

Compliments of Jodee Harris

essential living

305

The World's
Coolest Bookstores

Your Backyard

Getaway



Jodee Harris

Vice President, First
Commonwealth Advisors,
Senior Financial Advisor,
Infinex Investments, Inc. •
4509033



\$6.99 Issue #305



Office: 724-832-6181

2501 Sharkys Dr • Latrobe, PA 15650

jharris@fcadvisor.com • www.fcbanking.com/jodee-harris



essential living



Jodee Harris

Vice President, First Commonwealth Advisors, Senior Financial Advisor, Infinex Investments, Inc. • 4509033

Office: 724-832-6181

2501 Sharkys Dr
Latrobe, PA 15650
jharris@fcadvisor.com
www.fcbanking.com/jodee-harris



If you thought you were done with spring cleaning, well, we've found 13 hidden places in homes that could use some TLC. But don't worry, we won't leave you to clean them all by yourself! We have also included some tips and tricks to help get even the most hidden places sparkling clean. Before you start, get an energy boost with our coffee-inspired recipes!

Once you've finally finished with all that cleaning, get out of the house by taking a trip to the coolest bookstores in the world — or create a dream getaway right in your own backyard! Whether you are a budding gardener or an entertainer, we have all the inspiration you need for your new outdoor space.

Finally, every occasion demands dessert! Whether you're welcoming friends over to check out your (very clean) house and new outdoor digs or getting ready to escape into a novel you found at the bookstore, we've hacked classic boxed recipes to create indulgent and delicious desserts for you to enjoy!

— From the Publisher



What's YOUR preferred backyard profile?

Scan the QR code to cast your vote!

Contents

02 Think Outside the Box
The boxed mix is just the start

06 How to Keep Your Dog Happy When You're Not Home
Keep those puppy dog eyes away with these tips and tricks

10 World's Coolest Bookstores
Fascinating places that seem like fiction

14 Backyard Personality Profiles
Create the perfect backyard

19 12 Things You Never Thought to Clean
Don't put the cleaning supplies away yet

22 4 Things You Didn't Know You Could Do With Instant Coffee
Instant coffee recipes anyone can make

26 Is It a Dog?
Don't be fooled by these canine look-alikes!

essential living

CEO

Dan Zdon

Publisher

Josh Kimball

publisher@essentiallivingmag.com

Editorial

Tisha Davis, Creative Director

Emily Schaffer, Executive Editor

Erin Ragan, Editor-in-Chief

editorial@essentiallivingmag.com

Sales

Charlie Wesser, VP of Sales

Mark Douglass, Director of Sales Operations

sales@essentiallivingmag.com

Marketing

Becky Truhler, Marketing Coordinator

marketing@essentiallivingmag.com

Operations

Jonathan Wesser, VP of Operations

Mindy Stansbarger, Production Manager

Ryan Duderstadt, Print Production

Brianna Jahangir, Production Manager,
Marketing Services

Allen Wardell, Client Success Manager

John Matson, HR Manager

Shelly Martin, Controller

operations@essentiallivingmag.com

Partnerships

Bjorn Piltingsrud, VP of Strategy and
Business Development

partnerships@essentiallivingmag.com

© 2023 Essential Living

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the expressed written consent of the publisher.

Essential Living is for information and entertainment purposes only; it is not an attempt to solicit business.

Businesses interested in using *Essential Living* as part of their marketing or outreach program should contact us at 651-259-1944 or find us online at www.essentiallivingmag.com.

Think Outside

THE BOX

Whether you just remembered the bake sale that started in a few hours or your attempt at a homemade cake didn't go as planned, boxed mixes were there to save the day. They require a few basic ingredients and are almost guaranteed to come out just right (if you set the timer).

But did you know boxed mixes can make so much more than the recipe on the back? Instead of thinking of them as an easy solution, think of them as the start to endless dessert possibilities. From elevated chocolate chip cookies to waffles made from cake mix, we have four indulgent recipes that all start with a simple premade mix. They are the perfect way to switch up your favorite dessert or impress your friends with your new baking skills!



Bakery-Worthy

LEMON BLUEBERRY CAKE

Nobody will know this all started with a cake mix!

