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Photo by Leslie Valley Miller

Fruitful Exchange

TOPA TOPA ELEMENTARY school students Briana Holguin, 7, Promise Well, 6, center, and Katie Root, 7 eat yellow watermelon Friday as part of the school's healthy lunch pilot program, called

"Food for Thought." The program, in its fourth year, is a partnership in which local farmers provided fresh, locally grown produce for Ventura County Unified School District.

MAC attacks Patriot Act

Advisory Council asked to defy federal changes

By Kelly Feser Eells

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The first item of business on the Ojai Valley Municipal Advisory Council's agenda Monday night was a familiar one: the proposed adoption of a civic resolution "reaffirming the commitment to civil liberties and the Bill of Rights."

Last July, a group of concerned citizens led by former Ojai resident Carol Grier was unsuccessful in its efforts to persuade the city of Ojai to adopt the resolution, which is modeled after — and nearly identical to — a declaration drafted and adopted by the state of Hawaii in "defiance of the Patriot Act." With two council members opposed and two in favor (and one absent), the motion to support and/or adopt the resolution died.

Ojai resident Sue Broidy, who,

many media outlets and Internet articles."

Broidy added that, while the Patriot Act is complex and extremely wordy ("and I don't know how much time you have to spend on it tonight), I'd be happy to spell out the changes to our civil rights and the Constitution that it egregiously changes in the name of hunting terrorists."

Pointing to an Associated Press report entitled "Overview of Changes to Legal Rights in the Patriot Act," she said, "It's been an interesting experience for me, as a relatively new citizen to this country, recognizing that the things I came for — things that didn't exist in the United Kingdom — were (now) under threat here. I mean, we didn't have a Bill of Rights in England. But here I am in the 'Land of the Free,' and I find that things are being whittled away."

Theater 150 upstages itself

Whole Banana?

faces of the viewers. This is Last season began a trend for