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OBITUARIES

Madge B. Putikka

Age: 90
From: Perham, MN
Passed Away: Tues., June 24
Services will be held at a later date
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home
Online condolences may be sent to
www.karvonenfuneralhome.com

Richard "Rich" L. Otto

Age: 70
From: Henning, MN
Passed Away: Thurs., June 19
Celebration of Life Open House:
Sat., July 19, 2-6pm
Location: Clinton Town Hall, Iron Junction, MN
Celebration of Life Open House:
Sat., July 26, 2-6pm
Location: Henning Fairgrounds & Event Center, Henning, MN
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home
Online condolences may be sent to
www.karvonenfuneralhome.com

Vernon R. Kath

Age: 79
From: Menahga, MN
Passed Away: Mon., June 16
Where: Sanford Medical Center, Fargo, ND
Visitation: Fri., July 18, 10-11am
at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Menahga, MN
Memorial Service: Fri., July 18, 11am
Location: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Menahga, MN
Military Honors: Fri., July 18, 12pm
at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Menahga, MN
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home
Online condolences may be sent to
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Gladys Lueders

Age: 84
From: Ottertail, MN
Passed Away: Mon., June 23
Visitation: Mon., June 30, 9:30-11am
at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ottertail, MN
Funeral Service: Mon., June 30, 11am
Location: St. John's Lutheran church, Ottertail, MN
Burial to follow at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Ottertail, MN
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home
Online condolences may be sent to
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Beatrice "Bea" A. Christianson

Age: 81
From: Wadena, MN
Passed Away: Fri., June 20
Where: At her home
Visitation: Fri., June 27, 10-11am
at St. Ann's Catholic Church, Wadena, MN
Funeral Mass: Fri., June 27, 11am
Location: St. Ann's Catholic Church, Wadena, MN
Lunch & Fellowship: Fri., June 27, 12pm at St. Ann's Catholic Church, Wadena, MN
Burial: Fri., June 27, 4pm at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Wadena, MN
Funeral Home: Karvonen Funeral Home
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\$50.00 Certificate	\$50.00	\$40.00
\$20.00 Certificate	\$20.00	\$15.00
Rothsay Cafe, Rothsay	\$10.00	\$7.50
Stalker Lake Golf Course Bar & Grill, Dalton	\$25.00	\$20.00
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TO MY READERS

By Bev Johnson, WOT Master Gardener

Every week, for the last 24 years, I have written a gardening article for several
local newspapers. At age 89, I feel it's time to retire while I still have a few working
brain cells.

It has been very flattering when someone mentions they enjoyed something
I wrote, even when that person admits they don't garden, but read my article
anyway. It inflates my ego, so I'm leaving before I can't get that fat ego through
the door.

I am not going away. I will still be at the West Otter Tail County Extension office
every Wednesday around 11:00 AM to answer questions and identify sick plants. I
have just one request: if it is a weed (and you know it's a weed), just kill it! Do you
really have to know if it's Sally or Sam? I hate weeds. The office will know how to
get a hold of me during the week, too. The office phone number is 218-998-8760.

Keep gardening.

Bev Johnson, Master Gardener - AKA Bev the Gardener

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E	L	U	U	P	U	U	C	N	J	F	H
C	B	H	L	X	D	T	I	O	W	H	C
P	H	A	Y	S	G	A	I	Q	R	B	O
B	Y	N	D	C	T	F	U	F	B	M	L
H	N	E	R	R	K	I	U	O	U	I	O
F	I	R	E	W	O	R	K	S	D	L	R
M	N	T	N	O	I	S	E	N	E	S	F
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IS FARMING TO BLAME?

By Bev Johnson, WOT Master Gardener

Can you believe that some climatologists
are blaming the corn farmers for some
of our bad weather? Corn, like all plants
and many mammals, sweats - only
in plants it is called transpiration. An
acre of corn can put up to 3,000-4,000
gallons of water into the air every day.
Richard Raddatz, a climatologist at the
University of Winnipeg has studied the
change of the Canadian prairies from
grassland to cropland. He feels that there
is a growing body of research indicating
that contemporary crops change the
way water, heat and energy interact with
the atmosphere. By transpiring more
heavily than the native grasses that they
replaced in relatively short periods, crops
can generate air movements that can
lead to storms during the season when
water is cycled through the atmosphere.
One study, done by Okland climatologist
Jeff Basara, traced a link between corn
evapotranspiration and a F2 tornado that
hit Benson Minnesota in June of 2001. He
said, "there was going to be bad weather
that day, but evaporation added enough
moisture to the atmosphere to turn it from
a day of localized severe weather to a
day that really was a headline maker."
Wayne Hallock, whose family has farmed
in Dakota county since 1912, thinks that
corn may affect the weather. He now has
34,000 plants per acre. In the 70's, he and
his father used to plant only 16,000 per
acre. He found that corn and soybeans,
some of which are only 10 inches apart
instead of 30 in earlier years, are often wet
with dew until noon on dry days. Another
climatologist, David Chagon of Northern

