

## Cheylin staff retirees

### Teaching career spanning 33 years

By Linda Schneider  
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After a teaching career that has spanned 33 years, Judy Poore is retiring from Cheylin Elementary School.

Judy accepted her first teaching job in 1972, as a third grade teacher in Weston, Mo. After teaching in Weston for two years, she taught first grade in Fairfax, Mo. for three years, then taught third graders again in Salem, Mo. one year. Her last teaching job at the Cheylin Elementary School ended after 27 years.

When she was deciding what profession to study in college, her first choice was nursing. However, the college she chose to attend, Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo., had a teaching curriculum that led her to make her choice to teaching.

In 1978, Judy accepted a teaching position with Cheylin Elementary teaching fourth graders and moved to Bird City. In the following year, she met her husband, Charlie, and they were married. They have two

children, Laura and Jay; both were graduates of Cheylin High School.

For nearly three decades, Judy has taught third, fourth and fifth graders at Cheylin and she never has lost the excitement she gets when one of her students learns something new.

There have been many moments in the classroom that has left her with memories — some funny, like the time a third grader walked up, obviously very ill, and threw up on her shoes. Without missing a beat, she grabbed some absorbing material and spread it around herself, but the poor student was mortified.

There were also compassionate moments, like when one of her third grade students died suddenly. Together, she and the class did several things to help each other come to grips with what had happened. Toward the end of the school year, the students wrote messages, put them in helium balloons, and let them go. On the way back to the classroom, Alisa Carpenter took her hand and said, "It will be all



JUDY POORE is all smiles as she enjoys the retirement party held at the Cheylin gym and holding one of her twin granddaughters.

Time staff photos by Linda Schneider

right Mrs. Poore," and she knew it would be.

"Teachers must remember that teaching children is a privilege and something learned is a gift," Mrs. Poore said.

In retirement, she will still be around children and teaching, sort of — as she will now have more time with her twin granddaughters, Chloe and Kayla.

### Teaching was her obvious choice

By Linda Schneider  
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When Marjean Zumbahlen was deciding what profession to go into, there were not many fields for women in the 1960s. Secretarial, factory, teaching, nursing or stay-at-home moms were the occupations of the day for women. However, because of her love for working with children, teaching became the obvious choice and after 38 years of teaching, 10 with Cheylin, Mrs. Zumbahlen is retiring.

Marjean was born in Sterling, Neb., and has two brothers. One of her brothers is also a teacher, along with her mother, Freda Buss. In fact, Freda received her first teaching job at 16. In her eighth-grade class, one student was older than she was.

In 1968, Marjean started her career in Talmage, Neb., teaching fifth graders. She married David Zumbahlen in 1969. Early in their marriage they decided that teaching in small towns was what they wanted to do.

Their first teaching job was in a small consolidated school, Sumner Eddyville Miller, south of Broken Bow, Neb. Together they taught for 14 years. It was there

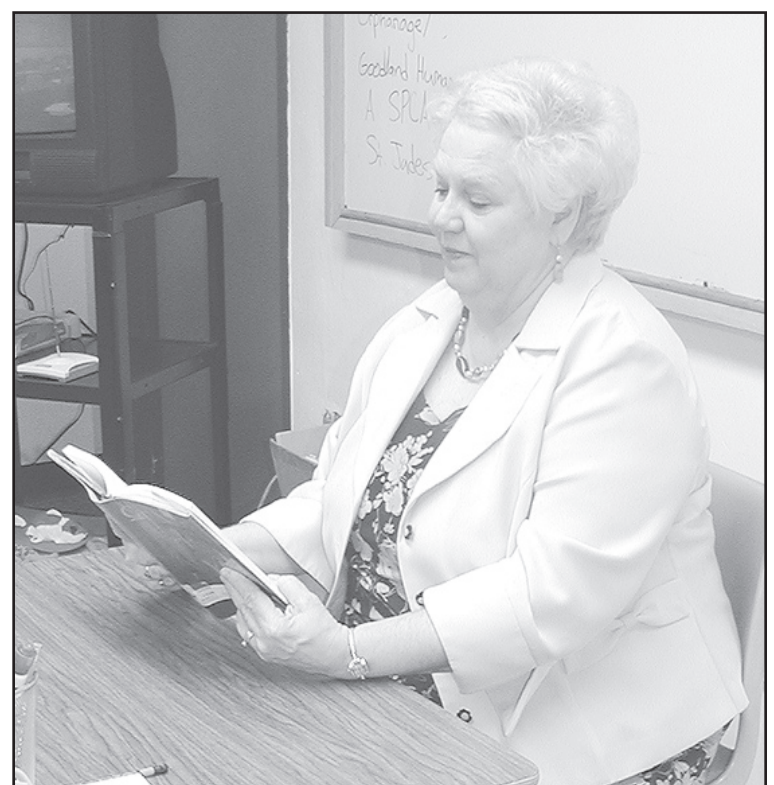
they had four of their six daughters, Amy, Ann, and twins, Manda and Mindy. Their second set of twins, Jill and Joy, were born in Seneca, Kan. and graduated from Cheylin School.