PREP TIME: 20 MINUTES | **CHILL TIME:** 1 HOUR | **COOK TIME:** 25 MINUTES | **YIELD:** 8 SERVINGS



INGREDIENTS

LEMON CAKE

- 1 15.25-oz. box of white cake mix, sifted
- 1 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 1 3.9-oz. box of instant lemon pudding mix
- 4 eggs, room temperature
- 1 c. water
- ½ c. lemon juice
- 2 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1 tbsp. almond extract
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- Zest from 1 large lemon

FROSTING AND FILLING

- 1 16-oz. can white frosting, room temperature
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 2 tsp. vanilla or almond extract
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ c. powdered sugar

TOPPINGS

- 1 pt. fresh blueberries, rinsed and dried
- 12-oz. jar blueberry jam

INSTRUCTIONS

LEMON CAKE

1. Preheat oven to 350° F and grease two 8" round cake pans, then lightly dust with flour.
2. In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, flour, pudding mix and lemon zest.
3. Next, add the sugar, water, lemon juice, vegetable oil, sour cream, almond extract and vanilla extract.
4. Use an electric mixer to beat for 2 minutes until smooth. Add the eggs and mix for an additional minute.
5. Pour batter into prepared pans and bake for 20-25 minutes.
6. Allow cakes to cool completely.

WHIPPED CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

1. Add the frosting, cream cheese, vanilla and salt into a large bowl and whip for 3-5 minutes on high.

2. Once combined, reduce the speed to low and sift in the powdered sugar. Beat for an additional 2 minutes.

ASSEMBLY

1. Using a large, serrated knife, slice a thin layer off the tops of the cakes to create a flat surface. Place one cake on a cake stand or serving plate.
2. Evenly coat the top of the cake with whipped cream cheese frosting. Then spread a thick layer of jam on top. Add another layer of frosting on top.
3. Place the top layer of cake bottom-side up. Coat the cake with the remaining frosting.
4. Refrigerate for 45 minutes before serving. Top with blueberries and enjoy!

Semi-Homemade

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

These cookies may take a little more time, but they are well worth it!

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES | **CHILL TIME:** 24 HOURS | **COOK TIME:** 10 MINUTES | **YIELD:** 20 COOKIES



INGREDIENTS

- 1 17.5-oz. pouch Betty Crocker Chocolate Chip Cookie mix
- 1 stick butter, melted and cooled
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp. brown sugar
- ½ c. chocolate chips
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add the vanilla to the melted butter and mix.
2. Next, in a large bowl, add the chocolate chip cookie mix, chocolate chips and brown sugar; mix thoroughly.
3. Fold in the butter mixture, egg and egg yolk to the cookie mix. The dough will be soft.
4. Transfer to an airtight container or tightly wrap in saran wrap.
5. Refrigerate for 24 hours.
6. Preheat oven to 350° F and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or a silicone liner.
7. Roll 1-2 tablespoons of dough at a time into balls and evenly place them on your prepared baking sheets.
8. Place both trays in the freezer for 10-15 minutes.
9. Next, transfer the first tray to the oven and bake for 8-10 minutes until golden brown.
10. Remove from oven and place on a cooling rack, then rotate in your next batch.

Chocolate Cake Mix

WAFFLE SUNDAES

The perfect brunch dessert!

PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES | **COOK TIME:** 4-6 MINUTES PER WAFFLE | **YIELD:** 8 WAFFLES

INGREDIENTS

WAFFLES

- 1 15.25-oz. box chocolate cake mix, plus ingredients needed

TOPPINGS

- Chocolate ice cream or your favorite flavor
- Whipped cream
- Store-bought caramel sauce
- Sprinkles
- Fruit of choice

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat waffle iron and spray generously with cooking spray.
2. Mix cake batter according to package instructions. Pour batter into waffle iron. (Waffle irons come in various sizes. Check waffle iron manufacturer's guidelines for recommended amount of batter.)
3. Cook waffles 4-6 minutes each, or 6-8 minutes for crisper waffles. Carefully remove waffles from waffle iron and place them on a wire rack to cool slightly.
4. Spray waffle iron with cooking spray and repeat until all waffle batter is used.
5. Place 1 waffle on a plate. Top with a scoop of ice cream. Drizzle with caramel sauce and top with whipped cream, sprinkles and a cherry. Serve immediately.



