

2024

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# How to Cook A TURKEY

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Your news source in the Star City area

# VelvaareaVoice

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## V-G-D-A AGGIES Champions!

- Photo Courtesy of Malynda Iglehart



## The Mad Scientist of Freeze Drying

Reporter Kathy Holte

While Main Street in Velva may not be full of businesses for your shopping pleasure, there are plenty of local home businesses including FREEZIN USA, which is a freeze-dried candy business and passion for Phoebe Vollmer. "I've been making candy for years, but I found producing freeze-dried candy since 2019 to be the most interesting," she said. "There is a big difference between the two."

Phoebe, an Idaho native and her husband, Kent Vollmer, originally from Anamoose, were married and moved to Velva from Sawyer about two years ago. They needed a bigger house to allow her two granddaughters to visit and stay longer. Her husband bought her a big freeze dryer for Valentine's Day. "He's very romantic," she said. "There is just the two of us now." We had lots of garden leftovers, and he had been thinking about getting a freeze drier for years. Phoebe was thrilled and told her daughter. She then sent a bag of freeze dried Skittles from Idaho and suggested that she start making these.

After doing more research Phoebe realized, "Boy oh boy, this was a crazy start! We all grew up in the 60s and 70s when Astronaut

Ice Cream was a big deal," she said. "I started doing ice cream and just loved it". Phoebe considers herself the mad scientist of freeze drying.

At first started to freeze dry anything and everything she could find. When it comes to candy, she has the biggest selection because anywhere she goes candy shopping, she's looking for something interesting to add to her inventory.

You will find Freezin' USA and Color Dot Jewelry at The Big One and other local craft shows and the upcoming Festival of Trees in which she donates items for their auction. She is a big fan of the Elf Project held at the Methodist Church in Velva. "I always donate tons of candy and jewelry," she said. "It's one of my favorite causes." She wants to support the people who live here, and stated they are truly kind to her.

Phoebe is also the creator of Color Dot Jewelry, which is a handmade line of jewelry, featuring raw semi-precious stones, including pendants, earrings and bracelets and a line of children's jewelry. This is unique jewelry with a Boho style and has a sense of nature running through



it. "I started the rolled stone studio creating earrings that I make out of raw stones," she explained. "Then all of the money goes to a friend I meet while doing ministry work."

This friend works for an orphanage part-time in Haiti.

You can find more information about both businesses on Facebook.

## WordontheStreet

### OVLC WINTER BOOT DRIVE:

The Oak Valley Lutheran Bible Study Group is hosting a collection for the Men's Homeless Winter Shelter. Needed are work boots, winter gear, coffee and laundry soap. Drop off at Oak Valley Lutheran Church, Velva, by Friday, November 29.

### IRIS SWEDLUND SCHOOL & LIBRARY HOURS:

Wednesday nights until 6:30.

### VALLEY VIEW MANOR MEN'S COFFEE CLUB:

Inviting area men to the Valley View Manor "Men's Coffee Club", every Thurs. at 9am, in the Valley View Manor dining room. Stay connected with friends and neighbors.

### FOOD PANTRY:

Velva Community Food Pantry 2024 dates: Nov. 19, Dec. 17. The food pantry is open from 6-7pm in the Fellowship Hall of Oak Valley Lutheran Church, Main St. Velva. The pantry is short of these items - canned vegetables, canned meats, canned fruit, cereal, toilet paper, paper towels and laundry pods and can be dropped off at Oak Valley Church Mon.- Fri. 9am-3pm.

### ELF PROJECT:

The Velva Methodist Church is accepting donations until Nov. 27th for the upcoming Elf Project on Saturday, December 7. New or gently used items (no clothing) can be dropped off at the Velva Area Voice. To schedule a pickup, call Libby at 701-626-1863 or Rosemary at 701-720-1281.

