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Recipe of the month

Pumpkin Spice Cupcakes

2 cups sugar	1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin	1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
4 large eggs, room temperature	1 cup raisins
1 cup canola oil	Cream Cheese Frosting:
2 cups all-purpose flour	1/3 cup butter, softened
2 teaspoons baking powder	3 ounces cream cheese, softened
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon baking soda	2 cups confectioners' sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt	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



Vol. 18 No. 42 October 18, 2021

Everybody's Talking

Hungry owls: No one wants to use chemical pesticides to protect crops, and apple farmers in Japan don't have to. That's because a natural predator is available to help keep their orchards free of field voles. That predator is the Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*). These birds build nests in the hollows of trees near the orchards, and farmers even supply manmade structures to attract them. The night hunters do swift work of nabbing voles, which can do considerable damage to apple trees and cut into the profits of the farm.

Inked all over: Some people get a tattoo (or two) somewhere on their bodies, but Kerstin Tristan decided to get her whole body tattooed. The grandmother from Leipzig, Germany, started on her tattoo odyssey in 2015 when she got her first one. Now, her arms, legs, torso, hands, and feet are almost completely covered. The tattoos range from flowers to butterflies to women's faces to leopard spots to strings of pearls. Tristan has spent, so far, about 30,000 Euro on her body art, and she doesn't regret it. She intends to keep filling the blank spots with more tattoos.

Mural mandate: A mural on the side of a building in Warsaw, Poland, helps clear the air of pollutants. Located near a busy metro station, the mural is made of special photocatalytic paint that lures pollutants from the air. The pollutants are then changed into harmless particles, which are washed away when it rains. The mural features flowers with smiling faces, with the foliage wrapped around tall buildings. The project was part of the City Forests campaign. Several other cities around the world are part of the movement, including Bogotá, Columbia; Johannesburg, South Africa; and Melbourne, Australia.

Cat lady: A woman who lives in Muscat, Oman, is a true animal lover. In fact, she loves animals so much that her home has become a shelter for homeless cats and dogs. Maryam al-Balushi didn't always appreciate animals. Her affection for felines began in 2008 when her son brought home a Persian cat, which she grew to adore. She started taking pity on strays, and today she has nearly 500 cats and about a dozen dogs. It costs almost \$8,000 per month for food and vet care, which at first she paid herself, but now donors help her with the bills. She hopes everyone will understand that animals need to be treated with compassion.

Quoteable Quotes

"We heed no instincts but our own." —Jean de La Fontaine
"Tell him to live by yes and no—yes to everything good, no to everything bad." —William James

What's Happening

Sept 13-Old Tyme Fiddling Weekly, Monday Group Lessons - Beginner The Wild Rose Old Tyme Fiddlers Association is offering weekly adult beginner group fiddle lessons commencing September 13, 7:00-8:00 pm. Pleasantview Hall, 10860-57 Avenue, Edmonton. For more information, or to register, call Ava at 780-962-8857.

Oct 17-Devon Monthly Arts Market Throughout COVID, our Artists have been couped up. Imagine what they've created! Come check out our local artists, craftspeople and artisans each month at the Devon Community Center, 20 Haven Ave, Devon. The Market runs from noon to 4 pm. Free to attend

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

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Trivia

1. Which country produces the most tea in the world—China, India, or Sri Lanka?
2. One fathom is equal to 6 ft., 8 ft., or 12 ft.?
3. What is a chanterelle?
4. The Caladrius, the Phoenix, and the Roc are types of what?
5. What creates a phenomenon called a fogbow or white rainbow?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)
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