



Annette Jones  
PEOPLE

# Theme parties add fun to big events

## Gather friends for Super Bowl, Oscars

By ALISON LAPP  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Who said Saturday night was the best time to party? Three of the nation's highest-profile events, the Super Bowl, the Grammy awards and the Oscars, are all scheduled to take place on Sunday nights in February, and each one provides a great excuse to throw a fabulous themed party.

You can watch all three at home with friends, serve great food and drinks, and play games to guess the winners.

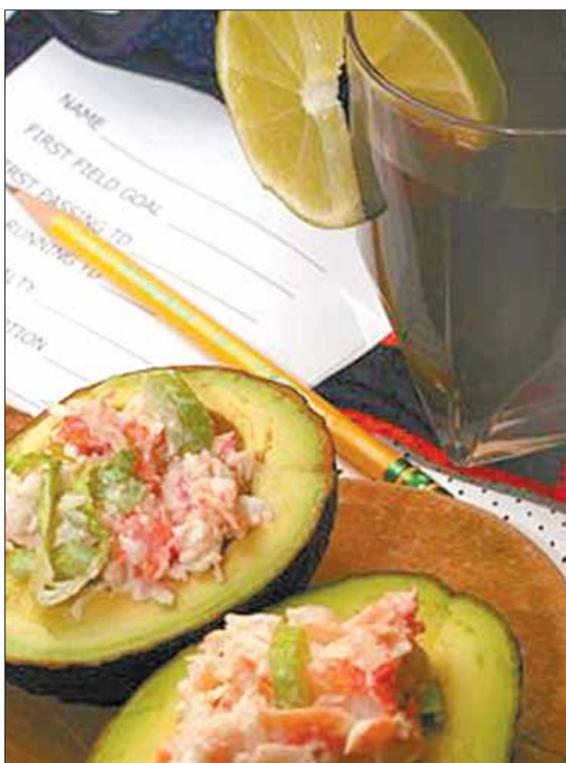
Invite your guests to come dressed in anything from a team jersey to a ball gown worthy of the red carpet, and put together some easy decorations, and you've got the ingredients for a fun evening. Here are some tips:

### Super Bowl XLI

**When:** 6 p.m. Feb. 4  
**Decorations:** With the big game being held in South Florida, why not bring a little piece of the tropics to your fiesta, no matter where you live?

Skip Panse, of the Florida-based event planning company ME Productions, suggests the hosts could dress in black-and-white striped referee shirts and encourage guests to wear jerseys of their favorite team.

**Refreshments:** Here's where you can get creative and bring a taste



A Super Bowl party can take a cue from Miami this year and have an island flair with crab-stuffed avocado and Cuba libre. Encouraging team clothing and running a prediction game will keep even occasional fans involved.

of Miami straight to your living room. Try serving finger foods such as plantain chips (available in the ethnic food aisle of most major grocery stores), nachos, sliced mangos, cheese empanadas

and crab-stuffed avocados. Even if guests aren't familiar with those Cuban-influenced treats, they'll surely recognize the region's signature cocktails: the Cuba libre (rum, cola and

lime), the mojito (club soda, rum and mint leaves), the Hemingway (rum, grapefruit juice and lime) and sangria. Be sure to have some good ol' American beer.

**Activities:** Make up cards on which guests can fill in predictions for each of the following categories: first passing touchdown, first rushing touchdown, first fieldgoal, first penalty, first interception, first fumble, half-time score, final score and winning team.

Pass out goofy prizes to players who get each question correct as it's completed, and award a champion prize to the person who guesses the most categories correctly by the end of the game.

### Grammy Awards

**When:** 8 p.m. Feb. 11  
**Decorations:** This is the least common of the three parties and planning it will take some imagination on the host's part.

Pick a genre of music to organize the party around. A disco party, for example, could have a beaded curtain hung over the front entry, a disco ball and lava lamps in the main room and, of course, '70s costumes for the partyers.

**Refreshments:** Sprinkle a buffet table with smiley-face confetti and provide tie-dye napkins and paper plates. Retro processed foods like macaroni and cheese (from the box, of course), Pop-tarts and Twizzlers work well with this theme.

Great '70s drinks include the tequila sunrise (tequila, orange juice and grenadine) and the pina colada (rum, coconut cream and pineapple juice).

**Activities:** During the slower parts of the ceremony, or during the endless commercials, try setting up a game of Grammy charades.

Guests divide into two teams and each tries to guess as teammates silently act out the names of songs, bands or artists nominated for awards. The team that identifies the acts in the least amount of time wins.

### Academy Awards

**When:** 8 p.m. Feb. 25  
**Decorations:** Oscar parties are where hosts really get to show off their ability to throw a classy, or mock-classy, shindig.

A roll of red wrapping paper spread down the hallway serves as a perfect red carpet for guests, dressed as their favorite movie stars, to step onto as they enter.

**Refreshments:** Classic cocktail-party snacks make a suitable spread for this event. Try pigs in a blanket, Swedish meatballs, bite-sized club sandwiches, mini-quiches and pastries.