HOW TO KEEP YOUR DOG HAPPY WHEN YOU'RE NOT HOME

FIVE
INGENIOUS
IDEAS



If you're lucky enough to have a dog, you know that nothing can make you feel more guilty than their look of disappointment anytime you do something without them. However, as much as we want to hang out with them all day, somebody has to pay the bills. Whether you have to go into the office or someone scheduled a Zoom call during walk time, we have five ingenious ideas for keeping canines entertained and out of trouble while you attend to human things.



1. KEEP TOYS IN ROTATION

Rotating what toys your dog plays with will help keep even the oldest squeakers “new” and exciting. Only put out a few toys at a time and rotate them every week or so. If your pup has a favorite that happens to also be the loudest, save it for times when you’ll be out of the house so they can get lost in squeaky bliss and you can keep your sanity.

2. USE ENRICHMENT TOYS



Enrichment toys keep your pup’s mind sharp by giving them an outlet for their natural behaviors. Puzzles are great for giving dogs an opportunity to practice their problem-solving skills in order to find a hidden, high-value treat. You can find a variety of dog puzzles online and at almost any pet store.

You can also purchase or DIY a snuffle mat, which taps into the foraging instincts of their ancestors. Made of a rubber mat with fleece strips tied to it, the loose ends create hiding spots for the treats. Your pooch will love putting their powerful sniffer to use as they explore all the layers to track down the treat.

Most dogs should have at least 20 minutes of enrichment time each day.



3. TURN ON SOME TUNES

BUT REMEMBER
IT'S JUST BACKGROUND
NOISE AND SHOULDN'T
BE TOO LOUD.

If your dog enjoys watching TV with you, it can be tempting to leave it on when you leave. However, the visual aspect may cause more stress, especially if a pesky squirrel makes an appearance. Music, on the other hand, can provide calming vibes and

enough stimulation to keep their mind engaged. Surprisingly, our canine companions have shown that they enjoy jamming out to reggae and soft rock. Remember, though, it's just background noise and shouldn't be too loud.



4. INTERACTIVE "FETCH" MACHINES

There are machines that will play a game of fetch with your best friend while you're out of the house. These gadgets are especially perfect for those pups who never get tired of playing fetch.

You may need to teach your dog how to place the ball back in the machine but once they get the hang of it, it may become both of your favorite gadgets.

A word of caution: make sure to set this up in an open area of the house so the ball won't hit anything.

5. HIDE AND SEEK

If your dog enjoys having the house to themselves (and who can blame them?), leave treats in the areas they are known to frequent, like in their favorite sunny spot or next to their water dish. When they get up to stretch or grab a drink, they'll be delighted to find a special treat from you!

IT'S ALL ABOUT STIMULATION

These activities are especially helpful if your dog isn't always the best boy ever (don't worry, we won't tell). Giving your pup an activity to keep their brain busy will leave little time for eating shoes or ripping apart the pillows. The pleasant distraction can also help with separation anxiety. So, you can do what you need to do and your dog will be so entertained they won't even realize how long you were gone.



WORLD'S COOLEST BOOKSTORES

Bookstores are the portal to creativity, imagination, wonder and awe. At a bookstore, you'll find tens of thousands of written words that sit underneath covers and cases, describing places you never knew existed. Many bookstores also have unique twists that add to their magic and charm.

We've found some of the coolest shops in the world with a bit of pizzazz and a beguiling history. If you're ever passing through, you won't want to miss checking any of these out. You'll leave with a newfound appreciation for bookstores — and probably a few good reads in hand too.



BOOKSTORE DOMINICANEN, MAASTRICHT, NETHERLANDS

Bookstore Dominicanen, located in the Netherlands, is nestled inside an old medieval church made of stone vaults. The ancient building was built over 700 years ago, and now, its Gothic stone walls attract visitors from around the world. Initially, the church was home to a full congregation, but during Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion in 1754, it ended up as a space that served the sole purpose of a storage unit for equipment.

In 2005, architects renovated the space and turned it into the store we see today. There are three floors in the bookstore, with thousands of books that would take more than one lifetime to read. There's also a cafe that serves delicious coffee and snacks. If you're an English-only speaker, then you're in luck — the entire first floor is devoted to English books, so you'll have a wide selection to choose from.

WEBSITE: www.libris.nl/dominicanen

ADDRESS: Dominicanerkkerkstraat 1, 6211 CZ Maastricht, Netherlands



EL ATENEO, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA



Located in Buenos Aires, El Ateneo is a bookstore for architecture enthusiasts. National Geographic even named this bookstore “the most beautiful bookstore in the world,” and once you visit, you’ll see why. Inside, you’ll find shelves stacked with books that sit underneath impressive ceiling artwork, dating back hundreds of years.

