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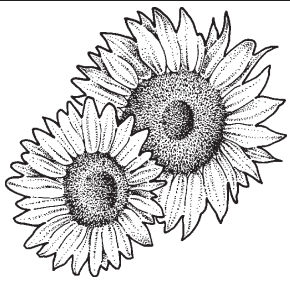
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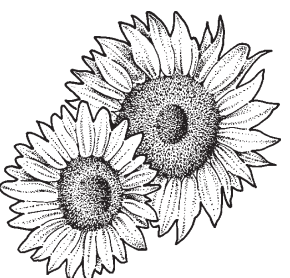


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Reva Eicher showed where she had roughed in the milo before they were painted on the mural on the east side of the main street of Brewster. A planter was added and second and third graders from Brewster School planted the flowers. Trees were planted on either side.
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Beautifulizing the town goal of Brewster woman

By Pat Schiefen

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Reva Eicher of Brewster doesn't let being in a wheel chair stop her from getting ideas to beautify her town and recruiting the help to get it done.

With the help of her husband, Jon, second and third graders, Brewster Lions Club and seniors from Brewster High School she painted a mural on a wall between two store fronts on the east side of the main street.

She said the high school kids painted the mural wall, the welcome to Brewster and other parts of buildings on that side of the street. It was decided to use the Brewster school colors of burgundy, silver and black.

At first she said she thought she would do the mural on the school mascot, the Bulldogs. In recent years the school has been struggling with declining enrollment and the possibility the school being closed. She wanted the mural to be able to live on even if the school closed.

After thinking about it she decided to do it on the agriculture of the area. She painted

a farm scene, grain elevator silos, wheat, sunflowers, corn and milo on the mural. It took seven days to complete, she said. She roughed in what she was going to paint with pencil first.

Her husband using a borrowed telehandler maneuvered her where she needed to be to do the painting.

A planter with flowers and two trees complete the spot courtesy of the Lions. The grade schoolers planted the flowers. Eicher said she looks forward to when the trees are large enough to really give some shade.

She said people were not sure about what she was trying to do but after she started she said people came by and encouraged her.

Eicher said they were going to decorate the planter for fall with rocks painted like pumpkins and shacks of milo.

She said she has lived in Thomas and Sherman Counties for her whole life. Her parents, Wayne and Erma Deeds lived in the northeast corner of Sherman County on the Beaver Creek.

Physically Eicher has been struggling since she was hit by lightning at age 16.

She said that lightning traveled down an irrigation pipe used for a television antenna outside of her and her sister's bedroom and hit her. Eicher said she had metal curlers in her hair and a metal retainer in her mouth. The strike left her paralyzed for 24 hours and knocked her teeth loose. She said it left her body with lingering problems.

When she was a senior in Brewster High School she had a ruptured appendix. At 25 she had a ruptured gall bladder and at 30 her liver quit. At age 58 she and her husband were in the process of moving to the Wamego area when she went down. She had massive bleeding on the brain. After four surgeries in two weeks the doctors found an aneurism. While at rehab she had a double stroke which left her with no feeling from her chest on down.

In rehab they helped her train her motor nerves so she had movement in her legs and arms.

Jokingly she said she never lost her ability to talk.

Eicher said her husband has redone their home to make it accessible for her wheel chair.

She said, "I dream it and my husband does it."

She said she has been battling multiple sclerosis and its attempt to slow her down. Eicher said that her faith has been a source of strength for her.

The couple has three children, Michelle Preston, pharmacist at Goodland WalMart, Rich Eicher, an engineer for Henderson Engineers in Dallas and Pete Eicher, an overseer of steel and metal fabrication of Wescon in Wichita and six grandchildren/

Eicher said her next project was revitalizing the Christmas decorations for the poles on main street.



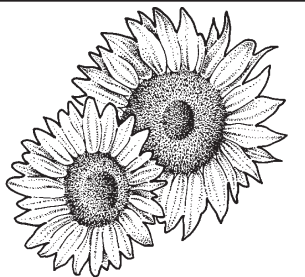
Reva Eicher in her wheel chair on the platform of the telehandler painting on the mural.



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