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Recipe of the month

Festive Guacamole Appetizers

2 tubes (8 ounces each) refrigerated seamless crescent dough sheet
 1-1/2 teaspoons taco seasoning, divided
 20 pretzel sticks, broken in half
 4 ounces cream cheese, softened

1 cup guacamole
 2 medium sweet yellow peppers
 1 medium sweet red pepper
 1 medium green pepper
 Chopped fresh cilantro, optional

Prep Time: 1 hour Bake: 10 min. + cooling Yield: 40

- Preheat oven to 375°. On an ungreased baking sheet, unroll one tube of crescent dough and press into a 13x8-in. rectangle. Prick with a fork; sprinkle with 3/4 teaspoon taco seasoning. Repeat with remaining dough and seasoning.
- Bake until golden brown, 10-12 minutes. Transfer to wire racks to cool completely.
- Cut each rectangle crosswise to make 4 strips (about 8x4-in.). For trees, cut each strip into 5 triangles, reserving scraps at each end for another use. For trunks, insert a pretzel piece into the base of each triangle.
- Beat cream cheese and guacamole until smooth; spread over trees. Halve and seed peppers. Cut 40 stars from yellow peppers using a 3/4-in. star-shaped cookie cutter. Dice and julienne remaining peppers for tree decorations. Decorate trees with pepper pieces and, if desired, cilantro. Refrigerate until serving.

Source: <https://www.tasteofhome.com>

Everybody's Talking

Faking it: A Chinese art student graduated from Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing after completing an interesting, although controversial, three-week-long experiment on capitalism and consumerism. Zou Yaqi figured out how to live for free in Beijing, and she did it by disguising herself as a rich socialite. By doing so, she managed to sleep on comfy couches in an airport VIP lounge, eat at free buffets, and use saunas and steam rooms at fancy hotels. When she was criticized for abusing the system, she stood her ground, emphasizing that her actions had nothing but artistic intent. After graduation, she landed a job with an art agency, and is planning more socially engaged art.

Shell shocked: Anegada is one of the British Virgin Islands in the Caribbean Sea, where Indigenous people lived for over 1,000 years. Just east of this beautiful sand and coral place is a man-made phenomenon called Conch Island, which has been centuries in the making. It consists of thousands of conch shells discarded by generations of fishermen. The piles of shells rise as much as 10 feet above the water. Conch meat is a traditional meal in the Caribbean, where these marine creatures have been harvested for eons. Some shells extricated from the bottom of the huge mountain date back to 1245 CE. The white-and-pink-shell island is a curiosity for tourists, where beachcombing is not necessary for finding shells!

Portuguese hideaway: Visitors to Portugal should not miss making a stop in Porto, an old city on the northern coast and the second largest in the country. In the medieval district of Ribeira, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, tourists will find narrow cobblestone streets, cafes, and shops. The eight-bedroom Guest House Douro has views of the River Douro and the spectacular Dom Luís I Bridge. This structure was designed by Théophile Seyrig, a one-time associate of Eiffel Tower engineer Gustave Eiffel. The Guest House Douro is the first of its kind to be located in this World Heritage Site location.

Floral fragrance: It appears that it's possible for women to have a natural, perfume-like scent emanating from their skin. At least, that is what two Vietnamese women claim. One of the women, Dang Thi Tuoi, discovered that when she rubs her skin, it releases a floral scent. The smell is stronger in the evening, when it can be detected by people in her immediate vicinity. After her claims were reported on social media, another Vietnamese woman described a similar phenomenon. Some bodily odors can indicate various conditions or diseases, but these women's experiences are unusual. Obviously, the two don't need to buy expensive perfumes!

Quoteable Quotes

"A party without a cake is really just a meeting." —Julia Child
 "You just gotta keep going and fighting for everything, and one day you'll get to where you want." —Naomi Osaka

What's Happening

Jan 28 - Swimming and Snowflakes Come down and embrace the chilly weather at the Bioclean aquatic Center. The pool will be transformed into a winter wonderland with decorations, DJ, lights, free hot chocolate and more! For more info call 780-875-4497

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Trivia

1. This German zeppelin crashed on May 6, 1937.
2. _____ is the longest river in Australia.
3. The Olympic motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius—Communiter" means what?
4. Which two planets in our solar system do not have moons?
5. The Wizard of Oz was written by Lewis Carroll, L. Frank Baum, or C.S. Lewis?

