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Super Spots

The low-down on the best places to catch the big game

STORYCHAT: Post Comment
Friday, January 25, 2008

By CHUCK DARROW
Courier-Post Staff

John Graff could stay home and watch the Super Bowl XLII rumble between the undefeated New England Patriots and the surprising New York Giants. But he expects to take in the Feb. 3 contest at the Landmark Americana, a popular bar and restaurant in Glassboro. As far as the 41-year-old home-builder from Sewell is concerned, that's the only place to be Super Bowl Sunday.

"You meet your friends, it's a little more social, a 'boys' day out,'" he said while taking in last Sunday's AFC championship game between the Patriots and San Diego Chargers. "And the wife would rather me be out - "Go have fun, honey.' "

Graff certainly won't be alone that day. With its 26 televisions (21 in the bar area), the Landmark should be packed most of the day and well into the evening as the Patriots seek to become the first NFL team in history to

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go a perfect 19-0 in a season. But the sprawling bar-restaurant located just off the Rowan University campus is hardly unique. The scene there will be repeated throughout the tri-county region.

Among the other establishments expecting to be jumping is the year-old Catch It Grog N' Grill on White Horse Pike in Oaklyn. According to co-owner Paul Toto, his bar, which boasts 14 plasma TVs, should experience "one of our major days of the year."

"The party will start at 3 o'clock," said Toto, "and we will be offering a free (bar food) buffet along with a lot of drink specials."

Among those certain to watch the game there is John Lupo, 55, who lives a few blocks from the bar.

Lupo, who owns the Storm Watch comic book store in Berlin, noted while watching the Chargers-Pats contest that joining others at Catch It Grog N' Grill is much more fun than viewing it at home.

"I know a bunch of people here," he offered. "It's a great sharing experience of yelling and screaming. This is a great place to watch a game."

The most passionate of South Jersey Super Bowl viewers will arguably be those congregating at Pic-A-Lilli Inn on Route 206 in Shamong. The rustic tavern is the home base of the South Jersey Wrecking Crew, a group of area New York Giants fans who spend every football-season Sunday there cheering on their beloved "Jints."

"This place will be filled, we'll have a 100 Giants fans here," predicted Wrecking Crew founder Colin Cumming, 48, a former Shamong mayor, as he waited for the broadcast of last Sunday's NFC title game between the Giants and Green Bay Packers to commence. "It'll be standing room only."

The prospect of dozens of rabid Giants fans crammed into "the Pic" is a mixed blessing for Bonnie Schneider, 35, who helps run her family's bar. On the one hand, she noted, business will be brisk, and that's a good



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thing. But, she added, "Super Bowl is our biggest take-out day of the year. This is all new territory for us. I don't know what we're going to do. We can only hope."

Of course not everyone who hits a local tap room Super Bowl Sunday will do so because they're such big football fans.

For instance, Internet technical support professional Allyson Poyet, 22, of Mount Laurel said she'll be at Catch It Grog N' Grill because, "I'm married and my husband's going to want to go to the bar. But my girlfriends come with their boyfriends, so the girls will sit around and talk."

And Oliver Ayon, a 24-year-old paralegal from Washington Township, admitted he'll go to the Landmark for the amenities rather than for the Super Bowl telecast.

"You see this?" he asked, motioning toward a couple of the Landmark's young, attractive female bartenders. "I have a nice, 52-inch TV at home. But I see (the women) in front of me, and they're talking to me. And they have all my favorite liquor.

"Yes, I have to pay a little extra, but it's worth it."

Reach Chuck Darrow at (856) 486-2442 or cdarrow@gannett.com

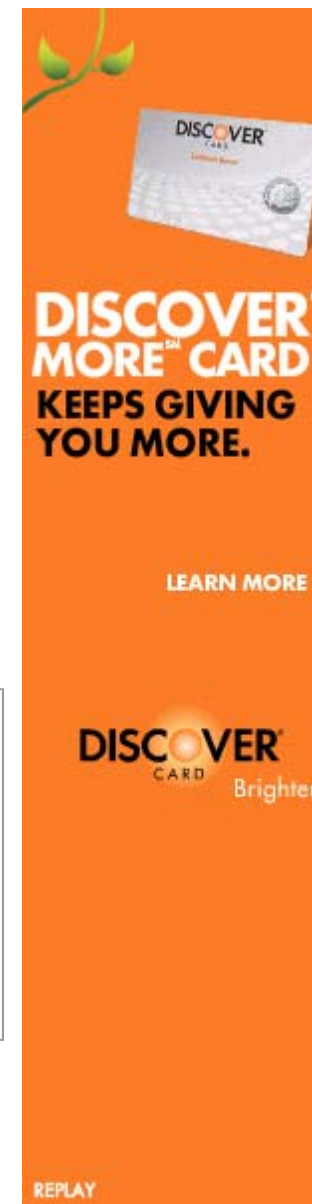
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I've been to the Pic often and it's a great joint! The wings are to die for...the best anywhere! Awesome beer selection on tap. You cannot go wrong with this place. I plan on hangin out with those crummy Giants fans, as I hope they can enact revenge upon the Perfect Pats for what they did to my Birds a few years back. At least there will be some real passion in the sea of Big Blue.

Posted by: **Kipster** on Fri Jan 25, 2008 10:38 am

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