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FARM TO FAMILIES



Mike Greener/Daily Republic

Benjamin Acosta, 1, left, sits and waits as his uncle Eduardo Barbosa, center, picks five pounds of fruits and vegetables with the help of Petrill's Fresh Produce owner Mark Petrill at the opening day of the Farm to Families program. The program aims to provide fresh produce to low-income neighborhoods.

Program promotes healthy eating

Fairs offer free fruits, vegetables to community

By SARAH DE CRESCENZO
DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — A 1-year-old health and nutrition program kicked off its second run Thursday at the Groves Apartment Complex.

Mayor Harry Price and other political figures, including Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada, were on hand for a ceremonial ribbon cutting to recognize the beginning of the series of small fairs that offer fresh fruit

and vegetables and health and nutrition information to Fairfield families. Farm to Families, as the free monthly event is known, is a partnership between after-school program

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Water rates rise again in valley areas

By BARRY EBERLING
DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — Already steep water rates for many rural residents in Green Valley, Suisun Valley, Gordon Valley and unincorporated Cordelia rose still higher this month as residents continue looking for a solution to escalating costs.

Vallejo runs the Lakes Water System to serve 800 customers in these areas. The average monthly water rate rose July 1 from an estimated \$101.36 per customer to \$121.55, the second year in a controversial five-year plan that will ultimately see the cost rise to \$165.01. That's not counting a \$40 monthly surcharge.

The latest increase might not be instantly apparent.

"People who get a bill this week may see a very minor change, because most of their usage will be in the old period," Vallejo Water Superintendent Erik Nugteren said recently. "People who see it near the end of August will see a larger increase."

But that's just a timing issue with the billing cycle. The higher water rates are here and affecting any water use by the customers.

The Lakes System is a remnant from a century ago, when Vallejo built reservoirs in the hills above Green Valley and transported the water to serve its own residents. Today, Vallejo no longer transports Lakes System water for use within its borders.

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Ariz. immigration law takes the stand

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — The Arizona immigration law came under new legal scrutiny in a packed courtroom Thursday as a federal judge considered whether the crack-down should take effect



Bolton has been asked to block the law from taking effect as she hears several lawsuits that question the constitutionality of the measure.

Opponents say the law will lead to racial profiling and trample on the rights of



Robinson Kuntz/Daily Republic

Elite Landscaping employees Gonzolo Villa, left, and Brejedo Godonec work on the hillside next to the recently opened section of Manuel Campos Parkway Thursday.

New parkway opens as project nears end

Crime logs

FAIRFIELD

TUESDAY, JULY 20

- 2:51 a.m.** — Prowl, 2800 block VISTA PALOMAR
- 9:09 a.m.** — Indecent exposure, POMONA/VISTA GRANDE
- 9:17 a.m.** — Missing juvenile, FFPD
- 9:19 a.m.** — Missing person, FFPD
- 10:52 a.m.** — Reckless driving, TRAVIS/HOLIDAY
- 11:50 a.m.** — Reckless driving, PENNSYLVANIA/KENTUCKY
- 12:13 p.m.** — Residential burglary, FFPD
- 12:30 p.m.** — Forgery, FFPD
- 12:41 p.m.** — Domestic violence, 2400 block CHINA
- 1:20 p.m.** — Reckless driving, 1100 block MEADOWLARK
- 1:32 p.m.** — Residential burglary, 800 block CHESTNUT
- 1:33 p.m.** — Reckless driving, N. TEXAS/I-80
- 2:04 p.m.** — Forgery, FFPD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

- 6:28 a.m.** — Vandalism, 2100 block N. TEXAS
- 6:33 a.m.** — Vandalism, FFPD
- 6:44 a.m.** — Vandalism, 900 block DANIEL
- 7:52 a.m.** — Vandalism, 2000 block CADENASSO
- 8:21 a.m.** — Reckless driving, I-80/ABERNATHY OFF RAMP
- 8:47 a.m.** — Commercial burglary, 2500 block HUNTINGTON
- 9:10 a.m.** — Rape, 2600 block BURRELL
- 9:20 a.m.** — Robbery, 400 block BELL
- 9:22 a.m.** — Commercial burglary, 800 block E. TRAVIS
- 11:38 a.m.** — Vandalism, 2000 block SAN TOMAS
- 1:26 p.m.** — Battery, FFPD
- 3:16 p.m.** — Child abuse, 3000 block POPLAR
- 4:58 p.m.** — Battery, 100 block



If you have any information on any crime or criminal, Solano Crime Stoppers Inc. wants your help. Solano Crime Stoppers Inc. will pay up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. All tips are anonymous and confidential.

