

Up to 5,000 Marchers Predicted for Yakima

By **MARK MOREY**
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Organizers expect up to 5,000 marchers to attend a Sunday rally in Yakima to support workers' rights and immigrant amnesty.

The event coincides with the Thursday launch of a campaign by the United Farmworkers of America to promote better pay for laborers in the fruit industry.

United Farmworkers also is pushing for better worker treatment and increased compliance with the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"Our struggle is for justice, for equal respect for all of us," said Antonio Sanchez, a march organizer with the organization's regional

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MARCHERS/Route Told for Sunday March of Workers

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office in Sunnyside.

The rally starts at 10 a.m. in Yakima's Miller Park, near the intersection of East E and North Fourth streets.

Marchers will leave the park at 11:30 a.m. and return by 1 p.m. From the park, their route follows E Street to North Naches Avenue, Yakima Avenue, Fifth Street, West B, North First, E Street and back to F Street.

Yakima police Sgt. Mark Peck said nearly 30 officers will control traffic along the way.

Marchers will take up at least

one lane, but regular traffic flow will continue in the other direction.

Peck suggested motorists avoid the area during the march to escape congestion.

A religious service will precede the march.

UFW President Arturo Rodriguez, former Washington Gov. Mike Lowry and labor leaders from Mexico, Canada and Brazil are among those scheduled to speak at the 1 p.m. rally.

Entertainment will follow until about 5 p.m.

Similar marches last year in

Pasco and Mattawa attracted more than 5,000 people, Rodriguez said.

Peck questioned whether the number would be that high in Yakima, but said the department was prepared to handle the crowd and traffic.

The UFW on Thursday began its Fair Trade Apple campaign, an effort to convince retailers to charge consumers more for apples in order to provide better wages for workers. The coffee industry uses a similar program.

Also Thursday, legislation was introduced in Congress to provide immigration amnesty for an esti-

mated 500,000 undocumented farm workers and their relatives in the United States.

The Bush administration has been considering a similar proposal.

"We are confident that we are going to get positive results," Sanchez said of the rally's show of support for the initiatives.