

# Arkansas Possum Pie

The heavy dew and thick mist coming from the frost covered once green pasture land seems to hinder the view to the big black Angus grazing on the browning grasslands. You can hear their mooing as they eagerly call their babies in for breakfast. The big massive sized bull paws at the ground establishing his territory there among the "ladies" as they feed their offspring.

Then as I gaze through the big binoculars, I see a smaller animal move in toward the feeding herd crawling and slinking low on his belly. With a closer look I recognize a skinny gray hungry coyote easing upon his prey. Before the cows know he's near, he pounces on one's back and takes a big chomp out of her right hind quarter. Then I see the big black bull run toward the scuffle and begin to snort and the coyote

runs into the woods. These cows are prey for all wild dogs, coyotes, or anything on the prowl. We have lost many new-born calves to the savage animals prowling our pastures. We would find the carcasses, sometimes days later laying by their bellowing mothers.

We have several barn cats, which seem to multiply every few months, that keep the mice and snakes out of our barn so we keep quite a bit of cat food on hand to keep them fed. We have a large raccoon that gets into our locked barn every night and pushes a forty pound weight off the closed bucket of cat food and eats his belly full. He too seems impossible to catch.

I remember my granddaddy had a milk cow, named Bossie and she was left to wander the fields in the daytime but always came to bed

down for the night in his big barn sitting straddled the Montgomery County and Attala County boundary lines. No harm ever came to her.

It seems that the threat of harm to animals as well as to humans is a greater threat to us now in this day and time than it was years ago. Coyotes and wild dogs are not as much of a threat of predators as that of another kind. We hear of children being shot sitting at stop signs with their parents. A little girl was shot last week in her chest as she was trick a treating with her siblings. A couple camping was killed and buried in the sand just a few days ago. We all, people and animals face predators now that we could have never imagined.

This is not an easy time that we live in and as I sit here with my "binoculars" observing life as it is today, I see all this happening and as helpless as I was to stop the coyote from attacking, there is absolutely nothing that I can possibly do to stop it.

We lived in Arkansas for about 12 years and a friend of mine gave me this recipe for Arkansas Possum Pie. It's called that because you think it's one kind of pie but it's another.



Peggy's Take



**November 14** - Sandy Gilbert, Pacey Wigginton Regan, Rosemary Hammett, Danny Donald, Charlie Bell, Dylan Hager, Brenda Tate, Chrissy Branch, Jeri Jo McCleskey, Travis Fulgham, Johnny Word, Emma Wallace, Louis "Doug" Scott

**November 15** - Tommy Buford, Patty Branch Wigginton, Molly Ables, Mike Pierce, Jacob Ashley, Faizah Clark, Jennette Moore

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**November 18** - Steve Newton, Deborah Bishop, Kathleen McKennie, Mike Thomas, Kristin Durff, Vegan Dilmore, David Dilmore, Harlee Grace Pierce, Lyndsey Flynn, Amanda Beville

**November 19** - Betty Smith, Christy Randle, Dacey Jo F. Holland, Brenna Casey, Stephen Joe, Kamren Joe, Shay Alford Blaylock, Lexie Edwards, Janis Clayton, Kinley Killebrew

**November 20** - James Edward Killebrew, Sophie Bilsky, Ashley Dixon, Dana Pierce



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**November 18** - Donnie and Michele Holder

**November 19** - Howard and Barbara Harrison

**November 20** - Grey and Brett Clark

**POSSUM PIE**  
 6 oz soft cream cheese  
 3/4 cup of confectioner sugar  
 1/4 cup chopped pecans  
 1 3/4 cups cold milk  
 1 t. vanilla  
 1/4 cup vanilla instant pudding mix  
 1/3 cup chocolate instant pudding mix  
 1/2 cup heavy whip cream


1 cup pecan halves  
 Beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Spoon into a graham cracker crust and sprinkle with pecans. Whisk milk, vanilla and chocolate puddings til thick. Refrigerate for a 4 hours. Top with whipped cream  
*\*Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*


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