We need your help!
Please call **644-7867**.

DEL PASO

- 6:54 p.m.** — Driving under the influence, I-80/TRAVIS OFF RAMP
- 7:27 p.m.** — Residential burglary, 1200 block IRONWOOD
- 8:27 p.m.** — Missing juvenile, 1000 block TYLER
- 8:56 p.m.** — Residential burglary, 2000 block SAN SALVADOR
- 10:19 p.m.** — Driving under the influence, 1300 block QUAIL
- 10:23 p.m.** — Missing juvenile, 1300 block KANSAS

SUISUN CITY

TUESDAY, JULY 20

- 2:09 a.m.** — Vandalism, 1000 block WINTERS
- 7:20 p.m.** — Gunshots, 1300 block WILLOW
- 10:06 p.m.** — Vandalism, 300 block RIDGECREST
- 10:35 p.m.** — Vandalism, 200 block REDSTONE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

- 1:19 a.m.** — Missing person, 1000 block ALMA
- 4:01 a.m.** — Burglary, 000 block DAWN ROSE
- 3:24 p.m.** — Juvenile runaway, 900 block LOTZ
- 3:43 p.m.** — Fraud, 900 block SHELDDUCK
- 5:04 p.m.** — Vandalism, 1000 block MAYFIELD
- 7:51 p.m.** — Robbery, HERITAGE PARK

Healthy: Farm to Families is on 3rd Thursday

From Page One

The Leaven and Kaiser Permanente to bring communities together and educate individuals about the importance of caring for their health.

"I think this is kind of awesome," said Brooke Welsh. "The kids love it, and I like the free fruit."

Welsh lives in the Groves complex and attended Farm to Families for the first time after work on Thursday. She said her children, Mary, 7, and Deaje, 14, like fruits more than vegetables -- but they get both during meals.

"It's not an option," Welsh said. "They have to eat what's on their plate."

At Farm to Families, families can fill a bag with up to five pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables at no cost to encourage healthy eating.

Community benefit manager for Kaiser Cynthia Verrett, who came up with the concept after talking with The Leaven director Mark

Lillis, said eating healthy can benefit young children, as well as help adults.

"This is a good collaborative effort for the community," she said. "Childhood obesity and diabetes are very high, and if we can teach kids how to eat properly, it's a good preventive measure."

Verrett said events like Farm to Families can also make neighborhoods safer as well as healthier.

"This has really given the residents the opportunity to interact with each other in a positive environment," she said. "I'm very passionate about the program; it has just blossomed."

Though the program is currently only in place at the Groves, Lillis said The Leaven plans to create a second site at the Phoenix Drive area as well.

In addition to offering food, the event also connects families with community organizations such as the Solano Coalition for Better Health, which passed out

jump ropes and brought soccer and basketballs on Thursday to promote physical activity.

"It's really an entire experience," Lillis said, "from a farmer's market to Kaiser physicians doing health screenings to cooking demonstrations and physical activities."

Nautica Rucker, 9, and Morgan Kennedy-John, 9, sporting visors advertising First 5 Solano, both said they know the importance of eating healthy food and staying active.

"I feel like I'm already healthy, so I just want to keep running around and have fun," Kennedy-John said. "And I eat my veggies."

Seven-year old Kayla Smith, who was enjoying slices of kiwi, said she eats fruits and vegetables "because they make you healthy."

A stand offering blood pressure readings was manned by Dr. Keedra McNeill, a Kaiser pediatrician

who was born and raised in Fairfield.

Tracking blood pressure readings, she said, is another way to measure overall health.

McNeill said on Thursday she tested both children and adults, including some familiar faces.

"Last year, there was one woman who had really high blood pressure that had never been treated, and I told her she needed to see her doctor as soon as she could," she said.

The same individual visited McNeill this year, after she some treatment, and recorded a lower, healthier blood pressure.

Farm to Families is at 5:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Groves complex, 855 E. Tabor Ave.

For more information, call The Leaven at 422-5439.

Reach Sarah de Crescenzo at 427-6935 or sarahdc@dailyrepublic.net.

Rates: Vallejo transports water to rural users

From Page One

but still must serve rural customers near Fairfield who hooked up to the system over the years.

With only 800 customers, expenses are spread over a small base, Vallejo officials have said. Meanwhile, the system in recent years has had such expenses as building a new treatment plant to meet increasingly strict state water quality standards.

