

Potato festival held in Minnesota

By Kay Melia
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kay melia

• the gardener

I must apologize profusely for my failure to remind you last week of the Barnesville, Minn., Potato Days Festival, an annual event in a town of 2,308 souls whose remarkable celebration draws several thousand visitors for fun and games and to eat potatoes. The Festival has been named as one of the top community events in the nation by the American Bus Association. But it was last weekend, and now we'll have to wait until next year.

It is difficult to believe that so many activities, all associated with

potatoes, could possibly be packed into two days of celebration. Obviously, they grow tons and tons of potatoes in the Barnesville area, located south of Fargo, N.D., in extreme western Minnesota. You missed the opportunity to gorge yourself with potato pancakes, French fries, potato sausage, potato soup, German potato dumplings, and of course, Norwegian lefsa, just

to name a few of the treats. You also missed the zany mashed potato wrestling contest, actually conducted in a foot-deep vat of mashed potatoes. And we all regret missing the crowning of Miss Tater Tot, 2012. Oh well, there's always next year. And keep in mind that you can see and participate in similar activities for three days at the Potato Bowl, Sept. 6-8, just up the road a few miles in Grand Forks, N.D.

So much to do and so many places to go! Let me quickly suggest something else to do and a place to go.

Go out to your garden and dig your potatoes! Unless of course you've already been there done that. Failure to do that soon could result in all sorts of calamity.

I confess that I finished digging my spuds just last week, and because of the extremely dry soil, several of the tubers were a bit limp. In wet years, (remember those) there is always the danger of potatoes sprouting if left in the ground too long, and that's not good either. The potato plant has grown as much it's going to when the leaves turn brown and die back, despite the fact that the main stem is still green. They should be harvested before the whole plant

is dead. Potato storage for the winter can be a problem. After harvest and a few days to cure, they must be placed in a dark, cool area with high humidity. Locations around the house answering that description are hard to find, and they usually end up in the basement, unless you are the proud owner of a root cellar. If some of those white potatoes are left in the light too long, they will develop green "solanine" areas and must be trimmed off before eating.

Several years ago, my friend at the Golden Plains Greenhouse and Garden Center in Colby insisted that I plant a new variety of white potato called Dakota Crisp, instead

of the old Irish Cobbler variety I had planted for years. Dan did that of course because he didn't have any Irish Cobblers. But it was the best varietal switch I've made in years... the Dakota Crisp is a wonderfully smooth, large, good tasting potato. Kennebec, also a white spud, is the nation's most popular garden potato, but Yukon Gold is gaining ground rapidly. Red Pontiac still seems to be the most planted red potato.

So, dig the potatoes soon. Before planting time next spring, I promise to find out what variety of potato they plant in Barnesville, Minn.

Have you walked through your wheat stubble?

Have you walked through your wheat stubble lately? Have you looked closely at the fields where you are going to plant wheat in a few weeks? It might be worth spending a few minutes now looking because it could help your (or your neighbor's) yields this next harvest!

Every year at about this time, you hear 'Control your volunteer wheat.' The primary reason for this is to decrease the threat of wheat streak mosaic virus infecting newly emerged wheat. Wheat streak mosaic virus can be devastating to a wheat field. This virus is moved by the wheat curl mite. These mites live on volunteer wheat during the summer and rely on it as a food source. They are microscopic and cannot be seen with the naked eye. In addition, the mites are highly mobile and can travel up to half a mile on wind currents!

It is critical that all volunteer wheat within half a mile be



jeanne falk

• extension district

completely dead at least two weeks prior to planting. Volunteer wheat can be controlled by working the ground or by herbicide application. Grazing volunteer is not an effective option because there is green wheat material left and the mites can be living in that material.

As the summer progresses into fall, these mites are looking for a new food source...and what better than young, tender, juicy wheat plants that have just emerged. The worst case scenario is that the volunteer is dying just as the new wheat is emerging.

Fall infections of wheat streak mosaic are the most devastating to the wheat crop. However, infections can take place from wheat emergence until late spring. The fall infections are the most detrimental to the crop because the plant is young

and not completely established.

