



Established 1903

# THE CITIZEN TELEGRAM

The Voice Of The Rifle Area



Rifle's Newspaper For Over 100 Years

50¢

## COWBOY HONOR

Cowboy Keeper Award has Rifle ties. **Page 2**

## HEYDAY

Silt's 45th annual family fun event is this weekend. **Page 4**



## LEMONADE A HIT

Farmers Market helps the needy. **Page 5**



## TOP WRESTLER

Josiah Rider of Silt is on a poster and is in the ninth grade. **Page 14**

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## CRAZY JUNIOR SCIENTISTS GO TO CAMP



KATE LAPIDES/COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

From left, Michael Thompson, an eighth-grader at the Garden School in New Castle, and Rifle Middle School students Danny Rhine and Paden Kinion, were among 16 participants at Crazy Scientist Camp, held at Colorado Mountain College in Rifle July 7-11. A partnership between CMC and Reach Your Peak Colorado, an organization funded by El Pomar Foundation's Northwest Regional Council, led to four one-week-long camp sessions for middle-school students, either at the CMC campus in Rifle or at Colorado Rocky Mountain School in Carbondale.

## Getting their hands dirty to learn

Planting, caring for veggies, herbs part of summer camp

Mike McKibbin  
Citizen Telegram Editor

**K**ids and dirt have always seemed to go together, so why not make the fun of getting hands dirty a learning experience, too?

That's the thought behind the Learning Gardens at Mancinelli's Pizza, 851 Railroad Ave., in Rifle. Several self-wicking (water is poured into pipes in the garden and is sucked up by the



MIKE MCKIBBIN/THE CITIZEN TELEGRAM

At left, Kim Wille with Growing Community Forward shows third and fourth grade students in the ACCESS Roaring Fork Boost Camp program in Rifle how to transplant starter tomato plants into larger pots on Thursday, July 24.

**GARDENS, 11**

## May sales tax up in Rifle

Summer events may spur bigger numbers

Staff Report

The City of Rifle reported total sales, use, and lodging tax revenues for the five months ending May 31 was \$3.4 million, a 5 percent increase from the previous year's \$3.25 million.

Sales tax revenues were \$3 million, 2 percent more than previous year's \$2.9 million. Building and motor vehicle use tax revenues were \$353,000, and 39 percent higher than previous year's \$255,000. Lodging tax revenues were \$38,000 and 6 percent lower than the previous year's \$40,600.

**TAX, 10**



# Doctor's Garden

## JOIN OUR MOUNTAIN FAIR PARTY!

### Crazy Specials ALL Friday, Saturday & Sunday!

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## GARDENS

From page 1

roots) garden beds in front of the restaurant are greening up with vegetables and herbs, thanks to volunteers with Rifle Growing Community and Growing Food Forward, two groups promoting local foods and healthy eating in Rifle and Garfield County.

First through fourth graders in the ACCESS Roaring Fork Summer Boost Camp program at Rifle Middle School helped plant the veggies and herbs and, on Thursday, July 24, transplanted young tomato plants into larger pots and delivered them to the Rifle LIFT-UP pantry.

A dozen third and fourth grade students broke into three groups of four and rotated between watering the plants, transplanting and labeling the pots with growing instructions for whoever picked up a tomato plant at LIFT-UP.

"We want them to feel like they own what they plant and care for," said Kim Wille, founder and executive director of Growing Food Forward, of the students' involvement. "They'll get to take them home when the program ends."

Lauren Zabawa, a liaison for ACCESS Roaring Fork and a teacher at Graham Mesa Elementary School, said the gardening portion of the camp fits in well with other activities.

"If someone didn't know they liked gardening, they have a chance now," Zabawa said.

ACCESS Roaring Fork works with five middle schools in Garfield County to provide after-school and summer activities in the classrooms and on field trips. The eight-year-old program provides services to over 1,600 students annually.

Andrea Matthews, founder of Rifle Growing Community, said the students started planting and caring for the veggies and herbs

## VEGGIES PLANTED AT THE LEARNING GARDENS

- Tomatoes:**  
Roma, German Green Zebra, Yellow Pear
- Greens (& lettuces):**  
Spicy Asian Salad Greens  
Romaine  
Romaine: Speckled  
Bib Lettuce  
Red Lettuce  
Arugula  
Multi-Colored Swiss Chard  
Buttercrunch  
Spinach/Bloomsdale
- Pumpkins:**  
Sugar Pie  
Big Max  
Red Warty Things
- Squashes:**  
Lakota  
Yellow Summer  
Honeyboat Delicata  
White Acorn  
White Patty-Pan  
Red Kuri
- Cucumbers:**  
Marketmore  
Pickling
- Lemon
- Beans:**  
Yellow Pencil  
Blue Lake  
Royal Burgundy
- Carrots:**  
Little Fingers  
Kaleidoscope
- Onions:**  
Red  
Yellow  
White
- Pearl Corn**  
Banana Melon (Native American)  
Honey Dew Melon  
Peas  
Red and White Potatoes  
Strawberries  
Beets/Cylindra  
Tomatillos  
Purple Jalapeños  
Beets  
French Breakfast & Cherry Belle  
Radishes  
Broccoli  
Eggplant

in the Learning Gardens in early July.

She said the collaboration with Wille's group made this garden project, as well as many others from Carbondale to Parachute, possible.

"It would not have turned out to this extent without the two groups working together," Matthews said. "For what we've accomplished with so little to start with, it makes you feel like nothing will stop us."

Zabawa said a few weeks ago, a customer at Mancinelli's asked what the students were doing in the gardens.

"I explained it and he just raved about it," she added. "You never know what things like this might mean to the kids, too. There might be a horticulturist among them and it's a way for them to get their hands dirty in a positive way."

In an email at the end of the day last Thursday, Wille wrote how, just as she was pulling out of the parking lot at Mancinelli's to head home, one of the kids from the camp brought his family to see what all the fun and dirt was about.

"I could hear him yelling, 'Miss Kim,'" she wrote. "I backed back into my parking space and proceeded to follow Harley around the gardens, occasionally answering questions, as Harley took his family to different beds to explain what he had helped plant and to proudly show them the tomato plant he planted today."

"The entire family tested the baby Asian Greens and Harley picked a ripe Roma tomato, and he was just a bubbling fountain of excitement" Wille continued. "And he wants to keep coming to help in the gardens, as does his brother(!), after the camps are



MIKE MCKIBBIN/THE CITIZEN TELEGRAM

Justin Richel, 8, waters vegetables at the Learning Gardens vegetable beds at Mancinelli's Pizza on Thursday, July 24. Richel is among third and fourth grade students in the ACCESS Roaring Fork Boost Camp program in Rifle who are helping tend to the beds and plants.

over [this] week."

Then, as Wille tried to pull out of the parking lot again, "in came a car with a boy waving excitedly," she wrote.

"Same thing with him and his family. It just blew my mind that these kids are bringing their families to see their work in the gardens and that they are so excited about gardening!"

Wille wondered how many other kids have done or will do the same thing with their families.

"My mind is whirring away,"

she wrote, "figuring out how to pull off a once-a-week gardening session for the kids for the duration of the season so that they can participate after school and in the harvests and learning opportunities that we haven't had time to cover, i.e. how worms help, why we plant pollinators, how to tell what are weeds, and how to organically control pests/insects."

Wille called the Learning Gardens "the biggest pride and joy of all the gardens we've been part of this year."

**Would You Know If Your Child Were Contemplating SUICIDE?**

**f The Jason Foundation**

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