



MEMORIES MUSINGS

By Cheri Sims

Cheri lives, writes and gardens in Charleston.

Just how did the cute and cuddly rabbit become associated with Easter? Yahoo states, "One theory, according to Time, is that the symbol of the rabbit stems from the ancient pagan tradition believed to have started the celebration of Easter, the festival of Eostre, which honored the goddess of fertility and spring." Having read this interpretation I preceded to numerous other web sites to investigate other theories, most which have apparently been quoted History.com which states:

"The exact origins of this mythical mammal are unclear, but rabbits, known to be prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life. According to some sources, the Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." I don't know how many web pages I read but they all state the same thing which leads me to believe that the origins are

truly unclear.

Queen Victoria popularized the Easter egg hunt as reported by an English heritage research site:

"As a child the future Queen Victoria enjoyed egg hunts at Kensington Palace. These were put on by her mother, the German-born Duchess of Kent. On Sunday 7 April 1833, the 14-year-old Princess Victoria wrote in her diary: 'Mama did some pretty painted & ornamented eggs, & we looked for them'. Victoria and Albert continued this German tradition, hiding eggs for their own children to find on Maundy Thursday. Albert was responsible for hiding the eggs, concealing them in 'little moss baskets' and hiding them around the palace. Victoria made numerous references to these egg hunts in her journals, including in 1869 when she wrote: 'After breakfast, the children, as usual on this day looked for Easter eggs.'" <http://blog.english-heritage.org.uk/>

I have always had a fascination with Easter eggs beginning with the

pretty ones my parents made when I was a child to the world famous Russian Faberge eggs. I was working at Carson Pirie Scott in Decatur one Easter and the window display manager designed a beautiful Easter display window with huge pictures of Faberge eggs as backdrops. He was an excellent artist as well as a window designer and he also made a mock up of one of the eggs which sat in the center of the corner window of the store; thus allowing traffic and pedestrians to view the egg from all directions. Not only was the art work on the egg beautiful and intricate he had also embellished it with sequins, pearls and strips of velvet. A few years later Hubby created a two foot egg for our store, "Pickwick" that was on the Charleston Square. His egg was just as good as the one I just described above and we received rave reviews for our Easter window.

Did you know?

The largest Easter egg ever made was over 25 feet high and weighed over 8,000 pounds. It was built out of chocolate and marshmallow and supported by an internal steel frame.

Peeps are the most popular Easter candy.

In Finland, children dress up as witches on Easter Sunday. Children in Finland dress up like witches and hop around the

neighborhood in search of chocolate eggs and treats on Easter Sunday.

Over 180 million eggs are sold at Easter, in the United States alone. That is a lot of hard boiled eggs and deviled eggs. Mom and I love deviled, but none of the men in our family liked them. Hubby and son would not touch a deviled egg because they contain either mustard or mayonnaise. Here are a couple deviled egg filling recipes you might like to try.

Happy Easter!

Canadian Maple Deviled Egg Filling

- * 8 eggs
- * 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- * 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- * 48 small cubes of red bell pepper (for the eyes and nose)
- * 32 slices of radishes (for the ears)
- * 16 chives stems, cut in 4 (for the mustaches)
- * Salt and freshly ground pepper
- * In the food processor bowl, combine egg yolks, mayonnaise, maple syrup, salt and pepper. Reduce to a smooth purée.
- * Using two small spoons stuff each half-egg with the filling and place on a serving platter. <https://maplefromcanada.ca/>

Chili Crab Deviled Eggs

Ingredients

- * 6 large eggs, boiled and peeled
- * 2 tbsp Hellmann's Real Mayonnaise
- * 1 tsp grainy Dijon mustard
- * 1 tsp yellow mustard (Spicy Crab Topping)
- * 1/3 to 1/2 cup jumbo lump crab meat
- * 1 tsp Hellmann's Real Mayonnaise
- * 1 tsp lemon juice
- * 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
- * 1 dash paprika
- * A few squirts Sriracha (to taste)

Directions

1. Slice your eggs in half, length-wise. Wipe your knife off between each slicing to avoid getting yellow yolk smears all over your egg whites.
2. Gently spoon egg yolks into a small bowl.
3. Add mustards and mayo to the bowl, and mash with a fork until mixture is smooth and uniformly creamy and yellow. For smoothest results, use a food processor or blender. (I don't like having to clean either of those, so I always just mash by hand.)
4. Divide yolk filling evenly between your egg halves (with a spoon, or a piping bag for prettier results). Set aside.
5. In another small bowl, mix together your crab, mayo and lemon juice.
6. Season with cayenne pepper, paprika, and Sriracha to taste, then mix well. (Some people might prefer their crab mixture to be a little spicier, so it's re-

ally up to you how much of everything to use here!) <https://www.justputzing.com/>

Avocado-Tarragon Deviled Eggs

These little devils may be a departure from the traditional St. Patrick's Day treat, but the avocado gives them the green color you want, and your guests will appreciate this unique twist on deviled eggs.

