

AROUND TOWN

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ARIZONA'S FIRST BUILD-YOUR-OWN PASTA CONCEPT OPENS IN CHANDLER

Pasta78, the state's first build-your-own pasta concept, recently opened its first location in Chandler at 2780 W. Chandler Blvd., Ste. 6. A fast-casual Italian eatery, it offers the opportunity to enjoy a customized, fresh pasta dish in a casual environment.

Guests build their own pasta bowl by choosing one of the several homemade, fresh pasta options, as well as a house made sauce, protein, and toppings. Pasta78 will also offer several grab-and-go salad options, as well as desserts. PastaEatery.com

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CHANDLER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR ITS FIFTH YEAR

More than 100 films from more than 25 countries and five continents will be showcased at this fifth annual event, held Jan. 21-24. Films featured include *Tombstone*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Curse of the Black Pearl*, *The Unhealer*, *Kiss the Ground*, and *Divertimento*.

This year, there are three ways to experience the festival. First, at Harkins Chandler Fashion Center. And, a drive-in screening will be at Chandler High School. Attendees can also participate virtually at ChandlerFilmFestival.com.

Known as one of the fastest-growing film festivals in Arizona, Chandler International Film Festival was created to bring together filmmakers, industry professionals, and film fanatics to celebrate all genres of cinema. Along with a diverse mix of international films, the weekend will include a variety of programming and events including a red carpet, opening ceremony, drive-in, virtual screening, awards ceremony, filmmaker workshops, Q&As, nightly after-parties, and celebrity guest appearances (following CDC guidelines).

CIFF will be partnering with two nonprofits this year, A/ZCEND and ICAN. Each organization will receive donations from the film festival.

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MICHAEL POLLACK FEEDS MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE FOR THANKSGIVING

Valley philanthropist Michael Pollack helped 250 families have a meal this Thanksgiving. For the past 15 years, the Pollack Investments owner has supported Bishop Tyrone Stowe's annual Thanksgiving meals for those in need, and this year he continued the tradition.

Pollack donated all the necessary funds to cover 250 Family Boxes of Thanksgiving Meals To-Go. Each box was filled with turkey, sides, and desserts, and was enough to feed a family of four people or more.

Pollack teamed up with Victory for Life Church for the program.

"This year we know the need is greater than ever before," Pollack says. "We know there are a lot of families struggling right now, and we wanted to help as many people as possible. There is quite frankly nothing more that I love during the holiday season, or really anytime of the year, than giving back. We hope these hearty meals [gave] everyone a nice Thanksgiving and a reason to believe again that things will get better, and we are here right beside our friends all the way."

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ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S ARIZONA SOUTHEAST VALLEY BRANCH AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, the Association of University Women (AAUW) Arizona Southeast Valley Branch selects three scholarship winners from the six Chandler high schools. Each winner receives a \$1,000 scholarship to further her education.

This year, three women were selected by the consultants from AAUW: Judy Baur; Gail Jones; Anne Newman; Beth Zdebllick; and chair, Nancy Andrews.

Natalie Contreras of Chandler High received the AAUW East Valley Branch Scholarship. Sophie Malleck of Perry High received the Margaret Noser Scholarship. And, Nardia Padilla of ACP Erie High, received the Margaret Horn Scholarship.

In February 2020, the AAUW Southeast Valley Branch Executive Board had voted to name two of the college scholarships it presents each spring to women attending public high schools in Chandler. Starting with this year's award and going forward, one scholarship will be named annually in honor of the branch's founder, and still active member, Margaret Horn.