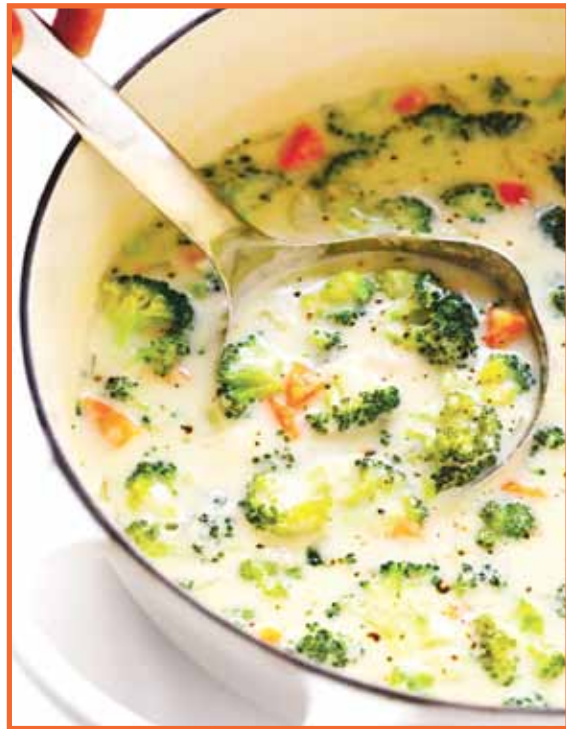


The Mangrove Galley by Sandi Mieszczenski



BROCCOLI - CHEESE SOUP

- 3 stalks of broccoli coarsely chopped; florets only
- 4 oz. sharp Cheddar cheese cut into small cubes
- 2 10-1/2 oz. cans of chicken broth
- 1 large onion medium chopped
- 4 Tbls of butter divided in 2
- 3 Tbls flour
- 1 small carrot medium chopped
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- Fresh ground pepper to taste

In a large sauce pan, melt one half of the butter and sauté the chopped onion until the edges just start to brown. Remove from heat and scrape the onions into a small bowl. Return the pan to a medium heat stovetop and melt the second pad of butter. Add the flour to the butter and whisk until a roux is formed. Whisk for two to three minutes until the flour taste has cooked out. Add the onions back into the pan. Be sure to scrape all of the butter out of the bowl and mix well with the roux. Add the two cans of broth and the broccoli to the pan.

Stir well and bring to a simmer. Cover and cook until the broccoli is just tender; 10 to 15 minutes. Add the garlic and cheese cubes, stir well and turn off the heat. Leave the covered pan on the burner stirring occasionally until just before you are ready to serve. Add the cup of whipping cream, stir, and gently bring back to just short of a boil. Serve with some croutons or cracker crumbles. Serves four. Enjoy!

It is that time of year, that on occasion, the temperature gets down enough to call it soup weather. I know that broccoli is one of those vegetables that people either love or hate, but this soup is tasty, quick and easy.

Sandi's recipes are featured here monthly. For previous issues go to theconchtelegraph.com

IRISH GHOST STORY

This story happened a while ago in Dublin, and even though it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's said to be true.

John Bradford, a Dublin University student, was on the side of the road hitch-hiking on a very dark night and in the midst of a big storm.

The night was rolling on and no car went by. The storm was so strong he could hardly see a few feet ahead of him.

Suddenly, he saw a car slowly coming towards him and stopped. John, desperate for shelter and without thinking about it, got into the car and closed the door ... only to realize there was nobody behind the wheel and the engine wasn't running.

The car started moving slowly. John looked at the road ahead and saw a curve approaching. Scared, he started to pray, begging for his life. Then, just before the car hit

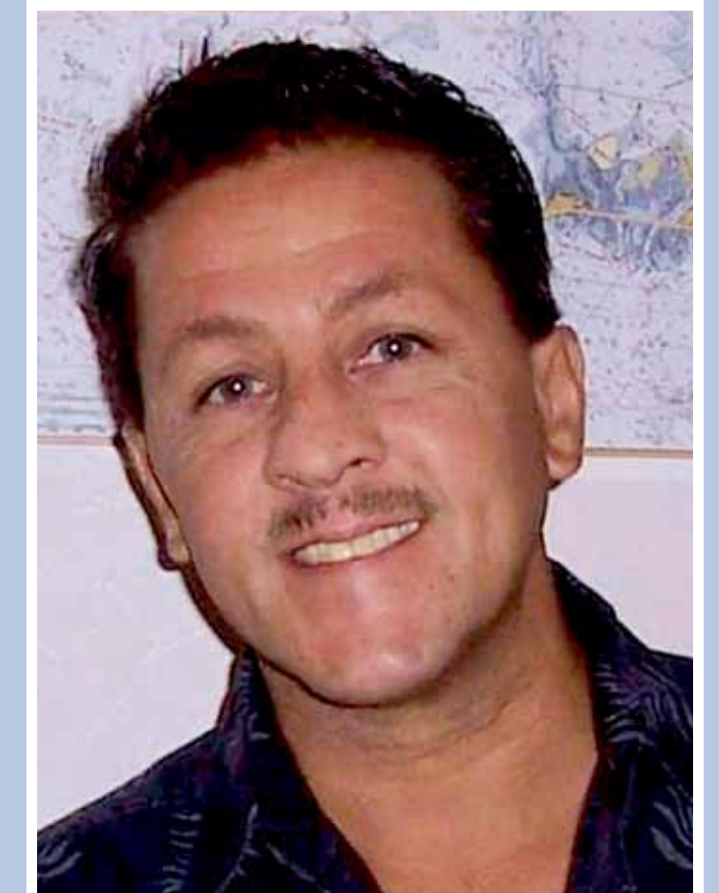
the curve, a hand appeared out of nowhere through the window, and turned the wheel. John, paralysed with terror, watched as the hand came through the window, but never touched or harmed him.

Shortly thereafter, John saw the lights of a pub appear down the road, so, gathering strength, he jumped out of the car and ran to it... Wet and out of breath, he rushed inside and started telling everybody about the amazing experience he had just had.

A silence enveloped the pub when everybody realized he was crying, and wasn't drunk.

Suddenly, the door opened, and two other people walked in from the dark and stormy night. They, like John, were also soaked and out of breath. Looking around, and seeing John Bradford sobbing at the bar, one said to the other...

'Look Paddy there's that idiot that got in the car while we were pushing it!'



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