



**LAST DAY OF SWIMMING AT THE POOL**, the signal that summer is almost over and school will soon begin. Swimmers and sunbathers gather for a final dip. *Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*

## Bird City awarded state grant

The City of Bird City has been awarded a Community Development Block Grant –American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (CDBG-R) of \$308,740 through the Kansas Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program. The proposed project was for the rehabilitation of 12 housing units and demolition of three unoccupied, dilapidated residential units in the southeast quadrant of Bird City.

This program was developed for communities to focus on target areas in their applications. Future applications can be submitted for additional target areas in the community. The goal of the program is to add 20 years of useful life to the homes focusing on electrical, plumbing, windows, roof and siding.

The City will soon be accepting income qualifying applications for projects in the approved target area,

south of 4th Street and east of Bird Avenue. More information will be made available to the public as information is received from the State.

Bird City completed a Community Assessment Tool (CAT) in 2004, and finalized a 5-year (2007-2012) community strategic plan through three (3) town hall meetings. Five main areas that are addressed in the strategic plan are Business and Workforce Development, Beautification and Infrastructure, Education, Housing and Recreation. These were basic tools used in compiling the application and in showing the need for housing assistance.

The application was submitted by the City of Bird City, and compiled by the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission with assistance of the Bird City Century II Development Foundation.

## County under sheriff assists in training new officers

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

Cody Beeson, Cheyenne County Under Sheriff, will be helping with the training of new law enforcement personnel officers' in survival tactics at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, Yoder, just south of Hutchinson.

Sheriff Craig Van Allen said being asked to help at the training center is a great honor for the officer as well as the county.

Officer Beeson said he is excited to be asked and to help in the survival tactics training. He said it is an intense, real-life scenario and they will be working in different dangerous areas where officers may find themselves. The trainees may be shot at, or find themselves in a domestic dispute, a vehicle stop or a school shooting.

The trainees and officers use real guns but a special bullet is used. "It hurts when a bullet hits," Of-

ficer Beeson said.

When he was in training, he said he was shot in the leg and it felt like a big bee sting.

The training, he said, is like the worst day in an officer's career. But, they learn from it so they will know what to do if they are caught in a similar situation after returning home.

"It's good training," he said.

Brandon Carver, Hoxie, will be one of the trainees. He is the son-in-law of Dan and Janelle Bowers, Bird City.

Officer Beeson began his career as a law enforcement officer in 2007 as a deputy. He later gained the title of under sheriff.

His training included local field training for three months and 14 weeks at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center

As under sheriff, he is responsible for patrolling, office work, and working with deputies on a



Beeson

day-to-day basis.

He lives in Bird City which is nice for the residents to have an officer in the area but he noted that Frank Serrano also works part-time in the city.

Next week, he will leave for Yoder to take part in the training.

"I am honored to be asked and I'm really looking forward to the training," he said.



**BRUCE AND EMILY BOLEN** are holding the teaching degree dated July 1901 of Mr. Bolen's great-grandmother Anna Belle Helt. She was only other teacher besides himself and an uncle in his family. *Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*

## Resident speaks of accident

By Linda Schneider

dublins@hotmail.com

For centuries, men and women have debated over the question, "Are human beings guided through daily living by providence or is daily living a string of chance meetings and happenings?" For Donna Vanderput of Bird City, the answer would be "yes" to the former.

On May 31 she was driving her 1997, Oldsmobile Aurora on U.S. 36. As she was going through Wheeler, a man driving a truck and pulling a cattle trailer pulled out in front of her. She knew a collision was inevitable and while her vehicle did not roll, Mrs. Vanderput had to be removed from her car using cutting tools.

Immediately following the accident, the driver of the truck jumped out and ran over to check on her. In addition, Pastor Terry Glasco was contacted and was on the scene within minutes. After the emergency medical technicians removed her from her vehicle, she taken to the hospital in St. Francis and flown to Swedish Hospital in Denver.

After being examined, the attending physician told her that she had sustained a 90-degree break in her left ankle with a large flap of flesh removed that would require surgery and putting metal in her ankle for support. She would have to wear a cast and go through extensive physical therapy to walk.



**DONNA VANDERPUT** enjoys reading her Bible and sharing her faith. *Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*

However, as a woman of faith and prayer, Mrs. Vanderput would not let the event go as something that just happened — she knew it was divine providence and began to pray.

