



BEV TUTTLE: LOOKING FORWARD TO LIVING

By Jennie Geisler

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This past summer, Bev Tuttle, 59, took a 14-day trip with her husband and friends -- on motorcycles -- out to a bike rally in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

She did it without moving her legs.

Tuttle has been paralyzed from the waist down since she fell from her barn's hay loft in 2006 and crushed a vertebra. Her active lifestyle -- motorcycle trips, horseback riding, a business to run -- came to a halt.

Briefly.

These days, when she can, she gets therapy on horseback at Therapeutic Riding Equestrian Center in Fairview Township. She plans to one day learn how to get up on her own horse.

But it's riding her motorcycle that brings her the most joy.

Her husband, Seth, modified a three-wheel bike so she can control it with her hands and strap her legs down safely. Her wheelchair folds up and hooks onto the bike.

"The weather was so nice (this summer) that we got to ride a lot," she said. "We went to South Dakota, and in September, we went down into Kentucky and West Virginia."

The riding season has ended, and Tuttle recently had surgery and spent weeks recuperating. Meanwhile, she was champing at the bit to get back to the equestrian center.

"They just got a new lift in," she said with a smile. "I'm anxious to use it."

Tuttle shrugs off talk of what's been lost, saying, "You can't quit living just because your legs don't work."