

Celebrating Cinco de Mayo



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

A pair of trumpet players in the musical group Sonora Carnaval deliver a lively tune Sunday in downtown Watsonville during the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

Holiday - Cinco de Mayo Cinco de Mayo celebration a huge draw, despite rainy conditions

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

The 20th annual Cinco de Mayo celebration took place Sunday in downtown Watsonville. Several thousand people attended the open-air event, which featured six live bands, prepared foods, kids' events and educational booths that spread out along Main Street

and in Watsonville Plaza.

Organizer and former Watsonville Mayor Oscar Rios said that, even though a light rain dampened the area about half-way through the four-hour event, spirits showed no signs of being rained out.

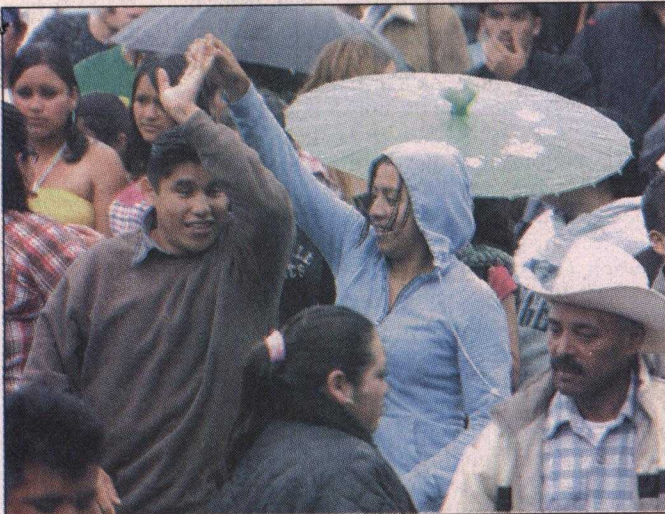
"People are out here having a good time," Rios said. "A lit-

tle rain — so what. Just look around. There're plenty of people dancing, eating good food, having a good time."

The alcohol-free, family-oriented celebration commemorates the Battle of Puebla, in which the Mexican army defeated French troops on May 5, 1862. Though heavi-

ly outnumbered, the Mexicans defeated a better-equipped French army that had gone undefeated for almost 50 years, according to program notes by Fiestas Patrias de Watsonville, a community volunteer group led by Rios.

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Despite a light rain, revelers are not discouraged from dancing to live music on Main Street.

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"Because of this battle, the spirit lives on and the belief that any one of us can preserve and overcome any obstacle that confronts us," the program stated.