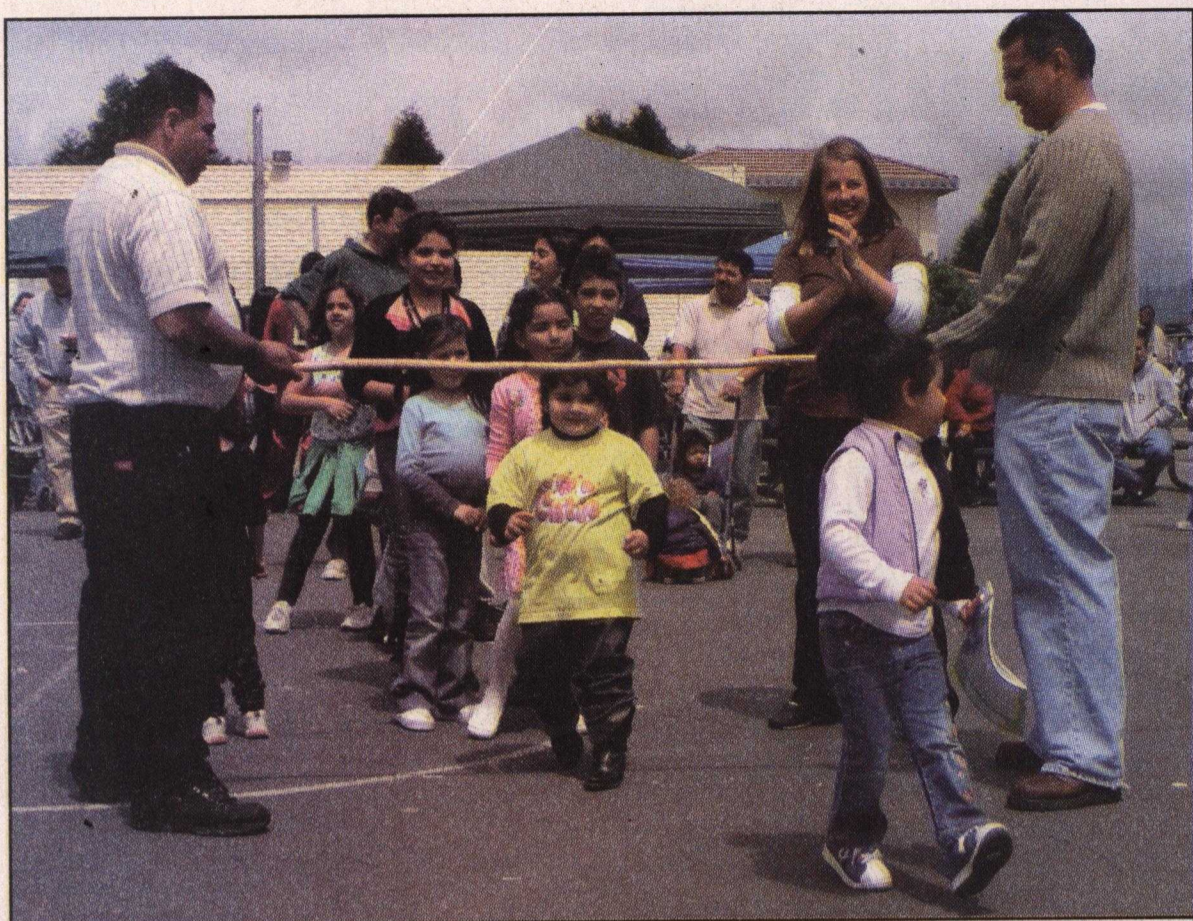
"It's just a fun day for families and kids to come to the park," said Nicolas Calubaquib, Watsonville Parks and Recreation supervisor.

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Belen Rubio (left) stops to get her face painted by Earth Day staff member Christina Paredez at Sunday's Earth Day celebration.

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**Two parents hold a limbo stick while children try to dance under it during Sunday's Earth Day celebration held at Ramsay Park.**

## EARTH

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"Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy the activities."

The Day of the Child and Earth Day celebration was free to the public. Among the booths were Salud Para la Gente, Second Harvest Food Bank, Watsonville Public Library, La Manzana Community Resources and Head Start.

"One great thing about this event is that everyone is financially equal here," said Doug Mattos, promotions and communication director for the city of Watsonville. "No one is trying to sell anyone anything."

Mattos also said that every booth was required to have some sort of family activity.

"The vendors are all nonprofits. We have a nature center, a short shower relay race, games and prizes," he said. "It's something for kids and adults to enjoy."

The entertainment included a magic show, a martial arts demonstration and Zun Zun, a local bilingual educational music group for children.

However, the celebration doubled as an educational event, including presentations on water conservation, recycling and personal health.

"Day of the Child is about human health and Earth Day is about environmental health," said Nancy Lockwood, environmental projects manager for the city of Watsonville. "They're both about our future."

At one tent, Gustavo Hernandez, Earth Day volunteer, gave a presentation about our city's water supply.

"The city is growing rapidly," said Hernandez. "We're using too much water much too fast."

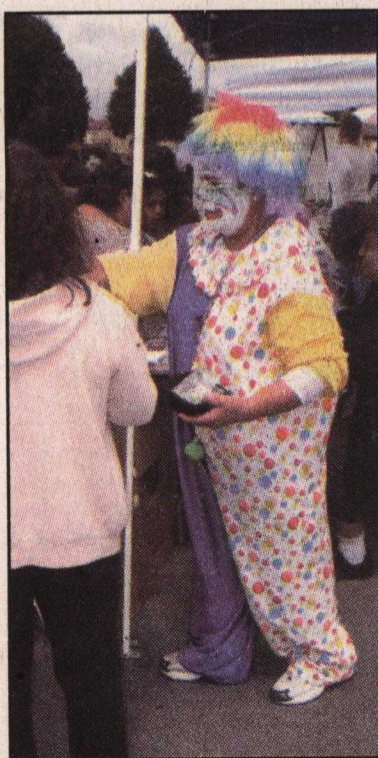
Hernandez explained that the salt water from the ocean may get into our city supply someday, and we'll have to find new sources of fresh water.

"It's expensive — that's why we



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**Two students from the Jabez Martial Arts Academy demonstrate sparring with bamboo sticks during Sunday's Earth Day celebration held at Ramsay Park in Watsonville.**



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**A clown hands out pamphlets and prizes to people at Earth Day.**

need to conserve," he said. "You can help by taking a five-minute shower, instead of one that lasts a half hour."

Public works and utilities is required to conserve the city's resources. As part of the project, they have developed school programs, more information on the wetlands, and a successful recycling program.

"Watsonville is a pioneer in making the effort to show its public the natural surroundings," said Holly Reed, Watsonville Wetlands Watch volunteer.

Watsonville Wetlands Watch had a tent set up to provide free information about preserving the wetlands in Watsonville.

"We're encouraging people to join Watsonville Wetlands Watch to enjoy the beauty of the city and rid it of invasive and non-invasive plants that are growing in the sloughs," said Reed. "Watsonville has a unique confluence of wetlands, trails and species. It is possible for people to live and work without driving out the wildlife."