

# Delicious Mud Pie for Your Valentine

By Susie Iventosch



Traditional mud pie with a frozen yogurt twist

Photo Susie Iventosch

This is one of our family's all-time favorite desserts. The recipe was handed down from my grandmother, who lived in Orinda and was quite the hostess back in her day! It is delicious in summer, winter, spring or fall, but it makes the perfect Valentine's Day dessert! Grandmom made it with coffee ice cream, but with all of the wonderful ice cream substitutes available these days you

can certainly take your pick of frozen concoctions, in any flavor, to use in place of the ice cream. Strawberry, coconut, lime, dulce de leche, or chocolate ... any of these flavors would work well with the scrumptious fudge filling and Oreo cookie crust. And you can even replace the cookie crumb crust with your favorite cookies!

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. **This recipe can be found on our website:** www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



## INGREDIENTS

### Crust

- 30 Oreo cookies, pulverized in food processor
- ½ cup (1 stick or ¼ pound) butter, melted

### Fudge Sauce

- 4 ounces unsweetened or bittersweet-dark chocolate (good quality)
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 six-ounce cans evaporated milk
- ¼ teaspoon salt

### Ice Cream

- 1 quart coffee-chocolate chip frozen yogurt (or yogurt or ice cream of your choice)

### Whipped Cream Topping

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon Kahlua
- ½ cup toasted pecans, coarsely chopped (optional)
- Cocoa powder for dusting on top of whipped cream

## DIRECTIONS

### Crust

Combine melted butter and Oreos and mix well. Pat into a very well-greased 9-inch pie dish. Freeze for about 30 minutes.

### Ice Cream

Spoon 4 cups of your favorite ice cream or frozen yogurt, slightly softened, into shell. (Coffee is the traditional flavor, but any flavor will do.) Freeze until ice cream is hardened.

### Fudge Filling

Place all fudge sauce ingredients into a heavy saucepan and cook until thick like fudge, stirring constantly. Remove from stove and cool to room temperature. Filling will continue to thicken as it cools. Spread cooled fudge sauce over frozen ice cream. Freeze again until hard.

### Whipped Cream Topping

Whip 1 cup heavy cream until stiff. Add 1 tablespoon Kahlua. Spread over frozen fudge sauce and top with ½ cup finely chopped toasted pecans or walnuts (optional) and dust with cocoa powder. Freeze until time to serve. For you coconut lovers, simply replace the Oreo cookies with Mother's Coconut Macaroons and use coconut ice cream.

As Seen In...

## Feathers Fly at Moraga Town Office

By Cathy Dausman



A turkey creates a hole in a second story conference room window at the Moraga Town Offices.

Photo Jill Keimach

Moraga town employees are likely used to dealing with occasional ruffled feathers, but when one recent visitor had a heated argument with the building itself, its goose was cooked. Something startled a group of wild turkeys milling about the parking lot, causing one to fly up and into a second story room, breaking the window and tumbling inside. Town Manager Jill Keimach, whose office is adjacent, was away but happened to call in. "Everyone was in my office surveying the drama," she said. Moraga Police Lieutenant Jon King could hear the noise from his desk downstairs. "Of course I was right in the middle of something I could not leave," King said. By the time he went up, the turkey was simmering on the floor "looking back at me with one beady

eye." Town employees had already called county animal control, so King simply sealed the crime scene. He had no chance to "grill" the bird. "It was lucky that it came into my conference room instead of the upstairs lobby one window over," Keimach said. King admits that of all the things he learned at the police academy "they never taught us how to deal with turkeys." The fatally wounded bird was laid to roost shortly thereafter, and the window was replaced a few days later. As Town Clerk Marty McInturf mused in the *About Town* newsletter: "Staff was unclear whether the turkey wanted to get closer to its reflection in the window or had a pressing issue to discuss with the Town Manager. Either way, the turkey did not get its wish (bone)," she said.

As Seen In...

## Moraga Mountain Lion Sighting



Photo Bradley Bostick

Bradley Bostick spotted this mountain lion Feb. 2 on the ridge above Alta Mesa Road. "When I first came upon the mountain lion he was about 50 yards away sitting on the trail. It was about 2:30 in the afternoon. If you are facing Saint Mary's College, the area is behind the college and about a half mile west. It was at the top of Alta Mesa, just past the reservoir and electronic station," he said. "When he saw me, the big cat got up and starting heading down the hill toward a residential area, then eventually turned around and headed back and away from where I was, in the direction of Bollinger

Canyon." Bostick reported the incident to Moraga Police Officer Will Davis and sent him photos. "I also have some video. He said it was the first sighting that had been photographed in several years," Bostick said. Officer Davis told Bostick that about two years ago, a mountain lion was spotted on the hill behind 7-11 off of Moraga Road. "Even though I knew there was danger, I didn't feel threatened and the mountain lion did not exhibit any aggressive behavior," Bostick said. "I walked calmly away but kept my eye on him probably for a good two minutes." *J. Wake*

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