One of the most fascinating aspects about this bookstore, though, is that it’s built inside a 20th-century theater that opened in 1919. It was formerly called the Gran Splendid Theater and Cinema, built by architects Peró and Torres Armengol.

Luckily, architects preserved the ceiling and grand walls, and in 2000, the theater was converted into a bookstore. Now, it’s a fascinating attraction filled with books, both modern and old. Comfortable sitting areas make this bookstore a great place to relax as you admire the architecture or get a jump start on a new book. However, it’s recommended you get to this bookstore early to avoid the crowds that tend to fill up the space.

WEBSITE: www.yenny-elateneo.com/local/grand-splendid

ADDRESS: Av. Santa Fe 1860, C1123 CABA, Argentina

LIBRERIA ACQUA ALTA, VENICE, ITALY

Venice is known for its labyrinth of canals, gondola rides and mouthwatering pasta and pizza dishes. But that's not all the City of Love has to offer. It's also home to one of the most captivating bookstores in Italy. This is where you'll find the Libreria Acqua Alta, which means "Bookstore of High Water," and that's no mistake.

Since the city of Venice is prone to constant flooding, this shop keeps its books tucked away in bathtubs and boats. Both clever and cute, these waterproof basins keep the temple safe and dry.

When you visit you'll notice the books aren't the only things that want to escape the rising water levels. Stray cats wander around the store and seek safety on top of the bookshelves during rising water levels, so you might have some feline company.

You can also find postcards, an old gondola and iconic stairs that are constructed of old books stacked on top of each other. Because of their exposure to water, there's an extra strong "old book" smell, but even so, it only adds to the unique beauty of this charming shop.

WEBSITE:

www.libreriacquaaltavenezia.myadj.it/v/libreriacquaaltavenezia

ADDRESS: C. Longa Santa Maria Formosa, 5176b, 30122 Venezia VE, Italy



CAFEBRERIA EL PENDULO, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Cafebrería El Péndulo is a chain of bookstores in Mexico City that houses several floors of books, a restaurant and a cafe in each location. These bookstores also serve as a green space, where plants occupy the shelves as much as books. The bookstores are located in the Roma, San Angel, Condesa and Polanco areas of the city, and are known for their fast Wi-Fi and comfortable working areas.

It's the place where many artists and young hipsters come for inspiration, and, of course, a bit of coffee. Balconies, with curved handrails and green paint, sit amongst plush toys of William Shakespeare and classic record albums. In the San Angel location, you'll find a towering palm tree that reaches high towards the ceiling. In the bookstore's restaurants, you'll get delicious choices of food, like egg dishes and mozzarella sticks. At the Roma location, the rooftop bar is an ideal place to come for a reprieve from the city.

WEBSITE: www.pendolo.com

ADDRESS: Multiple locations around Mexico City



Bookstores are one of the most entrancing attractions in a city, and you never know what stories they have of their own. The quiet spaces in bookstores speak thousands of words within their paper books. Who knows, maybe you'll feel inspired with your next grand idea while visiting one of the coolest bookstores in the world.

BACKYARD

PERSONALITY PROFILES

WHAT YOUR LAWN'S STYLE SAYS ABOUT YOU

Outdoor spaces are now just an extension of our homes and another opportunity to create a space that perfectly matches our personalities. However, no matter what your dream outdoor oasis is, every good yard has a few essentials.

String lights: Not only are they functional, but they instantly give your space a major glow-up with a warm and relaxing welcome.

Shade: Go all out with a covered patio or keep it simple with a sunshade.

Speaker System: Whether you're cooking, gardening, entertaining or just hanging out, having a speaker to set the mood with your favorite playlist is an absolute must.





THE CHEF

From the very first chop to the very last bite, you love creating and enjoying delicious food. It just so happens that your friends and family love your cooking too, so it's time to create the ultimate outdoor kitchen experience.

THE SETUP

Just like in your home, the kitchen is the main focal point of your outdoor living space. No more running back inside every time you forget something — now it's all right in front of you.

PREP SPACE AND SINK

The prep space and sink area is where you spend a lot of your time testing recipes, making marinades and chopping vegetables. Having an area

that can take some wear and tear is important for all the meals you plan on making in the coming years.

