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Everybody's Talking

Staying fresh: Imagine buying grapes at the grocery store and being able to keep them fresh for several months. Farmers in Afghanistan employ an age-old method to do just that. It's called gangina, a technique that involves using two layers of wet soil as a container for the fruit. The soil, which is formed into the shape of a saucer, is dried in the sun, and the grapes are sealed inside. The airtight saucer is then stored in a cool place, sometimes even underground. The fresh grapes placed inside the container must not be spoiled, squashed, or broken, or the rest of the healthy grapes will spoil as well.

Tiny fruit: Coconuts, those large balls with the brown shells and the white milk and meat hidden inside, bring thoughts of warm climes and interesting cuisine. But big, familiar coconuts aren't the only variety available. A relative of the coconut is the coquito. This marble-sized fruit is also called pigmy coconut or dwarf coconut, and grows on Jubaea chilensis palm trees that are common in Chile. Unlike the fruit, these trees are huge and can live for many decades. The tiny fruit looks and tastes like its bigger counterpart, but doesn't have milk inside the shell. A coquito can be used in a variety of dishes, including desserts, snacks, and drinks.

Wild chickens: There are feral cats and there are feral dogs, but feral chickens? On the Hawaiian island of Kauai (U.S.), these wild birds do, indeed, exist. They can be found everywhere, from the beach to the street to parking lots, which is an odd sight for visitors who are accustomed to seeing chickens in chicken coops. According to the locals, these free-roaming chickens and roosters came into existence after two hurricanes in the 1980s and 1990s wrecked the coops. The homeless domestic birds then mated with other wild fowl already on the island, leading to a poultry population boom.

Water tower home: Lots of people make homes out of abandoned buildings, such as old churches or schoolhouses. But a pair of cousins from Nieuw-Lekkerland, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands, made a unique transformation. They turned an unused water tower into a home. The cousins are Sven and Lennart de Jong, who lived near the tower as children. When the tower came on the real estate market, they bought it, then spent 10 years making it into beautiful living quarters with their own hands. In the middle of the renovation, they both met and married their spouses, both of whom loved the idea. Now, the two couples and their children each have their own living spaces in their distinctive home.

Quoteable Quotes

"Common sense is not so common." —Voltaire
 "The whole secret of the study of nature lies in learning how to use one's eyes." —George Sand

What's Happening

Dec 3 - Christmas Drive Thru Parade The Parade will be held on 1st avenue with floats entering on 54th street, and parking on the south side of 1st ave. The drive by of vehicles will start at 6pm until 8pm. This is a drive thru parade only, walking by will not be permitted.

Oct 1 to Dec 3-Free Fall Programs for All Ages Drayton Valley Library is offering a full line up of free programming for all ages. Most programs start in October. Visit www.draytonvalleylibrary.ca to find out more about book clubs, art programs, kids programs, movie nights, game nights, and more.

Dec 4-Christmas Farmers Market Leduc Recreation Center, 4330 Black Gold Drive.

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

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Recipe of the month

Chocolate Covered Strawberry Christmas Trees

12 ounces dark green candy melts
 1 pound of strawberries, stems removed
 24 Oreos
 white icing
 sprinkles
 candy stars

Icing:
 2 1/2 cups powdered sugar
 3 tablespoons heavy cream
 Add water by the teaspoon and whisk until the desired consistency is reached. You want it to be thick like toothpaste.

Prep Time: 15 min. Cook Time: 10 min. Yield: 24

- 1 Set a heat proof bowl over a small pot of simmering water on the stovetop (double boiler). Slowly melt the candy melts in the bowl, stirring occasionally. Do not allow moisture to come in contact with the candy.
- 2 Spoon or pipe a small amount of icing onto the top of each Oreo. This will adhere the strawberry to the cookie base.
- 3 Once candy melts are fully melted, turn the heat to low while you dip the strawberries using a toothpick inserted into the cut end.
- 4 Shake off excess candy coating gently. Using a second toothpick inserted into the pointed end of the dipped strawberry, carefully place the strawberry on top of the icing on the Oreo.
- 5 Decorate with sprinkles and a candy star while the candy coating is still wet. It will usually dry in about 10 minutes.

Source: <https://lovelylittlekitchen.com>

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