Moving on to Centralia, Kan., Mr. Zumbahlen accepted an administrative position in 1983 after he had gone back to school to get his administrative degree.

"I admire David for doing this, it took a tremendous amount of commitment and hard work, and he did it for his family," Mrs. Zumbahlen said.

When Mr. Zumbahlen was hired in 1997 as the superintendent/principal of Cheylin, there was not an opening for Mrs. Zumbahlen. After a year of substituting, she was hired and taught fourth and sixth grades.

Some of the duties she had were being the junior high cheerleaders sponsor, middle school track coach and Scholar Bowl coach. This has provided her with many memorable moments. One of them was at Scholar Bowl and the question was asked, "Where is Gettysburg located?" Mitchel Jensen buzzed and gave the answer, "Kansas!" Another time was when Eric Estrada and Anna Ponce did a play that combined Spanish and English called



Marjean Zumbahlen

"Paper el gato (cat) and paper eating raton (rat)."

"Bird City is a wonderful way to end my teaching career," Mrs. Zumbahlen said.

When she retires, Mrs. Zumbahlen would like to oil paint, travel,

antiquing and taking in a musical or two. However, what she is looking forward to the most is moving to Centralia and spending time with her eight grandchildren and visits to her two grandchildren in Hays.

### The lady who wears many hats

By Linda Schneider  
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After 16 years of being Cheylin District Clerk, Roseanna Underwood is retiring.

Mrs. Underwood was born and raised in Bird City with her parents, the late Ervin Hopp who was part of the original Bird City quartet, and her mother, Emma, who lives close to her daughter.

As a young adult, Roseanna moved away from Bird City and worked in an office setting in Denver for Johns Manville, a large industrial firm. She also worked as an executive secretary for Mobil Oil in Norway for a short period.

She fell in love with Norway and after returning to the United States, planned on a return trip with a close friend to live there. Unfortunately, two weeks before the trip, Roseanna's friend and friend's fiancé died in a small aircraft crash.

She made the trip and found that she did not have the heart to stay, and her friends in the United States encouraged her to come home where she belonged.

Roseanna returned to Denver

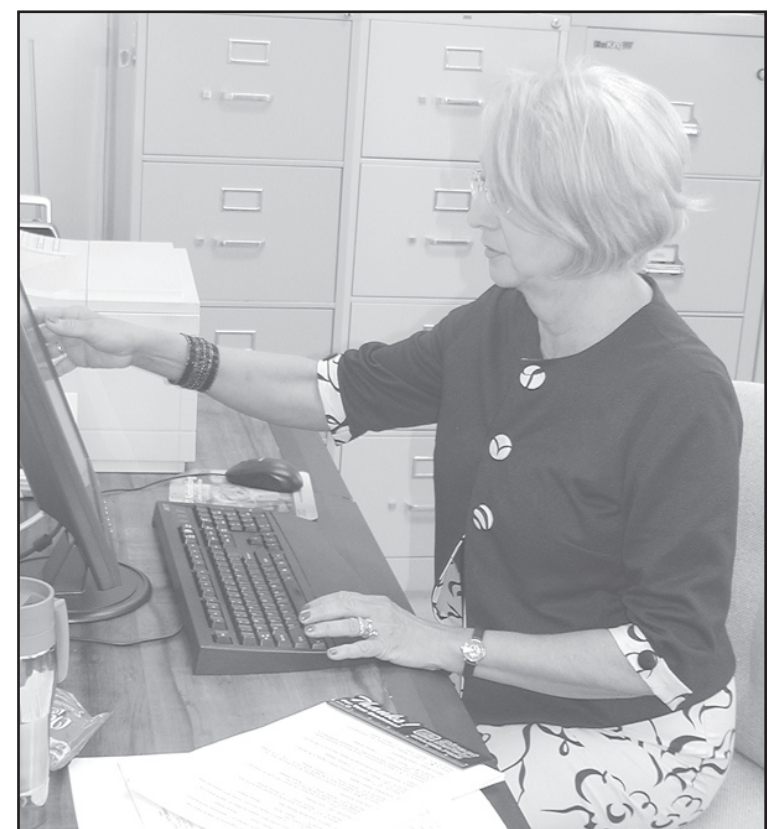
and started making weekend trips back to her hometown, Bird City. On one visit, she got together with Ken Underwood and soon they were married.