Think of the wheat streak mosaic virus like the flu virus in humans. It is the toughest on the young because they have a harder time fighting off the virus. In addition, there is

no medicine or treatment to cure the virus. Wheat that is stressed will be more susceptible to severe symptoms. This includes stress from drought, lack of nutrients, or poor growing conditions. The only

difference is that humans can fight off the virus and wheat cannot fight it off.

So take a few minutes and check for volunteer wheat. It may save your (or your neighbor's) wheat

yields this next harvest. If you have any questions on wheat streak mosaic or controlling volunteer, please contact me at the Extension Office.

Tax form instructions are difficult to read

I often tell people that tax form instructions are written in Japanese and then translated to English. While that's not true, it would explain why they are so hard to read.

If you've ever tried to fill out a tax form, you know taxes aren't simple. If you've ever tried to call the IRS help line, you probably spent half your day on hold. Since you can't just skip the parts of the tax form that you don't understand, what's a business owner to do?

The IRS will soon have a new website design to better help answer your tax questions. To learn more, go to <http://www.irs.gov/help/article/0,,id=259023,00.html?portlet=101>.

Will this be the solution to all your



jamie morphew

• business tips

tax problems? Probably not, but it couldn't hurt to check it out. Maybe they've hired better translators for their online content. Ha! Ha!

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting sponsored in part by Sherman County. We offer free and confidential business consulting to Kearny, Scott, Sherman, and Wichita counties. For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphey at (620) 874-0771 or e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org.

Worship warms the heart

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Pastor: Randy and Mary Payne
Fourth & College • 890-3605
Sunday: Kid's Church: 10 am
Morning Service: 8:30 and 10:30 am
Prayer and Praise: 5:00 p.m. except last Sunday of the month
Wednesday: Royal Rangers, Missionettes 6:30 p.m. during school year
Youth @ the Rock House, Sixth & Caldwell: 6:30 p.m.
Life Groups - Call for information
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www.calvarygospel.net

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Celebrant: Father Norbert Dlabal
307 W. 13th • 890-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 5-5:45 p.m. Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
Sunday: 12:30 pm

Goodland United Methodist Church
1116 Sherman 899-3631
Pastors: Dustin and Shelly Petz
Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m.
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering" 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

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Sunday: Worship Service: 9 a.m.
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225 W. 16th
(785) 890-7944
Sunday: Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Morning Service: 11:30 a.m.
Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study Service 6:30 p.m.

Bible Baptist Church
Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks
Fifth & Broadway
890-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Morning Service: 10 a.m.
Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO
(719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 a.m.
Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 a.m.

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church - translation available
Minister: Jose S. Lopez
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m.
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.

United Methodist Church Brewster:
Pastor: Mike Baughn
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST
Winona:
Minister: Sheryl Johnson
Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Rev. Carol Edling Jolly
Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233
Sunday: Church School - All ages 9:15 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group: 1st and 3rd Sundays 5-7 p.m.
Thursday: Prayer Class - Noon
Pastor Carol's Class 5:30 p.m.
www.goodlandfccdoc.org

Kanorado United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Bob Willis
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:50 a.m.
Evening Service: 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Celebrant: Father Don Martin
13th & Center
Church 890-2115 or 890-7245
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday evening
Bible Study: 4 p.m. the first and third Saturday of the month

Goodland Bible Church
109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.
6 p.m. AWANA during school
Evening Worship: 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 6:30 youth group
Growth groups call for information
www.goodlandbible.org

First Baptist Church
Pastor: Travis Blake
1121 Main
890-3450
Sunday:
Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10 a.m.
Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.
Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.
Wheatridge Center

H2O Church.TV
Pastor: Craig Groeschel
1022 Main
(785) 728-0123
Experience Time
Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Harvest Evangelical Free Church
521 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-6423
Pastor: Brian Fugleberg
Sunday: Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday:
Senior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church
Junior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church
www.goodlandefree.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Jim McCurdy
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Pastor: Darian Hybl
Sunday: Christian education/fellowship: 10:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 9 a.m.

Church of Christ
401 Caldwell
890-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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