

LIVING

CLASSIFIED
AND PUZZLES

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THURSDAY
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THE MIX

Stress on aisle 5

Shopping can be fun, but also stressful.

In these tough times, you definitely have to shop with purpose and don't be peer-pressured into buying things you don't need.

Make a list and check it twice. Another tip: Leave the credit cards at home, suggests www.glam.com.



Today's reader photo

"Fall has arrived at YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly," writes Elaine Godfrey, staff development director, at YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain. "The scarecrow family greets our guests as they enter Blue Ridge Center."

Send in your Halloween photos: Share pictures of the kids in costumes, decorations, adult costumes too. Close-ups preferred. Include photo IDs, your name and the town you live in. E-mail high-resolution images to readerphotos@CITIZEN-TIMES.COM.

Looking for a short frightful flick?

FEARnet has put together a montage of horror movies that summarizes the screams in 66.6 seconds.

You can catch up on the Friday the 13th series before watching a later installment.

Check it out www.fearnets.com/halloween/666/index.html.



Hanging with Hank

"Hank and My Honky Tonk Heroes" opens today at Flat Rock Playhouse, on Old Greenville Highway in Flat Rock. Jason Petty stars as the great Hank Williams. Shows today are at 2:35 and 8:35 p.m. Call 693-0731.

It's hot

Brushfire Stankgrass is lighting a fire today at the Emerald Lounge, 12 Lexington Ave., downtown Asheville.

For more local entertainment news, visit www.take5online.com.



Celebrate your civic privilege with an election party

Watch the returns come in, have some friendly fun

By Pam J. Hecht
CITIZEN-TIMES CORRESPONDENT

It's almost time to usher in the next president of the United States. What better excuse for a party?

Make your way to the polls on Nov. 4 and then high-tail it back home to get ready for an election night soiree worthy of this important, and interesting, election.

Keep the party hopping to keep your guests around to share the excitement when the final returns start rolling in.

Set the party mood

Pick up some American- or political party-themed décor and tableware at a local party store, or dig out your red, white and blue Fourth of July stash.

Borrow your child's donkey and elephant stuffed animals or make paper chains out of sample ballots (find them at www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/election/sampleballots.htm), suggests Sarai Repoley, co-owner of Windows on the Park, a special events venue in Asheville.

Play a variety of patriotic songs and keep the TV on to keep track of the votes.

Keep it lively

"Make the party interactive and fun, otherwise it's a long night," said Casey Lewis, owner/director of Creative Endavors Events in Asheville.

Please see PARTY on C2



Election night party supplies run red, white and blue and can be found at K&C's Party Supplies on Hendersonville Road.

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More election fare ideas

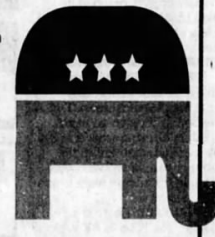
Cookie ideas: Serve one or both of Cindy McCain's or Michelle Obama's cookie recipes, featured in Family Circle magazine's 5th Presidential Bake-Off. (The official results will be announced on Nov. 1.) Find the recipes at: www.community.tasteofhome.com/forums/t/659210.aspx.

Think pizza: Blue Mountain Pizza in Weaverville has created two pizzas, reflecting each candidate's background — order them or try making at home. The Obama has crushed black pepper, a Parmesan crust, barbecue base, marinated pork, pineapple, red onion, smoked Gouda and jalapeno peppers. The

McCain has beef, green peppers, onion, black beans, diced tomato, jalapeno and banana peppers.

Chef to the candidates: Chef Jack Melson of Savoy restaurant has recently returned to his Asheville hometown after cooking for both Obama and McCain campaign events as a chef at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, Calif. Go to CITIZEN-TIMES.com for his election night recipes.

More ideas: Find recipes representing the candidates' home states at: entertaining.about.com/od/themeandholidayparties/a/electionnight.htm



PARTY: Get into the spirit with political-inspired food, games

Continued from C1

Ask your guests to dress up as their favorite candidate or political party and hang up two piñatas representing each candidate — when a state loses, someone can take a swing at it, she added.

“You can also hang a United States map on the wall and place red and blue stickers on it as the votes come in,” Levis said.

Have guests design their own campaign posters and take a secret ballot vote to decide the best one.

Play a trivia game with fun political facts, have guests guess who will win each state or see who can identify the most states or state capitals on a map.

Serve candidate-inspired munchies, drinks

Focus on the candidates' home states, said Repoley,

with some Chicago-style hot dogs and pizza, or nachos and salsa for Arizona, with apple pie for dessert.

Serve foods from Obama's native state of Hawaii (pineapple, mahi mahi, salmon, bananas, coconut, spare ribs or guava) or McCain's childhood home of Virginia (peanuts and Southern-style comfort foods like cornbread, beef stew, fried chicken and ham.)

Red, white and blue food recipes are easy to find online, or choose a few of each candidate's favorite foods (Obama likes beef and bean chili, spinach and broccoli, fish, cheeseburgers, almonds, pistachios and pumpkin pie.

McCain is partial to baby-back ribs, enchiladas, salsa and calamari.) Or stick to what both candidates favor: shrimp, pizza and chocolate.

Have plenty of coffee on hand for the long night, Repoley added, and serve some traditional cocktails, like the “All-American,” “Arizona surprise” and “Chicago cocktail.”

Pick up some patriotic nonpareils — sprinkled in red, white and blue — at Asheville's Chocolate Fetish.

Keep the debate friendly

“Stick to the facts and discuss those in reasonable tones,” Parker said. “Be willing to listen to other points of view — they could help

broaden your own understanding of the issues.”

Don't take differences personally or speak out immediately after hearing something, said Keith Pittman, Asheville High School's debate team coach, who also teaches public speaking at Appalachian State University.

“Take the time to process your thoughts and keep emotions in check,” he said. “You don't want to come across in a different way than you intended.”

Meanwhile, “it's up to the host and/or hostess to set the tone — if things get out of hand, they can act as diplomats” by diffusing the conversations, Parker said.