GRILLS & OVENS

What would an outdoor kitchen be without a grill? It's the most popular feature of any outdoor space, and considering your yard is focused on the kitchen, it only makes sense to have the best of the best. In fact, you're so committed to your choice, it's built right into your counter.

However, you're not one to limit your choices when it comes to cooking methods, which is why you have a Kamado grill at the ready.

If you happen to be a chef with a major love of pizza, it certainly wouldn't hurt to have a pizza oven on hand for Friday nights. Three grills

may seem over the top to the average person, but you see it as prime efficiency since you can make three different options without having to wait for grill space.

THE INGREDIENTS

Food is only as good as the ingredients you put in it, and you're not one to settle for low quality. Any good chef knows the best ingredients are fresh and local, so you're getting as fresh and local as possible with a full herb and veggie garden just a few steps away.

EATING AREA

Finish off your dream space with the perfect patio to fit all your friends and family who can't get enough of your cooking.

THE ENTERTAINER

When your group gets together, there's no question about who's hosting. You can turn an ordinary day into a reason to celebrate with friends and family.

THE SETUP

Having multiple areas for people to break away from the main group is a little detail that can make a big difference when you have a large gathering. Even when you're outside, the noise level can quickly increase when you add in multiple conversations, some music and kids playing in the background. Guests will appreciate having some options to sit and talk at a normal level. Adding small side tables or a coffee table will also let them enjoy a bite to eat without trying to balance their drink at the same time.

THE OPEN PATIO

Also known as the outdoor living room, this space is perfect for creating different sitting areas for friends and family to gather. Tables, sofas and even a swinging hammock will all add to the cozy living room vibe. Add in some throw pillows and blankets to keep guests extra comfortable.

THE FIRE TABLE

Adding a fire table will not only elevate your space but also create an instant gathering spot. As the night progresses, it's common for this area to become the main place people end up. Keeping some extra chairs nearby will make sure guests feel welcome.

THE POOL

A pool doesn't have to take up your entire yard in order to be the biggest hit at the party. A small pool can often be just enough for adults and kids to enjoy. It also creates a perfect sitting area, whether guests dip their toes in or hang out on the deck. When hosting a party, have a few towels readily available for guests to use if needed.

OVERSIZED LAWN GAMES

Sure, regular games can be fun, but nothing will unleash guests' competitive side like a giant game of Connect Four. Put out two or three mega-sized versions of classic games and your party may turn into the ultimate lawn game tournament.



THE GARDENER

You see your outdoor space as a blank canvas, ready to fill with blossoming flowers and delicious vegetables. With your green thumb, you have the magic to make any space into a beautiful garden wonderland.

THE SETUP

There's nothing like taming a tiny corner of the great outdoors. Gardeners want to flex their green thumbs not only as a relaxing hobby, but also as a way of creating a calming space that allows the whole household to get closer to nature. From the storage shed tools to the raised bed veggies, a backyard that's alive and blooming is a great escape.

RAISED BEDS

Raised beds are perfect for growing your vegetable harvest. You'll notice how much happier your plants are

with better drainage, and you'll save time by not having to weed constantly. You can get creative with the height and shape of them to best fit your space.

CLEAR WALKWAYS

Designated walkways are essential for keeping both you and your plants safe. Use stones or bricks to create the path, and line them with flowers or solar-powered lights for an extra touch.

POTTING STATION

Potting is a messy task, and while a potting station may not eliminate all the mess, it will at least contain it to one area. It will also help to organize the supplies needed so you can be more efficient. You can create your own potting station by upcycling an old dresser or desk.

STORAGE SHED

Keep all your tools and supplies nice and organized in a storage shed. Choosing one that complements your house will add major points to your curb appeal.

FINISHING TOUCHES

As you probably know, a garden is never quite complete. As you work on turning it into a masterpiece, you can add other small elements like birdhouses, old bikes with flowers in their baskets and a plant ladder when you run out of space. The little details will add charm and make your garden totally yours.





THE LOUNGER

After a day of work, you switch into vacation mode. Whether you're reading a new novel, binging the latest show or simply unwinding, nobody can lounge like you, and for that, everyone is jealous.

THE SETUP

Let's be honest, it doesn't get more chill than a rooftop deck. You've proven you don't need a large space to create something incredible. This

outdoor space brings all the hip vibes and is definitely the envy of the neighborhood.