When the position of Cheylin clerk opened in 1992, Mrs. Underwood saw an opportunity to get back into an office environment that was challenging and diversified. It was a "leap of faith" after being out of the office for many years and not knowing the full extent of the duties involved.

She soon learned that she would be wearing "many hats" as the position called for her to handle all the financial duties, too numerous to mention, and the Human Resource department.

While she enjoyed the diversity of the position, the reward of her position was being able to work with the students. Often students would seek her out for advice on school matters and emotional consolation.

However, it is not all serious work, she remembers once while waiting for an important phone call, Randy Miller, school staff, had put a toy vibrating mouse in



Roseanna Underwood

her desk drawer when she had stepped out for a moment. When the call came and as she was reaching into her desk a pen, the secretary frantically signaled her not to open the drawer, raced over and revealed the prank.

"It has been one my life's best experiences to work here, but I look forward to spending time with my family and gardening,"

Mrs. Underwood said. For Mrs. Underwood, retiring is not sitting in a rocking chair; she will be busy with many projects. One of them being to develop a website for baby products call "Tater Tot Baby," soon to be up and running. Her passion is to preserve and honor the handiwork of women of the past and she enjoys doing yard work.



LEO MAZON raises the American flag during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Bird City Cemetery.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Students receive awards and grade promotions

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Cheylin Elementary teachers spent most of last day of school praising and giving out awards to the students for jobs well done during the school year.

"I know that you have been waiting for this day since the first day of school in August," said Superintendent David Zumbahlen.

He opened the awards ceremony by presenting the award for perfect attendance to four students, Jayden Boyson, Emilia Veleta, Jacqueline Chacon and Ty Carmichael.

Superintendent Zumbahlen then turned the ceremony over to the elementary teachers who awarded their students for talents and achievements.

The awards varied as each grade was presented by their teacher. Sharon Hendricks, kindergarten, spoke highly of her class that had started out with four students and ended with seven.

Kayla Bursch, first grade, told everyone what it was like to be a first-time teacher. She said that her class was a communicating class and each student received an award for contributions they have made to their classmates.

At the first of the school year, the first and second grade classes had been combined. Kathy Weber, second grade, said that it was best for the students to split the class. Now each will receive the attention they deserve.

"Each of you brought a new adventure for me," said Mrs. Weber to her class.

Ken Hankins, third grade, said that even though he was a man, he could give hugs to his class too. He expressed confidence that his class was prepared for the fourth grade.

For her fourth grade class, Tammi Carmichael presented her class with summer survival kits that included pool towels and sunscreen. Many of her students were presented with awards from Kansas State reading program.

Marjean Zumbahlen, sixth grade, inducted several students into her "million word club," and each student prepared a time capsule to be opened in their senior year. Since this was Mrs. Zumbahlen's last year, she passed the capsules to Mrs. Carmichael to keep.

In Judy Poore's absence, Mrs. Zumbahlen presented the fifth grade class by asking each student to tell the audience what they had learned for the year.

"Reading is the key to lifelong success," said Superintendent Zumbahlen and closed the program after promoting each class to the next grade.

