

# The Big 5

Details on five local events designed to delight you. So, go already, will ya?



Braving the open waters of Tempe Town Lake these cardboard boat captains push their team in last year's race.

## Rotary River Rally raises funds for children's charities

### All cardboard boat race is April 21

Some sink, some swim, but everyone has a good time.

The Eighth Annual Rotary River Rally takes to Tempe Town Lake April 21 with The Great Cardboard Boat Regatta.

Friday April 20 is the boat preview party 4 to 7 p.m. at Tempe Beach Park.

Join the boat racers as they show off their cardboard creations - spectacular ships made of nothing but corrugated cardboard, paint and glue.

In the past there have been some pretty elaborate designs - a Viking Ship, Rubber Ducky, Log Raft, Stage Coach, Hydroplane, Alligator - whatever the teams dream up can be built out of cardboard. Teams come from local schools, youth groups, families, individuals and corporations.

Check out the boats and vote for the "People's Choice Award." Admission is free.

Saturday is The Great Cardboard Boat Regatta 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tempe Town Lake (just east of Tempe Beach Park)

Come cheer on the

cardboard boaters as they race their home-made boats on a 200-yard course on Tempe Town Lake.

Every boat is unique from the design, to the costumes, to the ability to stay afloat. Awards are given in three classes and two divisions, plus special awards for Team Spirit, Best Dressed, Most Creative Use of Cardboard

and the Titanic Award for the most spectacular sinking. The event is free for spectators. There is a nominal charge for boats. Pre-register on line or enter lottery for "Instant boat" on race day.

Proceeds support children's charities in Tempe.

For more info, visit [www.rotaryriverrally.com](http://www.rotaryriverrally.com) or call (480) 905-5944.

## Engage, eat, experience at The Great Arizona Picnic

Ditch the basket this is no ordinary picnic.

Imagine soaking in the sights, sounds and sizzles of great food on the lawns of the Scottsdale Civic Center as dozens of local and national restaurants serve up gourmet eats and crowd-pleasing snacks.

It's time for the Great Arizona Picnic April 14 and 15.

At the grounds of the Scottsdale Civic Mall, this annual extravaganza is part of the 29th Annual Scottsdale Culinary Festival.

Patrons can sip cocktails at the Absolut tent, top-shelf Patron margaritas from Garduño's Margarita Village or frosty beers from the

Southwest Festival of Beers sponsored by New Belgium, all while enjoying more than 17 hours of live entertainment performed by renowned local bands such as the bluesy Big Nick & the Gila Monsters, the sultry Alice Tatum Band, and the rocking Chadwicks.

Chef Mario from Smart Final and other chefs will be showing off the tricks of the trade with live cooking demos every hour throughout the day. Admission into the Great Arizona Picnic is \$5 and an additional \$5 to the Southwest Festival of Beers.

Sponsored by the Scottsdale League for the Arts (SLA), the 2007 Great Arizona Picnic is more than an indulgent feast for all five senses. It's

also a great way for Valley residents to raise funds for local charities, says GAP chair James Moser.

"Being a part of the music, the food, and the people is truly an unforgettable experience," says Moser. "But this food-filled event is also a great fundraiser benefiting local art organizations such as The Phoenix Symphony, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Arts in Education Council, Free Arts of Arizona, and Phoenix Boys Choir."

In 2006 the SLA awarded \$325,000 in grants to local community organizations. The attendance of more than 50 recognizable businesses—Absolut Vodka, Garduño's Restaurants, Oreganos,

Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Stingray Sushi, Patsy Grimaldi's Coal Brick-Oven Pizzeria, The Melting Pot, and others—also makes the Great Arizona Picnic the definitive business and volunteer opportunity. Restaurants are positioned before tens of thousands of guests, and volunteers are supported by the considerable resources of the Scottsdale League for the Arts.

Scottsdale League for the Arts (SLA) is a nonprofit (501(c)3) charitable organization that raises

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## Come to your senses



See a movie at Fountain Park. Happy Feet is the featured presentation at 7:15 p.m. Friday, April 13.



Taste dozens of culinary delights as The Great Arizona Picnic provides a parade for the palate April 14-15 at the Scottsdale Civic Center Mall.



Smell corn dogs and other fair food as the Maricopa County Fair takes on a Circus theme through April 15 in Phoenix.



Hear an eclectic mix of music at the McDowell Mountain Music Festival April 27-28 at WestWorld in Scottsdale.



Feel the cool spray of water as teams splash around trying to get their cardboard boats to the finish line of the Rotary River Rally April 21 at Tempe Town Lake.

## Fountain Park doubles as movie theater April 13

Friday, April 13, won't be a scary time in Fountain Park.

Movies in the Park returns to the amphitheater area with *Happy Feet* showing. The event is free thanks to MCO Realty, Inc. and MCO Properties sponsorship.