PROJECTOR

Whether you're watching the big game or the hottest blockbuster of the summer, you have the best of the best equipment to see and hear the action in vivid detail. With a few couches and a hammock, you may never leave your roof again.

BAR

Of course, every good rooftop deck is part of a bar, and your space is no exception. Yours is fully stocked with plenty of drinks and snacks to share.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Your rooftop deck has all the necessities for all-day and all-night lounging. You've thought through all the details from a sun umbrella, a fan and even furniture that doubles as storage. Everyone who gets the chance to come by is taking notes.



No matter your personality, your outdoor space is full of untapped potential waiting to be cracked open and turned into your dream oasis. With a little imagination and online inspiration, your ordinary roof or yard can be transformed into your favorite part of the house.

12 THINGS YOU NEVER THOUGHT TO CLEAN

Keeping your house clean is a task that often seems like it has no end in sight. No matter how much you vacuum, sweep or dust, a nice, clean house never seems to last for too long. Unfortunately, we aren't here with a magic cleaning wand, but instead, we have 12 places that are often overlooked when cleaning. But not all hope is lost! We also have some hacks to make it a little less painful. So, turn on your favorite energy-boosting playlist, and let's get cleaning!

LOCATION: THE BATHROOM

THE WALLS

After a hot shower, take a microfiber cloth or soft sponge to thoroughly wipe down the walls. Additionally, you can use warm water and dish soap to clean oil-based paint or warm water, vinegar and dish soap for walls with latex paint. Just be sure to do a spot test before applying anything to an entire wall.

THE SHOWER CURTAIN

Help your shower curtain last longer by throwing it in the washing machine on a regular basis. Fill the washing machine on the largest size, and add a few drops of detergent. If it needs a deeper clean, add a towel and a half cup of baking soda. Wash on a gentle cycle, then add a half cup of white vinegar during the rinse cycle. When finished, hang the curtain back up to air dry.

Make sure your shower curtain is machine washable before starting. Baking soda and an old toothbrush can work well to remove stains without a washing machine.



THE WALLS

THE SHOWER CURTAIN

LOCATION: THE KITCHEN

COFFEE MAKER

This might be one of the topmost overlooked things that needs cleaning. The cleaning method will depend on the type of coffee maker you have, but they all should be cleaned once a month for everyday drinkers. If you use a coffee grinder too, you should add that to the cleaning list as well.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL SPLASH GUARD

The splash guard of your garbage disposal may be the source of some of the unwanted smells. A soapy scrub sponge should do the trick to help remove the gunk from the folds and grooves.

Always make sure to unplug the garbage disposal or turn it off on the breaker when cleaning.



DISHWASHER

Rinse the filter under hot water, then use a toothbrush to gently scrub the mesh screen and plastic, removing any residue. When finished, lock it back into place and run a hot cycle with a cup of white vinegar on the top rack to eliminate lingering odors.

CUTLERY DRAWER

Crumbs often find their way into this drawer. A quick wipe down or rinse should be all that's needed.

LOCATION: AROUND THE HOUSE

FREQUENT TOUCH POINTS

Make sure to clean all doorknobs, light switches, handrails, cabinet handles and TV and garage remotes with disinfecting wipes or an antibacterial cleaner.

Most antibacterial cleaners need to sit for 10 minutes to properly work.

REUSABLE SHOPPING BAGS

These bags can quickly become the perfect environment for bacteria. Hand wash fabric bags in warm water with soap or laundry detergent, then hang to dry. Disinfecting wipes are great for wiping down insulated bags.



SLIDING DOOR AND
WINDOW TRACKS

Cleaning from top to bottom and everywhere in between is exhausting! The good news is that most of these have gone a while without being cleaned before, so they don't need to be cleaned daily. Try adding one or two to your next cleaning spree or adding a few to a weekly cleaning routine. Just don't forget about them completely!

CLOSET FLOORS

4 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD DO WITH Instant Coffee

Ah, coffee. The aroma, the taste, the caffeine kick — all make it nearly impossible for 150 million American coffee drinkers to go a day without it.

From a steaming hot cup of black coffee to iced chocolate shaken espresso with one splash of almond milk, one pump sugar-free vanilla and a drizzle of caramel on top, the combinations for a cup of coffee are up to your imagination. But the possibilities don't stop at just a cup of coffee.

