North Bay YMCA faces financial crisis

By Carol Bogart

SUISUN CITY — Mike Hudson realizes what the future may hold for the North Bay YMCA if the center does not become more self-supporting. Hudson, chairman of the North Bay YMCA advisory board, and the center could be forced to close.

Linda Griffith, vice president of risk management and legal affairs with the parent San Francisco YMCA, said closing the 12-year-old North Bay YMCA is “always an option” if the parent YMCA has to continue to shore up the North Bay YMCA’s finances.

“There is going to be a population problem if we don’t increase our usage, and if usage doesn’t increase, we are going to have to look at other options,” Griffith said.

Griffith said it costs $1.6 million annually to operate the North Bay YMCA. The deficit for fiscal 2007-08 was $500,000, she said, and the parent YMCA covered it.

“This is the first year the North Bay YMCA has operated in the red. To date, the parent YMCA has subsidized the costs of operating the North Bay YMCA by about $3.8 million since 1995, Griffith said.

Membership fees are a key financial component for the North Bay YMCA, said Executive Director Rodney Chin, and membership is expanding. In October, the parent YMCA gave the North Bay YMCA 90 days to come up with a plan to turn things around, Chin said.

“We’ve been given a generous reprieve, but we’ve got to make it work financially,” Griffith said.

PROSECUTORS said those crimes such as vehicle theft, grand theft, forgery, scam artists, drunken drivers and some drug dealers might never serve a day in prison — or even for repeat crimes — under laws that repeal the parent parole system and restore the traditional sentence of new crimes, not for routine parole violations.

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Budget woes could lead to center’s closure

Agricultural areas exemplify Solano County’s diversity

By Barry Ebkele

FAIRFIELD — Craig McKenna grows walnuts on hot, flat valley land near Putah Creek. Al Medvitz raises sheep on pruny, woodsy hills near the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

These diverse operations have something in common — they’re both in Solano County.

Diversity is the name of the game in the county’s farm industry. Microclimate and topography create an array of unlike places. Cattle can graze on frisky hills near Vallejo during the summer even as a Decon farmer maps his herds amid 90-degree heat in his tomato field.

“Solano County has the access to the Bay, Delta, coastal range and to the soils of the Central Valley,” said Kurt Richter of the UC Agricultural Issues Center.

Richter and Alvin Sokolow came up with the nine farming regions listed in their recently completed, county-commissioned agricultural study. To tour the nine farm regions is to see Solano County in all its diversity, with places as different as can feel like a world apart.

Understanding the nine regions could help save and boost the county’s $2.43 billion annual farm economy.

“They can’t be treated the same,” Richter said. “That’s like treating the housing industry the same as pharmaceuticals.”

Walnuts are king in the Winter area near the border between Solano and Yolo counties.

“We’re blessed with Putah Creek,” said McMillan, who farms 450 acres.

Putah Creek was named 50 years ago by the massive Monticello Dam, which created Lake Berryessa reservoir. But prior to that, it raged during big

GRAPEVINE

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Solano County’s diversity

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COMING UP

**Daily Republic**

**Prison: No More Members Needed**

From Page One

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**YMAC**

More members are needed

From Page One

The North Bay YMCA is a healthy community that is growing rapidly. The group is looking for more members to help out.

**Farming**: topography, climate, create variety of spaces

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From Page One

Farming communities in the Bay Area have a history of topography, climate, and variety of spaces that create unique farming opportunities. These communities have diverse landscapes, from the hills of Marin County to the valleys of Solano County. Each area has its own unique climate and topography, which makes it suitable for a variety of farming practices.

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