The first movie night in Fountain Park attracted close to 1,500 people Oct. 7.

The screen is big enough to accommodate 1,000 people for the event, which will play at the amphitheater near the corner of Palisades and Saguaro boulevards in the park.

People should come early to stake out a place to set up their lawn chairs and

blankets.

The featured movie, "Happy Feet," is an animated comedy (rated PG) starring the voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams and Nicole Kidman.

The movie will begin at 7:15 p.m., but residents are encouraged to arrive early to ensure good seats.

Snacks including hot dogs, beverages and ice cream will be available for purchase from Sweet Town, or residents can opt to bring their own snacks. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.

For more information about this event, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (480) 816-5151.

## WestWorld of Scottsdale welcomes McDowell Mountain Music Festival April 27-28

The McDowell Mountain Music Festival returns to WestWorld in Scottsdale April 27 and 28 with its expected eclectic music line-up and more.

Bob Weir, a founding member of the Grateful Dead, will bring his rock band Ratdog to highlight the two-day music festival now in its fourth year.

Los Lonely Boys, a trio of brothers from West Texas, will show their Texas roots music fused with electric blues and a Latin beat rock 'n' roll.

In 2005 they won a Grammy award for best Pop Vocal Group and have performed with Tim McGraw, the Rolling Stones and Dylan.

The well-known Neville Brothers maintain a relentless touring schedule yet will work the McDowell Mountain Music Festival into their plans.

Their live performances are legendary for their combination of the New Orleans sound blended with R&B, pop, jazz and funk.

Toots & the Maytals, the most enduring reggae group in the world, with Toots as one of the true architects of reggae, have set the standards for excellence among reggae stylists.

Other reggae performers booked for the festival include locally popular Azz Izz, Walt Richardson and the Peaceful Warriors and 2 Tone Lizard Kings, a popular Arizona band known for its high energy performances of SKA, rock, punk and jazz.

Gelatinous Grove, another Tempe based group, mixes jam, funk and rock into their performances.

Tea Leaf Green, a rock and soul group from San Francisco, has played with the Dave Matthews Band and Gov't Mule and at the High Sierra Music Festival among others.

Railroad Earth has carved a path wide and deep throughout the American roots music scene. On their tenth gig as a group they earned a spot at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival.

Jackie Greene, singer and songwriter, uses his smoky voice to perform achingly intimate songs with sweet harmonies and seductive lyrics, combining country with blues, roots and rock. He has opened for two previous McDowell Mountain acts, Los Lobos and Susan Tedeschi, as well as BB King.

From the soulful Grace Potter & The Nocturnals you'll hear a blend of roots, funky blues, gospel and rock like the



Thousands of spectators enjoy music and beautiful views of the McDowell Mountains.

## Maricopa County Fair caters to masses with diversity of activities

Animals are being groomed, the Ferris wheel is going up and people can almost smell the corn dogs frying. The annual Maricopa County Fair began Wednesday, April 11, and runs through Sunday, April 15 in Phoenix.

"We are very excited about this year's Maricopa County Fair. The event is really taking shape to be one of the premier events for the people of Maricopa County," says Michael Searle, Executive Director. "Of all the events that take place in and around Phoenix, the County Fair is meant for everyone. Whether you're into art, music, livestock, quilting, monster trucks or carnival rides, there is truly something for everyone at the County Fair."

Loads of free family entertainment is scheduled. Skip Banks - The Balloon Man, Kobert's Amazing World of Birds Show, Doggies of the Wild West, Terrell & Takako - Jugglers Extraordinaire, Madame Zelda's Puppet Circus and the Wild Life World Zoo are just some of the daily shows scheduled.

Continuous acts by local

performers will fill two stages.

Hypnotist Suzy Haner is sure to have spectators rolling in the aisles as she hypnotizes members of the audience.

Be sure to catch Lynx Magic, a silk aerialist. Watch as she dangles from high in the air, twisted and tangled in sheets of silk. And new this year, Elephant Rides.

The highlight of the weekend is sure to be Extreme Sports Spectacular.

Friday night will feature Motor Madness with Monster Trucks, Tuff Trucks, Cart Racing and Mower Racing.

Saturday's main event will be Bulls and Horses (horsepower that is). Professional bull riding and overdriven horsepower with Monster Trucks, Freestyle Moto X and Tuff Trucks will fill the arena.

Sunday will feature Destruction Mania, an over the top demolition derby with a \$4,000 purse.

People won't want to miss even one evening of this incredible event - additional admission required.

Be sure and visit the Kiddie Koral featuring the Safety

Zone, brought to you by SRP. The Kiddie Koral will have activities for kids of all ages. Don't miss Farm Tours, sponsored by Sanderson Ford. "It's a wonderful hands-on area," said Searle.