Grab a bag of instant coffee on your next grocery run and you'll reach a whole new level of coffee goodness. In addition to a super quick coffee fix, it turns out that instant coffee is a great addition in both cooking and baking! Its richness can bring out a depth of flavor in most dishes. Instant coffee can be the secret ingredient to give your recipes an extra kick.

ICED WHIPPED COFFEE

The drink that took 2020 by storm: whipped coffee! This easy recipe will elevate your morning cup of coffee in just minutes.

PREP TIME: 10 minutes | **YIELD:** 1 serving

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp. instant coffee powder
- 2 tbsp. hot water
- 1 tbsp. sugar
- ½ c. milk of choice
- ½ c. ice
- Cinnamon to top

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add the hot water, sugar and instant coffee to a bowl.
2. Use a hand whisk or electric mixer to combine the mixture for roughly 2 minutes.
3. Once fluffy and light, stop mixing.
4. Add the milk and ice to a glass.
5. Spoon 2 dollops on top of the glass.
6. Top with cinnamon and enjoy!



Espresso Martini

If you like your espresso martinis on the lighter side, this recipe is for you!

PREP TIME: 15 minutes | **YIELD:** 1 serving

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tsp. instant coffee powder
- 2 tsp. hot water
- ½ c. ice
- 2 oz. vodka
- 1 oz. Bailey's
- 1 oz. Kahlua
- Coffee beans for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix the coffee powder and hot water together, then set to the side to cool.
2. Add the ice, cooled coffee, vodka, Bailey's and Kahlua to a cocktail shaker.
3. Shake very hard for about 3-5 minutes to create a froth to the martini.
4. Quickly strain it into a martini glass.
5. Top with coffee beans and enjoy!



Coffee Cashew Butter

Slather some cashew butter on your morning bagel or use it as a topping on oatmeal or even sweet potatoes!

PREP TIME: 20 minutes | **COOK TIME:** 15 minutes | **YIELD:** 4-6 servings



INGREDIENTS

- 4 c. raw cashews
- 2 tsp. coconut oil
- ½ tsp. salt
- 3 tbsp. instant coffee powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 325° F and line a small baking sheet.
2. Spread the cashews on the baking sheet and roast for 10 minutes.
3. Allow the nuts to cool for another 10 minutes.
4. Place the cashews in a food processor and pulse on high for 2 minutes.
5. Once the cashews are broken down, add the instant coffee powder, coconut oil, vanilla extract and salt.
6. Pulse again for 2 minutes to combine, scraping down the sides with a spatula as needed.
7. Pulse one more time for 2-4 minutes until smooth.
8. Transfer the coffee cashew butter to a jar and store at room temperature.

Mocha Truffles

Instant coffee brings out the chocolate flavor even more in these rich and luxurious truffles.

PREP TIME: 20 minutes | **COOK TIME:** 15 minutes | **YIELD:** 4-6 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz. bittersweet or dark chocolate bars, finely chopped (do not use chocolate chips)
- 2/3 c. heavy cream
- 2 tbsp. instant coffee powder
- 1 tbsp. butter, softened to room temperature

Possible toppings: Cocoa powder, chopped nuts, melted chocolate, chocolate sprinkles



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place the chocolate, instant coffee and butter in a medium-sized, heat-proof bowl.
2. Add the heavy cream to a small saucepan. Bring to a simmer over low heat. Use a spatula to stir and scrape down the sides every few minutes.
3. Pour the hot cream over the chocolate, coffee and butter. Let stand for 5 minutes. Then mix until smooth. Transfer to a shallow baking pan for faster cooling.
4. Place in the refrigerator and let cool for 2 hours or until firm.
5. Prepare a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
6. Use a tablespoon to scoop out the truffle mixture into mounds. Roll each 1 into a ball. The mixture will melt in your hands, so work quickly. Use a little butter on your hands to prevent the mixture from sticking.
7. Place in refrigerator until completely chilled.
8. Roll in topping of your choice and serve at room temperature.

IS IT A DOG?!



With over 300 dog breeds and countless mixes, it's impossible to know what every dog looks like. Instead of trying to memorize the characteristics of each breed, sometimes it's easier to remember what *isn't* a dog. Here are seven animals that are *not* man's best friend.

AARDWOLF



✦
Nope, it's not a new dog hybrid. Despite their name translating to "earth wolf" in Afrikaans and their dog-like features, they have no relation to the canine kind (or to aardvarks, for that matter) and are more closely related to cats. However, like aardvarks, they do prefer tasty termites over other, larger prey. They are even able to withstand the defensive scent of soldier termites which keeps other predators away.