(Flip bottom of page for answers)

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Reader of the Month
 Heath Bowen from Grande Prairie

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Your Weekly Horoscope

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Someone in your circle of family and friends may present you with an opportunity right now. Try not to let a past issue keep you from at least considering it. Lucky numbers: 1, 3, 6, 14, 18, 28.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

An opportunity may suddenly emerge. Examine it carefully to be sure it isn't too good to be true. If it is still available in a few weeks, perhaps consider it again. Lucky numbers: 4, 8, 28, 38, 42, 47.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Your natural ability to tap into unseen information about people and situations may be heightened early this week. Before acting, think through how to use it fairly for all involved. Lucky numbers: 13, 15, 17, 22, 31, 36.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

This may be a good week to analyze and decide options for successfully completing your current projects. You can then begin to plan new activities for the next six months. Lucky numbers: 17, 20, 21, 26, 30, 37.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 23)

Your heart and mind might be well balanced at the week's end. This may be a good time to reconsider a decision, if you can now see a positive path of resolution. Lucky numbers: 2, 9, 10, 12, 34, 40.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Virgos are known for being grounded and practical. Now, though, you may be focused on what it means to be fortunate in life and how to create that for yourself. Lucky numbers: 16, 25, 39, 42, 44, 46.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Libras often focus on the needs of others above their own. However, an important focus for you right now may be on how to nurture yourself and secure what you need. Lucky numbers: 5, 9, 12, 30, 31, 41.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Your public reputation or your legacy may be something you need to address right now. If so, look for clues to a solution in the remnants of an unresolved past situation. Lucky numbers: 3, 6, 11, 23, 27, 34.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Recently the astrological energy has been heavily focused on Capricorn. That may have created a stressful vibration for you. You might try to positively incorporate it, or just ride it out. Lucky numbers: 6, 8, 17, 25, 29, 35.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

You may encounter problems now with cars, computers, or other instruments of technology, as well as communicating with others. Try to hang on; this should pass in a few weeks. Lucky numbers: 10, 11, 16, 20, 24, 32.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You are entering a period where you may be focused on relationships. It could be a good time for a conversation, but be careful when going back over old territory. Lucky numbers: 15, 17, 19, 22, 28, 44.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20)

Pisces is often happiest swimming in the waters of the unconscious. This week, though, a focus on the mundane world may reveal an interesting opportunity. Give it careful consideration before acting. Lucky numbers: 12, 13, 21, 25, 34, 42.

Lucky numbers this week: This week's odds favour Cancer winners with the luckiest number being 17.

Did You Know...

Magma to lava: When the hot molten rock in a volcano, called magma, erupts, it is called lava. Lava can be thick and sticky, or it can be like a runny liquid. It's dangerous and burns everything in its path.

Roof no-no: Pressure washers work well for lots of jobs around the house. But don't pressure wash a roof with asphalt shingles. The pressure will remove the granules on the shingles, which are needed to protect the roof.

Pet pig: For the right person, a pig can make a good pet. They are affectionate, clean, and smart, and can actually learn to do tricks. And, because they have hair rather than fur, they're not as likely to bother people with allergies.

Sunny flag: The flag of Argentina consists of two light blue horizontal rectangles, with a white strip in between that contains a stylized golden sun. It was first raised in 1812, with the sun being added in 1818.

New name: Dionne Warwick's last name is actually Warrick. The American rhythm and blues singer's last name was misspelled as "Warwick" on a 1962 recording of a Burt Bacharach song, and she kept the new moniker from then on.

On the Lighter Side

"This job isn't for everyone," said the scarecrow. "But hay, it's in my jeans."

Ned: "What is the best way to carve wood?"
Fred: "Whittle by whittle."

How did the panda do in school? He bearily made it.

Never marry a tennis player. To them, love means nothing.

Knock! Knock! *Who's there?* Summertime. *Summertime who?* Summertime you can be really funny!

Answers

Trivia answers: 1. The Hindenburg 2. The River Murray 3. "Faster, Higher, Stronger—Together" 4. Mercury and Venus 5. L. Frank Baum

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