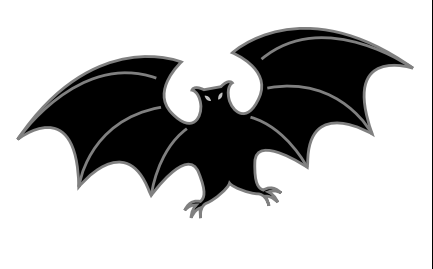


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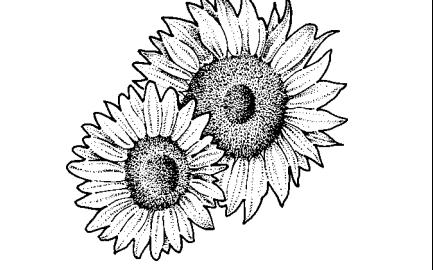
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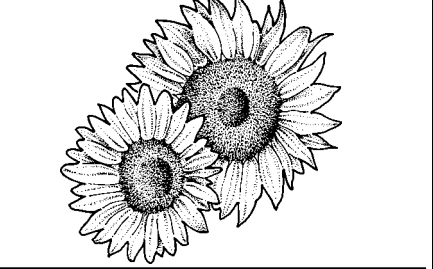


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Justin Verlinden (above) shoveled mulch onto the garden after the plants were in place, helping Zach Breininger with his Eagle Scout project. Breininger (below) ended up in a pool of water while trying to install an underground sprinkler system. It will be added later.
Photos by Richard Breininger

Scout transforms corner of Goodland to a garden in effort to achieve Eagle rank, a family tradition

By Sharon Corcoran *The Goodland Star-News*

What could you do with a little corner of the world? How much time and effort would you spend to transform a weedy corner to a beautiful garden? Would you be able to convince others to help you do it?

Zach Breininger needed a project to earn the position of Eagle Scout, a project that was supposed to be the hardest thing he had done in his life. After procrastinating, he had only two months to complete the project and his family's scouting tradition.

Two months, 165 man hours, several loads of dirt, a pile of silage, several plants, many railroad ties, a heap of wood chips and a lot of water later, a corner of the City of Goodland's property looks a lot better, and Breininger is poised to complete his family's second generation of Eagle Scouts.

Looking at the corner of the lot at 17th and Broadway in front of his family's businesses, Sunflower Computer Services and Cyberland, Breininger knew it needed a facelift.

With Pioneer Park construction underway at Cherry and U.S. Business 24, he knew there was opportunity for the city's appearance to improve. And having experienced drought the last several years, he knew low-maintenance, low-water-usage plants were the most practical solution.

He also knew that when he turned 18 in two months, it would be too late to earn Eagle rank, the highest in Boy Scouts. His father Richard Breininger, two uncles, older brother Matt Breininger and two cousins were all Eagle Scouts. Zach was the only member of the Breiningers needed to complete their two generations of Eagles, a feat almost unheard of. Only two percent of the boys in scouts achieve Eagle, Richard Breininger said.

But would he be able to pull off the project in time? With the help of his parents, Richard and Amy Breininger, brother, friends, members of his troop, a Master Gardener, several businesses, a farmer and several city employees, he did.

Zach is still waiting to go before the board of review before he can be named an Eagle, but he is enjoying the fruits of his labor. "It's supposed to be one of the hardest things you ever do in your life," Breininger said of his Eagle project, "but it's worth it."

Two months of planning and gathering supplies and getting people to help culminated in a "work day" on Saturday, Sept. 3, to rip out the old and put in the new.

The Breiningers spent 117 hours on the project, and they had 48 hours' help from others. They paid for a sprinkler system; the other supplies were donated. But even with the project complete, the soon-to-be Eagle can't sit back just yet.

Eventually, it will have an underground sprinkler system, Breininger said, but for now, they just laid some sprinklers down. And he has to water it once a day. The plants have to become es-



tablished before they become low-usage, he said.

Breininger had help to remove the old dirt, put in new dirt with silage mixed in, to put in plants, to surround the garden with railroad ties and to put wood chips on top.

Rhoads Construction broke up the concrete, and city workers removed it and the old dirt, and they brought in three loads of dirt from the cemetery. J&M Tree and Lawn Service of Colby donated mulch; Master Gardener Christie Rasure donated plants and gave advice on accomplishing the xeriscaping project; Gary Wickwar, a farmer, donated silage; Pizza Hut donated two large pizzas for the work day; and Coca-Cola donated soda. Men from the Kyle Railroad told the Breiningers where they could find some ties.

Nathan Brady, Justin Verlinden and Jonathan McClung of Troop 142, and Matt Hamilton and Cory Yarbrough, Breininger's friends, helped. And Matt Breininger brought two friends with him from Minnesota for the weekend to help.



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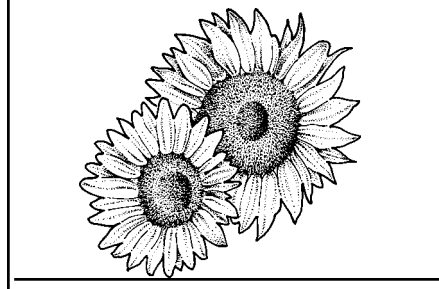
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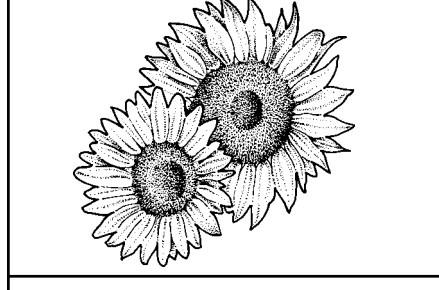
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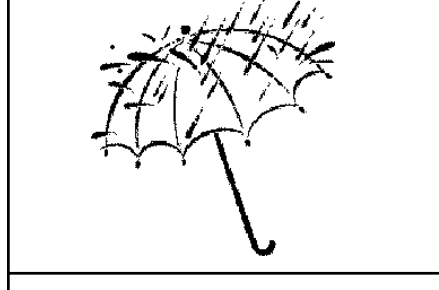
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