Centennial

Red, White, **And Blue Trifle**

When you're looking for festive Memorial Day desserts or just an easy summer treat, turn to this red, white, and blue trifle to satisfy your sweet tooth. The key to this patriotic trifle is using fresh, ripe berries. Skip the frozen fruit here. There's no need to toss the berries with extra sugar either; let their natural sweetness and juiciness shine bright! We use blueberries, blackberries, and strawberries, though you can easily swap in raspberries or fresh pitted cherries, too. Just make sure you take a picture of your colorful trifle before digging in!

YIELDS: 8 - 10 serving(s); TIME: 30 mins

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 c. heavy cream
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 lb. pound cake, cubed
- Two 6 oz. containers blueberries (~ 2 cups)
- Two 6 oz. containers blackberries (~ 2.5 cups)
- One 1/2 qt. strawberries, stems removed, sliced

Directions

- 1. Combine the cream cheese and granulated sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer with a paddle attachment. Beat on medium-high speed for 1 to 2 minutes until smooth. Scrape the sides and bottom of the bowl. With the mixer on medium, slowly add the heavy cream and vanilla and mix until combined. Switch to the whisk attachment and whip at medium speed until soft peaks form and the mixture is easy to dollop.
- 2. Place a single layer of cake cubes in a large trifle dish (about 12 to 14 cups). Top with 2/3 of the blueberries and blackberries, then 1/2 of the whipped cream (about 2 cups), then 2/3 of the strawberries. Repeat the cake and cream layers once more, then decorate the top with the remaining berries. Serve immediately or make in advance and store for up to 24 hours in the refrigerator.
 - https://www.thepioneerwoman.com/

May 2024

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Family Mother's Day Activities

TAKE AN AT-HOME TRIP

Even if you can't hop on a flight to Paris for the weekend, Mom can still enjoy a little taste of France (or any other destination that intrigues you). Start by buying some French croissants for breakfast. Then pack a picnic lunch of French bread, cheese, and fruit-or order a meal from your favorite deli or restaurant (quiche, anyone?). For an added touch, adorn your kitchen or dining room table with a red-and-white-checkered tablecloth and fresh flowers, put on some French music, and teach the kids a few basic words in French, such as "bonjour" (good

morning) and "merci" (thank you). Even better? Have your waitstaff do all the food prep and cleaning!



One sentimental way to share family memories is by looking through old photographs or home movies. If you live near Grandma or Grandpa, ask them to pull out old mementos of Mom as a child, and take a trip together down memory lane. The kids will get a kick out of

the styles of clothes their mom wore—not to mention the fact that there may be visible proof that Mom was once a baby, toddler, and teen. And who knows? The clothes Mom rocked in the past just may very well be back in style again!

CREATE A FAMILY COMIC STRIP

Start a new tradition this year by creating a family comic strip. Take a long sheet of paper, and draw three or four large squares next to one another, like a newspaper comic strip. Then, think of an event, celebration, or something funny that happened this past year, and illustrate it with markers, crayons, or paints. Be sure to include dialogue, a date, and a title, such as "Life with the Smiths."

Older children can help with the drawing and writing, while younger kids can dictate their thoughts or help color. Save your comic strip, and create another one next year and others in years to come. When you're ready to compile all of your strips into a book, stack the pages and thread them together with sturdy yarn. Or, go digital and upload them to your favorite photo-sharing website and order a memory book to enjoy together.

HOST A LIP-SYNC CONTEST

Nothing brightens a family celebration quite like music. But if you want to really turn up the fun, stage your own "lip-sync" contest. To begin, each family member will choose a favorite song. Then turn on the music, and have each person lip-sync the words to the song, doing their best to mimic the performer. Other family members can rate the performance from 1 (not at all like the performer) to 5 (exactly like the performer), and write down their score on a card. The person with the highest score wins the contest.

continued on page 3

Etiquette For Dog Parents

Dog parents have a responsibility to manage their pets' behavior and follow certain rules of etiquette. Follow these guidelines to ensure that you and your dog are being courteous community members.

- Scoop your poop. Bring several bags on your walks to be sure you have enough. If you run out, either come back and clean it up later, or ask another walker if they have a bag to spare.
- **Prevent barking.** Practice getting your dog's attention to easily redirect him if he barks at people or other dogs. If you know your dog acts this way, only allow him in the yard when supervised.
- Only let your dog greet a stranger if they ask. The same rule applies if you see another dog and caretaker approaching. Ask first and respect the other's response.
- Always leash your dog on walks. Not everyone is comfortable around dogs. Keep your dog close to you and stay alert to others. Your leash should be short enough to prevent your dog from contacting or jumping on pass-
- **Don't play while on leash.** If you meet another dog on a walk (and it's alright with their caretaker) let the dogs sniff each other for five seconds and move on. Letting your dog play with another dog while on leash can result in injury and teach your dog that all dogs enjoy this kind of interaction, although many don't.
- Beaware of other people's feelings. If your dog does something to upset someone (jumping up, barking) apologize to them and take measures to prevent the situation from reoccurring.

