

2025

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Pieces of Our Community Puzzle

Submitted by Elizabeth Colby

They say that we all undergo chapters within our lives. Which is true, but the word chapter alludes to a segmentation of time where one chapter closes and another begins. The reality of one's life's chapters is much more complex. Most chapters in our lives entwine from one to the next.

Such is the case with Amy Guttormson, a native of Velva, ND. At any given moment you can encounter at least 5 of Amy's chapters of her life open simultaneously. Massage therapist, rancher, barrel racer, mother and entrepreneur (of 2 business lines) have Amy keeping long hours daily. Amy and her husband, Jamie Guttormson, have been working alongside each other on the family ranch southwest of Velva since 2008. Amy's years on the farm have made her a seasoned cowgirl running farm equipment, doctoring cattle, throwing bales, branding and rounding up cattle. Amy loves spending time outdoors on her horse working cattle and competing in rodeos. Amy is a proud mother of 3 young children. This family unit prioritizes having the kids present. Amy values that her children are immersed in every aspect of the family lifestyle. She realizes the benefit the children obtain when they have the space and expectation to be invested in the family success and to directly learn about everyday life obstacles and realities right alongside her and her husband. You can bet

they learn how to be strong, independent, and capable kids on the ranch. As a family they run commercial Simmental Angus under Guttormson Cattle and registered Fleckviegh Simmental cattle under 100X Ranch.

After high school, Amy attended the New Mexico School of Natural Therapeutics in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She started her business Elements of Healing in 2009 and is currently licensed in over 20 modalities including Swedish massage, Reflexology, Equine (horse) massage and her favorite Core Synchronism. Amy prides herself on being able to bring her treatments directly to you within your home for both you and your horse. While her business is now consistent with a good customer base, it wasn't always the case which leads us into Amy's next chapter of her life, a maker of leather work. Following graduation from massage school, Amy returned home to Velva and focused on growing her new business. The first several months were slow, so like most of us Amy looked for something productive to fill her days. One of her sisters introduced her to a friend who operated a thriving leather craft business. In 2008, Amy started helping the friend out by completing straightforward tasks like tracing, cutting and sewing. After several years of dabbling in the craft, Amy started her own leather



work in 2020. Amy's now thriving business keeps her busy especially around the Christmas and rodeo seasons. Some of the services and products Rosebudd Leatherwork specializes in are repairs of all kinds on leather items to custom chaps, travel bags, wallets, wedding bouquet leather wraps, belts, horse bridals, backpacks and duffel bags.

And if this wasn't enough, Amy has recently entered the world of crafting natural, clean body care products which seems to bring her full circle back to her desire to pursue a career path of natural therapeutics in 2007. After much research and trial and error pro-

duction processes and techniques she happily offers locally sourced tallow products such as shampoo, salve, bug balm, chapstick and her favorite magnesium lotion. She marvels in the benefits she has seen that the magnesium lotion has had for her customers that suffer with restless leg syndrome. I asked Amy what she loves about living in the community of Velva, ND. She stated, "I see potential. I appreciate how people genuinely wave to you as you're walking down the street. There's a peacefulness and calmness to Velva. There's something serene about it at times. I appreciate the small, local businesses we have and the

WordontheStreet

PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS: Library is closed during Christmas break, Fri., Dec. 20 opening again Thurs., Jan. 2.

VELVA COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY: 2025 Dates: Tues., Jan. 21 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 vegetables, canned meats, canned fruit, cereal, toilet paper, paper towels 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.

fact that the employees know my name and my children's names, that we're able to have a meaningful conversation while transacting business and that we all have a stake in the well-being of each other." We all play an integral role in our small community. And citizens like Amy are what help make our community a wonderful place to live and work. If you'd like to contact Amy about any of her small businesses, you can contact her via the Rosebudd Leatherwork Facebook page.

Lead Service Lines and bridge project dates

Reporter Heather Tudor

The Velva City Commission met on Monday, December 16th at 7:00pm at the Velva City Hall.

Commissioners present were Commissioner Davis, Zietz, Jenson, Keller, Schreiner, as well as Auditor Jenny Johns and City Engineer Emma Lavachek.

The first item on the agenda was approval of the past meeting minutes. The Commission had a regular meeting on October 21st and a special meeting on October 29th and September 12th. Commission Keller made a motion to accept the minutes from earlier meetings. Commissioner Davis to

second the motion, motion carried.

Next was approval of payroll and bills. Mr. Schreiner said that the payroll and bills total came to \$73,666.04. Davis made a motion to accept the payroll and bills total. Jenson seconded the motion, motion carried.

Under Reports of the President, Mr. Schreiner mentioned he had nothing new to report. Next was the sheriff's report, Schreiner mentioned again that there was nothing new happening there and there were no citations or complaints turned to the city. Auditor Jenny Johns mentioned

that the special assessments for unpaid water bills was turned into the county already.

Reports of the Commissioners, Schreiner asked Mr. Keller if he had anything to report. Keller said he had nothing but then asked Johns about lowering the rates for garbage, sewer, and water for the residents could go back to normal. Johns agreed that yes, the rates could go back to normal if he wanted them to.

Next on the agenda was City Engineer Emma Lavachek who reported that she would be sending a clean water SRF application,

and she did that. Lavachek also mentioned that she had been collaborating with Johns and Wyche in the City office and helping to get the lead service line inventory letters out to the city residents. Mentioning it's a federal and state DEQ as a requirement. They should be meeting with DEQ sometime this week to name lead service lines and talk about the next phase of inspectors.

The bridge project advertised for bids starting last Friday, which need to run for three weeks. They should open the bids in the first part of December. Engineers are

hoping for early spring 2025 to start this project if all goes well. Lavachek also mentioned an open records request was sent to North Prairie Water based on the Corps of Engineers letter from their attorney to their attorney, so that is all getting worked through. Commissioner Davis asked if North Prairie water requested the open records. Lavachek explained that it was the Souris River Joint Board that had requested the open records to North Prairie water. Lavachek asked Johns if the city

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