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Star City Customs: Bringing Big Style to Small-Town North Dakota

Submitted Article

Velva has long been known for its strong community, vibrant Main Street, and hard-working people - and now it’s home to a business that’s putting a fresh, creative stamp on local style. Star City Customs, owned and operated by Kristen Bechtold, is quickly becoming the go-to spot for custom clothing, hats, and one-of-a-kind designs that proudly showcase North Dakota roots.

Star City Customs specializes in turning ideas into eye-catching apparel. Whether it’s a hoodie emblazoned with a clever North Dakota slogan, a cap featuring your favorite local team, or a custom graphic tee that’s truly unique, Kristen’s knack for blending trendy designs with small-town flair shines through. “I wanted to create a place where people could come to get something that feels personal — whether it’s supporting the Velva Aggies, repping our state, or just having a shirt that makes them smile,” she says.

What started as a passion project out of Kristen’s home has grown into a full-fledged business that serves customers all across the region. From high-resolution DTF transfers and embroidery to helping local teams design standout logos, Star City Customs is putting Velva on the map in the world of custom apparel.



Even more, it’s a business that embodies the spirit of community. Kristen collaborates with local organizations, supports school events, and keeps small-town pride at the heart of everything she makes. “I love seeing someone wear something we’ve made around town or at a game,” she



says. “It’s a reminder of how connected we all are.”

To check out Star City Customs’ latest creations or dream up your own, visit their Facebook or Instagram pages. They’re not just making clothes - they’re helping people tell their stories, one custom design at a time.

WordontheStreet

VELVA COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY:
2025 Dates: July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16.
The food pantry is open from 5:45-7:15pm in the Fellowship Hall of OVLC, Main Street. The pantry is short of these items: canned meats, canned fruit, personal hygiene products and laundry pods and can be dropped off at OVLC Mon.-Fri. 9am-3pm.

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.



Voltaire Elevator sets swift recovery plan for farmers

Submitted by Kathy Holte

Following storm damage at the Voltaire Elevator and across eastern North Dakota, Kayla Burkhart, General Manager of Dakota Midland Grain (DMG) in Surrey, Voltaire, and Guthrie, along with the DMG Board of Directors, has acted decisively to ensure the facility is ready for the upcoming harvest.

“We’ve been working closely with experts to assess the elevator’s damage and establish a clear timeline for full operations,” Burkhart said. “Our priority is to be as close to fully operational as we can by harvest, ensuring maximum efficiency for our farmers.”

Within 48 hours of the storm, all metal debris was cleared from the Voltaire site. There was also minor hail damage to local crops and a few downed trees in the city of Voltaire. The elevator reopened for grain deliveries last week, with a salvage company currently removing metal fragments from soybeans stored in two smaller, damaged bins. To ensure safety, brief

closures are planned during demolition of these bins, with the goal of minimizing disruption to DMG customers.

DMG plans to rebuild the four 50,000-bushel bins, maintaining their original size due to spatial constraints posed by the rail line to the north and the truck driveway to the south. Burkhart noted, “While some hoped for larger bins, the site’s geography limits expansion on the east side of our facility.”

To boost efficiency, DMG is upgrading the top fill conveyor to unload trucks faster, which will help farmers get back to the field more timely than in the past.

With harvest approaching and space being a necessity, DMG is prioritizing access to the three large eastern bins, with a combined capacity of 510,000 bushels, through a temporary dump setup to be completed within the next four weeks. This will ensure operational continuity by wheat harvest.



DMG is also implementing reclaim repairs to support train loading during harvest. Additionally, plans are in place to double the wheat bunker piling capacity west of the elevator by reconfiguring

the electrical layout.

Burkhart emphasized, “We’ve lost some grain due to skepticism about our recovery, but we’re moving forward with a robust plan to support our farmers.” With these

measures, the Voltaire Elevator is poised to meet harvest demands effectively.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to DMG Management directly.