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Recipe of the month

Pumpkin Spice Cupcakes

2 cups sugar
1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
4 large eggs, room temperature
1 cup canola oil
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1 cup raisins

Cream Cheese Frosting:
1/3 cup butter, softened
3 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups confectioners' sugar
1/2 cup chopped walnuts, toasted

Prep Time: 30 min. Bake: 30 min + cooling Yield: 2 dozen

- Preheat oven to 350°. Beat sugar, pumpkin, eggs and oil until well blended. In another bowl, whisk next seven ingredients; gradually beat into pumpkin mixture. Stir in raisins.
- Fill each of 24 paper-lined muffin cups with 1/4 cup plus 1 teaspoon batter. Bake until a toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean, 28-32 minutes. Cool 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.
- For frosting, beat butter and cream cheese until smooth. Beat in vanilla. Gradually add confectioners' sugar. Frost cupcakes; sprinkle with walnuts. Refrigerate.

Source: www.tasteofhome.com

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Est. 1988

Vol. 18 No. 41 October 11, 2021

Everybody's Talking

Countless cookies: Those looking for fancy cookies to wrap up and give to friends, or to devour themselves, need look no further than Lorena's Sweets. The brand is the brainchild of Costa Rican confectioner, Lorena Rodriguez, whose collection has something for everyone. Rodriguez always loved baking cookies, and her husband convinced her to go into business. Now, she has many molds for a wide variety of shapes, which she ornately decorates with fondant. Buyers can order any shape, from a horse on a carousel to the Eiffel Tower to a grandfather clock. The options are almost limitless!

Caring for raccoons: There are dog whisperers and horse whisperers, and now Canada has its very own raccoon whisperer. His name is James Blackwood, and his home is near the forest in the province of Nova Scotia. Back in 1999, his late wife, Jane, rescued an injured raccoon, nursing it back to health and releasing it. The cute mammal returned for food, along with its babies. That was the beginning of the couple's daily ritual of feeding the raccoons. Before she died nearly 20 years ago, Jane asked James to keep caring for the raccoons, and he's been doing it ever since, often posting videos on social media.

Bowling news: The sport of bowling will never be the same again! An entrepreneur from Southfield, Michigan (U.S.), has come up with an interesting idea: a mobile bowling alley. Terence Jackson Jr. calls his creation Luxury Strike Bowling. A two-lane bowling alley is built inside the trailer of a 53-foot (16-metre) semi-truck. The inside is decorated with colourful lights, a theatre screen, and elevated seating. The game played is "duckpin," which employs shorter lanes and lighter weight balls than the five- or 10-pin varieties. The bowling-alley-on-wheels is available for parties and events.

Yellow tree: Needing to make a reservation to see a tree is unusual, but that is the case in China's Shaanxi Province. At a temple in the Zhongnan Mountains stands a 1,400-year-old ginkgo biloba tree. The reason this specimen is so popular is the beautiful scene that ensues when it starts to lose its leaves. The leaves turn a brilliant yellow-gold, making them look as though they were painted by a giant artist's brush. The fallen leaves surround the tree in a sea of yellow. The sight attracts so many tourists that, to avoid large crowds, people must reserve the day and time of their visit.

Quoteable Quotes

"To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom." —Bertrand Russell
"I cannot and will not cut my conscience to fit this year's fashion." —Lillian Hellman

What's Happening

Sept 18 to Oct 17-Vegreville Corn Maze A family-friendly corn maze experience. Enjoy themed weekends featuring everything from pony rides to live music. All in support of local non-profit organizations. These are tentative dates. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/vegrevillecornmaze> for details.

Oct 5 to 26-Kids Zone Tuesdays form 10:45 - 12:45. \$2.00 per child. Inflatable Bounce House, Toys, Ball and Sports Equipment. 780-639-6400. Reid Field House

Workplace Bullying Awareness Week 2021 Please join us for Workplace Bullying Awareness Week! Follow awarenessendsbullying to participate in the conversation and share what you are doing!