Illinois University, feels the forty-year
trend toward higher dew points during
recent heat waves is due to changes in
farming practices. His proof is that since
1950 crops had replaced thousands of
square acres of pastureland. Even more
significant, he felt, was the shift in corn
planting from 40-inch rows to 30-inch
rows thus putting more water into the air.
Not everyone agrees. Here at home, one
of our climatologists, Pete Boulay, points
out that in the Twin Cities the average
dew point in 3 of the last 4 summers has
been below average and much of the corn
production parts of the state are now in
the second season of dry conditions. Of
course, some of the dew points were
gathered at the airport where it is heavily
paved. Dew points at the University are
higher probably because it is irrigated.

Information is from an article in the
Minneapolis Star Tribune, now called the
Minnesota Tribune.

This is a recycled article from the early
2000's, but still very interesting. The
theory hasn't been disproved and does
sound pretty logical. That being said,
don't go after your local farmer with a
pitchfork. There is enough blame to go
around. This area is still short of normal
moisture as anyone who lives by a lake
can tell you. Summer is just beginning.
We could be hip deep in water by August.
It's Minnesota after all - where the weather
can be dry and 30 degrees in the morning,
60 degrees by lunch, and a roaring
thunderstorm by 6 o'clock. But we love it.

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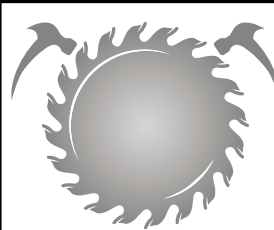
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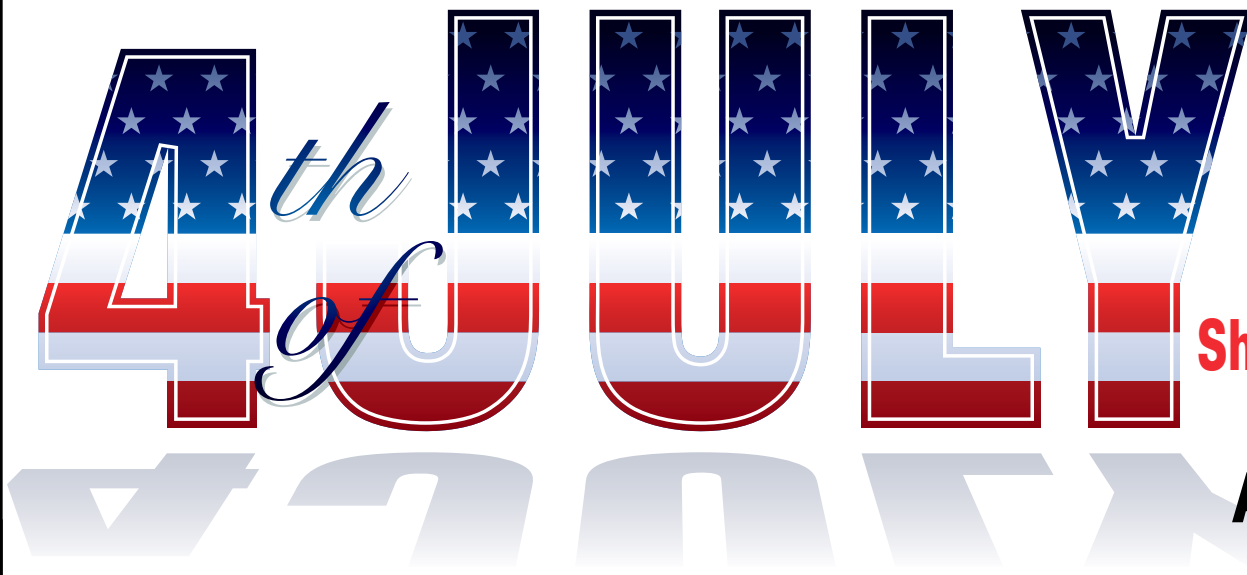
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PUBLICATIONS