The result: Average water bills 2.5 times higher than those in Fairfield and

about 3.5 times higher when counting the Lakes surcharge.

Some residents want an alternative to Vallejo running the water system. They've formed a committee to look at the options, such as forming a local community service district to buy the system and take over the operations.

Green Valley Landowner Association President Bill Mayben said the committee includes an attorney, water engineers and a person who has run a large municipal system. The committee is

talking to Vallejo officials.

Step one is figuring out how much Vallejo would sell the water system for and under what terms. Nugteren and Mayben both said Vallejo will have an appraisal done, with the results available by the end of the year.

"It's not a rancorous process with the city of Vallejo," Mayben said. "Both sides are collaborating toward getting that information, which neither side has."

Even if the price and terms are acceptable to local residents, it's unclear if a

community service district could run the system in such a way as to lower water bills.

"It's like turning the Queen Mary," Mayben said. "You can't turn the corner overnight. But we'd know where every dollar is going and have the ability to engage in some of the decision making."

Currently, the Vallejo City Council makes decisions affecting the system and rates.

Reach Barry Eberling at 425-4646, ext. 232, or beberling@dailyrepublic.net.

Benefits: Set to return

From Page One

state-issued debit cards. Many states have encouraged beneficiaries to keep updating their paperwork in hopes of speeding payments once the program was restored.

In states like Pennsylvania and New York, the back payments should go out next week, officials said. In others, like Nevada and North Carolina, it may take a few weeks for all of those eligible to receive benefits.

Thursday's 272-152 House vote sent the bill to the White House.

"Americans who are fighting to find a good job and support their families will finally get the support they need to get back on their feet during these tough economic times," Obama said in a statement issued after signing the measure.

The House action came less than 24 hours after a mostly party-line Senate vote Wednesday on the measure, which is just one piece of a larger Democratic

last month were it not for the death of Robert Byrd, D-W.Va.; Byrd's replacement, Democrat Carte Goodwin, cast the key 60th vote Tuesday to defeat a GOP filibuster.

Most Republicans opposed the measure because it would add \$34 billion to a national debt that has hit \$13 trillion, arguing that it should have been paid for with cuts to other programs, such as unspent money from last year's economic stimulus bill, which is earning mixed grades at best from voters as unemployment stands at 9.5 percent nationwide.

Thirty-one House Republicans, about one in six, voted for the measure Thursday, while 10 Democrats opposed it.

"The other side says that these unemployment benefits stretching to almost two years are needed and must be added to the \$13 trillion debt, even as they claim their trillion-dollar stimulus plan has been a success at creating millions of jobs,"

Parkway: Roadwork done, landscaping next

From Page One

This last, major component of the \$25 million North Texas Street/I-80 interchange renovation had a ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday.

Manuel Campos Parkway is ultimately to link I-80 at North Texas Street with the Peabody Road area near Travis Air Force Base about four miles away, providing a major east-west city roadway. Various sections have existed for more than a decade. But the entire parkway won't be completed until more homes are developed near the middle of its route.

The city in 1997 bestowed the name "Manuel

Comment

The Daily Republic wants to know what people think of the new North Texas Street interchange/Manuel Campos Parkway project. Please contact reporter Barry Eberling at beberling@dailyrepublic.net or 425-4646, ext. 232. Please leave your comments, name and phone number.

Campos" on the east-west roadway in honor of the longtime resident who served as mayor and a city councilman for various stretches from 1958 to 1982. Campos died in 1995.

The North Texas Street interchange project -- perhaps more properly called the Manuel Campos Parkway interchange in light of all the recent work -- includes far more than Manuel Campos Parkway.

It relocated a segment of North Texas Street, widened the interchange bridge, added traffic signals and created a new left-turn lane onto east-bound I-80.

All of this roadwork is finished, though some lanes were still blocked Thursday afternoon as workers wrapped up a few remaining tasks.

Vuong said city officials had talked about the reno-

dated interchange for about 25 years. Though it is a freeway interchange, Fairfield rather than the state Department of Transportation paid for, planned and built the project after signing a cooperative agreement with Caltrans.

Fairfield began work on the project in fall 2008, causing traffic delays and even some nighttime freeway closures. City Public Works Department officials at the time viewed this as a matter of short-term pain in return for long-term gain. The long-term gain part of the equation is now here.

Reach Barry Eberling at 425-4646, ext. 232, or beberling@dailyrepublic.net.

Immigration: Law is necessary, supporters say