

# Life *in the* Valley

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## The joy of painting ... furniture

Brightening up her surroundings relaxes Mt. Angel woman

JUSTIN MUCH  
APPEAL TRIBUNE

Martha Kosel of Mt. Angel describes her painting as “whimsical.”

Some may also use the term “colorful” to describe the brush-stroked makeovers she applies to various tables, benches, cabinets, and the like.

One word Martha will consistently apply to her hobby is “relaxing.” Another is “fun.”

About a year ago Martha retired from Hospice Care of the Northwest where she worked as a certified nursing assistant – a job with an obvious inherent stress level tucked into its daily tasks.

Painting has always served Martha with a dependable release of that stress, and no less so in her retirement.

“In the past I have painted furniture for my use and also as gifts for friends. I even painted a chair for a co-worker and the staff signed the chair as her retirement card,” Martha said.

The trick is to find things to paint, and a place for them after she paints.

“My husband (Jim Kosel) of almost 50 years, will not let me keep everything I paint, so I started a few weeks ago begging people for items to paint. I did two small tables for Bauman’s Farms and the bench in front of Silverton Chocolate Box.”

Now, Bauman Farms has some of her work on sale.

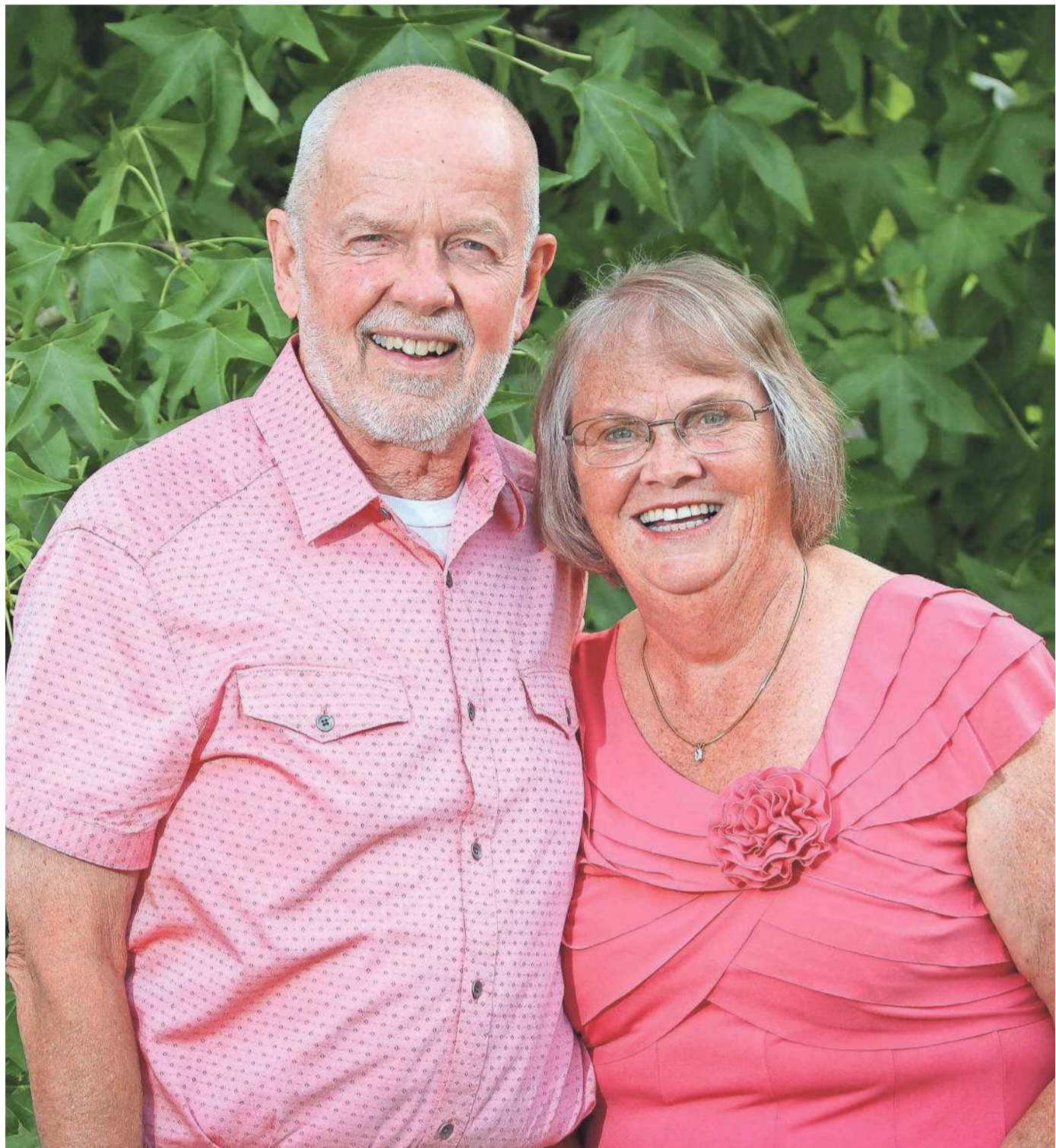
Martha doesn’t just paint any old way; she takes a good, hard look at what she’s about to apply her brush to and plans out what she wants the final adornment to be. She’s also choosy about her medium.

“Right now the real popular thing is chalk paint. I don’t do that; I don’t like the way it looks,” she said.

“Painting is enjoyable and I can let my creative juices go wild...I try to add butterflies, ladybugs, and even an ant or spider for fun.”

The word “fun” is essential to the task and its continuance.

“I really enjoy doing this. I’ll do it as long as it’s fun,” Martha said.



Jim and Martha Kosel of Mt. Angel.

ROBERT WAYS/SPECIAL TO THE SILVERTON APPEAL TRIBUNE



Retired hospice care worker Martha Kosel of Mt. Angel finds relaxations and fun through the adornment of common furniture.

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