Brie Bites
1 (8 oz.) tube crescent dough
Cooking spray, for pan
Flour, for surface
1 wheel (8 oz.) brie cheese

½ cup whole berry cranberry sauce
¼ cup chopped pecans or walnuts (optional)
6 sprigs of rosemary, cut into 1-inch pieces

Preheat oven to 375°F and grease a mini muffin tin with cooking spray. On a lightly floured surface, roll out crescent dough, and pinch together seams. Cut into 24 squares. Place squares into muffin tin slots. Cut brie into small pieces and place inside the crescent dough. Top with a spoonful of cranberry sauce, some chopped pecans or walnuts, if desired, and one little sprig of rosemary. Bake until the crescent pastry is golden, about 15 minutes.

4th of July Fireworks Cupcakes
1 box white cake mix
3 eggs
½ cup oil
1 cup water
Red and blue food coloring
1 container white frosting (or recipe below)
Red, white and blue sprinkles

Prepare the cake mix according to package directions, most cake mixes call for 3 eggs, ½ cup oil and 1 cup water. Mix well and divide batter into 3 separate bowls. Add 12 to 18 drops blue food coloring to one of the bowls and mix well. Add 12 to 18 drops red food coloring to the second bowl and mix well. Line a muffin tin with cupcake liners. Then add 2 tablespoons blue batter to cupcake liner. Carefully, add 2 tablespoons red batter to the same liner. Finish by carefully adding 2 tablespoons white batter to liner. Repeat the process with remaining cupcake liners until you run out of batter. Be careful not to mix the batter when filling cupcake liners. Bake at 350°F for 20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center of cupcake comes out clean. Remove from oven and let them cool. Frost cupcakes with white or cream cheese frosting and apply sprinkles.

Cream Cheese Frosting
½ cup butter, softened
8 oz. cream cheese
4 cups confectioners' sugar
2 tsp. vanilla

Beat butter and cream cheese until well blended. Add powdered sugar and vanilla. Beat until creamy.

Any reference to commercial products, trade names, or brand names is for information only, and no endorsement or approval is intended.

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