Chipotle Grilled Chicken Lettuce Wraps

For the Chicken + Marinade

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons water
- 3-4 chipotle peppers in adobo
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 10 boneless skinless chicken thighs cut in half

For the Lettuce Wraps:

- 1 head butter lettuce
- 2 mangos cut into thin strips
- 1/2 red onion thinly sliced
- 1/2 orange bell pepper thinly sliced
- 2 avocados thinly sliced
- fresh mint
- fresh cilantro
- 1-2 limes, juiced
- kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper to taste

- Put the ingredients for the marinade in a food processor or blender and blend until smooth. Coat the chicken thighs in the marinade and refrigerate for 1-4 hours.
- After marinating, Heat an indoor or outdoor grill to about 400 degrees F (medium high heat). Place the chicken onto the grill and grill 5 to 6 minutes per side, until the chicken is cooked. Remove the chicken from the grill and let rest for 10 minutes.
- Meanwhile - clean the butter lettuce and separate it into cups.
- Combine the mango, red onion, bell pepper, avocado, mint, cilantro and lime juice in a bowl and toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper.
- Assemble the lettuce cups with a piece of chicken, a few tablespoons of the topping and serve with extra limes if needed.

Grilled Pork Chops

- 4 bone-in pork loin chops 1 1/4- to 1 1/2-inches thick
- 1 small lemon
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 cloves minced garlic about 1 tablespoon
- Chopped fresh parsley basil, or herbs of choice (optional for serving)

- Pat the pork chops dry on both sides.
- Zest the lemon into a small bowl. Add the rosemary, salt, pepper, and garlic. With your fingers, rub to combine. It should smell very fragrant. Slice the lemon into wedges and reserve for serving.
- Rub the lemon/rosemary mixture all over the outsides of the pork. Cover the pork chops and let sit for 1 hour at room temperature or refrigerate up to overnight. Let come to room temperature prior to grilling.
- When ready to grill, heat a grill or grill pan over medium-high heat. If you are using a grill pan, you will need to cook the pork in batches (if the chops are too crowded in the pan, the chops will steam and not sear properly). Place the pork chops on the grill. Cook on the first side for 5 minutes, until the pork chop easily releases from the grill.
- Flip and cook on the other side for another 4 to 8 minutes (the cooking time will vary based upon your grill temperature and the thickness of your pork), until the pork reaches 135°F on an instant read thermometer (it will continue to cook and the temperature will keep rising as it rests). When the pork chops are done, they will feel just firm to the touch, the juices will run slightly pink, and the meat will look rosy in the center. Place on a platter, cover with aluminum foil, and let rest 10 minutes.
- Once the pork chops have rested, serve hot with reserved lemon wedges. Enjoy!

Grilled Steak Salad

Dressing

- 4 garlic cloves, peeled, smashed
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/3 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

Salad

- 1 medium red onion, cut into 1/2" slices
- 1 tsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- 1 1/4 lb. boneless ribeye steak
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 5 oz. baby arugula and/or baby spinach
- 1 avocado, pitted, sliced
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 4 oz. blue cheese, crumbled
- Torn fresh basil leaves, for serving

- In a small saucepan over medium heat, cook garlic and oil, stirring occasionally, until garlic is fragrant and softened, 5 to 7 minutes. Let cool slightly.
- Transfer garlic and oil to a blender. Add vinegar, granulated sugar, salt, and pepper and blend until very smooth. Pour into a jar and refrigerate until ready to use.
- Make Ahead:** Dressing can be made 1 week ahead. Keep refrigerated.

Salad

- Prepare a grill for medium-high heat; preheat 5 minutes and clean grates. Drizzle onion with oil; season with salt. Generously season steak with salt and pepper.
- Grill onions, turning once, until char marks appear, 2 to 3 minutes per side, and grill steak, turning occasionally, until an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part registers 130° for medium-rare, about 6 minutes per side. Transfer onions and steak to a cutting board. Let cool slightly. Thinly slice steak against the grain.
- On a large platter, arrange arugula. Top with steak, onions, avocado, tomatoes, blue cheese, and basil. Drizzle with dressing before serving.





and enjoy the *July 4th weekend*, everyone!

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