— Animal Humane Society

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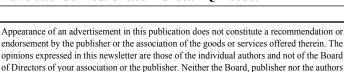
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Newsletter Connections: 303-979-7499 or info@newsletterconnections.com

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To find ad rates and discounts, go to NewsletterConnections.com or scan QR code.



Teen Services

Hire a teen from our neighborhood to help out with household chores. Teens are available for Babysitting, Pet and House Sitting, Lawn Care and Snow Removal.

To add your teen's name, please email Newsletter Connections at info@NewsletterConnections.com and include the following information: the neighborhood you live in, your age, parent email and the categories you would like included. Categories: (B) Babysitting; (*) Red Cross Cert for CPR; (L) Lawn care; (S) Snow removal; (P) Pet & House sitting. No recommendation or endorsement of any of the names on this list is implied or stated by the HOA board or Newsletter Connections.

Honor Memorial Day

While there are many fun things to do on Memorial Day, it's important for everyone to take time this day to reflect on what it means to be an American citizen and what sacrifices our people have made so that we could live freely today.

Learn: One way to honor Memorial Day is to visit a military memorial or museum. Visiting these memorials is a great way to learn more about our history—and what it means!

Show Gratitude: Make a donation to organizations that support veterans – even if it's just \$5! This way, you can provide financial support to veterans or families of troops who have died in service. Another way to show gratitude is through thanking a veteran with a card or letter, donation, or phone call.

Share: Consider taking some time to volunteer or donate your resources on this day. You can volunteer at a veteran's hospital, a nursing home, a local food bank, or a homeless shelter. You can also donate blood to the American Red Cross.

Participate: Here are some other ways to honor the fallen heroes Memorial Day by taking part in traditional activities: Go to a local parade or ceremony and watch as an honor guard carries an American flag for the fallen. Visit a war memorial and pay your respects, whether it's at Arlington National Cemetery or someplace closer to home. Visit any veterans in nursing homes and spend some time talking with them about their experiences. You can also start your own tradition! It could be as simple as writing letters or cards to active duty members of the military. The important thing is that you make the day count by doing something that matters.

> -https://www.viptogo.com/blog ways-to-honor-memorial-day

Family Mother's Day Activities, continued from front page

RECREATE THE SPA AT HOME

At some point on Mother's Day, moms usually want a little rest and relaxation. Make sure they get what they need—and deserve—by creating a list of "spa services" they can choose from. The list could include:

- An hour alone so they can call a friend or soak in the tub
- The opportunity to take a nap
- A massage from their partner or children
- A manicure at their favorite nail salon

The kids can make up coupons with each of these services, and encourage Mom to redeem them throughout Mother's Day.

PLANT SOME FLOWERS

If you have some extra space in your garden, you can create a live Mother's Day canvas. First, buy various packets of flower seeds that grow fast and well in your region. Then have your kids draw a picture or write a short message (like "We love Mom") in the garden dirt with a stick. Drop the flower seeds into the dirt lines; then cover them up, and water every few days. Before long, your picture (or message) will be blooming, and you'll have a Mother's Day gift that keeps on growing.

MAKE SENTIMENTAL ARTWORK

On a warm day, go outside and have your children (and anyone else who's game) place their hands and feet into a shallow tub of colorful, nontoxic paint. Spread out a roll of butcher paper, and encourage everyone to press their hands and feet onto it, leaving their prints behind. Label each handprint and footprint with the person's name, the date, and a special message to Mom, and allow your collective masterpiece to dry. Try this activity again next year, and see how much bigger some hands and feet have become!

READ A GOOD BOOK

For a family storytime, take a blanket outside and leaf through a children's book that's just right for the day, such as The Mother's Day Mice by Eve Bunting, No Time for Mother's Day by Laurie Halse Anderson, Clifford's Happy Mother's Day by Norman Bridwell, or Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman. Mom could also select a childhood favorite, and read it with the kids.

SCHEDULE TIME FOR HUGS

Finally, what would Mother's Day be like without hugs and kisses all around? One way to work them into your day is by setting up a silly "hugs and kisses" schedule and posting it on the refrigerator or other visible spot. For instance, you could write, "10:30 a.m.: Everyone runs around the couch and gives Mom a hug and kiss." or "2:15 p.m.: Everyone hops around the oak tree on one foot and assembles for a group hug."

And when in doubt about what Mother's Day activities are best, don't be afraid to simply ask. Every mom has something special that they will enjoy on their big day, so make it special in a way that's just for them.