For drinks, think red, to match the carpet. A punch of ginger ale, raspberry sherbet and Champagne is sure to be a crowd-pleaser.

**Activities:** Another Oscar staple, now so famous it's available for downloading from any number of Web sites, is Oscar Bingo. Make (or print out) a bingo card where each square represents a humorous incident that could happen at the Academy Awards, like "star cries while accepting award" or "walks the wrong way off stage."

The first player to complete a row in any direction wins.

## Reception celebrates milestone birthday

Margaret (Barnett) Stubbs Nicholas, lifelong resident of Johnson County, will celebrate her 90th birthday with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 21 at Bargersville First Christian Church, 101 East St.

Respond to Marvin or Carol Stubbs at 422-9488. Nicholas requests no gifts.

The Franklin Kiwanis Club awarded the Farm City Rural Life Awards recently.

Scott Williams, son of Fred and Belinda Williams, Needham Township, Hopewell Boys and Girls 4-H Club; Mark Appleton, adult leader of the Indian Creek 4-H Club for 12 years; Christy Davis, daughter of Jeff and Jean Davis of Franklin, Livewires 4-H Club; and Brenda Briggs, adult leader of Hoosier Hotshots 4-H Club for 13 years.

Anabel Howard and Walter Howard are the Franklin club's most recent recipients of the George F. Hixon Award.

The Johnson County chapter of the Indiana University Alumni Association recently recognized the following members for Volunteer of the Month awards: Becky Graff, Travis Bruce, John Martin, Miriam Murphy, John Martin and Janie Adcock.

Annette Jones is features editor of the Daily Journal. Items for her People column can be sent to ajones@thejournalnet.com or to the Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

## GET BUSY

### College hosts musicians for dual-piano concert

The Franklin College fine arts department will host a two-piano recital in the Franklin College Chapel at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9.

The performers will be assistant professor of fine arts Claudia Bossard and Franklin College alumnus Greg Sanders, who graduated in 1998.

The two will be performing "Fantasy in F minor" by Franz Schubert and "Variations on a Theme by Haydn" by Johannes Brahms.

### Orchestra to play jazz piece by IU professor

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and music director Mario Venzago will perform the world premiere of Indianapolis native David Baker's new jazz-influenced symphonic work "Dancing Shadows."

A composer, teacher and jazz artist, Baker is chairman of jazz studies at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.

The concerts will take place at 8 p.m. Friday and 5:30 p.m. Jan. 20. Tickets are \$10 to \$63 and can be ordered by calling 639-4300.

## Parents

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

"I think parents underestimate the influence they have on their kids," said Easterday, a father of three young children.

Most children ages 8 to 12 say their family is vitally important in their life, according Barna Research Group's list of significant religious findings in 2006.

Fifty-seven percent look forward to spending time with their family, but only one in three said talking to parents about things that are important to them was easy, the findings said.

The report was a revelation to Easterday.

"Seeing that made me want to give parents hope," he said.

He decided to work with parents to help them realize the

importance reaching out to their children.

In many families, parents have time to spend with children on the weekends, but that is when many teens plan social activities with friends, Easterday said.

But scheduling conflicts don't let families off the hook when it comes to quality time together, he said.

"Parents have to take time they have and make it meaningful," he said.

Communication is the key, Easterday said.

Marci Johnson, the mother of four children, including a 15-year-old daughter, has concerns about all the distractions available to children, such as television and Internet social-networking sites such as MySpace.com.

"I want to distract (my daughter) with things that are good," she said.

Parents have to allow teenagers some freedom, she said, but she lets her daughter know that she monitors her MySpace page and other aspects of her life.

There is a fine line between letting children have privacy and letting them have complete freedom when they are still maturing intellectually and emotionally, she said.

Some parents mistakenly want to be their teenager's best friend, Johnson said.

"I want to be her parent," she said.

If parents get only one thing from the Understanding Your Teenager seminar, it should be that all teenagers and parents have struggles, and families are not alone in their difficulties, Easterday said.

Easterday said he is looking at the seminar as a catalyst for more forum-type events for families in the future.

## Mother

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1)

schools, Sexton wanted to do something positive and meaningful for her son. She wanted to get the message across that drinking and driving can be deadly.

On New Years Eve, she distributed anti-drunken-driving fliers on the windshields of cars at Chili's and Applebee's in Franklin and Whit's Inn in Whiteland.

She has the same message on a plaque above the license plate on her car with a picture of Ryan. It says: "I was taken in an alcohol-related accident. Please ... don't drink and drive."

"It's something I need to do," she said.

Schofield also is survived by his father, John Schofield of Greenwood, a brother, Kyle, and step-brothers Chas and Brent Sexton.



STAFF PHOTO BY AIMEE SHATTO  
Cathy Schofield Sexton uses items such as this cross to decorate a tree each holiday season in memory of her son, Ryan Schofield. Schofield was a specialist in the U.S. Army.

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