

Mason jar celebrates its 150th

Blueberry Lemonade will make its debut

Guess who's having a 150th birthday this year? The Mason jar.

The world-famous glass jar was invented by tinsmith, John L. Mason, and revolutionized the way people canned everything from pickles and relishes to sauces and fruits.

To celebrate the occasion, **Sweet Leaf Tea**, one of the nation's fastest-growing beverage companies, is launching a new, limited edition Blueberry Lemonade just for the summer. It will be packaged in an authentic, reusable, eco-friendly Mason jar.

The company also will be offering Peach Lemonade in the Mason jars this summer as well.

As the focus on eco-friendly reusable materials increases, the Mason jar — which was patented on Nov. 30, 1858 — is enjoying a renewed relevance in today's society. People are using the famous glass jars with the screw-on metal lids for everything from glasses on the dinner tables to beverage holders in bars and restaurants to pencil holders, piggy banks, votive candle holders and vases.

Mason jars have become collectible. Collectors are buying and selling them at antique stores, and auction sites, including eBay. Most jars bring just a few dollars, but some rare ones

— including some amber-, dark green, cobalt blue- and black-colored ones — have brought as much as \$30,000.

Paula Dean recipe contest

Recipe hounds might be interested in entering the Smithfield and Paula Dean Recipe Contest.

To be eligible, entrants must submit a recipe at www.smithfield.com no later than Sept. 30. Recipes must include at least one of the following Smithfield products: bacon, smoked sausage, lunch meat, smoked chops, ham or fresh pork.

In November, Paula will select the top 10 recipes and post them on www.smithfield.com. Each finalist will receive a 12-piece Paula Dean steel and copper cookware set and will compete for the \$30,000 cash grand prize, and a chance to share their favorite recipe with Paula herself.

All visitors to www.smithfield.com will have the opportunity to vote for the "People's Choice" recipe. Winners will be announced Jan. 15.

Little Taste of Philly relocating

A Little Taste of Philly recently opened in Wacker Plaza. The new location — across from Kennedy Mall — will give them a level of accessibility and exposure unlike that of its previous location in downtown Dubuque.

General manager Aaron Burbach said, "Making the decision to move our store from the people that had supported us for the last three years, was the most difficult decision we've had to make. Ultimately it comes down to the fact that we had limited our ability to properly serve the people of the Dubuque area."

He stressed that the previous location was a good one, but was limited both by space and parking, and that it simply outgrew its home on Rhomberg Avenue.

Along with the location change will be a change of decor. Owners Kurt and Tina Burbach made it a priority to create an environment that will be comfortable and welcoming to everyone. They wanted it to be a place where their customers could feel comfortable in work jeans as well as a suite and tie.

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