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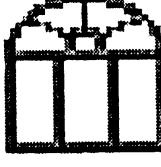
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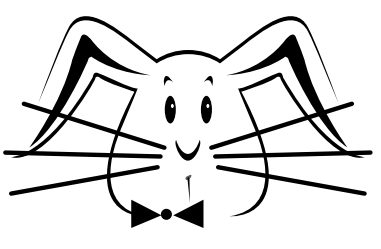
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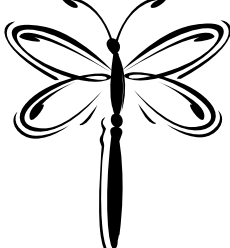
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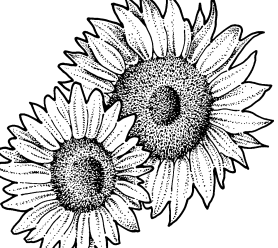








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Have a safe and fun celebration to ring in 2007!

Suggestions abound for making festive New Year's Day fare. A couple of appetizer recipes and a few drinks, including a punch that can be made without alcohol, are given below.

Also included are two drinks ideal for a snowy Jan. 1, "Mocha Brandied Coffee" and "Crockpot Steaming Holiday Hot Punch." A list of web sites containing these and more recipes follows.

Shrimp Scampi Cheesecake Appetizer
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 onion
6 teaspoons minced garlic
1 pound fresh shrimp, peeled and deveined
12 shells puff pastry, baked
4 tablespoons butter or margarine
3 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
4 eggs
1/2 cup heavy cream
16 ounces smoked Gouda, grated
2 teaspoons salt

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. In a large skillet over medium-low heat, warm oil and sauté onions and garlic until onions are translucent; set aside to cool. When cool, pour off liquid, reserving garlic.
3. Cut shrimp into 1/2 inch pieces, reserving 12 uncut for garnish. In a large skillet over medium-low heat, melt butter and add reserved garlic and all shrimp; cook shrimp for 2 to 4 minutes or until done.
4. Remove center circle and a small portion of inside of cooled puff pastry shells.
5. In a medium bowl, beat cream cheese until creamy; add one egg at a time and beat until well mixed. Add cream, Gouda, onions, shrimp and salt.
6. Spoon filling into puff pastry shells.
7. Bake in preheated oven for 20 to 25 minutes or until filling is browned on top. Garnish with whole shrimp and chopped chives; serve.



Makes 12 servings.

Mexican Lasagna Chip Dip
1 pound ground beef
1 cup diced onion
1 (16 ounce) jar salsa
2 (16 ounce) cans refried beans
2 (4 ounce) cans chopped green chili peppers
1 (2 ounce) can sliced black olives, drained
2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, sliced
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Place ground beef and onions in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium high heat until onions are soft and ground beef is evenly browned. Remove from heat.
3. Drain beef and mix in salsa, refried beans, green chili peppers and black olives. Transfer mixture to a 9x13 inch baking dish. Layer with cream cheese slices. Top with Cheddar cheese.
4. Bake in the preheated oven 10 to 15

minutes, or until cheese is melted.

Mocha Brandied Coffee
1 1/4 ounces brandy
2 ounces hot chocolate
2 ounces hot coffee
Mix all ingredients. Top with whipped cream.

Crockpot Steaming Holiday Hot Punch
3 cups apple juice
3 cups orange juice
6 cups cranberry juice cocktail
3/4 cup maple syrup
2 teaspoons powdered sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
3/4 teaspoon ground cloves
3/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
cinnamon sticks for garnish
Combine all the ingredients in a very large heavy pan, except the cinnamon sticks. Bring to a boil and turn to simmer for a few minutes. You can put the punch in a crockpot after it has boiled and keep warm over low heat.

Easy Champagne Punch (Alcohol-free or with champagne)
1 (11 1/2 ounce) can frozen pineapple-orange juice concentrate, thawed and undiluted.
1 (6 ounce) can frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed and undiluted.
1 (12 ounce) can ginger ale, well chilled.
1 (750 ml) bottle champagne or white grape juice.
2-3 cups club soda, well chilled.
ice cubes

1. Stir the concentrates together in a large glass punch bowl.
2. Add in all remaining ingredients, stirring to combine.
3. Add in ice and serve immediately.

Recipes are from the following web sites: www.allrecipes.com, www.razzledazzle.com and www.recipezaar.com.

Plan ahead for a safe weekend, new year

As the time to ring in 2007 approaches, many are preparing food and drink for a merry time. Now is a good time to plan for safety Sunday night and throughout the coming year.

The Kansas Department of Transportation reports on its web site 415 traffic fatalities so far for 2006, compared to 428 for all of 2005. The department gives information on alcohol safety on the site as well.

The National Safety Council's web site has checklists from the Department of Homeland Security to guide us in putting together emergency supply kits to improve our emergency preparedness in the coming year.

Reminders from the department of transportation include:

- Blood alcohol concentration describes the concentration of alcohol in a person's blood expressed as weight per unit of volume. For example, at .10 percent, there is a concentration of 100 milligrams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood.
- A blood alcohol concentration of .08 percent or greater is a crime in Kansas for drivers 21 years of age and older, while a concentration of .02 percent or greater is a crime for drivers under 21 years of age.
- The probability of a crash increases at a blood alcohol concentration higher than zero; a concentration as low as .02 percent affects driving ability and crash likelihood. The probability of a crash begins to increase significantly at .05 percent and climbs rapidly after .08.
- In 1999, 28 percent of fatally injured drivers had blood alcohol concentrations of at least .10 percent.
- Alcohol is only one of several factors



that contribute to crashes involving drinking drivers.

New Year's safety reminders include keeping in mind that even if you don't drink, you need to drive carefully. Winter weather can make travel hazardous, and so can other drivers. Spend the night where you are if possible, and be on the lookout if you drive.

To prepare for potential emergencies throughout the year, the Department of Homeland Security says the following items are needed in a basic emergency supply kit:

- Water, one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.
- At least a three day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio with tone alert along with extra batteries for both.
- Flash light and extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.

- Can opener for food.
 - Local maps.
- Other recommended items are:

- Prescription medication and glasses.
- Infant formula and diapers.
- Pet food and extra water for your pet.
- Important family documents, such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container.
- Cash or traveler's checks and change.
- Emergency reference material, such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov.
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing, including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper. When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, it can be used as a disinfectant. In an emergency, it can be used to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Matches in a waterproof container.
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items.
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels.
- Paper and pencil.
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children.



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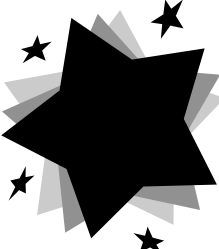


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