Oct 1 to 31-The Haunted Hike It's scary good time at this one-of-a-kind Haunted House located in a giant warehouse in Vegreville. Do not miss this event, open every weekend in October. This is a tentative date. Exact dates and hours TBA. www.thehauntedhike.ca

NON profit organizations may submit events for FREE at www.coffee-news.ca/whats-happening

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Trivia

1. Machu Picchu is located high in the mountains of what country?
2. Oregano and basil come from the mint family of herbs—T/F?
3. A zax is used to cut _____ ?
4. What male actor played the lead role in the movie The Shining?
5. Where are the mouth and eyes of the stargazer fish located?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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(Over)

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Camille Snow of Edmonton

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES
(March 21 - April 20)

Your aura may lead you to help you find answers. You could be at the right place at the right time. Your ideas might fit in well with the hum of community activities. Lucky Numbers: 6, 15, 26, 32, 38, 48.

TAURUS
(April 21 - May 21)

You may need to work a little harder to find a good compromise for everyone. Take the time necessary to research some fascinating adventures, far away from home. Lucky Numbers: 13, 27, 28, 34, 38, 42.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)

You may feel as if your head is full to overflowing. By focusing on the tasks at hand, you might find deeper meanings in things. Others could react well to your success. Lucky Numbers: 5, 6, 12, 21, 23, 40.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 22)

Your patience and understanding may enable you to grow. You might find new interests to lead you, and you could branch out to reach a larger audience. Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 25, 30, 31, 35.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug. 23)

You may want to look past the immediate to find some old treasures that fit your style. Decorating your surroundings might be a great way to express yourself. Lucky Numbers: 7, 18, 27, 29, 43, 45.

VIRGO
(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Your immediate plans may include a little bit of rest and relaxation. Take time to rejuvenate yourself and get started on a new regime of healthy eating and exercise. Lucky Numbers: 15, 29, 30, 31, 46, 49.

LIBRA
(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Your intellectual curiosity and mental restlessness may combine, and your mood to socialize could be high. You might be more than ready to commit to a relationship. Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 21, 27, 34, 47.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You may be able to communicate with great conviction. You might also be very effective and could find yourself in the position to bring others around to your point of view. Lucky Numbers: 1, 4, 13, 23, 33, 43.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

You simply may not be seeing people very objectively. You may be a little infatuated with someone, only to be sad when you discover who they really are. Lucky Numbers: 14, 19, 23, 25, 34, 41.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Finding a more positive perspective may provide you with a real boost. Your sense of well-being could become quite fragile if you continue to dwell on the negative. Lucky Numbers: 14, 15, 42, 44, 48, 46.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Whatever you decide to pursue, you may do so with great intensity. Your focus might depend on your personal interests. You could feel empowered to reach many goals. Lucky Numbers: 32, 37, 42, 47, 48, 49.

PISCES
(Feb. 20 - March 20)

A spontaneous inspiration may prove to be very beneficial to your life. You might have an opportunity to directly pitch your ideas to those who can make things happen. Lucky Numbers: 20, 24, 26, 30, 34, 36.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Scorpio winners with the luckiest number being 13.

Did You Know...

Trained mechanic: If your car broke down in the 1940s, you could have asked the future queen of England to fix it. Queen Elizabeth II was 18 when she joined the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service and trained to become a mechanic and military truck driver.

No brainer: Woodpeckers can slam their beaks against a tree up to 20 times per second without suffering brain damage because of their unusual skull and tongue structures. They have impact-absorbing adaptations other birds lack.

Margherita pizza: Many theories suggest how the Margherita pizza got its name, but the most common is that it is named after Queen Margherita of Savoy. She was visiting Naples and asked a local pizza maker (or pizzaiolo) to make something special for her.

No pockets: Women's fashions seldom included pockets until the mid- to late 1800s. One theory is that pockets represented independence, as did the pants that women started to wear around the same time.

Invisible plant: Fritillaria grows in the Himalayan Mountains, but the plant camouflages itself against rocky backgrounds and can be hard to find. Used for over 2,000 years to make a cough treatment, the plant evolved to hide itself to avoid being picked.

On the Lighter Side

Two men meet on opposite sides of a river. One shouts to the other, "I need you to help me to the other side." The other guy says, "You are on the other side."

Old refrigerators never die. They just lose their cool.

Did you hear about the new dance called the "Elevator"? It has no steps.

Why shouldn't you write with a broken pencil? Because it would be pointless.

What about the guy who stole calendars? He got 12 months.

Answers: 1. Peru 2. True 3. Slate 4. Jack Nicholson 5. Top of the head

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