-https://www.parents.com/holiday/mothers-day





Memorial Day Activities With Kids _

We're so excited for the summer! The pools are opening, the grill's heating up, and school's winding down. But in the midst of the fun, take a few minutes to teach your family that Memorial Day is a special time to recognize the service men and women who've fought for our country.

Explain the History of Memorial Day

The Memorial Day tradition began around the Civil War, when folks wanted to honor the soldiers who had died in that conflict by decorating their graves. There's some disagreement over whether this started in the south or in Waterloo,



NY, but in either case, the tradition started as Decoration Day. Families would gather together at cemeteries, bringing picnics and remembering, together, those whom they had lost. Gradually Decoration Day became Memorial Day, and in 1971, Memorial Day became a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday of May. While Memorial Day is specifically a holiday to recognize the sacrifices of men and women who have died in combat, many people also spend the day honoring veterans and current service personnel and working for peace and unity with all people.

Watch a Parade or Memorial Service

We have some local parades, and kids love a parade, but you can also take the opportunity to point out traditions and Memorial Day etiquette. Teach children that we stand and

Raising Up Christian Scholars FRONT RANGE Faith-Based **Christian Scholars Education** Christian education is priceless. On top of excellent academics, the faculty and staff at Front Range Christian School poured their lives into teaching students how to bear their hearts, strengthen their souls, and exude Christ-like character. **Robyn Wise Scan For Scan For** Tuition & fees Admissions Information Information Get In Touch 6657 W Ottawa Ave, Littleton, CO 80128, USA Phone: 303-531-4541 @ Email: admissions@frcs.org www.frcs.org take off hats as veterans pass in a parade. Have them look for American flags, and point out that, officially, flags are to be flown at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day as a remembrance. During services you may also see soldiers fire rifles into the air or people throwing flowers into the ocean in memory of those lost at sea. Next time you're at your local town hall or playground, check for a memorial and take time to read it with your kids.

Make a Tasty Treat

Bring cookies or another treat to our neighbor, a World War II veteran. It's wonderful to recognize someone your kids know. But it's also fun to enjoy a treat yourselves! A simple one is a blueberry and strawberry parfait with yogurt, whipped cream, or ice cream. Put them into clear plastic containers to show the patriotic colors, and pop them into the freezer if it's a hot day.

Craft Something Special

Want to slide in a history lesson while keeping little hands busy? You can help kids make a tissue paper poppy while explaining about Memorial Day's origins, then explain that poppies, because they are blood-red, became a symbol of sacrifice during World War I. These are easy to create, and they make a lovely gift.

-https://denver.kidsoutandabout.com





Fun Things To Do In May.

As the sunny, warm days begin to outnumber the chilly ones come May in Colorado, it's natural to want to get outside and enjoy the beautiful spring weather. Seasonal recreation opportunities become more plentiful with melting snow and the reopening of many attractions and roads, so you'll have countless options for things to do.

Camp before it gets too crowded

You can beat the camping crowds at many popular spots around the state. There are still many campgrounds that haven't officially opened for the season quite yet, so research and plan accordingly. May is typically a terrific time to visit the Rockies or camp along the Front Range Urban Corridor without as many people as later in summer. Keep in mind it still gets quite cold in the evenings, so pack your winter clothes.

A lot of the USFS campgrounds at higher elevations may not open until later in the month, but rest assured, there are always places year-round. State parks are usually a safe bet, although finding an available campsite in places near the Denver and Colorado Springs metros such as Cherry Creek or Cheyenne Mountain state parks will be tougher. Keep in mind all of Colorado's state parks require camping reservations in advance.

Celebrate spring at a festival

Festival season is in full swing by the time May comes around, meaning each weekend is filled with fun events for the whole family. If you love art and film, check out the Denver Arts Festival, Film on the Rocks, Mountainfilm In Telluride, or the Mile High International Pastel Exhibition. Find a full list of popular Colorado events happening in May.

Chase a few waterfalls

With all the fresh snow fueling the rivers and creeks around Colorado, waterfalls will be near their peak flow at this time. The water will be too cold to plunge into, but mild May weather means you won't be tired and hot by the time you reach the falls. Be sure to pack some water shoes if you want to explore the riverbeds at the base. There are a variety of choices for your waterfall adventure, some close to home. If you want to stay around the Denver/Colorado Springs area, check out Seven Falls or Helen Hunt Falls in Colorado Springs, or Rainbow Falls in Manitou Springs. Alternatively, head west to places like Rifle Falls State Park.

