



By Jim Rogash, Getty Images

## Varitek 'finally free'

It may be his last season with Boston, but he's just enjoying the game, 1C

risks from devices, which deliver liquid ingredients, such as nicotine, as a vapor. 1B.



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#### How is the USA doing on children's well-being?



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2011 KIDS COUNT Data Book

By Anne R. Carey and Karl Gettes, USA TODAY

# USA TODAY

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## Balancing ACT

Juggling career, kids, spouse, Sarah Jessica Parker says her latest film is one that will resonate with many women, 1D

By Todd Pitt, USA TODAY

## BYOB and refill at water stations

### Fountains an effort to keep plastic bottles from waste

By Wendy Koch and Kirsti Marohn USA TODAY

Filling stations are no longer just for gas.

In an eco-friendly push, hundreds of U.S. colleges are installing water fountains known as hydration stations so students can refill water bottles rather than buy new ones. Some campuses are even banning the sale of bottled water.

The stations are also popping up in airports, parks, office buildings — and even on tours with bands, including the Black Eyed Peas — as efforts proliferate to reduce plastic waste by promoting tap water.

Adding to this push is a network of more than 800 restaurants and cafes nationwide that have agreed to give people with reusable bottles free water refills.

New York-based TapIt, a non-profit group launched in 2009, has worked with city governments to sign up eateries in 22 states, including major cities such as New York, the District of Columbia, San Francisco, Salt Lake City and Portland, Ore.

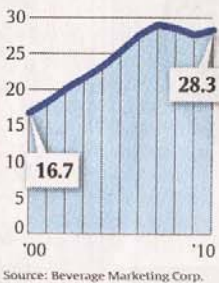
Next month, Philadelphia is slated to join, says TapIt's William Schwartz.

"It's the right product at the right time," says Rod Magnuson of Elkay, which began selling several versions of the water stations last year.

Elkay reports more than 150 colleges and universities have installed its refilling stations. About the same number have installed Brita ones, which launched in November, says spokeswoman Katy Loos.

### Riding wave of bottled water

Annual bottled water consumption per person in the USA (in gallons):



Source: Beverage Marketing Corp.

By Frank Pompa, USA TODAY

### ► Push to ban bottled water big on campus, 5A

enough room for both."

Marohn also reports for the *St. Cloud* (Minn.) *Times*

proved last month. President Obama's jobs plan would require an additional \$447 billion in deficit reduction to pay for it. Some lawmakers, citing the nation's \$14.7 trillion debt, want to find far more.

If the committee deadlocks or fails, \$1.2 trillion still would be cut automatically from future deficits, divided between defense and domestic spending, including Medicare. Hensarling likened that threat to "a hammer in the closet."

"It's not like the American people aren't going to get the deficit reduction, but what they're going to lose out on is any confidence that Washington can really govern on a bipartisan basis," he said.

A Gallup Poll last week found 82% of Americans disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job, close to an all-time low.

Despite efforts to cooperate, the two lawmakers chosen to lead the so-called supercommittee didn't shy from expressing differences:

► Hensarling stuck to Republicans' claim that "the problem is on the spending side" and said he opposes raising tax rates. He said Obama's jobs plan "made a difficult task more difficult" and should be "a separate debate."

► Murray declined to blame the president for adding to the panel's burden. "Our task was hard to start with," she said. "People are really worried about their jobs. That's what everybody talks to me about today."

Both lawmakers recalled what they heard back home during the August recess — constituents imploring them to work together and make progress after 2½ years of partisan bickering.

"I get the, you know, 'In my generation, we all had victory gardens, we all participated in this country's success,'" Murray said. "It's that kind of sentiment that I hear from everybody, that we're all in this together."

USA TODAY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

# Bottled water starts vanishing from colleges

## Eco-friendly push puts rush on refilling stations

By Kirsti Marohn  
USA TODAY

ST. JOSEPH, Minn. — On a recent warm afternoon, College of St. Benedict junior Emily Martin stopped to fill up her reusable water bottle at a new water station in the campus library.

Stations such as this one — drinking fountains with an extra spigot to make filling a reusable bottle quicker and easier — have been part of life here since the central Minnesota college banned the sale of plain bottled water in August. The 31 fountains, known as hydration stations, are now the only way to get drinking water on campus.

"They're just a lot more convenient than the regular drinking fountains," Martin said. "They go faster, people aren't waiting in line as much, and they don't spill all over the place."

Saint Benedict is following a growing trend of colleges and universities banning the sale of plain bottled water in a move toward sustainability.

According to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), 14 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada have campuswide bans, while an additional dozen or so have bans that cover a portion of campus.

Among them:

- ▶ Washington University in St. Louis claims to be the first university to eliminate bottled water in February 2009.

- ▶ Seattle University banned the sale of bottled water on campus last fall.

- ▶ Macalester College in St. Paul adopted a campuswide ban this fall.

Most of the bans were spurred by student-led efforts, AASHE Executive Director Paul Rowland said. "Students grabbed onto this as 'Here's some way I can make a difference,'" he said.

At St. Benedict, a committee of students, facul-



By Dave Schwarz, St. Cloud Times

**Replenished:** Emily Martin refills at a hydration station at the College of Saint Benedict.



Visit [usatoday.com](http://usatoday.com) or scan this tag with your smartphone to see video of the reusable water-bottle effort

ty and staff proposed the idea last year. Nearly 1,000 students signed a petition supporting the ban, said Judy Purman, the college's director of sustainability.

"Most of us have water bottles, anyway, so there really isn't a point in us needing to buy them," says Gretchen Hughes, a sophomore business major.

Not everyone thinks the ban is a good idea. The Minnesota College Republicans protested the ban on campus Tuesday by handing out plastic water bottles to passersby. In a written statement, the group said the policy takes away students' free choice.

Chris Hogan, spokesman for the International Bottled Water Association, said he's frustrated by what he calls inaccurate information about bottled water. Plastic water bottles are 100% recyclable, he said, and bottled water is held to high water-quality standards.

"We're not discouraging people from drinking tap water," he said. "By the same token, for many people, bottled water is a convenience."

Marohn also reports for *St. Cloud Times* in Minnesota

▶ **Tide turns in tap water's favor, 1A**