Great shopping, wonderful fair food, livestock shows, the county's best on exhibit and thrilling carnival rides are also part of the fair. Discount carnival tickets are

### Circus theme provides big top atmosphere

Elephants, silk aerialists, jugglers and more will all be highlighted at this year's Maricopa County Fair.

"It's Showtime" will feature everyone's favorite circus elements along with traditional county fair fun.

Lynx Magic will be performing deaf defying feats on silks high above the crowds. Featured in Cirque Du Soleil, Lynx Magic awes crowds with her acrobatic maneuvers on sheets of silk hanging high in the sky.

Madame Zelda's Puppet Circus will enthrall the kids and adults alike.

Juggling superstars, Terrell

on sale now at local Food City locations. Save 20 percent by purchasing in advance.

Extreme Sports Spectacular tickets are also on sale. Save money and time (and no lines) by purchasing all advance tickets on line at [www.maricopacountyfair.org](http://www.maricopacountyfair.org).

For more information, check out the website at [www.maricopacountyfair.org](http://www.maricopacountyfair.org) or

and Takako are sure to delight audiences of all ages. Their world renowned juggling is just part of the show. People will see hat manipulation, devil sticks, rola bola balancing and much, much more. Catch one of their three performances daily.

Everyone is sure to enjoy the elephant rides. For a small charge, the public can ride one of these beautiful creatures brought to the fair by Have Trunk Will Travel. The world renowned company has provided elephants for movies and television, including George of the Jungle, The Jungle Book and others.

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funds for arts and art education programs throughout Arizona. Since 1992 the League has contributed more than \$2.1 million to numerous organizations benefiting children including The Phoenix Symphony, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arts in Education Council, the Phoenix Art Museum, Free Arts of Arizona, and Phoenix Boys Choir.

For additional information about the League or on becoming a member or volunteer, contact SLA at (480) 945-7193 or visit [www.ScottsdaleCulinaryFestival.org](http://www.ScottsdaleCulinaryFestival.org).

**Entertainment**

**Saturday April 14**

Fountain Stage  
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Desert Gumbo Band

2:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.  
Alice Tatum

4:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.  
Big Nick & the Gila Monsters

7:15 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Chadwicks

Amphitheater Stage  
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Dyno Glides

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Cold Shot and the Hurricane Horns

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Limbs Akimbo

7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Chris Parker Project

Beer Garden  
1 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
The Instant Classics

**Sunday April 15th**

Fountain Stage  
12 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.  
Shelby James and the Crying Shames

2:15 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Gigi Dixon

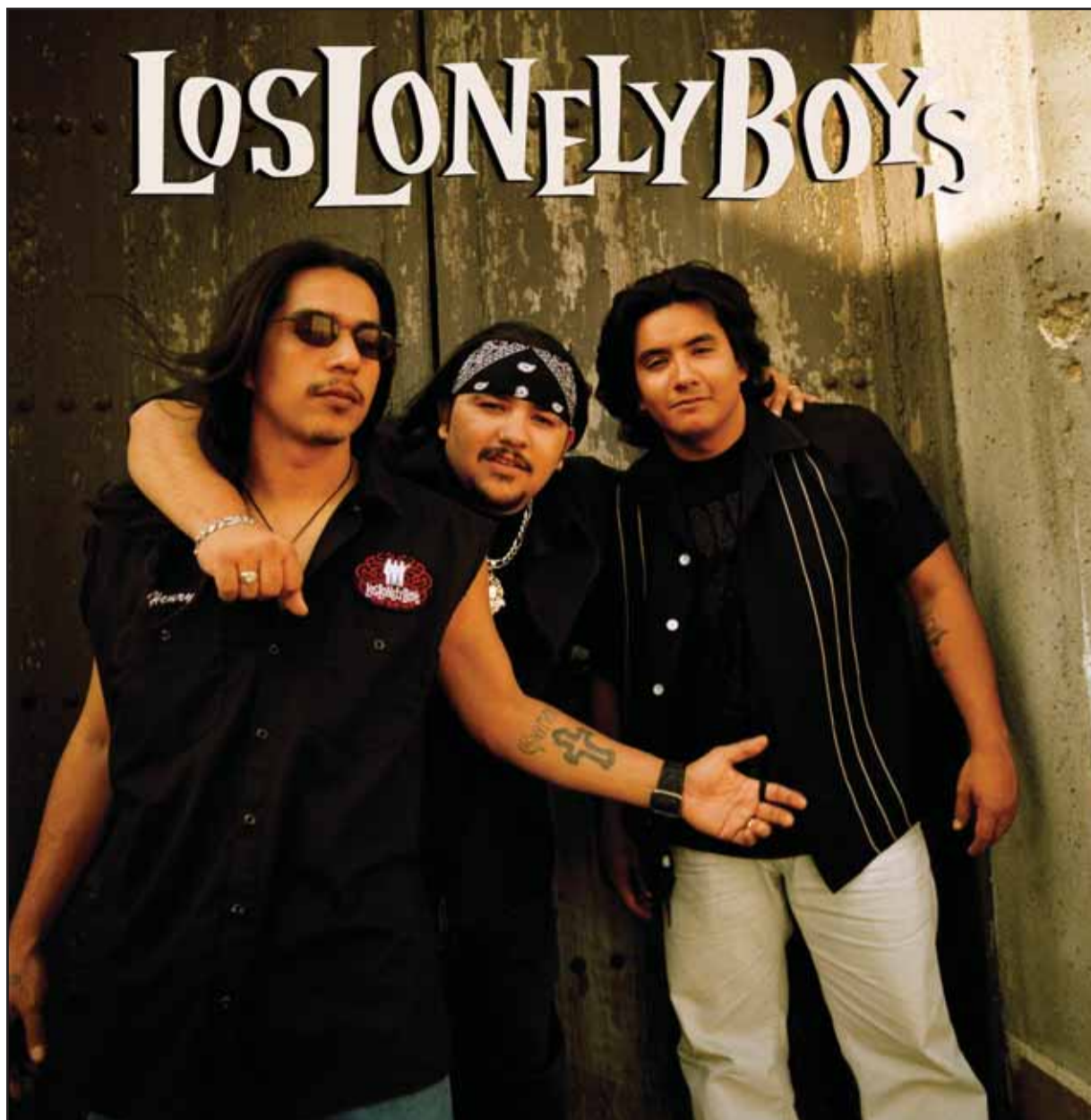
4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Chuck Hall Band