WOLVERINE

This stocky guy is definitely not a dog but is a relative of the weasel. Although the wolverine is a ferocious hunter of small mammals, most of their food comes from scavenging leftovers of larger prey. Despite their tough attitude, wolverine dads are active in their offsprings' lives. Not only do they check in on their family as they are raised, but once the young mature, they are known to reconnect with their dad to learn survival skills.



RED PANDA



These fluffy creatures may be just as cute as dogs, but red pandas don't have much else in common with our four-legged friends.

They also are not closely related to giant pandas but do share a similar diet of lots and lots of bamboo. Members of this endangered species are skilled climbers and spend the majority of their time in the trees. During the day they're likely to be caught snoozing since their nights are spent jumping tree to tree to find the best grub.

PRAIRIE DOG



Don't let the name fool you – prairie dogs are rodents who share family ties with squirrels, chipmunks and marmots. Like their squirrel cousins, prairie dogs also have some smart minds. To the human ear, their calls may sound like nothing more than repetitive squeaks, but those little noises might be the most complex vocal language decoded. Not only can they alert their colony of impending danger, but they can also share specific characteristics of predators, like an approaching human wearing blue.



MANED WOLF



Found in South America, the maned wolf is truly a lone wolf – well, kind of. Though they belong to the Canidae family, they aren't closely related to any other canine species and instead are the only remaining species of the genus *Chrysocyon*. Unlike other canines, maned wolves are solitary, even when it comes to hunting small mammals. They also love fruits and veggies, which make up over 50% of their diet.

TAPIRS



Nope, no dogs here, just ancient tapirs that leave more questions than answers. With short legs, a stubby tail, a weight that ranges from 500-800 pounds and a trunk that is actually their upper lip and nose, they almost seem make-believe. As herbivores, they love lush leaves and juicy fruits, which they eat with the help of their trunks. Though they look like they'd sink in water, they are actually great swimmers and divers, often plunging under to snack on aquatic plants and cool off. There are only four species of tapirs, all of which are rapidly declining.

TASMANIAN DEVIL

Although they have the same number of teeth as a canine, for your sake, let's hope you never mistake this fellow for a dog. Though they may look cute and cuddly, the Tasmanian Devil is one grouchy marsupial. With a bite that can crush bone, a spine-chilling shriek and a repulsive scent, it's best to leave them alone.



PRIORITIZE YOUR BRAIN!

THE BEST TIME TO START A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE IS TODAY



Mental health is just as important as physical health. These two typically go hand in hand! Maintain your mental health by eating healthy, being active and staying social.



Jodee Harris

Vice President, First Commonwealth
Advisors, Senior Financial Advisor, Infinex
Investments, Inc. · 4509033



Office: 724-832-6181

2501 Sharkys Dr · Latrobe, PA 15650

jharris@fcadvisor.com

www.fcbanking.com/jodee-harris

Investment and insurance products and services are offered through INFINEX INVESTMENTS, INC. member FINRA/SIPC. First Commonwealth Advisors is a trade name of First Commonwealth Bank. Infinex and First Commonwealth Bank are not affiliated. Products and services made available through Infinex are not insured by the FDIC or any other agency of the United States and are not deposits or obligations of nor guaranteed or insurance by any bank or bank affiliate. These products are subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of value.

Jodee Harris
First Commonwealth Advisors
2501 Sharkys Dr
Latrobe, PA 15650

Ready for a change? Let's talk!

Call now to talk about
where you are and
where you'd like to be!



Jodee Harris

Vice President, First Commonwealth Advisors,
Senior Financial Advisor, Infinex Investments, Inc.
• 4509033



Office: 724-832-6181

2501 Sharkys Dr
Latrobe, PA 15650

jharris@fcadvisor.com

www.fcbanking.com/jodee-harris

Investment and insurance products and services are offered through INFINEX INVESTMENTS, INC. member FINRA/SIPC. First Commonwealth Advisors is a trade name of First Commonwealth Bank. Infinex and First Commonwealth Bank are not affiliated. Products and services made available through Infinex are not insured by the FDIC or any other agency of the United States and are not deposits or obligations of nor guaranteed or insurance by any bank or bank affiliate. These products are subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of value.