

Interior decorator brightens

By Vera Sloan

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Adjectives describing working women are fairly easy to come by, such as “hard working,” “focused,” “multi tasking” and “energetic.” They might be the most commonly used descriptions, but when it comes to describing working woman Reva Eicher, a good description would be “indomitable spirit.”

It will take more than a wheelchair to conquer Eicher, who performs difficult and skilled tasks despite being confined to the chair for nearly five years. At the age of 16, safely tucked into her bed in the middle of the night, lightning came through the window and not only damaged the house she slept in, but her body as well.

Eicher said the bolt of lightning filled the basement with smoke, burned her bedroom curtains, and ultimately caused complications in Eicher’s life. She said that although they have been devastating, her spirit remains unshaken. She says she often doesn’t feel like she’s in a wheelchair.

Eicher credits her ability to do all she does to an unshakable faith in God, and says that through his grace she is able to enjoy life and to share that joy with others. As a highly sought after interior decorator and landscape designer, she carries out her work with individuals who know and hear of her expertise.

Eicher was born and raised in the Brewster community and just last year, realized that the east side of her little home town’s main street, Kansas Avenue, didn’t look as cheerful and well kept as the west side.

Eicher had a plan, so she asked for a piece of scrap sheet rock from her house as it was being remodeled, so that she could make a sketch of Kansas Avenue. Her sketching in-



Reva Eicher, Brewster sits locked in her “cage” ready to start on another portion of the mural depicting the community’s agricultural heritage on one of the buildings facing Kansas Avenue, Brewster’s main street.

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cluded painted door and window frames on some of the store fronts, planters filled with flowers, some trees, and a beautiful painted mural on one of the stores depicting the com-

munity’s agricultural heritage.

“The Lions’ Club is basically the men of the area,” Eicher said, “so if you can get the Lions behind something, then everyone gets behind

it. So I just went to the Lions’ Club and presented the project, and that was the beginning of beautifying our little town.”

Eicher said someone in town had a machine with a lift on it, so they would lift her, sitting in the wheel chair, up to the side of the building where she could do her painting for the mural.

“There was a cage on the lift, and Jon, my husband, would lock me in, and go back across the street to the bank where he works,” she said, “and when I needed to move to another spot, I’d call Jon on my cell phone and he’d come and start up the machine and move me to another spot.”

“One good thing leads to another,” she added, “and now the community grocery store is being decorated, and by the middle of October, that project will be completed. It’s sort of an infectious thing because once a project gets started, everyone wants to help.”

As a Master Gardner, Eicher leads a project for third and fourth graders where they plant the flowers in the downtown planters. She said they learn how to understand soils, and how to take care of plants, and how to take care of them when they go dormant in the fall.

“The students just finished winterizing the planters, and have placed pumpkins and fall decorations in them,” Eicher said.

“I use a motorized wheelchair to do the



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Reva Eicher seemed content to take the beginning touches of the grain elevator in the building mural to great heights, on a project she dreamed of doing to spruce up her home town’s main street.