Tour a working Colorado factory

On those scattered rainy or cold days, head inside for one of the many factory tours Colorado has to offer. This is a great, affordable option (often free) to spend the afternoon, and sometimes you even get a complimentary product out of it. The state is home to many working factories that produce everything from cheese to bikes to craft beer. In Denver, take a peek into the candy-making process at Hammond's Candies to see how your favorite sweets are made. They offer free 30-minute tours daily. Boulder is home to the Celestial Seasonings tea factory, offering daily tours with the chance to taste-test all of their glorious herbal concoctions.

If you want to see how your favorite alcohol is made, head to a brewery, distillery, or winery to get a behind-the-scenes look. Notable ones include the Coor's Brewery in Golden, Wood's High Mountain Distillery in Salida, and Mesa Park Vineyards in Palisade.

-https://www.uncovercolorado.com/



Arapahoe County Real Estate Market Update

Happy Spring everyone! The market is moving along, despite no drop in the interest rates. Most indicators show a market that is staying steady: a strong increase in active listings, an uptick in pending listings, and even a slight decrease in the average days a home stayed in the MLS. The most positive sign when we look back at the March stats in the Denver Metro area is that the average closed price is up about 7% compared to March 2023. The refrain has been the same for the past year and half: this is a reasonable market for both sellers and buyers. Sellers who have given up on the windfall of the "Covid Market" and who prepare and stage their homes before they list, and price reasonably, are selling swiftly and sometimes with more than one offer to choose from. Buyers are able to make offers without always competing with 10-20 others, and are able to get more inspection concessions. This can be a win-win market!

Bike Month

May is National Bike Month. If you don't already have bikes for the family, late spring is a good time to invest in one you can use all summer. Dress up your bikes with Memorial Day decorations like stars and streamers, then head out for a family ride. Add embellishments to your helmets, and wear red, white, and blue for a fun and patriotic ride around town.



Kyla Hammond 720.431.1239



Arapahoe County Market Update

March

	2023	2024	+/-
Active Listings	1,023	1,110	+8.5%
Pending Listings	873	918	+5.2%
New Listings	1,032	1,017	-1.5%
Closed Listings	880	802	-8.9%
Days in MLS	38	37	-2.6%
Median Closed Price	\$509,995	\$535,000	+4.9%
Average Closed Price	\$596,364	\$637,762	+6.9%
% of Closed Price to List Price	99.9%	99.9%	+0.0%

Source: Based on information from REcolorado®, Inc. for the period 3/1/23 - 3/31/23 vs. 3/1/24 - 3/31/24. Not all properties were listed and/or sold by the Brokerage. This representation is based in whole or in part on content supplied by REcolorado®, Inc. REcolorado®, Inc. does not guarantee nor is it in any way responsible for its accuracy. If your home is currently listed with another agent, please disregard this notice as it is not our intention to solicit other broker's listings.

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Bike Month

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Cherrywood Village / May 2024

CHERRYWOOD VILLAGE RECENT SALES

Date Sold	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Beds	Baths	Ttl Sq. Ft.	Parking Total
4/18/24	7744 S Gaylord Way	\$549,900	\$538,500	3	3	2,382	1
12/11/23	1616 E Mineral Avenue	\$685,000	\$645,450	5	3	2,824	2
2/12/24	7820 S High Street	\$675,000	\$635,000	5	3	2,896	2
6/2/23	1996 E Mineral Avenue	\$620,000	\$610,000	4	2	2,200	2
9/15/23	7890 S Race Street	\$599,900	\$585,000	4	3	2,375	4
8/4/23	2360 E Kettle Avenue	\$595,000	\$580,000	5	2	2,200	1
8/14/23	7781 S Race Street	\$585,000	\$560,000	4	3	1,838	1
3/29/24	2156 E Mineral Avenue	\$600,000	\$529,000	4	2	2,200	4
2/1/24	2066 E Mineral Avenue	\$549,900	\$505,000	5	2	2,200	1
9/25/23	1780 E Kettle Avenue	\$501,000	\$500,350	4	2	2,025	2

Based on information from REColorado, Inc. for the period 6/1/23-04/16/24. Not all properties were listed and or sold by Kyla Hammond at Your Castle Real Estate.

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Award-Winning Realtor:

Kyla Hammond is a top producing Realtor in South Suburban Denver. She is in the top 20 agents at Your Castle Real Estate and ranks in the top 5% of all agents. She has won numerous awards for her work and provides outstanding service for her buyers and sellers. Give her a call anytime!

Kyla Is Highly Recommended!

"Working with Kyla Hammond was exceptional. Her expertise, professionalism, and keen insights were truly refreshing. Unlike our previous experience with a less qualified realtor, Kyla went above and beyond merely listing our home. Her innovative approach included captivating photography, a flyover drone video, and tasteful note cards in every room, effectively highlighting the unique features of our home to potential buyers. Without hesitation, we wholeheartedly endorse Kyla and wouldn't consider anyone else for our real estate needs." ~ Jay, Centennial, 2024









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