

Stony Creek News

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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.

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 (about 2 cups)
- Two 6 oz. containers blackberries (about 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/>

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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-checked 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!

SHARE OLD MEMORIES

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.

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This Space Intentionally Left Blank for Teen Services

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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>



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Should I Make The Switch To Solar Panels?

Next month, June, marks the official start of summer – a time when schools break for vacation, BBQs sizzle to life, and electricity bills inevitably climb. This prompts the age-old question: should I add solar panels? While the answer hinges on individual circumstances, here are some key points to consider.

The two most common reasons when adding solar to your home are environmental concerns and financial incentives. Solar energy offers an alternative to fossil fuels, with panels capable of slashing electric bills. What can be overlooked are substantial upfront costs. Solar panel installations can vary widely in price, ranging from \$10,000 to over \$40,000. Homeowners may spend decades paying off their investment before enjoying reduced bills. Luckily, tax incentives are in place to help with this issue.

Solar panels may increase the value of your home. Fully paid panels present an advantage, promoting drastically reduced or even a credit on electric bills. Yet, unpaid panels can complicate selling your home. Problems arise regarding who assumes the remaining lease or payments on the panels. If you are considering selling but have a remaining balance on your solar panels, I would be happy to have a conversation with you on the best way to go about it. There is no obligation, just a simple conversation!

— Rob Stark
Local Columbine Knolls Resident
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Hops In The Park

Craft Brews in Clement Park beer festival! May 11, 2024

Colorado is home to all different sizes and styles of breweries and beers. What better place to enjoy those beers than at scenic Clement Park! Hops in the Park is a festival for ages 21+, featuring beer sampling, food trucks, vendors selling the hottest beer related swag, artist booths, yard games, and entertainment.

This is an Adults Only event, ages 21+ (children, toddlers and babies will not be admitted)

Location: Clement Park, near the Grant Family Amphitheater, off of the Long Street Entrance (7306 W Bowles Ave, Littleton, CO 80123)

What to Expect: Beer tasting from some of your favorite Colorado breweries, food trucks, vendors selling the hottest beer related swag, artist booths, community business booths, yard games, and entertainment.

Ticket Information: Buy Tickets – includes entry into the event, souvenir Hops in the Park taster glass, samples from participating breweries, and access to booths and games at <https://www.ifoohills.org/beerfest/>

Teacher Appreciation Day

National Teacher Appreciation Day is on the Tuesday during first full week in May as a reminder to show appreciation for teachers everywhere. We are using this National Day to say thank you to all teachers for their time and dedication to educate our children.

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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.



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