



STUDENTS AT Cheylin High School are presenting the musical "Annie Get Your Gun" on Saturday evening. Jayden Cahoj and Kaedra Dixson work on costumes in preparation.

Retirement party planned for Nov. 4

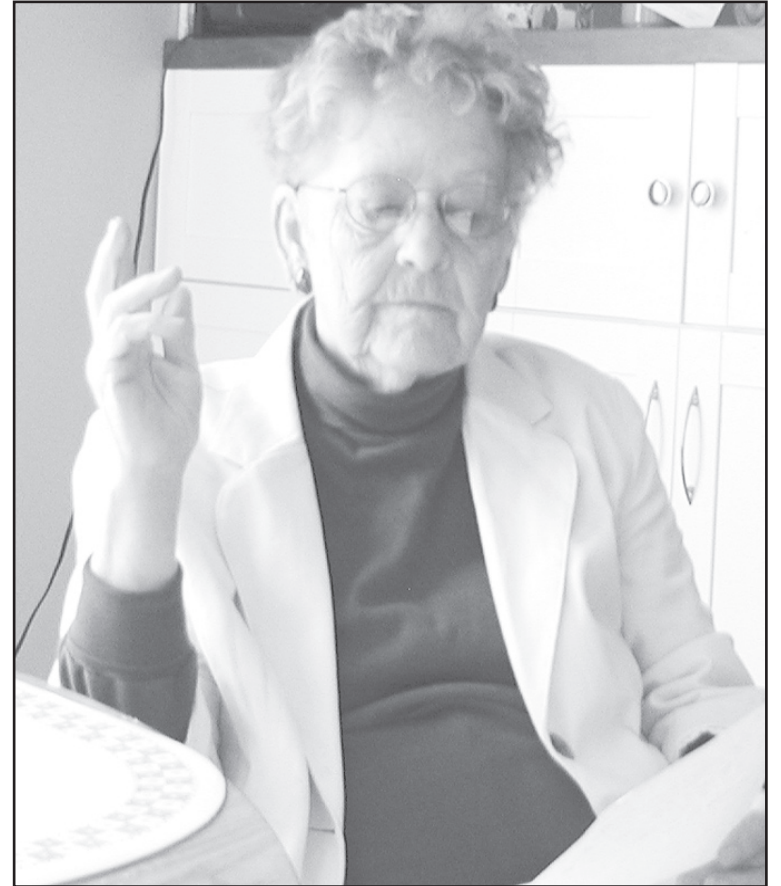
By Linda Schneider
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After serving 20-plus years on the Bird City Housing Authority board, Donna Johnson is retiring. And if you asked her about being a board member for so many years she would tell you that she just "fell" into the position when a member resigned and can't explain why she has never been replaced. When Ken Krien was mayor, he called her and asked her to serve on the board she didn't know what it involved but she was intrigued. As for the 20-plus years, Mrs. Johnson says, "How time flies when you're busy."

About the retirement party, Donna just waves her hand and says, "Enough about me, let me tell you the real story." And the real story is about the Bird City Housing Authority board members and how they have provided affordable housing and how the housing project has been an asset to the community.

The original board members; E.W. Underwood, H.D. Shull, J.C. Gleason, Edgar Robertson, Ralph Leach and L. Hines, had their first meeting July 1, 1965 and in 1969, Bird City had the third government funding housing project built in the state of Kansas. They knew from the beginning that the project would have a positive impact in the community. During those 4 years of putting it all together, they stood up against negative criticism but continued to forge ahead to build. And what was once an empty lot, and later a tennis court, now is community housing for persons with all types of needs.

One negative aspect Mrs. Johnson has come across during her time on the board is the notion that



DONNA JOHNSON talks about her retirement party

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

taxpayers are paying the residents' rent. While Housing Urban Development (HUD) does subsidize and rent is on a pay scale, many of the residents pay a ceiling rent and, by doing so, helps to keep housing available.

The retirement party is Sunday, but it is really a tribute to those who worked diligently and were persistent at making this project happen, like the late Edgar Robertson, the late Leila Gleason and the many volunteers who have made this

housing project possible.

The community is invited to open house located in the Housing Project Community Room, it is also on Sunday. The Housing Board would like for the community to see the new improvements that have been made and to give special recognition to Century II Development Foundation for the invaluable contributions they have made to enhance the Housing Project community building.



BARB SMITH, Holiday Craft Fair coordinator, stands by her display of hand-made crafts.

Times staff photos by Linda Schneider

Holiday Craft Fair draws crowd for unique Christmas craft items

By Linda Schneider
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If you like to get your Christmas shopping done early, then the Holiday Craft Fair in the American Legion Hall on Saturday was the place to be.

Many one-of-a-kind hand-crafted items were for sale. Everything from Christmas ornaments to homemade food items; from a cowgirl poet to barbed wire wall plaques.

At the fair for the first time was a booth

for Breast Cancer Awareness. Proceeds from the sales at the booth, "Kansas Girl Creation", were given to organizations such as "Why Me?" "Judy's House" and "Chemo Angels" which receive no funding of any kind but rely solely upon public contributions.

When the doors opened at 10 a.m., many people crowded in to see what goodies were for sale. As the crowd walked around the booth tables, they were greeted with first-

time and long-time craft sellers. Many were generational crafters passing their talent on to their children and grandchildren.

Barb Smith has been the coordinator for the last two years, reviving the craft fair which had been down for several years. This year there was a great turn out and everyone is looking forward to next year.

The Holiday Craft Fair is really an event that is great for the whole family!



TAKING TIME OUT to do crafts - Cheyenne Hewitt and Amanda Cheney get help from Leah Rambat at the Holiday Craft Fair.



MMMM LOOKS GOOD - Amie and Amanda Cheney stop by grandma Kathy Hertel's booth to pick out the best pie.