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Vol. 18 No. 28 July 12, 2021

Everybody's Talking

Different ice cream: The ice cream in Turkey isn't the Western-style cold, smooth scoop in a cone. Called dondurma (which means "freezing" in Turkish), the ice cream in this transcontinental country includes the usual milk and sugar, as well as two unique ingredients: mastic, a resin from the mastic tree; and salep, powdered orchid bulb. The former makes the ice cream stretchy and sticky, and the latter is a thickening agent. Dondurma comes in lots of flavours and doesn't melt as quickly as regular ice cream. One type, called Maras dondurma, uses more salep, and diners use a knife and fork to eat it.

Tall hedge: In Scotland, a huge hedge is deemed to stand higher than any other hedge in the world. Called the Meikleour Beech Hedge, it is located about 90 kilometres (56 mi.) north of Edinburgh near the village of Meikleour. Standing 30 metres (100 ft.) high and stretching for a length of 530 metres (one-third mile), this hedge has been growing since 1745. It is quite a sight, especially in spring, when light reflects on its new green leaves, and in fall, when it turns to rust and gold. The hedge is trimmed about once every 10 years, requiring the efforts of four workers over a period of about six weeks using hydraulic lifts and cutters.

Fantastic flowers: Stress at her job as a civil engineer drove Luciana Gonzalez to a new career, one she could not have imagined. The Brazilian woman became an artistic confectionery master, making art out of food. Her specialty is making sugar flowers, and her creations look so real that viewers can't believe the bouquets are edible. She did not get into her new job because of a love of cooking; rather, it was because the Senac Campos do Jordão school of gastronomy was nearby, so she took some courses. Although only working for a short time in the industry, Gonzalez has gained a well-known reputation.

Fine art: Using coloured pencils, Australian artist Shaun McKenzie creates portraits that, when complete, appear to be photographs. Known as NeeYellow on social media, McKenzie has great patience, working for an average of 60 to 80 hours on each of his pieces. One portrait of Jim Carrey realistically reveals the comedian's iconic grin, while another of actor Rupert Grint, who played Ron Weasley in the Harry Potter movies, seems to show every strand of his messy red hair. This talented artist likes to share some of his tricks on social media, including time-lapse videos that show a portrait coming to life.

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Recipe of the month

Jalapeno-Lime Chicken Drumsticks

1 jar (10 ounces) red jalapeno pepper jelly
1/4 cup lime juice

12 chicken drumsticks (about 3 pounds)
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper

Prep/Total Time: 25 mins. Yield: 6 servings

- In a small saucepan, heat jelly and lime juice over medium heat until melted. Set aside 1/2 cup for serving.
- Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. On a greased grill rack, grill chicken, covered, over medium heat 15-20 minutes or until a thermometer reads 170°-175°, turning occasionally and basting with remaining jelly mixture during the last 5 minutes of cooking. Serve with reserved jelly mixture.

Source: www.tastefhome.com

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—James A. Michener

"The obstacle is the path."
—Zen proverb

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What's Happening

July 17 to 18-37th ANNUAL Grand North American Old Time FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIP WATCH online on Facebook on July 17-18, 2021. Check the Facebook page -or- go to www.wildrosefiddlers.org for more event details. Next year join us live at the Dow Centre in Fort Saskatchewan for this terrific weekend of music and dance.

Aug 4 to 8-Vegreville Country Fair It will look different this year, but there's still much to take in! Chuckwagon Races, Drive-In Movie, Horse Show, Parade, Fireworks and more. Watch the Vegreville Ag Society for updates on events. https://www.facebook.com/VegrevilleAgSociety

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Trivia

- Nelson Mandela was once president of what country?
- What is a bride's wardrobe (clothing, linens, etc.) called?
- A round, portable, tent-like dwelling with its origins in central Asia is known as what?
- Okra is a fruit or a vegetable?
- How many astronauts can the International Space Station accommodate?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

(Over)

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)
You may feel very clear and perceptive now. This could be an especially productive time for you to make a decision or to come to an agreement with those around you. Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 3, 28, 48, 49.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)
Your need for love and intimacy could strongly emerge. You might channel some of these feelings into creative work that expresses your deepest self. Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 18, 25, 30, 34.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You may successfully begin a change of routine. A regimen of self-improvement could help you feel free to concentrate on the things that feel most important to you. Lucky Numbers: 12, 13, 19, 21, 38, 46.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
You might not want to follow anybody else's lead. Fortunately, you may be able to find ways to be yourself, and maybe even let loose a little bit, without offending anyone. Lucky Numbers: 1, 6, 12, 27, 39, 46.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 23)
Business meetings might begin with a positive, harmonious feel that fosters good understanding between all. Your professional associations could be beneficial to you. Lucky Numbers: 5, 19, 21, 25, 26, 35.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
This may be an excellent time to spread your wings, to travel, and to visit new places. Giving and receiving appreciation, love, and happiness could come into your life now. Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 17, 36, 38, 39.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Getting what you want and moving toward achieving the things that are important to you may involve surrendering something or eliminating something from your life. Lucky Numbers: 3, 6, 13, 20, 28, 42.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Contracts, negotiations, and business dealings of all kinds may be favoured now. You might want to share plans or dreams and be more receptive to others' points of view. Lucky Numbers: 12, 17, 20, 25, 28, 40.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
The positive feelings you generate now may likely aid you in the future. Gathering information regarding your career or your long-range goals could be favoured. Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 17, 26, 30, 38.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
Conversations right now may go smoothly, and agreements could be reached. You may not want to tolerate being idle, but be ready to attack difficult problems on the job. Lucky Numbers: 1, 15, 19, 39, 41, 49.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Cooperation and successful collaboration in the business and professional world may be highlighted. Legal and governmental matters of all kinds might run very smoothly. Lucky Numbers: 9, 19, 26, 28, 35, 48.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)
You may be a sympathetic listener, drawing out feelings and experiences from others. You might feel inclined to speak to them about your personal subjects, which builds trust. Lucky Numbers: 4, 5, 8, 22, 36, 44.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Virgo winners with the luckiest number being 9.

Did You Know...

Rock and wire: A gabion wall is used by landscape architects and home designers. It is a container made of wire that is filled with materials like rocks or stones. They are easy to make and last a long time.

Stressing the words: Shakespeare is known for using iambic pentameter in his sonnets. An "iamb" is an unstressed syllable followed by a syllable that is stressed. Therefore, an iambic pentameter means there are five sets of syllables, with the second syllable of each set being stressed.

Volcanic moon: Scientists think that the planet Jupiter has 79 moons, one being Io. This moon, the fifth largest and the closest one to the planet, has about 400 active volcanoes, and there are lava flows and lava lakes on it.

Rare snail: The fire snail (*Platymma tweediei*) is found only in the Cameron Highlands area of Malaysia. These snails have a black shell and a bright red foot, and they can survive only when the conditions are very cool and humid.

Comparing condiments: Regular mustard is made from powdered white or yellow mustard seeds and vinegar or water. It is more mildly flavoured than Dijon mustard, which is made from black or brown mustard seeds and white wine.

On the Lighter Side

In the desk drawer of a retired accountant was this note: "Debits in the column toward the file cabinet. Credits in the column toward the window."

Wooley caterpillar: a worm in a fur coat.

The town I live in is so small, the road map is actual size.

What did one octopus say to another? I want to hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand.

Terry: "Say something soft and sweet."

Jerry: "Marshmallow."

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. South Africa 2. A trossseau 3. A yurt 4. Fruit 5. Six

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