



Kylie Peck, left, and Emma Charbonneau enjoy sweet corn that students shucked during the recently completed Van Buren summer enrichment camp. Rusty Ebert/The Courier

## Fresh spin on summer camp

Van Buren students get involved in preparing veggies from school's garden

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KEOSAUQUA — Van Buren elementary students are going green and having fun in the process.

Since this spring, students have been growing many different vegetables in their own garden adjacent to the school. This is the second year that students have been growing vegetables in the garden. Students learn where food comes from and how to cultivate and grow those items.

Van Buren received a grant to help serve nutritious snacks and meals during its summer camp. They decided to get the kids involved in preparing it, as well.

"We figure if they grow it or help prepare it, they will be more likely to try to eat it," said Jane Graf, who helped organize the recently completed camp.

"For example, students snapped beans at camp and then ate them the next day," she said. Students also shucked corn at the camp and enjoyed a tasty treat the following day.

"We found out that more students ate

the garden during the school's summer vacation. She is appreciative of that support, as a large garden depends on hours of help.

"During the summer camp, you could find kids out here weeding the garden, as well," Sprouse said.

This spring each class planted their own sections, she said.

Kindergartners planted the pumpkin patch; first-graders added melons, herbs and peppers; second-graders planted strawberries, onions and garlic; third-graders worked on corn, bean and squash; and the fourth- and fifth-graders helped plant the ingredients for pizza, lettuce, basil and oregano, as well as peppers and tomatoes.

You can also find carrots, cauliflower, beets and many other goodies throughout the garden.

The theme for the summer camp emphasized caring for the environment, so the garden concept fit in very well. Students used recycled paper for mulch.

This fall, students will be busy harvesting their products.

Any produce not used by the students during school lunch is donated to Heavenly Hands food pantry.

Sprouse would eventually like to get a cold frame that automatically raises and

## Ariz. wa deposits

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizonans are calling it the mother of all dust storms.

The mile-high wall of ominous, billowing dust that appeared to swallow Phoenix and its suburbs is all that locals can talk about.

It moved through the state around sundown Tuesday, halting airline flights, knocking out power to nearly 10,000 people, turning swimming pools into mud pits and caking cars with dirt.

The sky was still filled with a hazy shade of brown Wednesday as residents washed their cars and swept sidewalks.

Because dust storms, also known by the Arabic term "haboobs," are so hard to predict, Tuesday's took everyone by surprise.

Seemingly out of nowhere, the 100-mile-wide storm moved like a giant wave, the dust roiling as it approached at up to 60 mph. Once it hit, visibility dropped to zero in some areas, the sky turned nearly black, trees blew sideways, and even downtown Phoenix skyscrapers became invisible.

"Just the height of it looked like a special-effect scene from a movie, like a dust storm out in Africa," said Charlotte Dewey, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Phoenix. "It looked so huge, looking