Ingredients:

- * 12 hard-cooked eggs, peeled with yolks separated
- * 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- * 1 1/2 teaspoons rice wine vinegar
- * 1 1/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- * 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt
- * 1 1/2 ripe avocados
- * 3 3/4 teaspoons fresh lime juice
- * Dash of hot sauce
- * 1 teaspoon dried tarragon
- * Salt & pepper to taste
- * Fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves

Yield: 24 deviled eggs

Directions

Combine the yolks, mayonnaise, rice wine vinegar, Dijon mustard and a dash of salt. Mash the avocados and lime juice together and add in to your deviled egg mixture. Add a touch of hot sauce and tarragon for a final kick and you're ready to pipe these deviled eggs in no time. Garnish with the parsley. <https://meggmaker.com/>

USDA Invests \$654,800 to improve rural community facilities and services

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Acting State Director Molly Hammond today announced that USDA is investing \$654,800 to improve emergency response community facilities to benefit residences served by the Salem Fire Protection District. This funding is part of a \$156 million nationwide package to support health-care-related improvements and emergency response services that will benefit nearly 1 million rural residents in nine states and Puerto Rico.

"USDA is playing a pivotal role to assist rural communities in these unprecedented times in Illinois," Hammond said. "Our

programs are in an excellent position to help those facing challenges caused by the pandemic and day-to-day common needs as well. Our offices are proud to continue to meet those challenges head-on."

Background:

USDA is investing in 41 projects through the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program throughout the United States, with one in Illinois. This assistance will fund emergency response vehicles, nursing homes, and equipment, improving essential community services.

These investments are going to Alabama, California, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, New York, Ohio, South Dakota, Virginia, Vermont, Washington and Puerto Rico.

Below is the project announced in Illinois today:

- * This Rural Development investment to the Salem Fire Protection District will be used to purchase a side-mount, 2,000-gallon pumper truck. The truck will replace one that is 33 years old and in need of costly repairs. The department serves a 125-square-mile area that includes Stevenson, Haines, Racoon, Tonti and Alma townships.
- More than 100 types of projects are eligible for Community Facilities funding.

Eligible applicants include municipalities, public bodies, nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Native American tribes. Projects must be in rural areas with a population of 20,000 or less.

Interested parties should contact their USDA Rural Development state office for information about additional funding, application procedures and eligibility details. Also see the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program Guidance Book for Applicants (PDF, 669 KB) for a detailed overview of the application process.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, Tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our GovDelivery subscriber page.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming

America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, ensuring access to healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate, smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

LLC Phi Theta Kappa earns five star status for the third year in a row

For the third consecutive year, Lake Land College's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter earned Five Star Chapter status. The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society is an international organization that ranks campus chapters on a five star system. Completion of an Honors in Action project addressing a need in the community and on campus is required as a final step in advancing to five star status distinction.

"We are extremely ecstatic to be recognized as a Five Star Chapter," PTK

President Lucas Dudit said. "It gives a sense of the community and the positive Laker mentality at Lake Land College. These honors students are engaging in programs that will help facilitate a brighter future, whether in the workforce or at another university."

This year the Lake Land College PTK chapter chose virtual learning as the topic for the Honors in Action project.

"PTK wanted to be a voice for their peers," Counselor and Faculty Advisor

to the Honors Experience Krista Burrell said. "Each and every student has been impacted by the pandemic and courses being offered in a virtual format. PTK members wanted to know more about how students were succeeding and if they still felt connected to campus. Throughout the process PTK Officers met with groups of Administrators, faculty and students."

Reaching five star status also includes recognizing academic excellence by creating awareness of PTK among the college community, establishing chapter leadership and engagement, developing an Honors in Action project and a college project such as maintaining a chapter Facebook page, increasing the PTK presence on campus and increasing engagement in the region, and submitting three entries in the Hallmark Awards Program.

"This PTK chapter should be very proud," Burrell said. "To earn five stars during a pandemic was no small feat. It took incred-

Lawmaker advances bill to repeal state ban on municipalities measures on rent control

Legislation would allow local governments to impose caps on rent costs

By Tim Kirdininkas
Capitol News Illinois

The House Committee on Housing advanced a bill Wednesday that would allow local municipalities to implement measures regarding rent control.

House Bill 116, introduced by Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, would repeal the state's Rent Control Preemption Act of 1997 and enable local municipalities to impose caps on rent prices.

Guzzardi said the rent control repeal would aim to give more "flexibility" to local municipalities in order to make their own decisions regarding rental costs.

"This law that's on the books right now preempts every municipality in the state of Illinois from passing any ordinance that would

constrain in any way a landlord's ability to raise the rent by any amount," Guzzardi said. "It is a blanket, wide-ranging preemption which I believe simply goes too far."

Guzzardi said he first tried to introduce the measure four years ago as a result of ongoing gentrification efforts in the area he represents in Chicago, which includes the neighborhoods of Logan Square and Portage Park.

Guzzardi told the committee that he had heard stories from low-income constituents who saw their residential units purchased by developers who subsequently increased their monthly rent by as much as 25 to 50 percent.

He said the rent increases were used as "a means of displacing" low-income resi-

dents in favor of higher-income individuals who could afford the higher rents.

"I believe in my heart that it's possible for a municipality to craft an ordinance that would allow landlords to increase rents by modest amounts to keep up with things like property tax and maintenance while also preventing the types of abuses I just described," Guzzardi told the committee on Wednesday.

Proponents of the legislation, including advocates from the Lift the Ban Coalition, said that small landlords and low-income tenants are being "threatened" by economic forces in areas like Chicago.

William Lamme, a landlord in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood and a

TERMITES



BE PROACTIVE!

Call **CristTermite & Pest Solutions, Inc.**

David Crist
217-543-2890
207 N Oak Street, Arthur, IL 61911
<https://cristtermite.com>