Amphitheater Stage  
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.  
Jeff Hunt Band

2:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.  
Sistah Blue

4:45 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Barrio Latino

Beer Garden  
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
The Instant Classics



(Above) Los Lonely Boys will perform at the McDowell Mountain Music Festival in Scottsdale along with Bob Weir, at right, former band member of the Grateful Dead who now plays with Ratdog.

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records of the sixties and early seventies, but Grace is just 23 and her vocals have been compared to Janis Joplin, Bonnie Raitt and Aretha Franklin.

Proceeds from the concerts benefit two local children's service agencies: Boys Hope Girls Hope and Phoenix Day.

Tickets are on sale for the McDowell Mountain Music Festival at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or by calling ticketmaster at (480) 784-4444. Prices range from \$35 to \$150 VIP passes, but buy early as ticket prices will increase as the event draws closer. Bring chairs and blankets and prepare to enjoy two days of musical entertainment like never before in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area. Camping spots are available.

Visit [mmm.net](http://mmm.net) for more information.



*Mandarich continued from page 3*

"He broke all the stereotypes because he chose to," says Char.

**Shooting on the edge**

When Mandarich first started out he had a limited knowledge of the fundamentals of photography, but was willing to learn.

And he was willing to learn from Char.

"I've learned so much from Char," says Tony.

And while he may understand the rules, sometimes there are "no rules in Tony land," says Char.

"I'll go out on a limb and risk taking a totally garbage picture, just to get an edgy photo," says Tony.

But, he also knows Char is there to take the safe shots, the one's experience has taught her work.

As a former model she also knows both sides of the business.

When people hire Mandarich Photography, 99 percent of the time they get both Tony and Char.

And depending on the

situation, they play on their strengths to get the best possible photography for the client.

If one seems to have a better rapport with the subject, that person takes the lead.

But when the shooting starts, both have camera in-hand, taking photos from different angles.

Both sets come out very good with a totally different feel, says Char, providing a nice variation for the client.

Now they're taking their photography business to new heights by providing insight into how they shoot in various

situations.

Mandarich Photography shares that insight into the world of professional photography, and the glamour and work behind it, through a recently launched blog at [www.MandarichStudioBuzz.com](http://www.MandarichStudioBuzz.com), where sample images and free videos from recent shoots are displayed along with some of the tips and techniques behind how the shots were taken and edited in Photoshop, Lightroom, or other editing software (making the blog a resource for the budding photographer).

Mandarich Photography

has also launched an initiative called Mandarich Models today (at [www.MandarichModels.com](http://www.MandarichModels.com)), where any customer can experience an actual model photo shoot.

In addition, Mandarich will be launching a tell-all memoir about his NFL career, rumored steroid use, and more in early 2008.

For additional information on Mandarich Photography or Tony Mandarich's impending memoir, please visit [www.MandarichPhotography.com](http://www.MandarichPhotography.com), or contact Char and Tony Mandarich at (480) 277-7888.

Take5

AZ.com

WOW! WOW! WOW!

Check us out online!