In the weeks that followed, Mrs. Vanderput learned from some people that had been at the scene of the accident that a mystery woman had crawled into the back seat of her wreck vehicle and held her head until EMTs were able to remove her. No one knew who the woman was or saw her leave.

As the time for surgery arrived, the doctors discovered the surgery would not be as extensive as first thought. She would not need the metal or the cast for support and recovery. In addition, as therapy progress, her therapists were amazed at her quick recovery.

During her rehabilitation of

three weeks at the Life Care Center in Denver, Mrs. Vanderput would learn why providence had brought her to where she was.

At the Center, many of the certified practicing nurses were from different nations around the world and while lying in bed, she acted as an ambassador of faith to four nations, especially to five Ethiopian nurses.

Ten weeks after the accident, sitting in her living room with barely a sign of the accident, Mrs. Vanderput expressed compassion for the driver of the truck because she knew he was devastated and blamed himself, but it was all providence.

"Some people may say what an awful accident, but I would say if it weren't for the accident, I would have never had the opportunity to share my faith with all those nations," Mrs. Vanderput said. "And what was meant for evil, God meant for good."

## Cheylin hires two educators

By Linda Schneider

dublins@hotmail.com

It was almost like getting two for one when the Cheylin Board of Education hired Bruce Bolen as superintendent/principal of the school. Not only is Mr. Bolen an educator committed to assisting students to be all they can be; Emily Bolen, also an educator, has also been hired. She will be working with students whose parents are migrant workers in the agricultural fields and she is equally committed to assisting those students to the same goal.

Mr. Bolen was born in Goodland, not far from where he is now. It was not long after that his parents, Guy and Marlene Bolen, moved to Sharon Springs in Wallace County where he graduated from Wallace County High School in 1973.

He continued his education at Fort Hays State University where he received his bachelor's of science degree in 1978, master's degree in 1979, principal certification in 1990, and superintendent certification in 1995.

Mr. Bolen began his teaching career at Liam High and taught from 1979 to 1990. His first position as a principal was at Tribune High School for seventh through 12th grades. He also taught industrial education and driver education 1990-1996.

During the years of 1996-2007, Mr. Bolen went back to his alma mater, Wallace County High School to be a principal for ninth through 12th grades. Just prior to Cheylin, he was the principal

at Stanton County High School, 2007-2009.

Mrs. Bolen was born in Goodland and, along with her parents, Darwin and Mary Smith, made the move to Sharon Springs soon after. She graduated two years behind her husband and went on to earn both a bachelor's of science and master's degrees in education from Fort Hays State University. In addition, she received an endorsement in library science from Fort Hays, and an endorsement in English language learners from Emporia State University.

She taught kindergarten through third grades at Johnson Elementary School. However, her greatest joy was being the librarian for the school district of 450 students.

Mr. and Mrs. Bolen met while both were attending high school; she was a freshman and he a junior and both were raised by hardworking, farm families.

"I am the only immediate family member in the education profession," Mr. Bolen said. "And the only one in my family to complete a 4-year college education."

His father, Guy Bolen, had to give up his education and help on the farm when his father had a serious accident. Furthermore, his mother, Marlene, did not graduate with her classmates. However, Bruce added that his mother went on to earn her General Education Diploma in the same year his sister graduated from high school and he graduated from college.

On the other hand, Mrs. Bolen

has many educators in her family including four sisters, two aunts and numerous cousins.

However, it was Mrs. Bolen's mother, Mary, that made sure each of her children knew they were going to college, no ifs, ands, or buts! Furthermore, it was Mary who encouraged Mr. Bolen to return to college after quitting to help Mrs. Bolen's father after a killing frost brought him back to farming.

"You'll go back to school," she said," said Mr. Bolen. "But it is hard to go back when you are making money."

He did eventually return to college.

They had two children, a son, Lester, who lives in Los Angeles, Calif. and is currently a student; and daughter Tamela (Bolen) Lake, recently married to Jed and lives in Topeka where she has begun her own career as high school math teacher in Washburn Rural High School. Mr. Lake works for a trucking company that delivers food, even to some schools.

Mrs. Bolen was hired as the migrant educator director/English language learner, thanks to a grant awarded to Cheylin.

"I hope to help our Hispanic students and their families feel a part of our community and school," Mrs. Bolen said.

Together, they plan to make a winning team for Cheylin with goals for the students to learn the importance of academic excellence and prepare them to be positive and contributing citizens to their community and country.