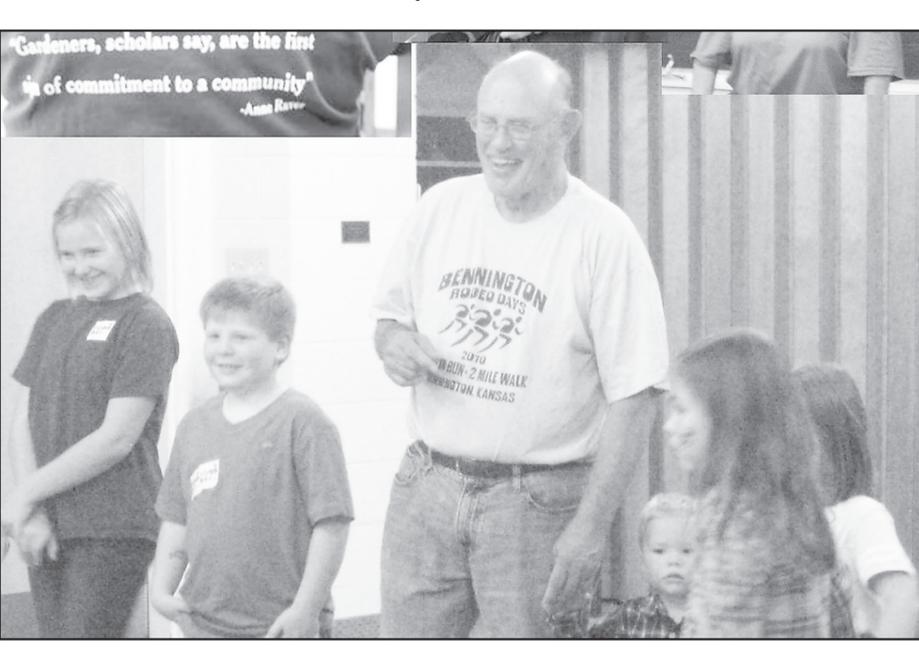




EAGLE CONVENIENCE STORE, U.S. 36, held an open house this week. Chester Chicken is talking to Larry Forsythe.
Herald staff photo by Tim Burr



PASTOR WARREN CICO and some of the garden club kids were at the annual dinner.

Garden bunch has dinner

St. Francis Community Garden Club held the second annual Food Day Dinner and invited the public to attend Oct. 24. Forty-one people attended and brought with them more than 50 dishes that featured healthy green food. Kim Zwegardt, owner of 'Cuppa Joe', shared why they insist on using local ingredients in their food whenever possible: Because it is more nutritious and it supports growers in the community. Mike Callicrate,

owner of Ranch Direct Foods, spoke on the importance of getting locally grown food into the school system. A recipient of garden produce explained how fresh, local vegetables helped their family, saying it cost too much in gas to drive 45 minutes to the grocery store, plus the price of food is so high. They would have just gone without fresh vegetables if not for the Community Garden Club. Garden Mentors shared that the Community Garden has grown from the original 30x50 lot to seven different locations - including a site with four greenhouses that hosts a Farmer's Market. A hoop house has also

been constructed on the original community garden lot for year round growing. It already has a beautiful crop of lettuces coming in. Dani Holzwarth, Conservation District Manager, introduced her Home Garden Program, which supplies seeds to those willing to grow food at home, and donate it locally. Bernadette Luncsford, District Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, gave t-shirts and thank you bags to the garden volunteers in appreciation of their time and effort in showing 3,184 pounds of food this year.

Head start promotes reading program

Reading Is Fundamental is the largest children's literacy nonprofit in the United States. They prepare and motivate children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to those children and families who need them most. Their mission is to motivate young children to read by working with them, their parents, and community members to make reading a fun and beneficial part of everyday life. Reading Is Fundamental's highest priority is reaching underserved children from birth to age 8. Head Start had Family Activity Night on Tuesday, Oct. 22. The children were able to pick a free book to take home and given the opportunity to do some reading activities with their families. The activities included a "snow box" that went with the book, The Snowy Day, some insects that went with the book, Bugs, Bugs, and many, many more! Nearly two-thirds of low-income families own no books. Reading Is Fundamental provides 15 million books each year to children who need them most. Without the literacy nonprofit, these kids would not have an opportunity to select and own books—a fundamental part of learning and discovering the joy of reading.



HEAD START PARENTS attended the reading program held Tuesday, Oct. 22.

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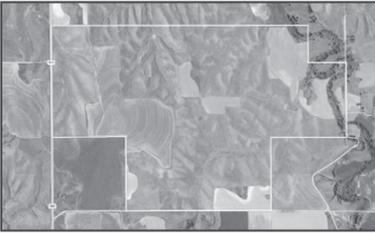
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